

*From the Divine Office for the Sunday of All-Saints*

*The inspired preachers, the Disciples of the Savior, through faith became instruments of the Spirit. They scattered to the ends of the earth to sow the seeds of the divine Gospel and the word of truth. Through the grace of the Lord, the divine Gardener, they harvested a whole crop of martyrs, imitating the holy Passion of Christ by their countless torments and by fire. They now intercede for our souls. (Vespers)*

*Those who have borne witness throughout the world have become citizens of heaven. Having imitated the Passion of Christ, they free us from the passions. United today in the Kingdom, they show how the Church of the first-born bears the sign of the assembly in heaven. They say to Christ, "You are my God. Through the intercession of the one who bore You, protect me, O You who alone are most merciful. (Orthros)*



**SUNDAY OF ALL-SAINTS**

**JUNE 4, 2023**





**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**  
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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

### **Antiphon (3rd)**

1: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our Savior.

*O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia*

2: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

*Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka. Haleloueya.*

3: For God is a great Lord and a great King over all the earth.

*O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.*

### **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 8) pg. 42**

You descended from on high O compassionate One; and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You.!

### **Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4)**

O Christ God, Your church clothed with the blood of Your martyrs all over the world, as with purple and fine linen, cries out to You: send Your mercy upon Your people, grant peace to Your fold and extend Your great compassion upon our souls.

### **Patronal Troparion (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 intercession, save our souls from death.

### **Kondakion (Tone 2) Pg. 16**

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.

**Confessors** - Those who survived torture or imprisonment for the Lord but escaped with their lives, like St. Maximos the Confessor.

**Unmercenaries** –Those who gave of their talents freely to help the poor and the sick, such as Ss. Cosmas and Damian. Fools for Christ – Those who pretended to be mentally incompetent so that their spiritual gifts would not be noticed and praised, like St. Xenia of Petersburg.

**Passionbearers** – Those who accepted suffering, even death, rather than to repay violence with more violence.

On this First Sunday after Pentecost, the Byzantine Churches celebrate all the saints, whether their names are known or not. On the following Sundays various local Churches celebrate their own regional saints (All Saints of Russia, or North America, or the British Isles, etc.). Wherever the Holy Spirit has been at work in the Church, saints have been raised up to the glory of God.

### **Who “Makes” Saints?**

Ultimately, of course, it is God who makes people holy by giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit. When people make this gift their own and live an heroic life in Christ, others recognize it. When a local Church recognizes that one of its sons or daughters has lived an exceptional Christian life and gives evidence that they are now in glory, it publicly proclaims him or her to be a saint.

In the Eastern Orthodox Churches it is the local Church (such as the Patriarchate of Constantinople or the Church of Greece) which declares saints. In the East this process is called *glorification*. In the West recognition of saints is called *canonization* (inclusion on the canon or list of saints) and is proclaimed by the Pope of Rome.

### **What Do We Do with the Saints?**

God has placed certain saints in our lives and we would be remiss if we ignored them. We have our patron saints (those whose names we bear) and those whose icons may be found in our home. Most of our parishes have patron saints as well. We do well to venerate their icons regularly, asking their intercession with prayers like these:

Pray for me, St. N., for with fervor I come to you, speedy helper and intercessor for my soul.

Holy Father/Mother N., pray to God for us.

Observe their feast days according to the Church calendar. If there is no Liturgy scheduled, ask for one to be served in their honor. Why not?

## **NEW WEBSITE**

**We have a new website: [olphworcester.org](http://olphworcester.org)**

**It is still a work in progress. Take a look and let us know what you think.**

**Many thanks to Ryan Dumont for all his hard work developing the site!**

### DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Today**      **Our Families and Friends**

**June 18**    **All our fathers, living and deceased**

**June 25**    **+Nick and Dora Barouk, Requested by Karen & Antonio Solitro and Michael and Virginia Mischitelli**

**Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Marilyn & Zenon Tencza**  
**Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by the parish**

Please remember in your prayers: Lorraine Lian, George Arraj, Jr., Ron Abraham, Peter Abraham, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Anthony Poti, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Ruth Welsh, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Joe Najemy, Michael Mooradian, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Wyatt William Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, all those affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, and the people of Ukraine.  
If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

### Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$ 928
Candles	\$ 24
Coffee Hr.	\$ 29
Other	\$ 125
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,106</b>



**Welcome to any visitors we have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.**

**Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.**

### MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL

**St. George Orthodox Cathedral is having a Middle Eastern Festival June 9-11. Please plan to attend and support our brothers and sisters! See the sign in front of the church for more details.**

### SAVE THE DATE

As you may know, 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the parish. We will mark the occasion on **November 4-5**. We will celebrate Great Vespers followed by a banquet on November 4. On November 5, we will celebrate a hierarchal Divine Liturgy followed by lunch in the parish hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be forthcoming. Please contact Fr. Bryan if you would like to help with the planning and preparation for the occasion. Our next planning meeting will be **Wednesday June 14 at 6:30pm**.

