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for the Melkite Catholic Church

Diocese
of Newton



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We Journey
As One Family



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Diocese of Newton

for the Melkite Catholic Church
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***“By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another”***

(John 13:35)

Dear beloved clergy and faithful,

I pray that this year be full of God's blessing for you and your family. The annual Melkite Catholic calendar that our Diocese of Newton puts together for our communities is intended to help us to live and walk liturgically.

This calendar is a daily companion to help us:

- **Meditate** on the meaning of our baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king to live in communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ in His Body, the Church;
- **Fast and Feast** with our brothers and sisters throughout the Church;
- **Immerse ourselves** in the sacred Scriptures, the liturgical year, and Saints of the Church;
- **Pray** for the living and departed clergy of the Melkite Catholic Diocese of Newton;
- **Stay connected** with other Melkite Catholic communities across the United States.

As we reflect on the lives of the Saints of the Church, the Fast and Feast days, and the themes of every Sunday, we are able to learn various aspects of our faith and then apply this treasure to our personal and parish journey with the Risen Lord.

I particularly encourage you to read the Scriptural passages listed, have a plan to read the entire New Testament and then the entire Bible, and continue to have the Word of God as a focus of everything you think, say, and do.

By reading about God's encounter with others in the Bible we learn how God also wants a friendship with us today and every day.

The reflections in this year's calendar focus on the various elements of service to the Church and society. When we recognize how much the Lord has done for us, we become filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can reach out and serve our Churches and others in the wider community.

As one family of faith, we journey with our Lord together, and the Church helps us live as the Body of Christ to pray, study, and serve. Saint Peter tells us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

God's plan for the Church and society includes all of us collaborating together. The Lord personally calls you by name, at every phase of your life, to serve in His vineyard. **How are you discerning and living the gifts God has given you?**

We are grateful to Dr. Nathan Eubank, who wrote this year's reflections. He is Associate Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, and a deacon candidate in our Melkite Catholic Deacon Formation program. He is providing us a great witness of how he is putting his gifts at the service of our Melkite Catholic Church and the larger community.

We are not alone, because God is with us and we are with others to love, forgive, and serve them. How will you choose to live and grow in your faith? Find a parish ministry or start a new one that will enable you to grow and live your faith in the Risen Lord.

Also, reflect on how the gifts that God has given you are bearing fruit in your life and the life of others.

Remember me in your prayers and be assured of mine.

With my prayers and best wishes,

+ François

Most Reverend François Beyrouti, Ph.D./D.Th.
Eparchial Bishop of the Diocese of Newton
For the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America

*We Journey
As One Family*

Christ Reveals What the Church is



St. Luke begins the book of Acts with a small detail, easy to miss, that provides the key to understanding who we are as a Church: "In the first book...I have dealt with *all that Jesus began to do and teach*, until the day when he was taken up" (1:1-2). St. Luke describes the Gospel of Luke as a book about all that Jesus began to do and teach, implying that the book of Acts, which is about the apostles, shows how Jesus continued to act and teach through the Church. This is the most important thing to understand about living as Christians: through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are called, despite our many failings, to continue the ministry of the Lord himself. Any study of the Church is, therefore, a study of the person of Christ, because it is the Church's vocation to be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29).

Jesus is the only Son of God, and the good news of the Gospel is that we have been adopted as children of God through the gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:12-17). St. Paul describes our adoption as sons of God this way:

God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir. (Galatians 4:4-7).

This is the heart of what it means to be a Christian: being adopted into the very life of God through the reception of the Spirit of Christ.

From the very beginning, humanity turned away from God to sin and death. Though we were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), we were disfigured by sin and death and deprived of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). When Christ, who is true God from true God, became human, he restored the original glory of humanity. He is like us in all things but sin (Hebrews 4:15) and enables us to live in free obedience to God. The Church consists of the men and women from every nation who have responded to this call.

JANUARY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 JN 20:11-18 (8) 2 TIM 4:5-8 MK 1:1-8 SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD TONE 5	5 1 COR 9:19-27 LK 3:1-18 Paramony of the Theophany	6 MK 1:9-11 TI 2:11-14; 3:4-7 MT 3:13-17 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD	7 ACTS 19:1-8 JN 1:29-34 SYNAXIS OF THE FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST	1 JN 10:1-9 COL 2:8-12 LK 2:20-21; 40-52 CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD	2 HEB 11:8-16 MK 11:27-33 SAINT BASIL THE GREAT	3 1 TIM 3:13-16; 4:1-5 MT 3:1-6 SATURDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
Synaxis of the seventy Disciples - Father Theoktistos	Martyrs Theopemptos and Theonas - Mother Syncletica			Father Silvester, Pope of Rome		Prophet Malachi - Martyr Gordios
11 JN 20:19-31 (9) HEB 13:7-16 MT 4:12-17 SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY TONE 6	12 JAS 2:14-26 JN 10:39-42 FATHER THEODOSIUS	13 JAS 3:1-10 LK 20:1-8 Martyrs Ermylus and Stratonicos - Martyrs of Sinai and Raitho	14 JAS 3:11-18; 4:1-4 LK 12:32-40 Leave-taking of the Theophany	15 JAS 4:7-17; 5:1-9 LK 12:32-40 Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-Dweller	16 ACTS 12:1-11 JN 21:14-25 VENERATION OF THE CHAINS OF THE APOSTLE PETER	10 EPH 6:10-17 MT 4:1-11 SATURDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
						Father Gregory of Nyssa - Marcian - Dometian
18 JN 21:1-14 (10) HEB 13:7-16 LK 19:1-10 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 7	19 1 PT 2:21-25; 3:1-9 MK 12:13-17 Fathers Macarios the Egyptian and Arsenios	20 MT 11:27-30 2 COR 4:6-15 LK 6:17-23 FATHER EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT	21 1 PT 4:1-11 MK 12:28-37 Father Maximos the Confessor - Martyr Neophyte	22 1 PT 4:12-19; 5:1-5 MK 12:38-44 Apostle Timothy - Martyr Anastasios the Persian	23 2 PT 1:1-10 MK 13:1-8 Hieromartyr Clement Bishop of Ancyra - Martyr Agathangel	24 2 TIM 2:11-19 LK 18:2-8 FATHER GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE
FATHERS ATHANASIOS AND CYRIL, ARCHBISHOPS OF ALEXANDRIA						Mother Xenia the Roman
25 JN 21:14-25 (11) HEB 7:26-28; 8:1-2 LK 18:10-14 SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN TONE 8	26 2 PT 1:20-21; 2:1-9 MK 13:9-13 Father Xenophon and his relatives	27 JN 10:1-9 HEB 7:26-28; 8:1-2 JN 10:9-16 TRANSFER OF THE REMAINS OF FATHER JOHN CHRYSOSTOM	28 2 PT 3:1-18 MK 13:24-31 Father Ephrem and Isaac the Syrians	29 1 JN 1:8-10; 2:1-6 MK 13:31-37; 14:1-2 Transfer of the Remains of Hieromartyr Ignatius	30 JN 10:9-16 HEB 13:7-16 MT 5:14-19 FATHERS BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM	31 1 TIM 6:11-16 LK 20:46-47; 21:1-4 Cyrus and John the Moneyless Wonderworkers
FATHER GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE						

