



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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REV. ROGER BOUCHER - Weekend Ministry

REV. DEACON JOHN FLESHMAN

REV. DEACON THOMAS MOSES

*"Enter the Church and repent ... for here is the physician, not the judge.
Here one is not investigated, one receives remission of sins." (St. John Chrysostom)*

June 14, 2020

The Sunday of the Divine Body

The Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Elisha

and of our Holy Father Methodios the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, JOHN CULLEN,
MARTHA DAGHER, TIM ERMATINGER, KEN KOMISAREK, MARYLOU LAZOS, JESSICA LOMANNO,
MAURICE PARÉ, RAFAEL PESCHIERA, PAUL ST. GERMAIN, AND JOHN SIWIK

Parish Secretary: ROBIN ANDERSON

Cedars Society President: MARYLOU LAZOS

Sunday School Coordinator: MARTHA DAGHER

N.A.M.Y. Advisor: ROBIN ANDERSON

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Before or after any service, or by appointment;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN ILLUMINATION: Please contact the clergy in advance to arrange for the required baptismal instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING: At least six months prior to the proposed wedding, please contact the clergy to arrange for the required interview and instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the pastor at any time when this sacrament is needed;

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: Anyone too infirm to attend our services may receive Communion in the home. Please advise the clergy whenever this sacrament is needed.

THE ORDER OF TODAY'S LITURGY

The Troparion of the Resurrection (1st Tone) Page 51

The Torparion of The Divine Body (1st Tone):

Christ, having loved His own and loved them until the end, gave them His Body and His Blood as food and drink. Wherefore, let us offer Them our adoration and say with fear: "Glory to Your Presence, O Christ, glory to Your compassion, glory to Your condescension, O You who alone are the Lover of mankind."

The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1st Tone): Page 16

Kondakion of The Divine Body (2nd Tone):

O Christ, do not turn Your face away from me, when I partake of the Bread which is Your Body, and of the Wine which is Your Blood. O Lord, let sharing in the august Mysteries be not for my judgment or condemnation, but for my eternal and everlasting life.

THE PROKIMENON:

**MAY YOUR KINDNESS, O LORD, BE UPON US,
FOR WE HAVE HOPED IN YOU!**

Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting!

Today's Readings: Romans 2: 10-16 and Matthew 4:18-23

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, (June 13) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Charles Nassoura (38th), Barbara Spencer (18th), Russell Pond (4th), Ferris Ebol (40th), James Holt (15th), Honnie Coriaty (41st), William Paquette (26th), John George (16th), Bernadette Ganem (6th), and Rachel George (26th)

Sunday (June 14) 10:30 AM

For the repose of the Most Rev. Justin Najmy (52 Anniversary),
the first bishop for the Melkites in America

Next Saturday (June 20) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Mary Batal (59th), Emile Ashooh Sr. (34th),
William Zeady (60th), and Francis Kheriaty (15th)

Next Sunday (June 21) 10:30 AM

For the health and salvation of the members of our parish
that are graduating High School and College

For the repose of the Millie Ashooh (10th Anniversary) by her family

Livestreamed Services: Sunday beginning at 9:45 AM, Friday at 7:00 PM.

They can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheCedars/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheCedars/live/>.



The Sunday of the Divine Body

The observance of this feast, which began last Thursday, continues for eight days; so we continue to celebrate it on this Sunday. This feast commemorates the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus and the great gift of the Savior Himself in the Holy Eucharist.

Each celebration of the Divine Liturgy makes present to us the great life-giving sacrifice of Christ, as the Body and Blood of the Lord are offered to the Father by Christ, by the priest, and by the faithful in attendance.



Vocation View

Christ and Paul are calling us to check our focus on life: what is really central, what is really important, what is merely peripheral. The answer is clear: we are people loved and saved by God, living in communion with Him and one another in His Kingdom, already begun among us. Everything else must be put in order and perspective after and around that fact. Our priests are to constantly call us to “be attentive” to that reality in our lives and world. Pray that God stir up many vocations to the priesthood who will generously respond and serve us in that ministry.

