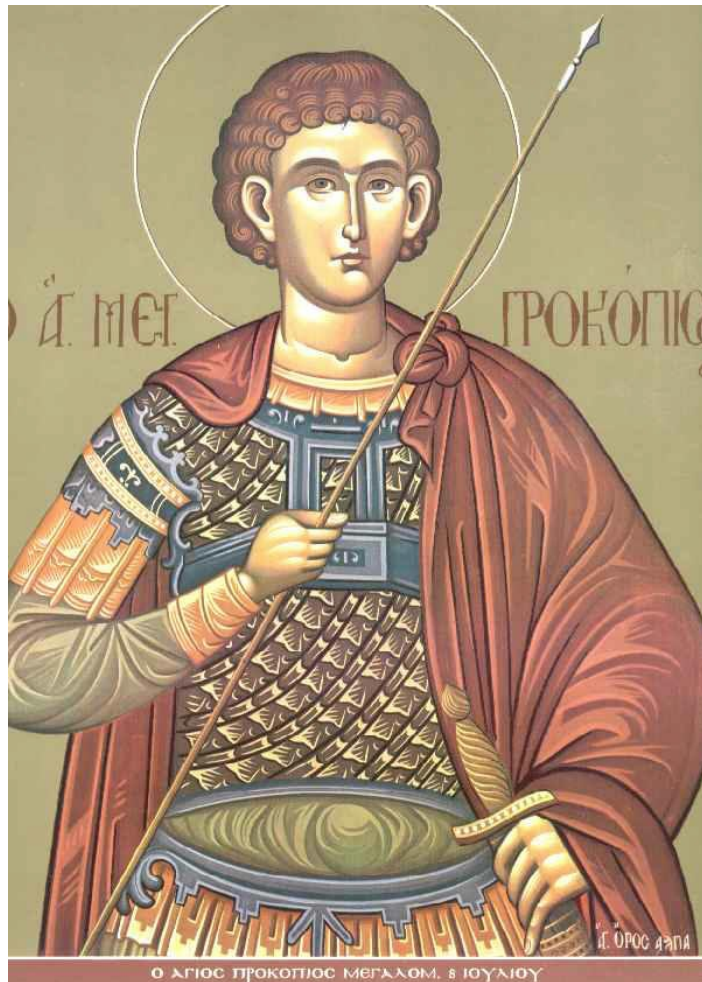


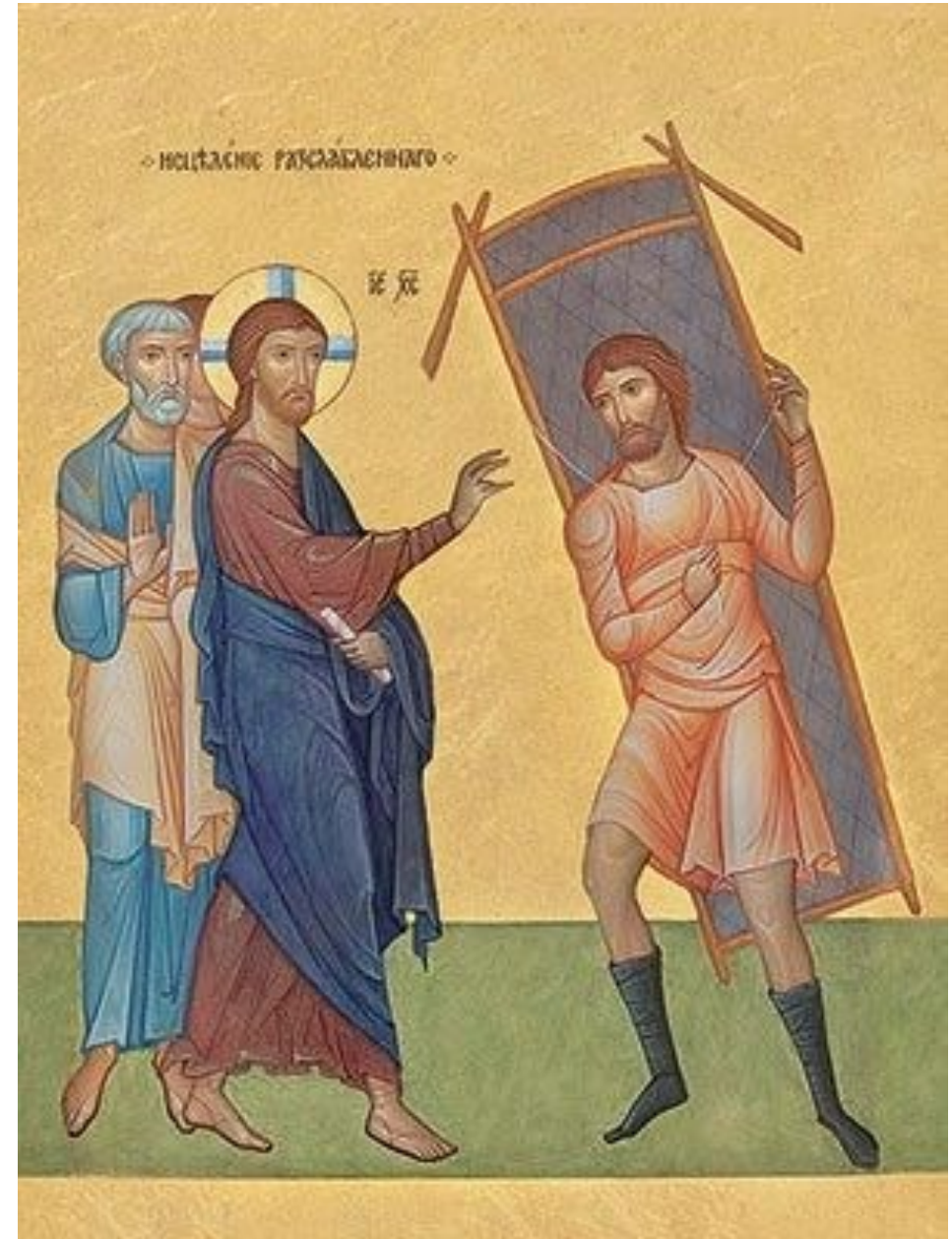
From the Divine Office for the Great-Martyr Procopios (July 8)