Communion with God and One Another in the Church

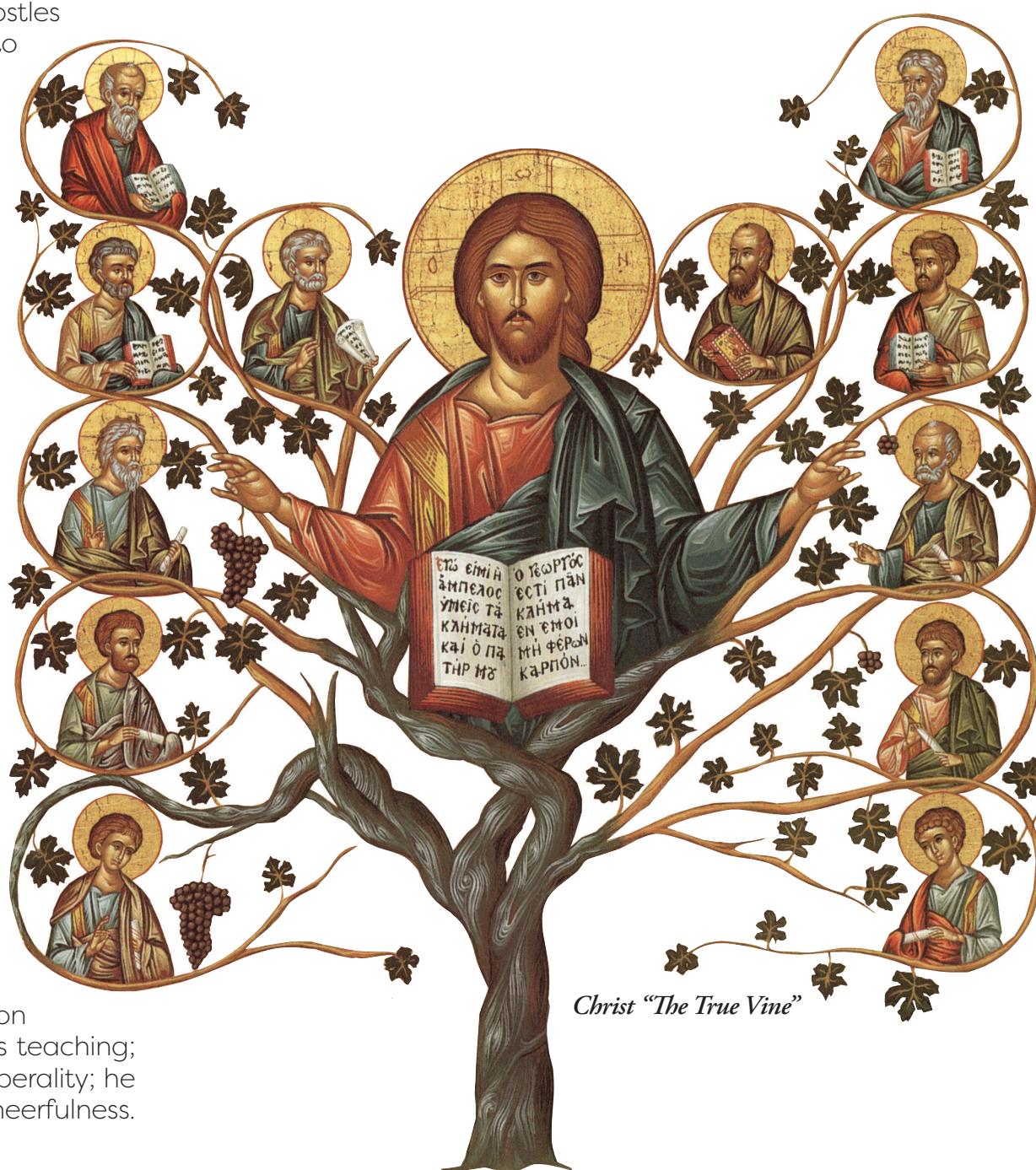
The book of 1 John begins by describing how the apostles witnessed the Incarnate Lord's ministry. They "saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us" (1:1-2). Then John tells us why the apostles preached about the Lord: "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you..." (1:3). It is helpful to consider how we might finish this sentence if we did not know how it ends. Some might guess that the apostles proclaimed the message about Jesus "so that you would go to heaven" or "so that you would have forgiveness of sins." Those answers wouldn't be wrong, but they would be incomplete. The actual end of the verse is surprising: "... so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." The apostolic proclamation about Jesus was meant to create fellowship—communion between us and them—and that fellowship is also with the Triune God.

These words from St. John are a powerful reminder that we do not approach God by ourselves. The temptation to see Christian fellowship as something optional is dangerous, because God invites us into the self-giving love of His own divine life and asks us to share His gifts with one another. St. John also guards us against another mistake: to imagine that the Church is only or primarily fellowship with other humans. This is the temptation to turn the Church into a club or merely human organization. The truth proclaimed by Scripture is far richer: the Gospel makes us members of God's family and draws us closer to one another as a result.

The Church is the Body of Christ

Our unity with one another and with Christ means that every individual is precious before God and also that we all have distinct roles to play. St. Paul uses the image of the body to explain this:

For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness (Romans 12:4-8)



FEBRUARY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MT 28:16-20 (1) 1 COR 6:12-20 LK 15:11-32 Preparation of the Encounter SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON TONE 1	2 LK 2:25-32 HEB 7:7-17 LK 2:22-40 ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD	3 1 JN 3:9-22 MK 14:10-42	4 1 JN 3:21-24; 4:1-11 MK 14:43-72; 15:1	5 1 JN 4:20-21; 5:1-21 MK 15:1-15	6 2 JN 1:1-13 MK 15:22,25,33-41 LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD	7 1 COR 10:23-29 LK 21:8-9; 25-27; 33-36 SATURDAY OF THE DEAD
	†	Simeon the Just and Ann the Prophetess	†	Father Isidore of Pelusium	†	Father Parthenios and Luke of Hellas
8 MK 16:1-8 (2) 1 COR 8:8-13; 9:1-2 MT 25:31-46 SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE TONE 2	9 3 JN 1:1-15 LK 19:29-40; 22:7-39 Martyr Nicephorus	10 JUDE 1:1-10 LK 22:39-42; 45-71; 23:1 Hieromartyr Charalampos	11 JOEL 3:12-21 JOEL 2:12-26 Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebastea and Empress Theodora	12 JUDE 1:11-25 LK 23:1-33; 44-56 Father Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch	13 ZECH 8:19-23 ZECH 8:7-17 Father Martinian	14 ROM 14:19-23; 16:25-27 MT 6:1-13 SATURDAY OF OUR GOD-BEARING FATHERS THE ASCETICS Father Auxentios - Hermit Maron
15 MK 16:9-20 (3) ROM 13:11-14; 14:1-4 MT 6:14-21 SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE TONE 3	16 IS 1:1-20 GEN 1:1-13 PROV 1:1-20 Great Fast Begins Martyrs Pamphilos and his companions	17 IS 1:19-2:3 GEN 1:14-23 PROV 1:20-33 Great-Martyr Theodore	18 IS 2:3-11 GEN 1:24-2:3 PROV 2:1-22 Father Leo, Pope of Rome	19 IS 2:11-21 GEN 2:4-19 PROV 3:1-18 Apostle Archippus - Martyr Philothea	20 IS 3:1-14 GEN 2:20-3:20 PROV 3:19-34 Father Leo, Bishop of Catania	21 HEB 1:1-12 MK 2:23-28; 3:1-5 SATURDAY OF THE GREAT AMONG THE MARTYRS THEODORE
22 LK 24:1-12 (4) HEB 11:24-40 JN 1:43-51 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY TONE 4	23 IS 4:2-6;5:1-7 GEN 3:21-4:7 PROV 3:34-4:22 Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna	24 LK 7:17-30 2 COR 4:6-15 MT 11:2-15 FIRST AND SECOND DISCOVERIES OF THE HEAD OF THE FORERUNNER	25 IS 5:16-25 GEN 4:16-26 PROV 5:15-6:4 Father Tarasios, Archbishop of Constantinople	26 IS 6:1-12 GEN 5:1-24 PROV 6:3-20 Father Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza and Photini the Samaritan Woman	27 IS 7:1-14 GEN 5:32-6:8 PROV 6:20-7:1 Father Procopios the Decapolitan, Confessor	28 HEB 3:12-16 MK 1:35-44 Father Basil, Confessor



All Saints

The Church is Sustained by God's Faithfulness

Every Christian has confronted the ongoing reality of sin in our own lives, in our brothers and sisters in Christ, and in the Church's ministers. Anyone who knows even a little Church history knows that this has always been the case. Stories of disappointments and failures abound down the centuries. This raises the question: How can the Church carry out its mission if it is filled with sinners?