Mahrajan 2020 News: After a meeting of Parish Council and Mahrajan committee members we have decided to tentatively go forward with The Mahrajan on August 14, 15, 16. We anticipate having to make limitations and adjustments based what the current conditions with the coronavirus may be at that time. **For now, though, we need your help:** We will be preparing date fingers on Wednesday at 6:30 in the hall, and need helpers. According to Health Department standards, those preparing food must be wearing masks.



Do you know someone in the parish that is graduating from high school or college? Coronavirus may have cancelled their graduation ceremonies, but we can still honor them in our church family! Let Fr. Tom know who they are, so that we can congratulate them and pray for them at the Divine Liturgy next Sunday!

Last weekend's Attendance: About 90 Collection: \$ 2,325.⁸⁶

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$63.³⁵

The balance on our mortgage is: \$52,653.¹³

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Fri., June 19	7:00 PM	Divine Liturgy-Feast of the Holy Apostle Jude
Sat., June 20	4:30 PM	Divine Liturgy: The Third Sunday After Pentecost
Sun., June 21	9:45 AM	Sunday Orthros
Sun., June 21	10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy: The Third Sunday After Pentecost

Our Lady of the Cedars Church On-Line Bible Study

With Deacon Thomas Moses

Date: Every Thursday Evening through August 13, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm-7:30 pm **Location:** Zoom Conference Room

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6033684154>

Meeting ID: 603 368 4154 **Password:** 354554

Topic: Each Thursday evening, during the summer months, we will look at the Epistle reading for the coming Sunday together. The Bible study will be both informative and devotional. Please bring a journal or notebook and a Bible.



The Fast of The Apostles begins on Friday

Traditionally in the Byzantine tradition, this fast begins on the Monday following All Saints Sunday and extends until the celebration of the feast of the Sts Peter and Paul on June 29th. For the Melkites, however, the Synod and Patriarch have assigned June 19th as the date to begin this fast.

Having rejoiced for fifty days following the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Apostles began to prepare for their departure from Jerusalem to spread Christ's message. According to Sacred Tradition, the Apostles had a period of

prayer and fasting as part of their preparation for their missionary undertakings.

The tradition of the Fast has existed at least since Pope Leo I (461 AD), as is evidenced by his homilies, though it has subsequently been forgotten in the West. The Fast is thought to have been instituted out of thanksgiving to God for the witness of the apostles of Christ. The Apostle's Fast has been kept to this day as an expression of unity with the apostles' mission and their endurance of persecution, and also as a means to strengthen us for our own missionary endeavors.

The Apostles' Fast is not as severe as Great Lent, but entails fasting from meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As with the other fasts of the church year these suggestions are offered not as rules but as serious spiritual guidelines for the life of the faithful, and may be adapted according to need and situation and are not mandatory or binding.

During this fast, as we remember the sufferings endured by the Apostles, let us also remember that the Churches established by the Apostles in the Middle East are suffering once more. Christians in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Syria and elsewhere in Asia and Africa are enduring renewed assaults from Islamic fundamentalists and other extremist groups, as well as from the Communist regimes in the Far East. Persecution of Christians in Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, China, India, Indonesia, Libya, Nigeria, North Korea, Mali, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sudan, Tanzania and Turkey is reported almost daily. This Fast is a particularly appropriate time to pray for our suffering brethren in these countries.

Today we commemorate the Holy Prophet Elisha and St. Methodios the Confessor

Elisha lived nine hundred years before Christ. When the Lord willed to take the aged Prophet Elijah to Himself, He revealed to him that He had designated Elisha, the son of Shaphat of the tribe of Reuben from the town of Abel-Meholah, as his successor in the prophetic service. Elijah informed Elisha of God's will and draped him with his mantle and implored from God the two-fold grace of prophecy for him. Elisha immediately departed his home and family and followed Elijah. When the Lord took Elijah in a fiery chariot, Elisha remained to continue the prophetic service with yet a greater power than Elijah.

