

HOLY WONDERWORKERS AND UNMERCENARIES COSMAS & DAMIAN (Nov. 1)

O glorious Physicians and Wonderworkers who have received the power of healing, extend it upon those in need. In your kindness to us, hold down our enemies' pride and heal the world through your miracles. (Kondakion)



FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS
NOVEMBER 1, 2020



THE RICH MAN & LAZARUS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
256 Hamilton St.
Worcester, MA 01604
Rectory: (508) 752-4174 Hall: (508) 755-2199
Email: olphmelkite@gmail.com
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
Email: Brymc56@comcast.net Cell: (978) 314-1962
Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (1st)

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, and sing praise to His name.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

2: Say to God: How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You.

Be shafa'ati Walidatil Eelah, ya Mukhallisu, khallisna.

3: Let all the earth worship You and sing praises to You; let it sing praises to Your name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Come let us worship and bow down before Christ.

People: O Son of God Who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5 pg. 40)

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our Salvation, for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion of Cosman & Damian (Tone 8)

O Holy moneyless ones and wonder workers heal us of our diseases. Freely you have received: freely give.

Troparion of the Dormition (Tone 1, Pg 15)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercessions, save our souls from death.

Kondakion (Tone 2)

O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

Federica's turn came on their honeymoon trip to Europe where the following took place: "One day in Dublin I looked at a statue of Jesus and was struck to my knees, hearing an interior voice say, 'I am your life.' I knew it was the One I had rejected and ridiculed, come at last to seize me forever."

What was different about these people, compared to the brothers of the rich man in Christ's parable?

Why "Few Are Chosen"

The Apostles were religious people; they observed the precepts of Judaism as practiced in their day. Others were contemptuous of religion and had ridiculed it. Yet somewhere deep inside them was a search for meaning, a hidden disposition to faith, even if they were not practicing any religion at the moment. Thus when these momentous experiences took place, they received them wholeheartedly and changed their entire way of life.

People who have no interest in God or in any kind of an interior life, who are content pursuing a materialist way of life might easily shrug off a spiritual experience as some kind of delusion. They might blame it on a touch of the flu or having too much to drink.

Similarly the rich man's brothers in the parable may have paid lip service to the Scriptures, but the focus of their lives was far from the things of God. They would not even have heard a voice from the dead.

Christ's Alternative

A parable is a story with a moral, not a detailed history of an event. In this case, as in most, the moral is found at the end of the story. When the rich man in the parable asks Abraham to send Lazarus to shake up his brothers, Abraham says, "*They have Moses and the prophets: let them listen to them*" (Luke 16:29). In other words, they have the Scriptures – what we call the Old Testament – as their means of discerning the mind of God for them.

This saying, of course, is directed at us – it is the moral of the story. We are meant to base our faith on the mystery of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures rather than on some fantasy that the Holy Virgin or an angel might visit us. Just as our daily life must be based on something more practical than a hope of winning the lottery, so our Christian life must have the solid foundation of the Word of God to us.

We have not only the Law and the prophets, but the Gospels and Epistles. We have the witness of Christ and the apostles, the testimony of the martyrs and the ascetics. We have the power of the holy mysteries, the words of our liturgical texts and the unspoken voice of the holy icons. These are the voice of the Lord to us – let us hear them in faith.

A Missed Opportunity

When people think about violating God's law, they think about sins of commission: doing something prohibited like stealing, harming another, or the like. We often forget that sins of omission – things that we neglect to do – are often even more damaging.

The rich man in Christ's parable is not accused of any sin of commission. He is not blamed for being rich any more than Lazarus is praised for being poor: in itself, having money is not a sin. We are not told how he made his money. He is not accused of defrauding people as Zacchaeus claimed to have done. The only thing he is accused of is not giving alms.

The poor man, Christ says, lay at the rich man's gate, hoping for scraps. It may be easy to ignore a panhandler on the street; it is not so easy to ignore him when he is at your doorstep day after day. Yet this is what the rich man did. He did not overlook abstract appeals from far-away charities; he passed by a flesh-and-blood person in need on his own doorstep, "the living creature," as St John Chrysostom describes him, "for whom God cares."

The rich man in Christ's parable may have felt that he needed every scrap he had acquired, but as St John Chrysostom affirmed, he did not know what he needed it for: "If a person enjoys luxury in moderation and distributes the rest to the stomachs of the poor, then his wealth does him good. But if he is going to give himself up to luxury and profligacy, not only does it not help him at all, but it even leads him down to the great pit. That is what happened to this rich man" (*On Wealth and Poverty*).

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Tom & Betty Kenney. Requested by Tom Syseskey.

Nov. 8 +Amelia Filewicz (30yr.), Michael Filewicz, Filewicz & Harayda Families, living & deceased. Requested by Maria Filewicz and family.

Today's flowers donated by Joe and Bonnie Najemy in memory of Robert & Alice Najemy and Donald & Dey Harvey.

Upcoming Feast Day Liturgical Schedule

Thu 11/12, 6PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of John Chrysostom

Sat 11/21, 10AM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple

NOTE: Evening feast day services will be at 6PM effective September 1 unless announced otherwise.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular:	\$ 764
Candles:	\$ 12
Memorials:	\$ 50
Total:	\$ 826



The Bishop's Appeal 2020 Building A Better Life On A Solid Foundation Through Faith & Family

In the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus in today's Gospel, Our Lord warns us that the time to act with mercy and generosity is NOW—before it is too late. Let us open our hearts and hands to the needs of our Melkite brothers and sisters. If you have not already done so, respond now with generosity to Christ's call by giving a gift today to the Bishop's Appeal. Give joyfully from the heart for "God loves a cheerful giver." Thank you for your generosity.