The only answer to this question is God's faithfulness. Despite human failings, the Lord is faithful to act through us and even in spite of us. As St. Paul put it:

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:5-7)

Earthen vessels are not particularly strong or impressive, but they can contain something of great value. Similarly, the Church and her ministers are not the source of our hope, but the Church has been given the grace of bringing the light of Christ to the world. Moreover, the Lord is always at work in all the baptized to achieve our holiness. To quote St. Paul again: "I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Mary and the Saints are Signs of Hope

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, disciples of Christ who have gone before us and help us understand our own calling. The first among these is the Mother of God, whose obedience to God shows us what it means to be a Christian (see Luke 1:38; 11:27-28). Her Dormition confirms Christ's victory over death and reminds us that He "who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through

his Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8:11). Similarly, the martyrs, as imitators of Christ's

Pascha and "athletes of Christ," encourage perseverance and show the power of divine grace. Every day of the year the Church calendar celebrates one or more saints. We look up to them not as heroes who do something we could never do, but as our older brothers and sisters in the Lord, who point the way to maturity in Christ.

MARCH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 LK 24:12-35 (5) HEB 1:10-14; 2:1-3 MK 2:1-12 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS AND SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS TONE 5	2 IS 8:13-22; 9:1-7 GEN 6:9-22 PROV 8:1-21 Hieromartyr Theodosios, Bishop of Cyrene	3 IS 9:9-21; 10:1-4 GEN 7:1-5 PROV 8:32-9:11 Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus	4 IS 10:12-20 GEN 7:6-9 PROV 9:12-18 Father Gerasimos the Jordanite	5 IS 11:10-16; 12:1-2 GEN 7:11-8:3 PROV 10:1-22 Martyr Conon of Isauria	6 IS 13:2-13 GEN 8:4-21 PROV 10:31-11:12 Forty-two Martyrs of Amorium	7 HEB 10:32-38 MK 2:14-17 Hieromartyrs Ephrem, Basil, Eugene, Agathodore, Capiton, Athieres and Elpides
8 LK 24:36-53 (6) HEB 4:14-16; 5:1-6 MK 8:34-38; 9:1 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS TONE 6	9 LK 21:12-19 HEB 12:1-10 MT 20:1-16 FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTEA	10 IS 25:1-9 GEN 9:8-17 PROV 12:8-22 Martyrs Codratios of Corinth and his companions	11 IS 26:21-27:1-9 GEN 9:18-10:1 PROV 12:23-13:9 Father Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem	12 IS 28:14-22 GEN 10:32-11:9 PROV 13:19-14:6 Fathers Theophane, Confessor and Gregory the Great, pope of Rome	13 IS 29:13-23 GEN 12:1-7 PROV 14:15-26 Deposition of the Remains of Nicephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople	14 HEB 6:9-12 MK 7:31-37 Father Benedict of Nursia
15 JN 20:1-10 (7) HEB 6:13-20 MK 9:17-31 SUNDAY OF OUR FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS TONE 7	16 IS 37:33-38:38:1-6 GEN 13:12-18 PROV 14:27-15:4 Martyr Sabinos the Egyptian	17 IS 40:18-31 GEN 15:1-15 PROV 15:7-19 Father Alexis, the Man of God	18 IS 41:4-14 GEN 17:1-9 PROV 15:20-16:9 Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem	19 IS 42:5-16 GEN 18:20-33 PROV 16:17-17:17 THURSDAY OF REPENTANCE	20 IS 45:11-17 GEN 22:1-18 PROV 17:17-18:5 Martyrs Chrysanthos and Daria	21 HEB 9:24-28 MK 8:27-31 SATURDAY OF THE ACATHIST HYMN
22 JN 20:11-18 (8) HEB 9:11-14 MK 10:32-45 SUNDAY OF MARY OF EGYPT TONE 8	23 IS 48:17-22; 49:1-4 GEN 27:1-41 PROV 19:16-25 Martyrs Nikon and his two hundred pupils	24 IS 49:6-10 GEN 31:3-16 PROV 21:3-21 Preparation of the Annunciation	25 LK 1:39-49; 56 HEB 2:11-18 LK 1:24-38 ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD	26 HEB 2:2-10 LK 10:16-21 Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel	27 IS 66:10-24 GEN 49:33-50:26 PROV 31:8-31 Mother Matrona of Salonica	28 HEB 12:28-29; 13:8 JN 11:1-45 SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
29 MT 21:1-11; 15-17 PHIL 4:4-9 JN 12:1-18 PALM SUNDAY	30 MT 21:18-43 ROM 11:13-24 MT 24:3-35 GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY	31 MT 22:15-46, 23:13-39 EPH 1:1-9 MT 24:36-51; 25:1-26:1-2 GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY				



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The Church is Built on the Foundation of the Apostles

After Jesus began proclaiming the Kingdom of God, he chose twelve disciples and commissioned them to share in his work. The Twelve were also called “apostles” which means those who have been sent. The number twelve was significant because it recalled the twelve tribes of Israel and pointed forward to the reunification of the people of God in Christ’s Kingdom. At the Last Supper, Jesus told the Twelve: “You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:28-29; see also Matthew 19:28). Scripture also describes the Church as a temple, with the Apostles as its foundation:

Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And in the Spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God... And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (Revelation 21:9-11, 14)

So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Apostles Beyond the Original Twelve

In the book of Acts, the eleven remaining apostles elected St. Matthias to replace Judas. There had always been a wider circle of disciples, such as the seventy that Jesus sent out to preach (Luke 10:1-24) and the women disciples (Luke 8:1-3), including St. Mary Magdalene whom we call isapostolos (“equal to the apostles”) because she and the other myrrh-bearing women were commissioned to proclaim the good news of the Resurrection to the other disciples.

Though all the apostles have long since completed their earthly journeys, the Church remains apostolic to this day. The apostles appointed elders in every church they planted (Acts 14:23), and the apostolic office continues through the bishops.



Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles

APRIL

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY JN 12:17-50 1 COR 2:6-9 MT 26:6-16	2 GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY Lk 22:1-39 1 COR 11:23-32 MT 26:1-20; JN 13:3-18; MT 26:21-39; Lk 22:43-44; MT 26:40-75; 27:1-2	3 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY 1 COR 15:47-58 JN 6:48-55	4 GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY MT 27:62-66 ROM 6:3-11 MT 28:1-20
5 MK 16:1-8 (2) ACTS 1:1-8 JN 1:1-17 PASCHA THE HOLY RESURRECTION	6 ACTS 1:12-17; 21-26 JN 1:18-28 BRIGHT MONDAY	7 ACTS 2:14-21 LK 24:12-35 BRIGHT TUESDAY	8 ACTS 2:22-38 JN 1:35-51 BRIGHT WEDNESDAY	9 ACTS 2:38-43 JN 3:1-15 BRIGHT THURSDAY	10 ACTS 3:1-8 JN 2:12-22 BRIGHT FRIDAY	11 ACTS 3:9-16 JN 3:22-33 BRIGHT SATURDAY
†	†	†	†	†	†	†
12 MT 28:16-20 (1) ACTS 5:12-20 JN 20:19-31 SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS TONE 1	13 ACTS 3:19-26 JN 2:1-11 FATHER MARTIN, POPE OF ROME, CONFESSOR	14 ACTS 4:1-10 JN 3:16-21 DISCIPLES ARISTARCHOS, PUDOOS AND TROPHIMOS	15 ACTS 4:13-22 JN 5:17-24 MARTYR CRESCENT	16 ACTS 4:23-31 JN 5:24-30 MARTYRS AGAPIA, IRENE AND CHIONIA	17 ACTS 5:1-11 JN 5:30-46; 6:1-2 HIEROMARTYR SIMEON THE PERSIAN AND HIS COMPANIONS - FATHER ACACIUS, BISHOP OF MELITENE	18 ACTS 5:21-32 JN 6:14-27 LEAVE-TAKING OF ST. THOMAS
†	†	†	†	†	†	†
19 LK 24:1-12 (4) ACTS 6:1-7 MK 15:43-47; 16:1-8 SUNDAY OF OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN TONE 2	20 ACTS 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60 JN 4:46-54 FATHER THEODORE TRICHINAS	21 ACTS 8:5-15 JN 6:27-33 HIEROMARTYR JANUARIUS AND HIS COMPANIONS - HIEROMARTYR THEODORE OF PERGIA	22 ACTS 8:18-25 JN 6:35-39 FATHER THEODORE SYKEOTES, BISHOP OF ANASTASIOPOLIS	23 ACTS 21:12-19 GAL 3:23-29; 4:1-5 JN 15:17-27; 16:1 GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TRIUMPHANT	24 ACTS 8:40; 9:1-19 JN 6:48-55 MOTHER ELIZABETH THE WONDERWORKER AND MARTYR SABAS THE GOTH	25 1 PT 5:6-14 LK 10:16-21 APOSTLE MARK THE EVANGELIST HIEROMARTYR SIMEON, COUSIN OF THE LORD, AND FATHER STEPHEN, BISHOP OF VLADIMIR IN VOLYNIA
26 LK 24:12-35 (5) ACTS 9:32-42 JN 5:1-15 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC TONE 3	27 ACTS 10:1-16 JN 6:56-69 DISCIPLES JASON AND SOSIPATER - FATHER CYRIL, BISHOP OF TUROV	28 ACTS 10:21-33 JN 7:1-13 FATHER THEODORE OF PERGIA	29 ACTS 14:6-18 JN 7:14-30 MID-PENTECOST	30 ACTS 12:1-11 LK 9:1-6 APOSTLE JAMES, BROTHER OF JOHN THE EVANGELIST †		

Two Great Lights of the Church

Two of the apostles need to be studied more closely, St. Peter and St. Paul. At Vespers on June 29, the Commemoration of Peter and Paul, we remember their special role in building the Church with this and other prayers:

Let us extol Peter and Paul, the two great lights of the Church: two beacons illuminating the Church with all of God's doctrine. By their preaching, they have led the Gentiles from ignorance to the knowledge of God. Wherefore, the one was nailed to the cross and made his way to Heaven, where he received the Keys of the Kingdom from Christ Himself, while the other, beheaded by the sword, went up in glory to the Savior. Through their prayers, overcome our invisible enemies, O Christ God, and make firm our Orthodox Faith, for You are the Lover of Mankind!

St. Peter, the Rock

Peter's birth name was Simon or Simeon, but Jesus gave him the name Kepha, which is an Aramaic word meaning rock. The authors of the New Testament translated this new name into Greek so non-Aramaic speakers would know what it meant, and that is why we call this apostle "Peter."

Throughout the gospels, Peter plays the role of leader and spokesman for the others, and along with James and John, the sons of Zebedee, he was part of Jesus's inner circle. The gospels do not offer a rose-colored portrait of Peter. They show his fidelity to the Lord, but also reveal that he opposed Jesus's teaching about the cross (Matthew 16:22-23), abandoned Jesus in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:56), and denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75). Nevertheless, Jesus chose Peter to be the chief of the apostles, and the book of Acts shows the Holy Spirit working mightily through him.

The Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John all describe Jesus giving Peter special authority:

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19; see also 18:15-20)

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you [plural], that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you [singular] that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:31-32)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15; repeated three times)

The Bishop of Rome is Peter's successor, and we see here the fundamentals of his role of "strengthening the brothers" and feeding the Lord's flock.

St. Paul, Apostle to the Nations

Paul did not follow Jesus during his earthly ministry, and he even tried to destroy the Church in its infancy. Famously, the Lord appeared to him (Acts 9:1-19; Galatians 1:11-24) and altered the course of his life. He became the "apostle to the gentiles." As careful study of his letters shows, he was gifted at proclaiming the Gospel in ways that different groups of people could understand. He also was the main instrument through which God revealed that the gentiles could indeed be members of the Church of God without converting to Judaism. Among the authors of the New Testament, he is the greatest theologian.



MAY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 JN 20:1-10 (7) ACTS 11:19-30 JN 4:5-42 SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN TONE 4	4 ACTS 12:12-17 JN 8:42-51 Martyr Pelagia	5 ACTS 12:25; 13:1-12 JN 8:51-59 Martyr Irene	6 ACTS 13:13-24 JN 6:5-14 Leave-taking of Mid-Pentecost	7 ACTS 14:20-28; 15:1-4 JN 9:39-41; 10:1-9 Apparition of the Cross over Jerusalem	1 ACTS 10:44-48; 11:1-10 JN 8:21-30 Prophet Jeremiah	2 HEB 13:7-16 MT 5:14-19 TRANSFER OF THE REMAINS OF ATHANASIOS THE GREAT
10 JN 20:11-18 (8) ACTS 16:16-34 JN 9:1-38 SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND TONE 5	11 ACTS 17:1-9 JN 11:47-54 Dedication of Constantinople - Martyr Mocius - Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs	12 ACTS 17:19-28 JN 12:19-36 Fathers Epiphanios, Bishop of Cyprus Germanos the Hymnographer, Patriarch of Constantinople	13 ACTS 18:22-28 JN 12:36-47 LEAVE-TAKING OF PASCHA	14 MK 16:9-20 (3) ACTS 1:1-12 LK 24:36-53 FEAST OF THE ASCENSION	8 JN 21:14-25 (11) 1 JN 1:1-7 JN 19:25-27; 21:24-25 APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN	9 ACTS 15:35-41 JN 10:27-38 Prophet Isaiah and Martyr Christopher
17 JN 21:1-14 (10) ACTS 20:16-18; 27-36 JN 17:1-13 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF NICEA I TONE 6	18 ACTS 21:8-14 JN 14:27-31; 15:1-7 Martyrs Peter, Denis and their companions	19 ACTS 21:26-32 JN 16:2-13 Hieromartyr Patrick, Bishop of Prussa and his companions	20 ACTS 23:1-11 JN 16:15-23 Martyr Thallelaius	21 ACTS 26:1; 12-20 JN 16:23-33 THE EQUALS OF THE APOSTLES CONSTANTINE AND HELENA	22 ACTS 27:1-44; 28:1 JN 17:18-26 LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ASCENSION	23 ACTS 28:1-31 JN 21:14-25 SATURDAY OF THE DEAD
24 JN 20:19-23 ACTS 2:1-11 JN 7:37-52; 8:12 SUNDAY OF PENTECOST TONE 7	25 2 COR 4:6-15 MT 18:10-20 MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	26 ROM 1:1-7; 13-17 MT 4:25; 5:1-12 Apostle Carpus	27 ROM 1:18-27 MT 5:20-26 Hieromartyr Alladius	28 ROM 1:28-32; 2:1-9 MT 5:27-32 Hieromartyr Eutiches	29 ROM 2:14-28 MT 5:33-41 Martyr Theodosia of Tyre	30 ROM 1:7-12 MT 5:42-48 LEAVE-TAKING OF PENTECOST
31 MT 28:16-20 (1) HEB 11:33-40; 12:1-2 MT 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS TONE 8						