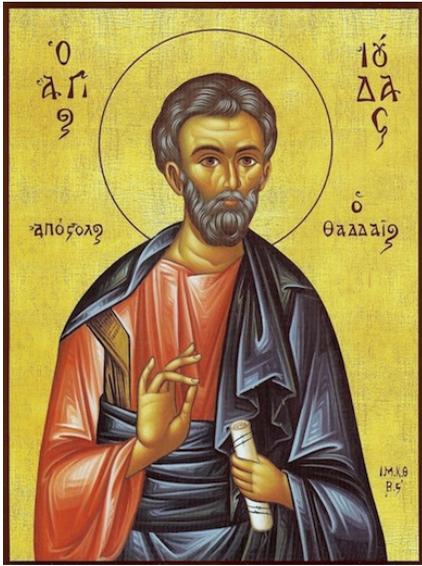
By his purity and zeal, Elisha was equal to the greatest prophets and, by the miraculous power that was given to him by God, Elisha exceeded them all. He parted the waters of the Jordan as Moses once parted the Red Sea; the bitter waters in Jericho he made drinkable; he brought forth water into the excavated trenches during the war with the Moabites; he multiplied the oil in the pots of the poor widow; he resurrected the dead son of the Shunammite woman; he fed a hundred people with twenty small loaves of bread; he healed Commander Naaman of leprosy; he invoked leprosy upon his servant Gehazi because of his greed; he blinded the entire Syrian army and also forced another army to flee; he foretold many events to the people as well as to individuals. Elisha died at a very old age.

St. Methodius was born in the town of Syracuse in Sicily. After the completion of his secular studies, he was tonsured a monk and began to live a life of asceticism in a monastery. Patriarch Nicephorus took him into his service. During the reign of the iconoclastic emperors, he became widely known as a superb defender of the veneration of icons. For this, the wicked Emperor Theophilus exiled him to an island with two common criminals where he languished in a damp prison for seven years without light and without sufficient food as though in a grave.

During the time of the pious Empress Theodora and her son Michael, Methodius was freed and was chosen as patriarch (according to an earlier prophecy of St. Joannicius the Great). The first week of the Great Fast [Lenten Season] Methodius solemnly carried the icons into the church and wrote a Canon in honor of icons.

Unable to outwit him, the vile heretics hired a woman who declared that the patriarch had an impure relationship with her. The whole of Constantinople was horrified at this slander. Nevertheless, not knowing how he could otherwise prove his innocence, the patriarch overcame his embarrassment, removed his clothes and stood naked before the court which he himself had requested, and showed his withered body, debilitated from fasting. The court was clearly convinced that the patriarch had been slandered. Hearing of this, the people rejoiced and the heretics were shamed. Then, the woman admitted that she was persuaded and paid to bring this slander against the saint of God. Thus, those who thought to bring shame upon Methodius unintentionally increased his fame. This great confessor of the Faith died peacefully in the year 846 A.D. and took up habitation in the Kingdom of God.





The Holy Apostle Jude, the Brother of James

(The Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Jude will be offered on Friday at 7:00 PM, for the intention of all the sick and suffering of our parish.)

IN EVERY CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIANS we can expect to find a few saints, a few sinners, and a lot of people who are a bit of both. Unfortunately sometimes people join a church or become active in its organizations for social, financial or political gain. They tend to keep their motivations secret in order to win the approval of other members. Others may be motivated by a desire to dominate others, or to appear as the center of attention. Such individuals may push their own agendas the point of becoming divisive elements in churches.

They may take on the clergy, the members of the church council or other parishioners.

The Apostle Jude pulled no punches in dealing with such people. He confronted the issue of divisiveness in his General Epistle, one of the last – and shortest – books of the New Testament. He described such people as barren. They are, he said, “...spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 1:12-13).

Jude summons several examples from the Old Testament to show what such people can expect to receive: “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah” (v. 11). Still, Jude notes, some of these people can be corrected gently but others need the fear of God put in them lest they perish: “on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire...” (vv. 22-23). Church leaders need to know when to be strict and when to be lenient in dealing with such people: when to apply the law and when to extend clemency.

The Apostle Jude

The Scripture identifies the author of this epistle as Jude, “the brother of James” (Jude 1:1), but which James is his brother? There are three known in the New Testament; two are described as having a brother named Jude.