**We are looking for donations to offset some of the costs for the anniversary celebration. If you can donate, please let us know.**

**Thanks in advance for your generosity!**

### NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL

**You may have recently received emails that look a little different. We are now communicating with the parish via a program called Flocknote. It is used by all the parishes in the Eparchy. It allows us to send emails and texts with the click of a button. If you are not getting these emails and texts, please reach out to Fr. Bryan and provide your email address and cell phone number so that you don't miss out!**

**Thanks for your cooperation!**

## Glorified in His Saints

CATHOLICS AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS are sometimes criticized by people because of the reverence we show to the saints. Critics may feel that we ignore the Lord, preferring to pay homage to favorite saints. Seeing how some believers act, we may understand why some Protestants and others may feel as they do. Some devotees of the saints lavish more praise on the saints than on Christ.

While such behavior may be misguided, an appropriate devotion to the Theotokos and other saints is not. For us, the saints are the “proof” that the Holy Spirit truly came upon the Church at Pentecost. The holiness of their lives points to the grace of the Holy Spirit powerfully working in our world. The saints reveal to us the “face” of the Holy Spirit manifest in the Church. For this reason Byzantine Churches celebrate the Feast of All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, we read of a number of Old Testament figures renowned in Israelite history for their righteous lives or powerful deeds. The selection read at today’s Divine Liturgy does not mention any of the individuals named in the Epistle (some of whom are not the most praiseworthy by modern standards). Rather it begins with the point made in conclusion: that some were powerful and defeated their enemies while others were tortured and put to death. *Still others lived righteous lives in hiding and “wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and holes in the ground”* (Heb 11:38). In either case nothing they could do could bring them eternal life. That would only become possible through Jesus Christ and His Church. As the biblical author explains, *“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would then be made perfect”* (Heb 11:39-40). We can conclude that the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the believer far exceeds the glory won by the rulers, soldiers and prophets of Israelite history. We can also strive to draw close to the One who is everywhere present, filling all things.

### New Testament Saints

There is no one more filled with the Holy Spirit than she who is “full of grace,” the most holy Theotokos. Like her the holy prophet, forerunner and baptist John has a unique place among Christians as, in Christ’s own words, *“among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist”* (Mt 11:11). In addition to them, there are countless figures from every age in Christian history honored as saints by the various local Churches. In the Byzantine Churches, it has become customary to consider the saints as belonging to one or another of the following categories:

**Prophets** – God’s Old Testament spokesmen such as Elias or Isaiah who called the Jews back to the true God and His ways whenever they strayed.

**Apostles** – The Twelve closest followers of Christ as well as the Seventy who were their companions: eye-witnesses to the presence of Christ on earth. Evangelists – The Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

**Hierarchs** – Sainly bishops like Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Cyprus, or Basil the Great.

**Righteous Ascetics** – Giants in the monastic life, both men and women, including elders (guides in the spiritual life) and solitaries, living in forest or wilderness.

**Martyrs** – Those who gave their lives witnessing to Christ, from the Great Martyrs of the Roman persecutions, such as St. Barbara and St. George, to the new martyrs who died under modern dictators or religious extremists.

**Hieromartyrs** – Hierarchs and priests who sacrificed their own lives as well as offered the Divine Sacrifice of Christ.

### Prokimenon

**Reader:** Awesome in His saints is God, the God of Israel.

**People:** Awesome in His saints is God, the God of Israel.

**Reader:** In the churches, bless God, the Lord out of Israel’s wellspring.

**People:** Awesome in His saints is God, the God of Israel.

**Reader:** Awesome in His saints is God,

**People:** The God of Israel.

### Epistle: Heb. 11:33-40; 12:1-2

### Alleluia Verses

The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

**Stichon:** Many are the trials of the just, but out of them all, the Lord will save them.

### Gospel: Mt. 10:32-38; 19:27-30, Sunday of All Saints