The Samuel J. Daige Educational Trust Our Lady of Perpetual Help Scholarship

The Samuel J. Daige scholarship trust provides for an allocation for members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Worcester, MA) who are of Lebanese decent.

Scholarships are intended to support the tuition and tuition-related fees incurred by eligible students who are pursuing an associate, bachelor or graduate degree at an accredited college or university in the United States. One scholarship will be awarded each year to an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual help Church in Worcester, MA.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for this scholarship, you must:

1. Be under 25 years of age.
2. Be accepted and enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States in an Associate's, Bachelor's or graduate degree program.
3. Be a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help church in Worcester, MA.

Be of Lebanese descent (minimum of 6.25% Lebanese ancestry)

SELECTION PROCESS

The following criteria will be considered in the selection process:

1. Letter of recommendation from church priest or member of church leadership council.
2. Written essay on educational goals and career objectives (100 words maximum) .

Application and required documents should be mailed to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees by **November 1, 2020**. The mailing address is listed below.

Zachary W. Esper, Jr.

3 Cedar Hill Road

Grafton, MA 01519

If you have any questions or need additional information, please send inquires to OLPH or zesper@hotmail.com or call (508) 930-0945.

The Samuel J. Daige Educational Scholarship Trust was funded by the estate of Gloria Daige in memory of her son, Samuel J. Daige. Samuel was highly decorated for his military service in Vietnam receiving the Bronze Star Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Purple Heart w/One Oak Leaf Cluster and the Vietnam Service Medal.



The Story of a Missed Opportunity

WOULD WE BE AFFECTED if someone rose from the dead? We would probably say “Yes,” but the Lord says “No.” What does He know that we don’t?

Throughout the centuries, and even today, many people have what might be called mystical experiences. They see visions and dream dreams, to quote the Prophet Joel. Thus St Paul experienced the risen Christ on the road to Damascus and it changed his life. Similarly, St Peter and the other disciples encountered Christ risen from the dead and proclaimed it throughout the world. These experiences energized their ministries and jump-started the spread of the Gospel throughout the ancient world.

Such experiences continued throughout Christian history, right up to our own day. One well-known Christian thinker in the modern world, the Russian Orthodox bishop in London, Metropolitan Anthony Bloom (1914-2003) described his encounter with the Lord in these words: “I met Christ as a Person at a moment when I needed Him in order to live, and at a moment when I was not in search of Him. I was found; I did not find Him.

“I was a teenager then ... I could not accept aimless happiness. Hardships and suffering had to be overcome; there was something beyond them. Happiness seemed to be stale if it had no further meaning ... I decided that I would give myself a year to see whether life had a meaning, and if I discovered it had none, I would not live beyond the year. I had no use for Church. I did not believe in God.”

Under duress, young Anthony attended a religious lecture at the Russian youth organization. He was greatly disturbed by the lecture and asked his mother for a copy of the New Testament to check the truth of what the speaker had been saying.

He describes what happened: “I expected nothing good from my reading, so I counted the chapters of the four Gospels to be sure that I read the shortest, not to waste time unnecessarily. And thus it was the Gospel according to St Mark which I began to read.

“I do not know how to tell you of what happened. I will put it quite simply and those of you who have gone through a similar experience will know what came to pass. While I was reading the beginning of St Mark’s Gospel, before I reached the third chapter, I became aware of a Presence. I saw nothing. I heard nothing. It was no hallucination. It was a simple certainty that the Lord was standing there and that I was in the presence of Him whose life I had begun to read with such revulsion and such ill-will... This was my basic and essential meeting with the Lord. From then I knew that Christ did exist.”

PBS commentator Frederica Mathewes-Green tells of a similar experience. She was a vocal agnostic who had dabbled in Hinduism. In *Facing East – A Pilgrim’s Journey into the Mysteries of Orthodoxy* (San Francisco, 1997), she describes her husband Gary as “a political animal who just didn’t think much about God.” She then tells how that changed:

“Gary’s shell began to crack when a professor required his philosophy class to read a Gospel. As he read the words of Jesus, he became convinced that here was one who ‘speaks with authority.’ Since Jesus said there was a God, Gary began to doubt his doubting.”

Prokimenon

Reader: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

People: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

People: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Reader: You, O Lord, will keep us

People: And preserve us always from this generation.

Epistle: Gal 2:11-18

Alleluia Verses

Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim Your faithfulness.

Verese: For You have said, “My kindness is established forever.” In heaven You have confirmed Your faithfulness.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Special Petitions for the Ecumenic Prayer (Inserted after the third petition)

- For all your people who have proven positive with the coronavirus, that they may be restored to full health and offer you their praise and thanksgiving, we pray to you, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus that they may be granted rest with the Saints and the mercy of God in the Heavenly Kingdom, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For doctors, nurses, and all in health care, risking their lives to minister to those afflicted with the coronavirus, that they remain safe, and in good health as they serve others, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all your people in Lebanon who were hurt during the disastrous explosion, that they may be restored to full health, and for those who died that they may be granted rest among the Saints, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For peace throughout the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.