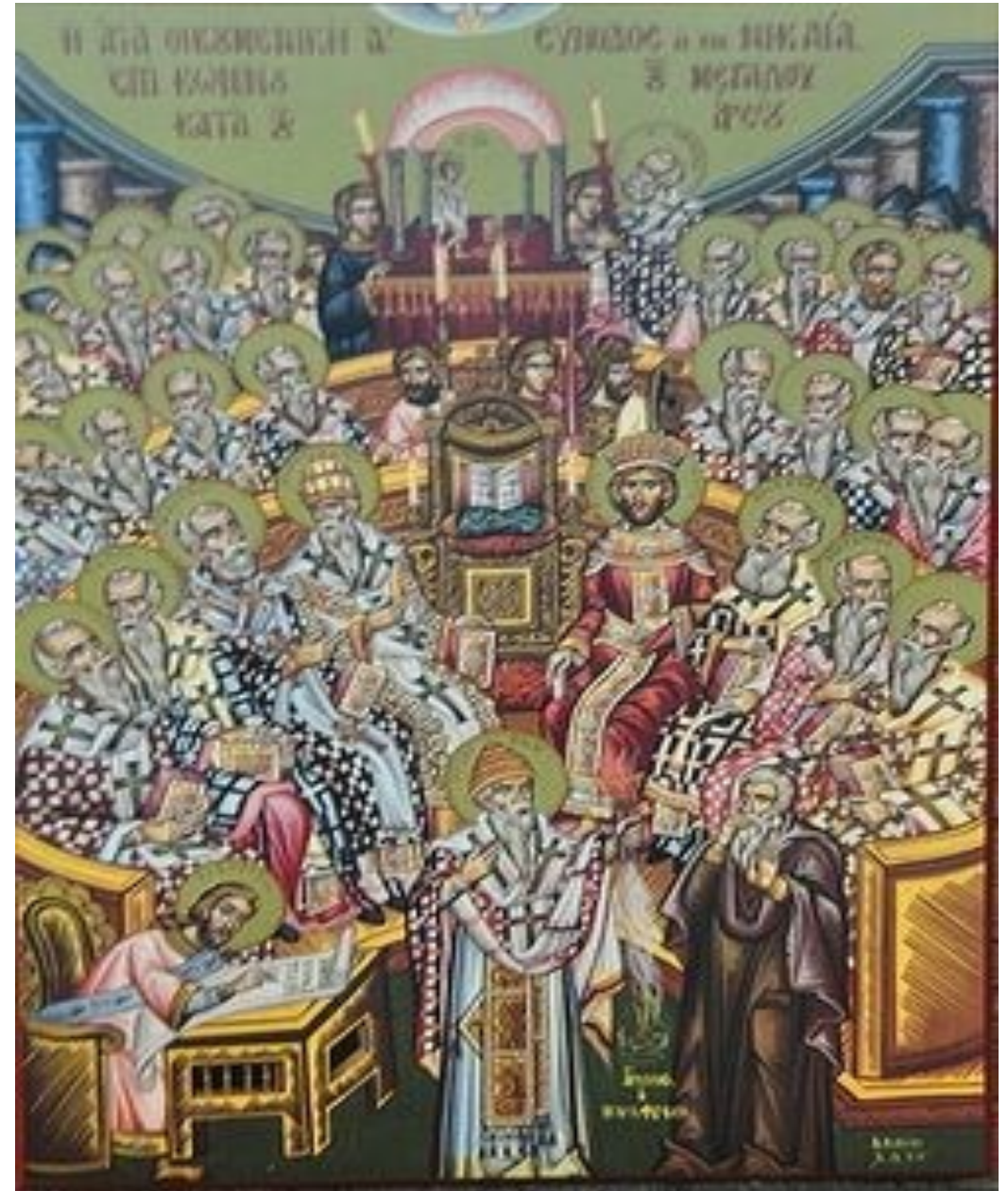


**FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 16, 2023**

From the Divine Office for the prophet Elijah (July 20)

The glorious Elijah, the Angel in body, the pillar of the prophets and second forerunner of Christ's advent, by sending grace from on high upon Elisha, dispels diseases, purifies lepers and overflows with healigs for those who honor him. (Troparion)

O glorious prophet Elijah who foresaw the glories of God, by your command you withheld the rains from heaven: intercede with the only One who loves mankind for the sake of us all (Kontakion)



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
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Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
Cell: (774) 502-8547
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 6) pg. 41

The angelic powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead, and Mary stood at the tomb, seeking Your spotless body; Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it, and You met the Virgin O Bestower of life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You!