Bishops: The Successors of the Apostles

The book of Acts described how Paul and Barnabas appointed leaders to preside over the churches they planted. With prayer and fasting, they selected certain men as elders and committed them to this task in the Lord (Acts 14:23; see also Titus 1:5). St. Paul mentions these leaders repeatedly in his letters, and makes it clear that the churches are to obey and respect them, and to be generous with them:

We beg you, brethren, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches. (Galatians 6:6)

Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

In these earliest days, it seems that the successors of the apostles did not have fixed titles in Greek. They are described variously as teachers, "those who labor among you," or simply as leaders. In the letters to Timothy and Titus, we see that the titles that we still use today had become standard: these leaders are called "bishops" and "presbyters," words that mean "overseer" (*episkopos*) and "elder" (*presbyteros*) respectively. Paul understood that these leaders were given an awesome task, so his standard for them was correspondingly high:

For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it. (Titus 1:7-9)

By the early second century, the office of bishop was distinguished from that of the presbyters, with the bishop as a unique representative of Christ and sign of unity in the church he oversees. The presbyters or priests as well as the deacons work on behalf of the bishop. Every Divine Liturgy is celebrated in communion with the bishop and at his behest..

In addition to overseeing his own church, every bishop shares with his brother bishops concern for all the churches. The Melkite Catholic Church as a whole is governed by the Synod of bishops, which is headed in charity by Patriarch Joseph.



St. Ignatius of Antioch

JUNE

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 1	1 Beginning of the Apostles' Fast ROM 2:28-29; 3:1-18 MT 6:31-34; 7:9-11 Martyrs Justin the Philosopher and his companions	2 ROM 4:4-12 MT 7:15-21 Father Nicephorus the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople	3 ROM 4:13-25 MT 7:21-23 Martyrs Lucillian and his companions	4 JN 6:55-59 1 COR 11:23-32 JN 6:48-55 Father Metaphanes, Bishop of Constantinople	5 ROM 5:17-21; 6:1-2 MT 9:14-17 Hieromartyr Dorotheos, Bishop of Tyre	6 ROM 3:19-26 MT 7:1-8 Fathers Bessarion the Wonderworker and Hilarion the Younger, Abbot
8 ROM 7:1-13 MT 9:36-38; 10:1-8 Transfer of the Remains of the Great-martyr Theodore	9 ROM 7:14-25; 8:1-2 MT 10:9-15 Father Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria	10 ROM 8:2-13 MT 10:16-22 Martyrs Alexander and Antonina - Hieromartyr Timothy, Bishop of Prussa	11 ROM 8:22-28 MT 10:23-31 Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas	12 ROM 9:6-19 MT 10:32-42; 11:1 Fathers Onuphrios of Egypt and Peter of Athos	13 ROM 3:28-31; 4:1-3 MT 7:24-29; 8:1-4 Martyr Aquilina - Father Truphilios, Bishop of Leucasia	
14 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 2	15 ROM 9:18-33 MT 11:2-15 Prophet Elisha - Father Methodius, Archbishop of Constantinople	16 ROM 10:11-21; 11:1-2 MT 11:16-20 Prophet Amos - Father Jerome, Hermit of Bethlehem	17 ROM 11:2-12 MT 11:20-26 Father Tykhon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Amathonte of Cyprus	18 ROM 11:13-24 MT 11:27-30 Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael	19 ROM 11:25-36 MT 12:1-8 Martyr Leontius	20 Beginning of shorter Apostles' Fast ROM 6:11-17 MT 8:14-23 Hieromartyr Methodius of Patara
21 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 3	22 ROM 12:4-5; 15:21 MT 12:9-13 Martyr Julian of Tarsus	23 GAL 4:4-7 LK 1:29-45 VISITATION OF THE THEOTOKOS TO HER COUSIN ELIZABETH	24 LK 1:24-25; 57-69; 76,80 ROM 13:11-14; 14:1-4 LK 1:1-25; 57-68; 76,80 NATIVITY OF THE FORERUNNER	25 ROM 15:17-29 MT 12:46-50; 13:1-3 Martyr Febronia	26 ROM 16:1-16 MT 13:3-9 Father David of Thessalonica	27 ROM 8:14-21 MT 9:9-13 Father Samson the Hosteler
28 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 4	29 JN 21:14-25 (11) 2 COR 11:21-33; 12:1-9 MT 16:13-19 APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Physicians Cyrus and John	30 1 COR 4:9-16 MT 9:36-38; 10:1-8 SYNAXIS OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES				