Your name was given to you from heaven, just as it was to the preacher to the Gentiles, O illustrious Procopios. Illumined in spirit, you renounced the darkness of idolatry and became a light for believers, enlightening with the divine radiance of your sacred struggles, O glory and pride of martyrs. (Vespers)

Procopios, great glory of martyrs, your name signifies growth in God: by the boldness which you possess as you stand ceaselessly before His throne, pray for the growth in Him of those acceptable in His sight by their deeds, walking in His ways, as they call you blessed with their heart. (Orthros)



**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 9, 2023**



CHRIST HEALING THE PARALYTIC

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/Website: olphworcester.org
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 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.

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)

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.

Opening Ourselves to Others

Often, like Charles Schultz' character in Peanuts, we find ourselves saying, "I love mankind – its people I can't stand." Our abstract commitment to love is sorely tested when we come into contact with concrete examples of people who are hard to love. We retreat into seeing the world as "us" (those we like, whose company we enjoy) and "them" (everyone else). Is this the way life is meant to be lived?

The call to reach out to one another, to love one another is a burden to many Christians. To do so runs counter to the egocentric bent of our fallen nature. It has been said that we continually try to reconstruct around us the world of our childhood, where we were at the center. Then we either pulled things and people toward ourselves in order to possess them or we pushed them away to keep them from dominating us. Thus we often find ourselves trying to organize the world around us: the family, the parish, the organizations to which we may belong. At the same time we may be indifferent to others who are not of our family, our clan, our nationality or our social class. We may prefer to keep out of sight those who do not contribute to our perceived identity.

We can begin to deal with this aspect of our broken nature in ourselves by prayer. Repeatedly asking God to help us overcome our indifference to others will gradually produce an openness to those whom God has placed in our life. Reflecting on the Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian can help us to see the ways in which our passions stand in the way of being openhearted in our dealings with others. While this prayer is used liturgically only during the Great Fast, it may be an important part of our private prayers at any time.

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despondency, lust for power and idle talk.

We ask in this prayer to be delivered from the two extremes to which we may be prone. Sloth here represents the general feeling of indifference we may have to others and despondency points to joylessness that results when we try to live the Christian way of life. When we surrender to such feelings in the spiritual life we become like people suffering from depression who may go through the motions of living but find no joy in life itself.

The opposite feelings, lust for power and idle talk, represent our attempts to control others rather than to serve them. We may try to "help" others by telling them how they should be living or directing how they should be dealing with their problems. We try to be "elders" when we are still spiritual children.

