

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 28, 2024

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Melkite Catholic Church
256 Hamilton St., Worcester*

**Middle Eastern Picnic
September 8, 2024
12-6pm**



MENU

*Chicken Shawarma
Kibbeh
Chicken Kabobs
Stuffed Grape Leaves
Tabbouli
Hummus
Pastries
And more ...*

ENTERTAINMENT
*Mitch Kaltsunas Band
Dancing
Bouncy House
Kids' Activities
And more ...*

RAFFLES



**HOLY APOSTLES AMONG THE SEVENTY
DEACONS PROCHOR, NICANOR, TIMON AND PARMENAS
JULY 28**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church

256 Hamilton St.

Worcester, MA 01604

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Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Elias Bailey

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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 1), Pg. 38

After the stone was sealed by the Jews and the while the soldiers were watching your spotless body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, bestowing life to the world. Wherefore, the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of life: “Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your kingdom! Glory to your economy, O You who alone are the Lover of mankind!”

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 of the Transfiguration (Tone 7)

On the Mountain, You were transfigured, O Christ our God; and your disciples saw as much of your glory as they could hold, so that when they should see You crucified, they would know that You suffered willingly and would proclaim to the world that You are verily the Splendor of the Father.

Alexei was sure they were going to die, but Father Arseny had a different view. “We are here all alone, Alexei; for two days no one will come. We will pray. For the first time God has allowed us to pray aloud in this camp, with our full voice. We will pray and the rest is God's will!”

As Fr Arseny's biographer would later tell it, “The cold had taken Alexei completely; his entire body was numb. But suddenly the cell, the cold, the numbness of his whole body, his pain, and his fear had disappeared. Father Arseny's voice filled the cell, but was it a cell? Alexei turned to Father Arseny and was stunned. Everything around had been transformed. An awful thought came: ‘I am losing my mind, this is the end, I am dying.’

“The cell had grown wider, the ray of moonlight had disappeared. There was a bright light and Father Arseny, dressed in brilliant white vestments, his hands lifted up, was praying aloud. The clothing on Father Arseny was the same as on the priest Alexei had once seen in church. Alexei saw with surprise that there were two men assisting Father Arseny. Both were dressed in the same bright vestments and both shone with an indefinable white light. Alexei did not see their faces, but sensed that they were beautiful.

“How much time had passed he did not know, but Father Arseny turned to him and said, ‘Go, Alyosha! Lie down, you are tired. I will keep praying; you will hear me.’ Alexei lay down on the metal-covered floor, closed his eyes, and kept on praying. The words of prayer filled his whole being. All was peaceful and warm. It was important not to forget these words, to remember them all his life.

“Father Arseny prayed, and the two others in bright garments prayed with him and served him. The only things that remained in Alexei's memory were the words of the prayer, a warming and joyful light, Father Arseny praying, the two others in clothes of light, and an enormous, incomparable feeling of inner renewing warmth.

“Somebody struck the door, the frozen lock squealed, and voices could be heard from the outside of the cell. Alexei opened his eyes. Father Arseny was still praying. The two in garments of light blessed him and Alexei and slowly left. The blinding light was fading and the cell at last became dark and, as before, cold and gloomy.

“‘Get up, Alexei! They have come for us,’ said Father Arseny. [Two days had passed. One of the party, a prison doctor was astounded.] ‘Amazing! How could they have survived? It's true, though; they're warm.’ The doctor walked into the cell, looked around it, and asked, ‘What kept you warm?’

“‘Our faith in God, and prayer,’ Father Arseny answered...’

“The barracks met them as if they had risen from the dead. Everyone asked, ‘What saved you?’ They both answered, ‘God saved us.’” (Father Arseny, 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father by his spiritual son, Alexander)

“Moving Mountains” in the Ivory Coast

The faith of ordinary people is often helped by that of extraordinary believers, the saints. After buying her sons, Christian and Elie el-Chartouny, a new car, their mother took them to the Maronite church in Abidjan for the Divine Liturgy on May 8, the birthday of St. Charbel. However, the boys decided to skip the Liturgy and go for a drive instead. Their mother knelt in front of Saint Charbel's icon, asking him to protect them and bring them back safe.

At about 11:30 p.m. the woman heard her sons when they came back home; relieved, she went to sleep. When she woke up in the morning, she found the boys on the balcony, still awake, and the new car wrecked. The boys told her that they were driving too fast and their car went off the road, hitting an electrical post 10 km away from home. At that moment, an old monk showed up, but they didn't see his face. He came up to the car and pulled it away from the post! He tied a rope to it and pulled it extremely fast, crossing those 10 km in two minutes. Stopping the car in front of their house, he removed the rope and disappeared. The mother's prayer and Saint Charbel's intervention had saved the boys.

Unwavering faith can move mountains, cars or freezing cold. Just so you know.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +William (25 yr.) & Bertha Rahall, Habib & Miriam Rahall,
James (JR) Rahall. Requested by Nick Rahall & Family

Today's Coffee Hr. is hosted by Nick Rahall & Family

Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by

Please remember in your prayers: George Arraj,Jr., Peter Abraham, Mark Bashour, 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, Stephen McNeil, Billy Rahall, Dan Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Nicholas Halal, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, 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	\$ 514
Candles	\$ 25
Coffee Hr.	\$ 87
Memorials	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$ 1,226

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

Collection 7/14

Weekly	\$ 898
Candles	\$ 30
Coffee Hr.	\$ 69
Rent	\$ 2,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,997

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

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.

