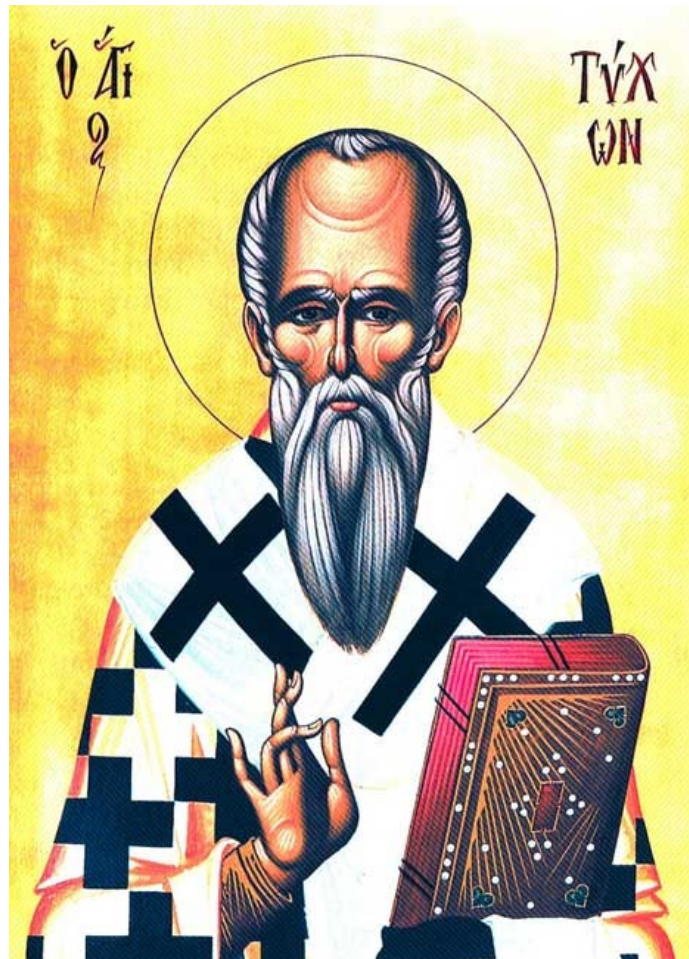


From the Divine Office for our Holy Father Tikhon the Wonderworker (June 16)

Filled with divine knowledge, you became a shepherd of the spiritual flock which you nourished with wisdom and reason in the pastures of the teachings of truth. Wherefore, we venerate your sacred memory, highly glorifying the Lord who glorified you. O blessed hierarch Tikhon, wise in God, intercede for the salvation of our souls/ (Vespers)

O holy one, you became an example of the eremitical life highly pleasing to God; wherefore you obtained from the Spirit Paraclete on high the power to destroy the idols of error, to save people, to cast out devils and heal the sick. Holy Tikhon, we honor you as beloved of God! (Kontakion)



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 16, 2024**



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
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Elias Bailey
Email: Brymc56@comcast.net 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.

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 Sun of Righteousness

One of the last of the Hebrew prophecies in the Old Testament, Malachi, spoke of the coming of “*the Sun of Righteousness*” in words which seem to summarize the entire Gospel. Early Christians saw this as a prophecy fulfilled in Jesus and His Forerunner, John the Baptist:

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple – even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts. ... But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings ...” (Malachi 3:1, 4:2)

Early Christians soon connected this image of Christ as the Sun of Righteousness to the progress of the Gospel among the Gentiles. The Sun of Righteousness shone His light over the darkness of idolatry and eclipsed it. To this day we proclaim this in the troparion of the Nativity, speaking of the Persian magi, “through it [Christ’s birth] those who worshipped stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness.”

And so we hear Christ proclaimed today as the fulfillment of the Messianic hopes of the Jewish people and the One who shines the light of true righteousness among the Gentiles. He is, as we sing so often in the Canticle of Simeon, “Light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of Your people, Israel.”

Ladies’ Guild & Parish Council

We are reviving the Ladies’ Guild of the parish. There will be more information coming about this.

We are also going to form a Parish Council. It has been a number of years since we had one. We will have an initial meeting about this on July 9 at 6:30pm.

Please plan to attend especially if you have an interest in serving on the Council!