One James in the New Testament is “the brother of the Lord,” who is thought to be the son of St. Joseph by his first wife (in the West James is usually described as the Lord’s relative). When the people of Nazareth wondered about what they were hearing about Jesus they said, “Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?” (Mt 13:54-55) Both “Jude” and “Judas” translate the same Hebrew name, Yahudah; English speakers have always felt squeamish about giving the same name to both the faithful Apostle and the Traitor.

Another James in the New Testament is found in the Gospel list of the Twelve: “*James the son of Alphaeus*” (Lk 6:15). Paired with him is “*Judas the son of James*” (v.16). So our Jude is either the brother of James, the Lord’s brother, who would become the leader of the Church in Jerusalem, or the son of James, the son of Alphaeus, who was one of the Twelve.

In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jude is not mentioned in the list of the Twelve Apostles. Instead a Thaddeus is named in his place. These names have often been harmonized as “Jude Thaddeus.” It was not unusual, especially in a border region such as Galilee, for people to have both a Greek and a Semitic name, but there is no concrete evidence that this was so in the case of St Jude.

The Acts of Simon and Jude

The New Testament makes no further mention of St Jude or other of the Apostles. As a result many apocryphal Gospels and Acts were written in the first centuries to detail their later adventures. Simon and Jude are variously described as preaching in North Africa, Gaul, Britain and the East. One such source, *The Acts of Simon and Jude*, has these two apostles preaching and ultimately martyred in the Persian Empire. It is thought that this text comes from as late as the fourth century AD, but its description of first-century Persia is said to be remarkably accurate.

Material from The Acts of Simon and Jude came to be included in Jacobus de Voragine’s *Golden Legends*, a thirteenth-century collection of saints’ lives beloved in the Medieval West. It was printed in countless editions and soon translated from Latin into most European languages, accounting for the popularity of this otherwise unknown Apostle in the Middle Ages.

Sometime after his death, Saint Jude’s body was brought from Beirut to Rome and placed in a crypt in St. Peter’s Basilica which was visited by many devotees. Now his bones are in the left transept of St. Peter’s Basilica under the main altar of St. Joseph in one tomb with the remains of the apostle Simon the Zealot.

Jude and His “Hopeless Cases”

In the West today, St. Jude has become known as the “Patron of hopeless cases” or “Patron of the impossible.” How did this come about? According to tradition, after his martyrdom, pilgrims came to his grave to pray and many of them experienced the powerful intercessions of St. Jude.

Devotion to St. Jude may have been popularized by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) and later by St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373). She reputedly had a vision in which the Lord Himself told her to pray to St. Jude with faith and confidence, because the apostle would “show himself to be the most willing to give you help.” This was one of a host of visions of Christ, the Virgin and other saints who appeared to her and dictated prayers and devotions for her to observe. A collection of these visions, *The Prophecies and Revelations of St Bridget*, was another popular work in the Medieval West.

The Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) began working in present day Armenia soon after their founding in 1216. There was a substantial devotion to St. Jude in this area at that time, by both Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians. This lasted until persecution drove Christians from the area in the 18th century. Devotion to Saint Jude began again in earnest in the 19th century, starting in Italy and Spain, spreading to South America, and finally to the United States (starting in the area around Chicago) owing to the influence of the Claretians and the Dominicans in the 1920s.

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, Olivia Aragon, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Fr. Michael Carl, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Sarah Dagher, Sher Farrow, Julie Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Mary Ann Garvey, Loretto Gauvin, Arthur Goldberg, Bonnie Gomez, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Leila Khoury, Shirley Lanoue, Sarah Lavery, Susan Latvis, Diana Lebel, Haley Lesmerises, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, Joanne Nader, Mimi Nasser, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Jessica Nehme, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, Stefan Notter, Steven O'Leary, Ellen Osgood, Alice Paymant, Marco Enrique Peschiera, MaryJo Pond, Noreen Pond, Ellen Powell, Michael Prpulx, Sheila Quinn, Daniel Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Julia Rose, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvas, Barbara Schultz, Iris Angelina Velasquez, Gina Walcott, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, Angela Wise, and Marilyn Whitmore.