Priests are Instruments of Salvation in the Local Church

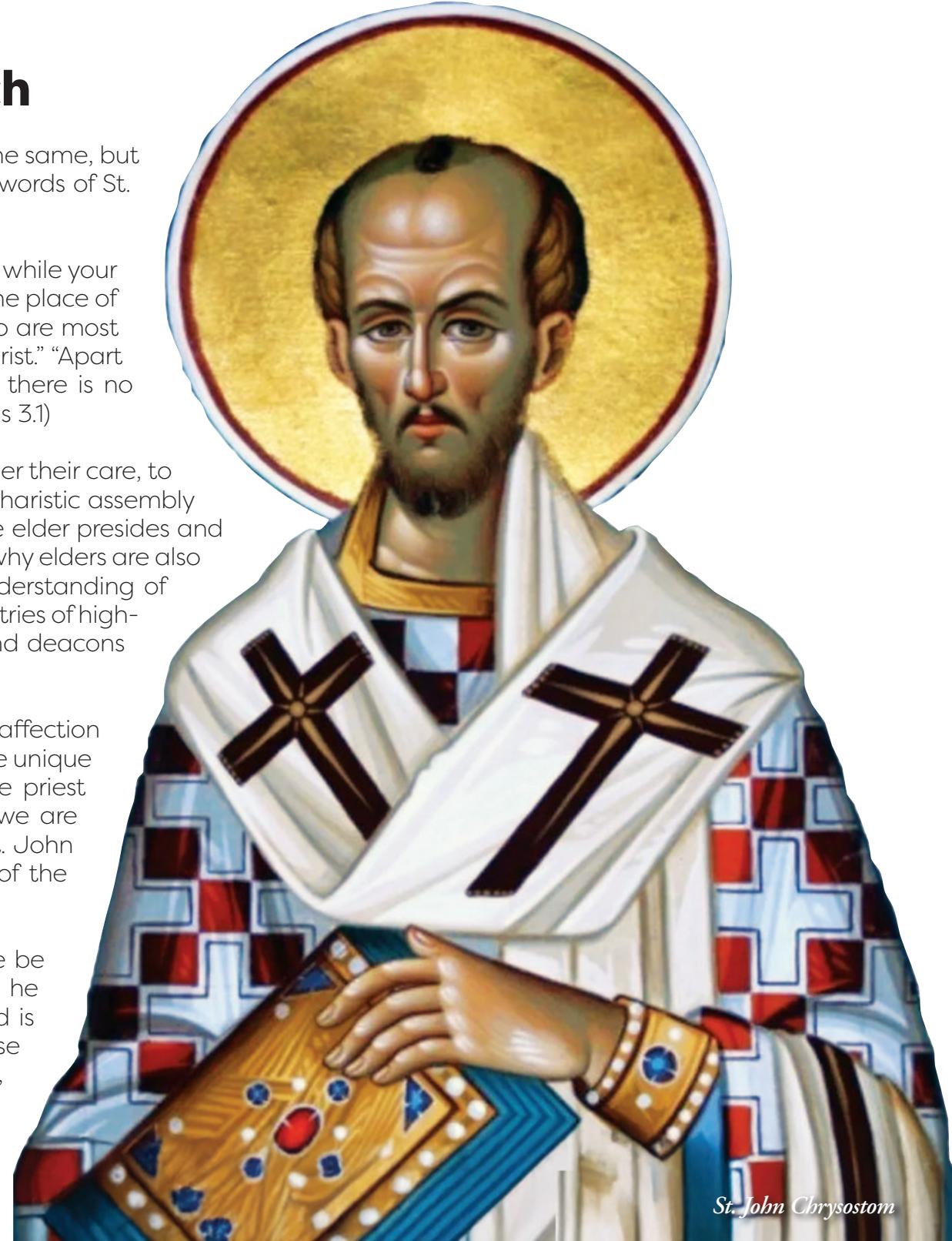
In the New Testament the office of bishop and elder is one and the same, but they were quickly distinguished in the following decades. In the words of St. Ignatius of Antioch, writing in the early second century:

"I exhort you to study to do all things with a divine harmony, while your bishop presides in the place of God, and your presbyters in the place of the assembly of the apostles, along with your deacons, who are most dear to me, and are entrusted with the ministry of Jesus Christ." "Apart from these [that is, the bishops, presbyters, and deacons] there is no Church." (Epistle of the Magnesians 6.1; Epistle to the Trallians 3.1)

Elders share in the bishop's authority to shepherd the people under their care, to preach, and to celebrate the mysteries. Above all, it is in the Eucharistic assembly of the people of God that elders exercise their sacred office. The elder presides and offers the Eucharistic sacrifice together with the faithful, which is why elders are also called priests (*ierevs*). The church fathers came to a deeper understanding of these ministries by reading the Old Testament, seeing in the ministries of high-priests, priests, and Levites a prefiguration of bishops, priests, and deacons as well as the minor orders.

In the life of the local church the people of God often have great affection for their priests—even when they do not get along—because of the unique role priests play in their lives and the lives of their families. The priest baptizes our children, hears our confessions, anoints us when we are sick (James 5:14–15), and feeds us from the table of the Lord. St. John Chrysostom describes how God has ordained that the hands of the priest should be the instruments of our salvation:

If no one can enter into the kingdom of Heaven except he be regenerated through water and the Spirit [John 3:1–21], and he who does not eat the flesh of the Lord and drink His blood is excluded from eternal life [John 6:25–59], and if all these things are accomplished only by means of those holy hands, I mean the hands of the priest, how will anyone, without these, be able to escape the fire of hell, or to win those crowns which are reserved for the victorious? (On the Priesthood, Book III)



St. John Chrysostom

JULY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 LK 24:36-53 (6) ROM 12:6-14 MT 9:1-8 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 5	6 1 COR 5:9-13; 6:1-11 MT 13:54-58 Father Athanasius of Athos - L ampados and Martha	7 1 COR 6:20; 7:1-12 MT 14:1-13 Fathers Thomas of Maleum, Acacius - Martyr Kyriaca	1 1 COR 12:27-31; 13:1-8 MT 10:1; 5-8 Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian	2 HEB 9:1-7 LK 1:39-49; 56 DEPOSITION OF THE MANTLE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, AT BLACHERNAE	3 1 COR 4:5-8 MT 13:44-54 Martyr Hyacinth and Father Anatolios, Patriarch of Constantinople	4 1 COR 9:1-5 MT 9:18-26 Father Andrew of Jerusalem
12 JN 20:1-10 (7) ROM 15:1-7 MT 9:27-35 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 6	13 1 COR 9:13-18 MT 16:1-6 Martyrs Proclus and Hilarion	14 1 COR 10:5-12 MT 16:6-12 Archangel Gabriel - Father Stephen the Sabaite	8 1 COR 7:12-24 MT 14:35-36; 15:1-11 Great-martyr Procopius	9 1 COR 7:24-35 MT 15:12-21 Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily	10 1 COR 7:35-40; 8:1-7 MT 15:29-31 Forty-five Martyrs of Nicopolis in Armenia	11 2 COR 6:1-10 LK 7:36-50 Great-martyr Euphemia
19 JN 20:11-18 (8) TI 3:8-15 MT 5:14-19 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS TONE 7	20 MK 9:9-15 JAS 5:10-20 LK 4:22-30 PROPHET ELIAS THE THESBITE	21 1 COR 12:12-26 MT 18:18-22; 19:1-2; 13-15 Fathers Simeon, the fool for Christ and his companion John	22 1 COR 9:2-12 LK 8:1-3 Perfume-bearing Woman Mary Magdalene	16 1 COR 10:28-33; 11:1-8 MT 16:24-28 Hieromartyr Athenogenes and his ten disciples	17 GAL 3:23-29; 4:1-5 MK 5:24-34 Great Martyr Marina	18 ROM 13:1-10 MT 12:30-37 Martyr Emilian
26 JN 20:19-31 (9) 1 COR 3:9-17 MT 14:22-34 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 8	27 LK 21:12-19 2 TIM 2:1-10 JN 15:17-27; 16:1-2 GREAT-MARTYR PANTELEIMON THE PHYSICIAN	28 1 COR 15:29-38 MT 21:23-27 Deacons Prochor, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas	29 1 COR 16:4-12 MT 21:28-32 Martyrs Callinicus and Theodota	30 2 COR 1:1-7 MT 21:43-46 Apostles Silas and Silvan and their companions	31 2 COR 1:12-20 MT 22:23-33 Eudokimos, monk	 Bishop Nicholas J. Samra Episcopal Ordination July 6, 1989

Deacons are Ministers at Divine Liturgy and to the Community



St. Stephen Protomartyr and Archdeacon

The role of the deacon is summarized well by the Greek word *diakonos*. The word *diakonos*, which we translate as “deacon,” was used in antiquity in two overlapping ways. *Diakonos* could refer to a representative or agent who acted on behalf of someone else, usually someone important. For example, St. Paul referred to apostles as *diakonoi Christou* (deacons of Christ), meaning that they were messengers or agents on Christ’s behalf (2 Corinthians 11:23). The word *diakonos* could also refer to assistants or servants, including those who served in temples. At the Last Supper, the Lord referred to himself as one who serves at table (*o Diakonōn*) to explain to the disciples that he came not to be served but to serve and to give his very life (Luke 22:24-27). In the life of the Church, both of these two meanings of *diakonos* describe part of the deacon’s role. The deacon is the representative of the bishop, proclaiming the Gospel and the litanies, but he is also a servant at the liturgy and in assisting the people, especially the needy. The two meanings of *diakonos* also appear in iconographic depictions of angels, who are often vested as deacons because of their role as servants and messengers of God.

