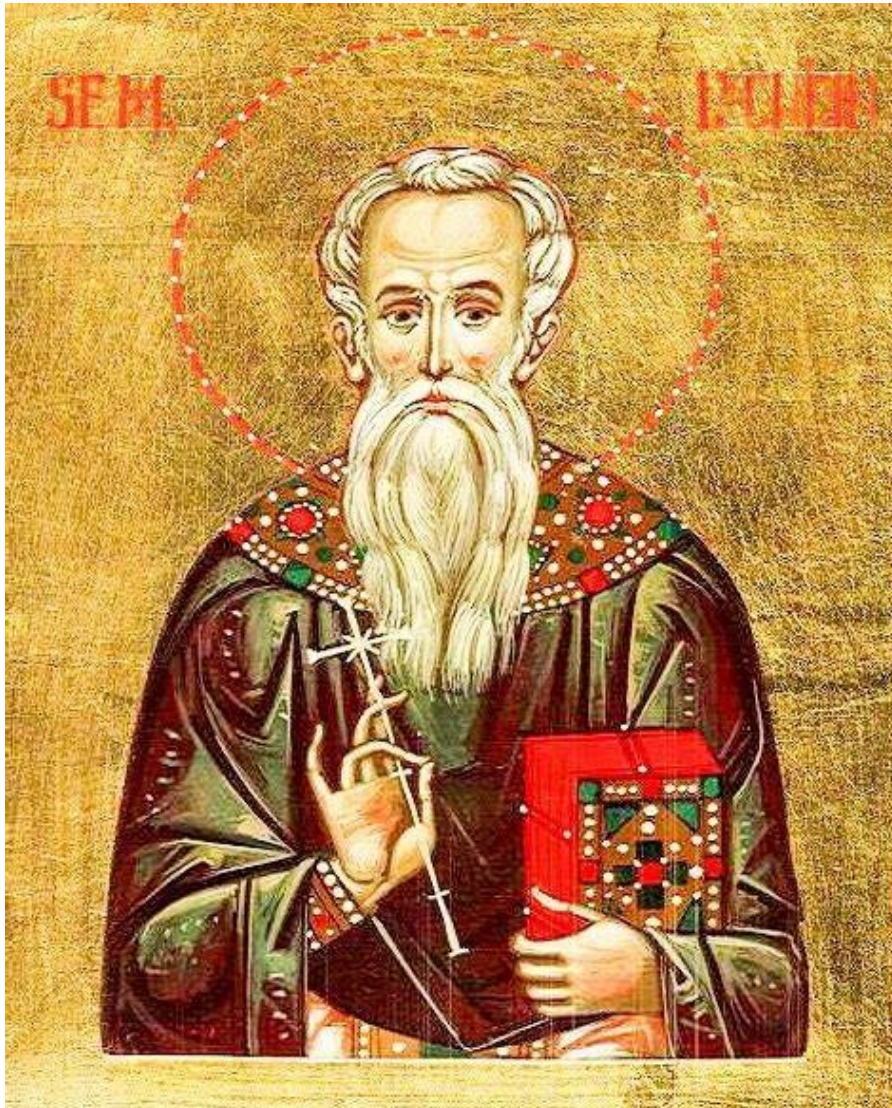


From the Divine Office for the commemoration of the Martyr Lucian (10/15)

The belly of the sea received you, O venerable Lucian, as Jonah was once swallowed by the whale. It restored you to dry land after thirty days, that you might receive Christian burial and that your body might become a source of healings, a support for the Church, and the jewel of martyrs. Thus we also venerate you who intercede for our souls. (Vespers)

Filled with wisdom and the grace of the Spirit, O illustrious Lucian, you explained the divinely-inspired Scripture and refuted the error of the pagans with their many gods and pretended science. O holy martyr, by your victory, you filled the Church of Christ with gladness, and your words bring joy to those who hold the true Faith. (Orthros)



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
OCTOBER 15, 2023**



FATHERS OF NICEA II

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 (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 3) pg. 39

Let all in heaven rejoice, and all on earth be glad, for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: By death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn from the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted to the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 8)

O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth. Through them, You led us to the true faith. 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.

Kontakion (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.