If you are visiting our church, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! If you would like to know more about the Melkite Catholic Church, check out the brochure entitled *"Welcome to this Holy House,"* located on the table in the back of the church.

  <p>Joe Ashooh, Agent 297 South Willow St Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-1000 www.joesthere.com</p> <p><small>Providing Insurance and Financial Services Call us for a free quote</small></p>	<p>NORTH HILLS REALTY GROUP, LLC <i>Residential Real Estate Brokers</i> Abraham Dagher, Realtor <i>814 Elm St., Suite # 302 Manchester, NH 03101</i> (603) 629-9988</p>	 <p>Chuck Stephen 814 Elm Street, Suite 503 Manchester, NH 03101 Tel # 603.606.3391 Toll Free 866.491.9675 chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com www.glenwoodinvestment.com</p> <p>Glenwood Investment Group <i>"Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth"</i></p>
<p>THE STEPHEN GROUP</p> <p>814 Elm Street, Suite 309 Manchester, NH 03101 Office 603.625.8825 Cell 603.419.9592</p> <p>JOHN STEPHEN <i>Managing Partner</i> jstephen@stephengroupinc.com www.stephengroupinc.com</p>		 <p>Stephen LAW GROUP PLLC</p> <p>Robert Stephen, Attorney at Law 582 Chestnut Street Manchester, NH 03104 phone 603-663-1007 www.StephenLaw.com</p>
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Today's Readings:

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (2:10-16)

Brethren, glory, honor and peace to everyone who does good works, first to the Jew, then to the Greek, since with God there is no favoritism.

For all those who have sinned without the Law will perish without the Law, and all those who have sinned under the Law will be judged under the Law. (Before God, indeed, it is not those who hear the Law who are just, but those who follow the Law who will be justified. When the Gentiles who do not have the Law do by nature what the Law commands, while they do not have the Law, they are their own law: they show the work of the Law written in their hearts. The conscience bears witness to them, even when conflicting thoughts accuse or defend them) on the day when God will judge the hidden secrets of men according to what I preach, through Jesus Christ.

الرسالة (رومه 2: 10 - 16)

يا إخوة، المجد والكرامة والسلام لكل من يصنع الخير، لليهودي أولاً ثم لليوناني. إذ ليس عند الله محاباة وجوه. لان كل الذين خطئوا وليس عندهم ناموس، فبدون ناموس أيضاً يهلكون، وكل الذين خطئوا وعندهم ناموس، فبمقتضى الناموس يُدانون. لأنه ليس السامعون للناموس هم أبرار عند الله، بل انما العاملون بالناموس يُبررون. فإن الامم الذين ليس عندهم ناموس، حينما يعملون طبيعياً بما هو في الناموس، فهؤلاء الذين ليس عندهم ناموس، يكونون ناموساً لأنفسهم. ويُظهرون عمل الناموس المكتوب في قلوبهم، وضميرهم شاهد، وأفكارهم تشكو وتحتج فيما بينها، يوم يدين الله سرائر الناس، بحسب انجيلي بيسوع المسيح.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Evangelist (4:18-23)

At that time as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). And He said to them, "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." And at once they left the nets and followed Him. And going farther on, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. And immediately they left their nets and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Good News of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

الانجيل (متى 4 : 18 - 23)

في ذلك الزمان، فيما كان يسوع ماشياً على شاطئ بحر الجليل، أبصر أخوين، سيمعان المدعو بطرس وأندراوس أخاه، يلقيان شبكة في البحر، لأنَّهُما كانا صيَّادين. فقال لهُما: إتبعاني فأجعلكما صيَّادي الناس. فللوقت تركا الشباك وتبعاه. وجاز من هناك، فرأى أخوين آخرين، يعقوب بن زبدي ويوحنا أخاه، في سفينة مع أبيهما زبدي، يصلحان شباكهما. فدعاهما. وللوقت تركا السفينة وأباهما وتبعاه. وكان يسوع يطوف في الجليل كله، يُعلِّم في مجامعهم، ويكرز ببشارة الملكوت، ويشفي كل مرض وكل ضعف في الشعب.