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 8)

O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth: You led us to the true faith through them. O Most Merciful One, glory to You!

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.

The mystery of Christ as Son of God was not imparted as information, but through experience. The disciples came to know that Christ was one with the Father by sharing His life. At the conclusion of their time with Him, just before His arrest, the result of their lived experience became clear. *“His disciples said to Him, ‘See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God’”* (Jn 16: 29, 30).

In the same way the Holy Spirit was revealed to the disciples through their experience of receiving Him. The Spirit, in turn, illumined them to understand “the mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels” – God’s plan to renew creation in Christ.

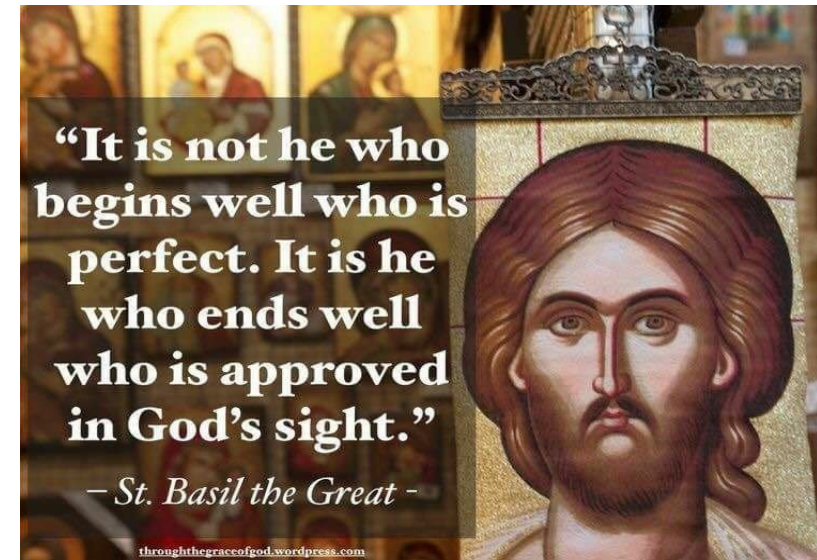
Later Christians would describe the relationship of the Father and the Son as the mystery of the Trinity and see Christ’s greatest teaching as the revelation of that mystery. In the exaposteilarion of the Transfiguration our Church proclaims its faith that Christ is the Light who reveals the Holy Trinity to the world. “O Word, un-transformable Light, the Light of the unborn Father, by Your light which has shown today on Tabor, we have seen the Father’s light and the Spirit’s light, illumining the whole creation.”

Believers as Light

Towards the end of the Lord Jesus’ earthly ministry He said, *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”* (Jn 9:5). This gives us the context of what He had told His hearers, *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Mt 5:14-16). After His ascension it would be the disciples whose good works would draw those around them to glorify God.

While Christ is the Light in the truest sense, those who are in Christ shine with a kind of reflected light due to their union with Him. We reflect the light of Christ when we too manifest God and His love for mankind through the way we live.

The icon is a familiar pointer to this truth for us. An icon glows with a reflected light when a lamp or candle is lit before it. The lamp is the source of the light, but it is the icon which attracts us. Similarly people will be attracted to the divine Light when they see it reflected in the lives of believers. Perhaps the most important way of reflecting the light of Christ is by being present to those who are struggling with the darkness of confusion and despair. There words are not necessary – and perhaps even counterproductive. Simply by being present to the fearful can we reflect the light of Christ who is the Lover of Mankind.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today HS June Rahall. Requested by Nick Rahall and family
 +Sadallah Al Kateb, Khalida Hanoo. Laurance & Saimon Aulo & Family
Juky 23 +Habib & Miriam Rahall, William & Bertha Rahall, JR Rahall. Requested by
 Nick Rahall and family
Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Laurance & Saimon Aulo
Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by Nick Rahall & family

Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$ 2,434
Candles	\$ 30
Coffee Hr.	\$ 70
Stole	\$ 50
Other	\$ 290.80
TOTAL	\$2,874.80



FINANCIALS

<u>6.2023</u>		<u>YTD (10.2022-6.2023)</u>
Income	\$5,683.28	Income \$65,611.72
Expenses	\$4,913.53	Expenses \$75,320.73
Net	\$ 769.75	Net (\$ 9,709.01)

On **Friday August 4**, we will cook and serve a meal for Mustard Seed Ministries. We will gather at OLPH at 1pm that day to cook the meal and head to Mustard Seed around 4pm.
 If you would like to help cook or serve, please reach out to Fr. Bryan or Susan Arraje. If you can't volunteer this month, monetary donations are also welcome.
 Mustad Seed Ministries will also be the recipient of this month's dry food collection.
 We serve Christ by serving our brothers and sisters who need some help! God Bless You for your help and generosity!