At the ordination of a deacon, the bishop prays that God would “Give him the grace which you granted the protomartyr Stephen, the first to be called by you to the work of this ministry.” This refers to Acts 6, when the Apostles selected seven men to see to the church’s charitable work to widows, including St. Stephen, the first martyr. The seven are not actually called deacons (as noted by St. John Chrysostom, *Homily 14 on the Acts of the Apostles*), but the Church has long recognized the essence of the diaconal ministry in their service (*diakonia*) to the poor.

For long periods in the life of the Church, the diaconate has at times been neglected or treated as a mere honorific on the road to the priesthood. As a guard against this tendency, it is good to remember the words of St. Paul, who teaches that the diaconate is not to be taken lightly or bestowed hastily:

Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for gain; they must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then if they prove themselves blameless let them serve as deacons. The women likewise must be serious, no slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husband of one wife, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

AUGUST

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 1 Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Protomartyr the Archdeacon Stephen	3 2 COR 2:3-15 MT 23:13-22 Fathers Isaac, Dalmatus and Faustus	4 2 COR 2:14-17; 3:1-3 MT 23:23-28 Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus and of Martyr Eudocia	5 2 COR 3:4-11 MT 23:29-39 Preparation of the Transfiguration - Martyr Eusignius	6 LK 9:28-36 2 PT 1:10-19 MT 17:1-9 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD †	7 2 COR 4:13-18 MT 24:27-33; 42-51 Martyr Dometios	8 1 COR 1:3-9 MT 19:3-12 Confessor Emilian, Bishop of Cyrica †
9 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 2 Apostle Matthias	10 2 COR 5:10-15 MK 1:9-15 Martyr Archdeacon Lawrence	11 2 COR 5:15-21 MK 1:16-22 Martyr Euplus the Deacon	12 2 COR 6:11-16 MK 1:23-28 Martyrs Photios and Anicetos and Maximos the Confessor	13 2 COR 7:1-10 MK 1:29-35 Leave-taking of the Transfiguration †	14 2 COR 7:10-16 MK 2:18-22 Vigil of the Dormition - Prophet Micah	15 LK 1:39-49; 56 PHIL 2:5-11 LK 10:38-42; 11:27-28 DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD †
16 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 3 Martyr Diomedes	17 2 COR 8:7-15 MK 3:6-12 Martyr Myron	18 2 COR 8:16-24; 9:1-5 MK 3:13-19 Martyrs Florus and Laurus	19 2 COR 9:12-15; 10:1-7 MK 3:20-27 Martyrs Andrew the Centurion and his companions	20 2 COR 10:7-18 MK 3:28-35 Prophet Samuel	21 2 COR 11:5-21 MK 4:1-9 Apostle Thaddeus - Martyr Bassa and her children	22 1 COR 2:6-9 MT 22:15-22 Martyrs Agathonicos and his companions †
23 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LEAVE-TAKING OF THE DORMITION Martyr Luppus and Hieromartyr Ireneaus	24 2 COR 12:10-19 MK 4:10-23 Hieromartyr Eutyches, Disciple of Saint John the Theologian	25 2 COR 12:20-21; 13:1-2 MK 4:24-34 Transfer of the remains of the Apostle Bartholomew - Apostle Titus	26 2 COR 13:3-13 MK 4:35-41 Martyrs Adrian and his wife Natalia. Blessed Mary Bawardy	27 GAL 1:1-3,20-24; 2:1-5 MK 5:1-20 Father Poemen and Martyr Phanurios	28 GAL 2:6-10 MK 5:22-24, 35-43; 6:1 Fathers Moses the Abyssinian and Augustine, Bishop of Hippo	29 MT 14:1-13 ACTS 13:25-33 MK 6:14-30 BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER
30 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 5 Fathers Alexander, John and Paul the Latter, Archbishops of Constantinople	31 HEB 9:1-7 LK 10:38-42; 11:27-28 DEPOSITION OF THE CINCTURE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN CALCOPRATEIA					

The Minor Orders



Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple

The minor orders are called minor not because they are unimportant, but in relation to the major orders of the diaconate, presbyterate, and episcopacy. The minor orders flourished in the early Church, at times including orders of porters, exorcists, cantors, readers, and subdeacons. In the Melkite Catholic Church, we have only subdeacons and readers, though in practice our readers are often cantors (or “psaltes”).

Pope Paul VI abolished the minor orders in the Latin Church in 1972, and they are not explicitly mentioned in Scripture. If this is the case, why do we need readers and subdeacons? The principal reason, in addition to the reality that minor orders have been a part of the Church's tradition since at least the 200s, is need: wherever the minor orders are lacking, someone inevitably steps in to fill these roles, but often without the benefit of training or episcopal blessing.

Subdeacons

Everything we need to know about the subdiaconate is implicit in the blessing of a subdeacon, which is a rich tapestry of biblical allusions. It is quoted here in full with some of the biblical references added in parentheses:

O Lord, our God, who by one and the same Spirit gave good gifts to those whom you have chosen (1 Corinthians 12), you have appointed that there be different degrees in your ministry for those who serve your holy and spotless Mysteries (1 Timothy 3:8-13). Further, in your ineffable wisdom you have destined that this your servant be worthy to serve in your holy Church. Therefore, O Lord, grant that he may always act blamelessly. Make him love the beauty of your house (Psalm 26:8; 25:8 LXX), as he stands at the door of your holy Temple, and lights the lamps in the tabernacle of your glory. Establish him in your holy Church like a green olive tree so that he may bring forth the fruits of holiness (Psalm 52:8; LXX 51:10). Make him one of your faithful servants that, at the time of your coming, he may receive the reward of those who have done your will.

The bishop recognizes St. Paul's teaching that there are many different roles in the church, all of them essential. The man being blessed has been called to be devoted to God's holy house. The Lord is asked to help him love the sanctuary and attend to it with devotion, as did the psalmist who wants to “go around your altar, O Lord, to hear a voice of praise and tell all your wondrous deeds” (Psalm 25:6-7 LXX). In other words, the subdeacon has a special devotion to the place where God dwells. He sees to its needs,

“lighting the lamps in the tabernacle of your glory,” leading to the “fruits of holiness” for the good of the entire people of God. More specifically, the subdeacon assists the bishop at Divine Liturgy, and if the bishop is not present, he is the lead acolyte, helping the priest in the Holy Place.