Luke as an Iconographer

In the sixth century Theodore, a reader at Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, compiled a history from various sources. In it he describes an image of the Theotokos which Empress Eudoxia found in Jerusalem and sent to Constantinople. This may have given rise to the belief, first recorded in the ninth century, that St Luke had painted the first icon of the Theotokos. The Hodigitria icon (she who shows the way), which was prized in the capital until it was lost in the Ottoman invasion, was attributed to him.

A Byzantine icon of the Theotokos revered in Rome was long held to be by St. Luke, but has been shown to be no earlier than the fifth century in origin. Called "Salus Populi Romani" (the salvation of the Roman people), it is enshrined in the Basilica of St. Mary Major and has been visited frequently by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

The Death of St. Luke

We know little about St. Luke after the martyrdom of St Paul. He is said to have returned to Asia Minor, preaching in the Churches there, in Greece and the Balkans. According to a fairly early tradition he died in Boeotia, a district in central Greece, and was buried in Thebes, its principal city. After the founding of Constantinople, when many well-known relics were brought to the capital, St Luke's body was taken to Constantinople during the reign of the Emperor Constantius, son of St Constantine the Great.

At some time before 1187 – the circumstances are not known – the body was brought to Padua, Italy and enshrined in Padua's Church of St. Justina where it remains. In 1992 the Orthodox Metropolitan of Thebes requested a portion of the relics from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Padua. Carbon-14 dating and other tests were carried out on the body and on the reputed skull of St Luke enshrined at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. The skull and the body were demonstrated to be that of a single individual from Syria who died sometime after AD 72. The Bishop of Padua sent to Thebes the rib closest to the heart which was then reburied in the original tomb of St. Luke.

In December, 1997 the tomb began exuding myrrh and since then the interior of the tomb has been fragrant.

In Praise of St. Luke

What shall I call you, O divinely-inspired Apostle Luke? A river flowing to us from Paradise? The Ark of the Covenant established by Christ? A star shining forth the supreme Light? A radiance illuming the Church of God? A table of the Bread of Life and a divine Chalice? Intercede for the salvation of our souls. What shall I call you, O glorious Apostle Luke? An attentive physician who heals souls and bodies with the treasures of Heaven's graces? A collaborator and traveling companion of Paul? The writer of the Acts of the Apostles, O holy Luke? There are many names for your many qualities. Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

What shall I call you, O divine preacher Luke? A disciple who gave us the good news of Christ? A physician through whom our souls are healed of their passions? A radiance shining the supreme Light? The solid foundation of the Faith who wrote an account of the all-holy Gospel for our sake? Intercede for the salvation of our souls. O holy apostle of Christ, whose divine teachings you relate, foundation stone of the Church: truly, by your preaching, you have drawn back from the abyss of perdition the hearts darkened by ignorance. You save them from the violence of the stormy waves, O you who were both the companion and imitator of Paul, the Vessel of Election. O wondrous Luke, we entreat you, O jewel of the Antiochians: intercede before the Savior, our God, for the faithful who celebrate your sacred memory. (Vespers)

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

- Today** For Peace in the world
Oct 22 +Ruth Welsh (40 day). Requested by her family
+Irene Santos. Requested by Antoinette Arraj & Family
Oct 29 +James (JR) Rahall (1 yr.). Requested by Susan Rahall & family

Today's Coffee Hr. is just coffee. Anthony & Diana Esper will host a meal in celebration of Amen's Baptism after the service is over. You are invited to attend both the Baptism and meal.

Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by the family of Ruth Welsh

Please remember in your prayers: Lorraine Lian, George Arraj, Jr., Ron Abraham, Peter Abraham, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Katherine Thomas, Charlotte Stockhaus, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Joe Najemy, Michael Mooradian, Dennis Desplaines, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Wyatt William Rahall, Billy Rahall, Dan Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, Tom Sarrouf, Sandra Hanlan, Melissa Kalpakgian, Susan Bailey, those affected by the natural disasters throughout the world, 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	\$1,193
Coffee Hr.	\$ 42
Candles	\$ 23
Memorials	\$ 355
Hall Rental	\$ 200
Other	\$ 170
TOTAL	\$1,983