But grant unto me, Thy servant, a spirit of chastity (σωφρόσυνη/sōphrosunē), humility, patience and love.

The second phrase gives us the virtues which we need to correct our fallen inclinations. The first of them, chastity and humility, are the opposite of lust for power. Chastity refuses to dominate physically or sexually; humility refuses to dominate spiritually or psychologically. Disinterested love is possible only when we no longer are trying to depersonalize others by controlling them.

The tendency to give up on ourselves and others is countered by *patience* and *love* (ἀγάπη/ agape). A parent endures the "terrible twos" or the "traumatic teens" only with these qualities. A friend and especially a brother or sister in Christ needs the same character to bear the burdens of others.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see mine own faults and not to judge my brother. For You are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.

It is so much easier, as the Lord noted, to see a speck in someone else's eye than to see the log in our own. Rather seeing myself as a sinner and my brother as beloved of God makes the spaces that separate us from one another seem to vanish, bringing me closer to following Christ who the Lover of Mankind and the One who sees the absolute worth of each person as well. We see that He truly loves us to the very core of our being and that He loves "them" the same way.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Stanley & Michalina Tencza, John Green. Requested by Zenon & Marilyn Tencza
 July 23 +Habib & Miriam Rahall, William & Bertha Rahall, JR Rahall. Requested by Nick Rahall and family

Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Marilyn & Zenon Tencza
 Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by Sam, Hiam & Mary Francis

Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$1,153
Candles	\$ 0
Coffee Hr.	\$ 44
TOTAL	\$ 1,197

God bless you for your generosity!



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)

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!

Put On a Happy Radiant Face (Rom 12:6-14)

“THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN!” (Eccl 1:9) When the author of these words wrote them back in the 3rd or 4th century BC, he never thought that they would become a stock phrase in the 3rd millennium AD, in a language that as yet did not exist. This and other Bible phrases like “A wolf in sheep's clothing” (Mt 7:15) or “Money is the root of all evil” (1 Tm 6:10) would be repeated by people who did not know they came from the Bible or the context in which they first were written.

Another such phrase which has entered our vocabulary poses an interesting question. “God loves a cheerful giver” (1 Cor 9:7) is easily remembered and understood, but is it so easily lived? Many people know that they ought to do “good works” or be generous, but do it reluctantly, out of a sense of obligation. From our earliest years we learn not to be selfish, yet we often secretly resent having to make room for another at our table or donate to yet another cause. Yet the Scripture repeatedly calls on us to develop a cheerful liberality in our dealings with others. We seem to always be asked to give, but find ourselves resenting that we never really receive anything in turn.

St John Chrysostom insists that we have already received inestimable blessings, gifts that we have not yet learned to cherish: “Who that is receiving a kingdom, has a long face? Who that is receiving pardon for his sins keeps frowning?” When we have the knowledge of God’s love for us firmly in our heart, then what to some may be a burden, to others is a joy.

In his Epistle to the Romans St. Paul encourages us to use whatever gifts we may have been given to build up the Church. He also indicates the spirit in which these gifts should be exercised. “[Let] *he who gives, [do so] with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*” Those who share material goods are to do more than to share them; they are to be truly generous, to give from their heart. Those who lead are not simply to seek the honor of leader, but to do the often thankless work of a leader conscientiously. Those whose gift it is to minister to those in need are not to lord it over them or play the martyr but to be cheerful in their service.

St John Chrysostom confronted the paradox of those who did good deeds without those deeds proceeding from an open heart. “Why do you complain that you have given alms? Why do you grieve at showing mercy, and lose the advantage of the good you have done? For if you serve grudgingly, you are not being merciful but cruel and inhuman. For if you grieve, how shall you be able to raise up the sorrowful ... since nothing seems to men such a disgrace as to be receiving from others? By an exceedingly cheerful look ... you show that you are receiving rather than giving, you will even cast down the receiver rather than raise him up. This is why he says, ‘He that shows mercy, with cheerfulness.’”

The epistle continues in the same theme: love, but without pretense. Do not simply pretend to love. Give preference to others and do it fervently. Rejoice, be patient, be steadfast. The burden of being a Christian seems to grow with every line. How do we attain a heart so open to God and His world that these injunctions no longer seem a burden?



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.

Reader: 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: Rom 12:6-14

Alleluia Verses

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

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

Gospel: Mt 9:1-8

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!