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today **Our Fathers, living and deceased**

+Nabil Abou Farah

Next Sunday **Our Friends and Families, living and deceased**

This morning's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Maria Filewicz

There is no Coffee Hr. next week due to the Fundraiser Cookout

Please remember in your prayers: George Arraj, Jr., Peter Abraham, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Charlotte Stockhaus, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Joe Najemy, Michael Mooradian, Dennis Desplaines, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Billy Rahall, Dan Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Nicholas Halal, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, Sandra Hanlan, Susan Bailey, Jacqueline Ventriglia, those affected by the natural disasters throughout the world, the people of Gaza, and for peace in the Middle East.

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	\$1,364
Coffee Hr.	\$ 49
Candles	\$ 25
Stole	\$ 450
Flowers	\$ 20
Other	\$ 457.47
TOTAL	\$2,365.47

God bless you for your generosity!
Just a reminder that we need at least \$2,000 per week to meet our financial obligations.



HAPPY FATHERS DAY TO ALL OUR FATHERS!

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.

COOKOUT FUNDRAISER

Next Sunday, June 23 after the Divine Liturgy, we will have a cookout to raise funds for various projects. Among those are replacing the freezer and stove in the Hall kitchen, new ceiling tiles in the Hall, and renovating the rectory kitchen. Tickets are \$20 for adults and children over 12 and \$10 for children under 12. The menu includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, French fries, macaroni salad, salad, and desserts.

Tickets are now on sale. See Nick Rahall or Ryan Dumont. You may also purchase tickets online through our website.

Please plan to attend and support our continuing effort to spruce up our property!

MELKITE CONVENTION

The 53rd National Melkite Convention will take place **July 4-7, 2024** at the Marriott Boston Quincy Hotel. The convention is sponsored by Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral.

Check the sheets in the back of the church for more details. Please make every effort to attend! It is a weekend filled with worship, spirituality, and fellowship!

Registration and hotel reservations have been extended to **June 24.**

Signs of the Messiah (Mt 8:5-13)

THE GOSPELS PRESENT A PICTURE of the world in which Christ lived which is not always understood. While they focus on His interaction with the leaders of Israel, the Gospels also show us how many other groups and peoples He encountered. Official Judaism, centered on Jerusalem, was made up of several strains. We hear of the Pharisees (the rabbis, focused on the Torah) and the Sadducees (the priests, centered on temple worship). The Gospels also mention the Samaritans with their reverence for the ancient shrines rather than Jerusalem. And we know of others groups who did not esteem the Jerusalem establishment but retired to the Judean desert to await the expected Messiah. Many feel that John the Forerunner was one of them.

Besides these representatives of mainstream and fringe Judaism, the area was also home to Gentiles. Some were native to the area. Jesus often traveled to the east side of the Jordan, and to the area of Tyre and Sidon where He encountered many Gentiles as well. Then, of course there were the colonists who inhabited the cities of the Decapolis, ten Roman and Greek cities in today's Jordan and Syria, and the Roman presence, based in Caesarea on the Mediterranean which governed the area in the name of Caesar. Some of these Gentiles respected Jewish belief and were known as "God-fearing" although they were not part of the Jewish people.

The centurion in Mt 8:5-13 was probably one of these God-fearers, stationed at Capernaum. The corresponding passage in Luke cites the praise of the local Jews that *"he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue"* (Lk 7:5).

The story of the centurion and his servant reveal two themes important to the Jewish believers for whom the Gospel of Matthew was written. The first theme is the belief that Jesus is the Messiah. Like all Jews, these believers held that the Messianic era would be marked by physical as well as spiritual renewal. In crafting the Gospel the Evangelist intersperses the five Discourses (Jesus' teachings) with accounts of how Jesus' presence revitalized people. This would be the proof that He was the Messiah, as we read in His encounter with the disciples of John the Baptist:

"Now when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them'" (Mt 11:2-5). In other words the messianic signs are evident – the Messiah is at hand.

The second theme would be increasingly important as more Gentiles entered the community of the Church. It is expressed in the words of Jesus concerning the centurion, *"Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (Mt 8:10-12). Gentiles would believe and by their faith they would displace the Jews in the people of God.

Prokimenon

Reader: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

People: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Reader: All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

People: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Reader: Sing praise to our God, sing praise!

People: Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Epistle: Rom. 6:18-23

Alleluia

In You, O Lord, I have hoped: let me never be put to shame.

In Your justice, save me and deliver me, lend me Your ear and hasten my deliverance.

Verse: Be for me a protecting God, a sheltering house to save me.

Gospel: Mt. 8:5-13