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

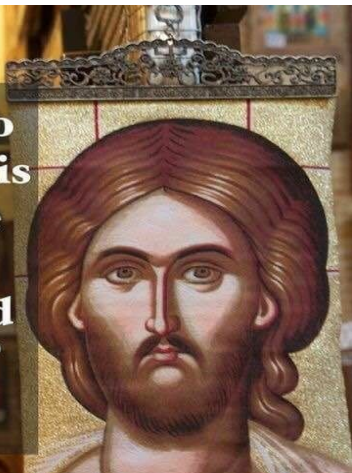
Our 100th Anniversary will be celebrated on *November 4-5*. Our next planning meeting will be **Wednesday October 18 at 6:30pm**. Invitations and ticket order forms are in the mail. You may also use the QR Code below to reserve your place at the Banquet or go to our website, olphworcester.org. Please be advised that no tickets to the Banquet will not be sold at the door. **Also, we are limiting children to those over 12 years of age.**

QR CODE



“It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God's sight.”

- St. Basil the Great -



October 18 – Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (September 14) we begin the Cycle of St Luke. Selections from his Gospel are appointed to be read every day at the Divine Liturgy. About one month later, on October 18, we keep the remembrance of St Luke himself. Aside from a few bits of information in the Scriptures we knew little about St. Luke, even though he composed a substantial part of the New Testament itself.

Besides the Gospel St Luke composed the Acts of the Apostles as the second part of the story of Christ and the early Church (see Acts 1:1). Some commentators think that St Luke also had a part in writing the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Luke was a companion of St Paul, probably since his stay at Troas, on the coast of Asia Minor. It is here that St Luke begins speaking of Paul and his companions as “we” (Acts 16:10). Luke is mentioned as St Paul’s companion in two epistles, Colossians and Philemon, both written towards the end of Paul’s life. When St Paul appealed to Caesar, St Luke accompanied him from Caesarea to Rome (see Acts 28:16). Towards the end of St Paul’s life, it seem that Luke was his only companion (see 2 Tim 4:11).

Luke and Antioch

Ancient authors speak of Antioch as Luke’s birthplace (Eusebius’ Church History III and Gospel Questions IV) while St Paul says that he was a physician (Col 4:14). It seems that he was not a Jew. In the same passage others are mentioned as Jews but Luke is not. *“Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner greets you with Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, about whom you received instructions (if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus, who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision”* (Col 4:10-11).

As a native of Antioch Luke was likely a Greek but he may have been one of the many Greek proselytes to Judaism in the city, which also had a notable Jewish population. In the first- centuryAD proselytes to Judaism were generally pagans (Greeks and Romans) who had come to believe in one God, worshipped in the synagogue and observed the morality of the Jews. They had not accepted circumcision, nor did they observe ceremonial laws. Many of them came to accept Jesus as the Christ.

Did St. Luke See Christ?

One tradition, first mentioned in the Panarion of Epiphanius, says that St. Luke was one of the Seventy, the second circle of disciples called by Christ. He is often mentioned in commentaries as the unnamed companion of Cleopas who encountered the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. This idea is even found in our Menologion, the liturgical book containing the service for his feast.

Others, however, say that there was no evidence that Luke, an educated Greek from Antioch, had been in Galilee or Judea during Christ’s ministry, although it cannot be ruled out. In the first verses of the Gospel Luke describes himself as having investigated everything carefully, which is why he wrote this narrative for Theophilos. This suggests to many that Luke was not recording first-hand impressions but compiling the reminiscences of others.

Perhaps the liturgical designation of Luke as an apostle and as one of the Seventy resembles calling St Paul one of the Twelve. “Twelve” and “Seventy” were understood in the early Church as designations of office rather than as historical references.



Prokimenon

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Reader: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers,

People: And Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

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.

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

Gospel: Lk. 8:5-15, Fathers of the Second Council of Nicaea

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 was 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!

FOOD ITEMS FOR SALE

We still have large trays of frozen kibbeh for sale. Each tray has 14 servings. Cost: \$100 per tray.

We also have three assorted pastry tray from the famous Shatilla Bakery in Dearborn, MI. Cost: \$35 per tray.

Get one before they are sold out!