DORMITION FAST

The Dormition Fast begins August 1 and ends on the feast of the Dormition (Aug. 15). During that time, we are called to abstain from meat and dairy as well as increase our prayer life.

Please plan to attend the services listed below.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Fri. 8/2 6PM	Paraclesis
Mon. 8/5 6PM	Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Transfiguration
Mon. 8/12 6PM	Paraclesis
Wed. 8/14 6PM	Great Vespers for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
Thu. 8/15 6PM	Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

ANNUAL MIDDLE EASTERN PICNIC

Our annual Middle Eastern Picnic will be Sunday, September 8 from Noon to 6PM. Preparations are in full swing. We need everyone's help to make the picnic a success! We especially need volunteers to help on the day of the picnic. PLEASE plan to spend a couple of hours helping out in some capacity. We need volunteers to set up, serve food, and clean up. The proceeds from the picnic provide a much needed boost in our annual revenue.

Please reach out to *Anthony Esper* at (857) 540-3450 or *anthony.m.esper@gmail.com* or sign up at Sign Up Genius through our parish website: *www.olphworchester.org/picnic* in order to sign up to volunteer.

Our next meeting is Wednesday July 31 at 6:30PM

Thank you in advance for your generosity to your parish!

Mustard Seed Faith (Mt 17:14-23)

THE HEALING OF AN EPILEPTIC described in Matthew 17:14-21 took place late in Christ's public ministry. One indication is that the very next verses speak of Christ warning His disciples about His coming Passion (vv. 22-23). It was only as the time of His earthly ministry was drawing to a close that He began insisting on what was about to happen to Him.

Another sign that this healing took place late in Christ's earthly ministry is the reaction of His disciples. Their question, "Why could we not cast it out?" (v. 19), shows that they had already been healing the sick and exorcizing evil powers in Christ's name. As we read earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Christ had already given them this power: "*And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease...Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give*" (Mt 10:1, 8).

Mustard Seed Faith

Despite all this, we find the apostles powerless here. Furthermore Christ says that they could not heal this epileptic "*because of your unbelief*" (v. 20). Granted that the Gospels show how uncertain the disciples' faith actually was, even after the resurrection. It was only when they received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that they became bold in their proclamation of Christ. Then the sureness of their faith was matched by the hardships they endured and by the signs and wonders they freely performed. At this point, however, the apostles had faith, but it was not extraordinary.

Every believer is by definition a person of faith but not every believer has the kind of unwavering faith the Lord describes in Mt 17:20 – "*...assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*" This kind of faith – some commentators call it "deep faith" – is clearly not common, but it does exist in the Church to witness the truth of the Lord's words.

This is why, in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, St Paul identifies a number of particular gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit, among them healings, miracles, prophecy... and faith. This may strike us as odd. Working miracles is clearly a gift given to some, not to all, but also, it seems, is "mustard seed" faith. Countless examples of extraordinary faith have been recorded both in the Scriptures and in the annals of the saints. Although we may not see them ourselves, there are numerous examples of "mustard seed" faith in our own day. Two such instances are described here as a reminder that Christ's idea of "mustard seed" faith is not an exaggeration.

"Moving Mountains" in Siberia

Imprisoned in a Soviet work camp during the 1940s and 50s, Father Arseny, a Russian Orthodox priest, intervened in a fight to help a young prisoner named Alexei. For "troublemaking," he and Alexei were both sentenced to 48 hours in an unheated cell where the floor and walls were covered with sheets of metal. Outside it was -22°F. They would probably freeze to death within a few hours.



Prokimenon

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

People: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

Reader: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

People: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

People: For we have hoped in You.

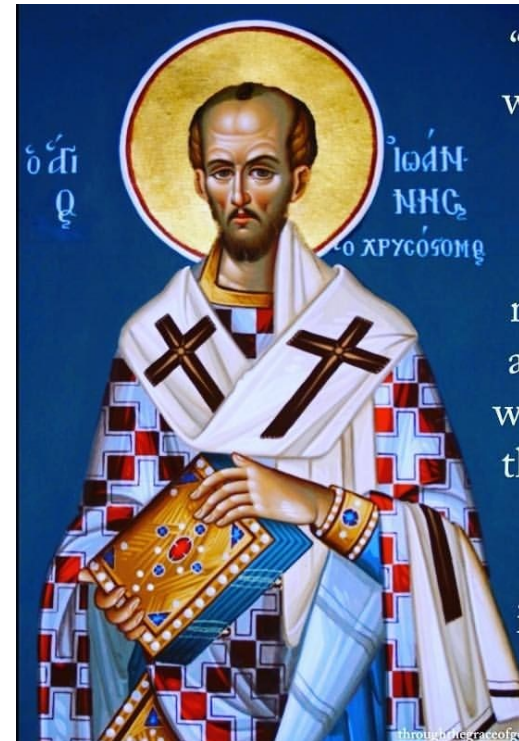
Epistle: 1 Cor. 4:9-16

Alleluia

O God, You granted me retribution and made peoples subject to me and saved me from my raging enemies.

Verse: Therefore, I will proclaim You, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing praise to Your name.

Gospel: Mt. 17:14-23



"As a spark falling into the wide sea would straightway be quenched, or would become invisible, being overwhelmed by the multitude of the waters, so also all human wickedness, when it falls into the pool of the divine fountain, is more swiftly and easily overwhelmed, and made invisible, than that spark."

— St John Chrysostom