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.

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & FAMILY PICNIC

Our 100th Anniversary will be celebrated on **November 4-5**. We will have 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.

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

We are also working on our Family Picnic which will be on **September 10**. **We need your help to make the Picnic successful!** Please volunteer to help in some capacity. Too much of the work is being done by too few people. If each of us does a little, no one is overwhelmed.

Our next meeting for both events will be **Tuesday July 25 at 6:30PM**.

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!

We have had an issue with some emails being bounced back. Please add mail@flocknote.com to your contacts. We hope that will solve the problem.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Radiating the Light of Christ (Mt 5:14-19)

WE CAN SAY THAT THE GOSPELS are woven around a string of images describing rather than defining how Christ relates to us. Some of these images are drawn from the temple worship (“the Lamb of God” – Jn 1:29). Others are taken from the history of Israel (“the bread which came down from heaven” – Jn 6:51) or the writings of the prophets (“the Son of Man” – Dan 7:13). There are agricultural images (“I am the vine” – Jn 15:5) and images drawn from shepherding (“I am the good shepherd” – Jn 10:11). Of all these images none is more basic to human life as it was lived then than images of light and darkness.

Christ as Light

The Lord refers to Himself as our light: *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”* (Jn 8:12). *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”* (Jn 9:5). As light He is our guide, enabling us to see the truth of God in a dark world.

But light is more than an image of Christ as our guide; it is in some way who Christ is in Himself. When He was transfigured on Mount Tabor the Lord Jesus was manifested as light. As Matthew describes it, *“His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light”* (Mt 17:2). Mark adds, *“His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them”* (Mk 9:3). Luke describes this as *“His glory”* (Lk 9:32), a term that in Scripture suggests divinity.

This experience of Christ’s transfiguration has been understood in the Christian East as manifesting something of Christ’s deepest self. They saw this light on Mount Tabor as the divine energies of Christ revealed for our sake. As several Fathers described it, these energies are like the rays of the sun: not the sun itself (God’s inmost essence) but inseparable from it.

The Church took up this identification of Christ as light into the liturgy. One of the earliest examples is the vesper hymn to Christ as the “Radiant Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father.” First recorded in the *Apostolic Constitutions*, this is the oldest hymn apart from the psalms still used in the Church.

The Lord Jesus is also glorified as light in a number of other liturgical prayers, such as:

The Prayer of the First Hour – “O Christ, true Light enlightening everyone who comes into the world...”

The Liturgy of the Presanctified – “The light of Christ enlightens all mankind”

Troparion of the Transfiguration – “Let Your eternal light shine also upon us sinners.”

The Mystery of Holy Illumination – The foremost expression of Christ as our light in the liturgy is, of course, holy baptism. Thus the newly-illuminated is clothed with a white garment, called the “Robe of light,” symbol of the baptized’s union with Christ.

How Does Christ Enlighten Us?

In Eastern Christian thought Christ first of all enlightens us by making God manifest to us. It is through Christ that the knowledge of the Holy Trinity came to be known. As we say repeatedly in the Divine Liturgy, “We have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity...”

While this revelation climaxed in the bestowal of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it was revealed in part during Christ’s earthly life as well. After Christ’s resurrection His disciples came to understand that the Father and His Son were one in a unique way, a way which we see proclaimed in the prologue to John’s Gospel: *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made Him known”* (Jn 1:18).

Prokimenon

Reader: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

People: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

Reader: Happy are those whose faults are taken away, and whose sins are covered.

People: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

Reader: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just;

People: Exult, all you upright of heart.

Epistle: Tit. 3:8-15

Alleluia Verses

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds you did in their days, in the days of old.

For you saved us from those who afflicted us and have put to shame those who hated us.

Gospel: Mt 5:14-19, Sunday of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

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.

FOOD DONATION BOX

There is a green box in the narthex for food donations. Once a month, we will deliver whatever we collect to a local charity that helps those with food insecurity. Our first delivery will be to Mustard Seed Ministries on August 4. Please buy a couple of extra items when you go the grocery store and put them in the box on your way into the church on Sunday. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping those who need a little extra assistance!