

From the Divine Office for the Feast of the Deposition of the Honorable Mantle of the Theotokos at Blachernae (July 2)

Ever-Virgin Mother of God, refuge and protection of the human race, you gave your mantle and cincture to your city as a powerful defense. These garments remained incorrupt because of your virginal child-bearing. Time and nature are renewed in you, wherefore we pray that you may grant peace to the universe and great mercy to our souls. (Troparion)

O pure one, whom God Himself has blessed, you have given as a blanket of purity to all the faithful the holy mantle that had covered your pure body. We celebrate with love the deposition of this mantle and sing out gleefully: "Hail, O Virgin most honorable, glory of all Christians (Kontakion)



**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 2, 2023**



JESUS HEALING THE GERGASENE DEMONIACS

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

Antiphon (2nd)

1: Be gracious to us, O God, and bless us; let your face shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

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

2: That your name may be known upon the earth, among the nations your salvation.

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

3: Let the peoples praise You, O God, let all the peoples praise You.

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 4) pg. 40

The women disciple of the Lord having learned of the angel the joyful news of the resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral sentence proudly told the Apostles. Death is despoiled, Christ God is risen bestowing on the world great mercy.

Troparion Of The Mother Of God (Tone 8)

Ever-Virgin Mother of God, refuge and protection of the human race, you gave your mantle and cincture to your city as a powerful defense. These garments remained incorrupt because of your virginal child-bearing. Time and nature are renewed in you, wherefore we pray that you may grant peace to the universe and great mercy to 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 of the Theotokos (Tone 2)

O pure one, whom God Himself has blessed, you have given as a blanket of purity to all the faithful the holy mantle that covered your pure body. We celebrate with love the deposition of this mantle and sing our gleefully: “Hail, O Virgin most honorable, glory of all Christians!”

Keeping our Christian precepts – for example, worshipping together on the Lord’s Day – is praiseworthy, but we do not observe them to produce righteousness in us; we do so to respond to the holiness that is granted us in Christ. We can spend all day lighting candles, venerating icons, praying and attending divine services – but if we do so to generate holiness in us, we have completely missed the message of the Scripture. We do such things in gratitude to God for what we could not do for ourselves but for what has been done for us in Christ.

In the Divine Liturgy as the priest prepares the Holy Gifts for distribution to the people he exclaims, “The Holy Gifts for the holy!” to which the people respond “One is holy, one is Lord – Jesus Christ...” We do not produce our own holiness. If we can be considered as “saints” or “holy ones” as St Paul described believers, it is because we have received a share in the .righteousness of the one truly Holy One, the Lord Jesus.

Our Own Profession of Faith

The first Christians made their climactic profession of faith in Christ at their entry into the Church. By virtue of this faith publicly professed – confessed with the mouth, in St. Paul’s words – they were baptized into Christ. The profession of faith is still recited just before baptisms. However, when the infant children of Christians became the greater number of people being baptized, the Nicene Creed, was also added to the Divine Liturgy so that we, baptized as infants, .could profess our faith as adults and thereby join in the sacrifice of praise.

Increasingly local Churches are insisting that infants may only be baptized because of the faith of their parents, with the expectation that they be raised as Christians, allowing the seed of faith to mature in their hearts. People who bring their child to be baptized out of some social convention (such as to please grandma) are often displeased to be questioned about the state of their own faith. To clean the house of an infant’s soul and then leave it empty is an invitation to even .greater evil, as Christ said (see Mt 12:43-45)

Faith and Baptism

In c. 350 AD St Cyril of Jerusalem preached a series of catechetical lectures to the newly-baptized which included the following:

“After these things, you were led to the holy pool of Divine Baptism, as Christ was carried from the Cross to the Sepulcher which is before our eyes And each of you was asked, whether he believed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and you made that saving confession, and descended three times into the water, and ascended again; here also hinting by a symbol at the three days burial of Christ. ... And at the self-same moment you were both dying and being born; and that Water of salvation was at once your grave and your mother.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today **Our friends and families, living and deceased**
 +Kirby Randall, Gordon McNeil. Requested by Fr. Bryan and family

Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Eric Ewanco

Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by

Last Week's Collection

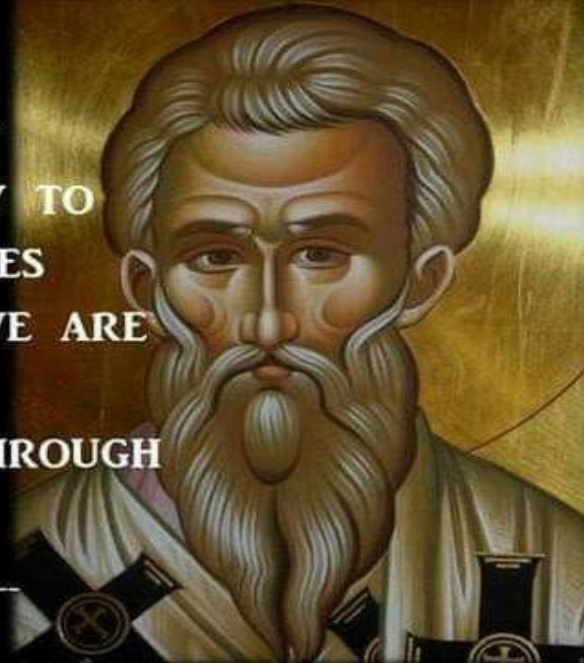
Weekly	\$ 802
Candles	\$ 25
Coffee Hr.	\$ 30
Diocesan	\$ 5
TOTAL	\$ 862

God bless you for your generosity!



**"WE ARE NOT
ASKED MERELY TO
CALL OURSELVES
CHRISTIANS; WE ARE
ASKED TO *BE*
CHRISTIANS THROUGH
OUR DEEDS."**

— ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH —



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 planning meeting for both events will be **Tuesday July 11 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!

Righteousness through Faith in Christ (Rom 10:1-10)

LOS ANGELES DODGERS PITCHER Sandy Koufax raised many an eyebrow at the 1965 World Series when he refused to pitch at the opening game because it was Yom Kippur. He remains a model for countless observant Jewish athletes, debaters, spellers and other competitors who decline to practice or compete on the Sabbath, even if it means forfeiting a championship. As one Jewish teenager put it, “Shabbat is not at all voluntary and not something you can compromise on.”

Observant Jews do not see the Law as arbitrary but as the rational will of God for them. When the Hellenistic king Antiochus commanded the priest Eliazar to eat pork, the priest replied “*We believe that the law was established by God... He has permitted us to eat what will be most suitable for our lives, but he has forbidden us to eat meats that would be contrary to this*” (4 Macc 5:25, 26).

This fidelity to a religious Law is something many – perhaps most – in our society find had to understand. Many observant Christians would not hesitate to participate in similar activities on a Sunday, even if it meant missing church. For many even shopping is a higher priority than worshipping, and they regularly skip the Liturgy to go to the mall.

Yet the Lord Jesus was just as adamant as any other observant Jew about keeping the Law. “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets,*” He insisted. “*I did not come to destroy but to fulfill*” (Mt 5:17). Unlike today much of the Law in Jesus’ day was made up of precepts concerning the temple and its worship. Christians taught that the Lord had indeed fulfilled the Law. He had come “when the fullness of time had come” (Gal 4:4). He was the great High Priest offering the new and perfect sacrifice, His own blood instead of the blood of animals. This is why St. Paul would say that Christ is the “end,” meaning the fulfillment of the Law.

The Law and Righteousness

Obviously as Christians we have our own religious practices: such as holydays, fast days, and rules about the mysteries. We keep them as best we can and encourage their observance by our young. In times of trial maintaining our prayer rule helps maintain our balance. As Christian activist and concentration camp survivor Corrie Ten Boom remarked, “We did not keep the Sabbath, the Sabbath kept us.” What, then, is different in the attitude of observant Jews to the Law and the Church’s attitude to its precepts?

The key is found in the concept of righteousness: the state of being holy, being one with God. For the observant Jew keeping the Law was the way to attain righteousness. As St Paul observed, “*For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, ‘The man who does those things shall live by them’*” (Rom 10:5). Spiritual life, for the keeper of the Law, comes from his observance of its commandments.

For the Christian, as St Paul insisted, righteousness does not come from the observance of precepts. It comes through Christ restoring our nature and making of it a new creation. We participate in His work through faith that He had truly renewed creation through His death and resurrection. As St Paul insists, “*...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Rom 10:9-10).

Prokimenon

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom, you have wrought them all.

People: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom, you have wrought them all.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

People: How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom, you have wrought them all.

Reader: How great are your works, O Lord!

People: In wisdom, you have wrought them all.

Epistle: Rom 10:1-10

Alleluia Verses

String your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and your right hand shall lead you wonderfully.

Verses: You loved righteousness and hatred iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed you with the oil of joy above your companions.

Gospel: Mt 8:28-34

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 after July 30. 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!