SEPTEMBER

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
6 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TONE 6	7 THE MIRACLE OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AT COLOSSAE	1 CHURCH'S NEW YEAR FATHER SIMEON THE STYLITE - SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD	2 MARTYR MAMMAS - John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople	3 Hieromartyr Anthimos, Bishop of Nicomedia - Father Theoctistos	4 Hieromartyr Babylas Bishop of Antioch - Prophet Moses	5 Prophet Zachariah, Father of the Forerunner	
LK 24:1-12 (4) 2 COR 4:6-15 MT 22:35-46	GAL 4:28-31; 5:1-10 MK 6:54-56; 7:1-8	8 NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD LK 1:39-49; 56 PHIL 2:5-11 LK 10:38-42; 11:2-28	9 ANCESTORS OF CHRIST JOACHIM AND ANN GAL 4:22-27 LK 8:16-21	10 MARTYR SEVERIAN GAL 4:22-27 LK 8:16-21	11 Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora Mother Theodora of Alexandria	12 SATURDAY BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS 1 COR 2:6-9 MT 10:37-42; 11:9	
SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS TONE 7	THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF THE RESURRECTION	13 EXALTATION OF THE CROSS LK 24:12-35 (5) HEB 3:1-6 JN 3:15-17	14 EXALTATION OF THE CROSS JN 12:28-36 1 COR 1:18-24 JN 19:6-11; 13-20; 25-35	15 Martyr Nicetas Martyr Euphemia	16 Great-martyr Euphemia Protomartyr Thecla	17 Martyrs Sophia and of her daughters, Faith, Hope and Charity Father Eumenius, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete	18 Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius and Dorymedes Leave-taking of the Nativity of Mary
SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 8	DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF THE RESURRECTION	20 Great-martyr Eustathius, his wife Theopista and their children Agapius and Theopista	21 Leave-taking of the Exaltation of the Cross Apostle Codratos and Prophet Jonah	22 Hieromartyr Phocas	23 CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER GAL 4:22-27 LK 1:5-25	24 Protomartyr Thecla Mother Euphrosyne	
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 1	Martyrs Callistratos and his companions	27 JN 20:1-10 (7) 2 COR 9:6-11 LK 5:1-11	28 Father Chariton the Confessor	29 Father Cyriakos the Anchorite	30 Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia PHIL 1:8-14 LK 5:12-16	25 Mother Euphrosyne PHIL 6:18-24 LK 4:22-30	
						26 REPOSE OF ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND THEOLOGIAN JN 21:14-25 (11) 1 JN 4:12-19 JN 19:25-27; 21:24-25	

“Grant that he read and meditate on your divine Word”

(from the Melkite Catholic blessing of a reader)

Ever since ancient times, bishops have set apart certain people to read Scripture to the people of God. What is the reason for this longstanding tradition of the Church? Why not let any literate person with a clear voice recite the Scriptures? We find an answer to these questions in a fourth-century blessing of readers. This blessing is no longer in use, but it contains an important insight:



O eternal God...look now on your servant who is entrusted with reading your holy Scriptures to your people, and give to him the Holy Spirit, the prophetic Spirit. You who instructed Esdras your servant to read your laws to your people, do now also at our request instruct your servant and grant that he may complete blamelessly the work entrusted by him and be found worthy of a higher standing through Christ... (Apostolic Constitutions)

The expectation is not that the reader will simply be able to say the words, but that God will work through him powerfully as he did Esdras. This refers to Nehemiah 8 (2 Esdras 18 LXX). When the Israelites had returned from exile, Esdras (or “Ezra”) read to them from the Law of Moses, which had become foreign to them, and the people were overwhelmed by the divine teaching.

In the Melkite Catholic blessing of a reader, the bishop’s prayer indicates the reader’s responsibility to meditate on Scripture and live his life in accordance with it:

Grant that he read and meditate on your divine Word with wisdom and understanding, and that he keep his life blameless through the grace, the mercy and the love of mankind of your only-begotten Son with whom you are blessed...

The prayer that readers would meditate on the word should be taken seriously: liturgical reading is greatly improved when readers study and pray over the text before they proclaim it. Careful study helps with elementary matters such as the pronunciation of names and distinguishing between similar words like “prophesy” and “prophecy.” More importantly, however, readers—whether they are blessed as readers or not—are first of all auditors, those who listen to the Word and aim to live in accordance with it.

In our Church, readers often function as cantors, and indeed these two roles have long been associated with each other. In the eighth-century Barberini Euchologion, an important early witness to the Byzantine prayer, the blessing of readers is written so it can also be used as a blessing of a cantor. It is fitting that the two offices should be merged because cantors, who guide the congregation through the day’s hymns and psalms, do at least as much to lead the people into the Scriptures as those who read.

OCTOBER

تشرين الأول

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Bishop François Beyrouti Episcopal Ordination October 12, 2022				1 PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD HEB 9:1-7 LK 10:38-42; 11:27-28	2 PHIL 1:27-30; 2:1-4 LK 6:17-23	3 1 COR 15:58; 16:1-3 LK 5:17-26
4 JN 20:11-18 (8) 2 COR 11:31-33; 12:1-9 LK 6:31-36 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 2 Hieromartyr Hierotheos, Bishop of Athens	5 PHIL 2:12-16 LK 6:24-31 Martyr Charitina	6 1 COR 4:9-16 JN 20:19-31 APOSTLE THOMAS	7 PHIL 2:24-30 LK 6:46-49; 7:1 Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus	8 PHIL 3:1-8 LK 7:17-30 Mother Pelagia	9 1 COR 4:9-16 MT 9:36-38; 10:1-8 APOSTLE JAMES, SON OF ALPHEUS FATHER ANDRONIKOS AND HIS WIFE ATHANASIA	10 2 COR 1:8-11 LK 5:27-32 Martyrs Eulampius and Eulamia
11 JN 20:19-31 (9) TI 3:8-15 LK 8:5-15 FATHERS OF THE SECOND COUNCIL OF NICEA TONE 3 Martyrs Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus	12 PHIL 4:10-23 LK 7:36-50 Martyrs Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus	13 COL 1:1-11 LK 8:1-3 Martyrs Carpos, Papyrus and Agathonicos	14 COL 1:18-23 LK 8:22-25 Martyrs Nazarius, Gervasius, Protasius and Celsus - Father Cosmas the Poet, Bishop of Maiuma	15 COL 1:24-29; 2:1 LK 9:7-11 Martyr Lucian, Priest of Antioch	16 COL 2:1-7 LK 9:12-18 Martyr Longinus the Centurion	17 2 COR 3:12-18 LK 6:1-10 Prophet Hosea - Martyr Andrew of Crete
18 JN 21:1-14 (10) COL 4:5-11; 14-18 LK 7:11-16 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 4 APOSTLE LUKE THE EVANGELIST	19 COL 2:13-20 LK 9:18-22 Prophet Joel - Martyr Varus	20 COL 2:20-23; 3:1-3 LK 9:23-27 Great-Martyr Artemius	21 COL 3:17-25; 4:1 LK 9:44-50 Father Hilarion	22 COL 4:2-9 LK 9:49-56 Abercius Bishop of Hierapolis - Seven Children martyred at Ephesus	23 GAL 1:11-19 MT 13:54-58 HIEROMARTYR JAMES, FIRST BISHOP OF JERUSALEM	24 2 COR 5:1-10 LK 7:1-10 Great-martyr Arethas and his companions
25 JN 21:14-25 (11) GAL 6:11-18 LK 8:27-39 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 5 Martyrs Marcius and Martyrius	26 LK 21:12-19 2 TIM 2:1-10 JN 15:17-27; 16:1-2 GREAT-MARTYR DEMETRIOS THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE	27 1 THES 1:6-10 LK 11:1-10 Martyr Nestor	28 1 THES 2:1-8 LK 11:9-13 Martyrs Terence and Neonila - Father Stephen the Sabaite	29 1 THES 2:9-14 LK 11:14-23 Martyr Anastasia - Father Abramios	30 1 THES 2:14-20 LK 11:23-26 Martyr Zenobius and of his sister Zenobia	31 2 COR 8:1-5 LK 8:16-21 Apostles Stachys, Apelles, Amplias, Urban, Aristobulus and Marcissus - Martyr Epimakius

The Domestic Church

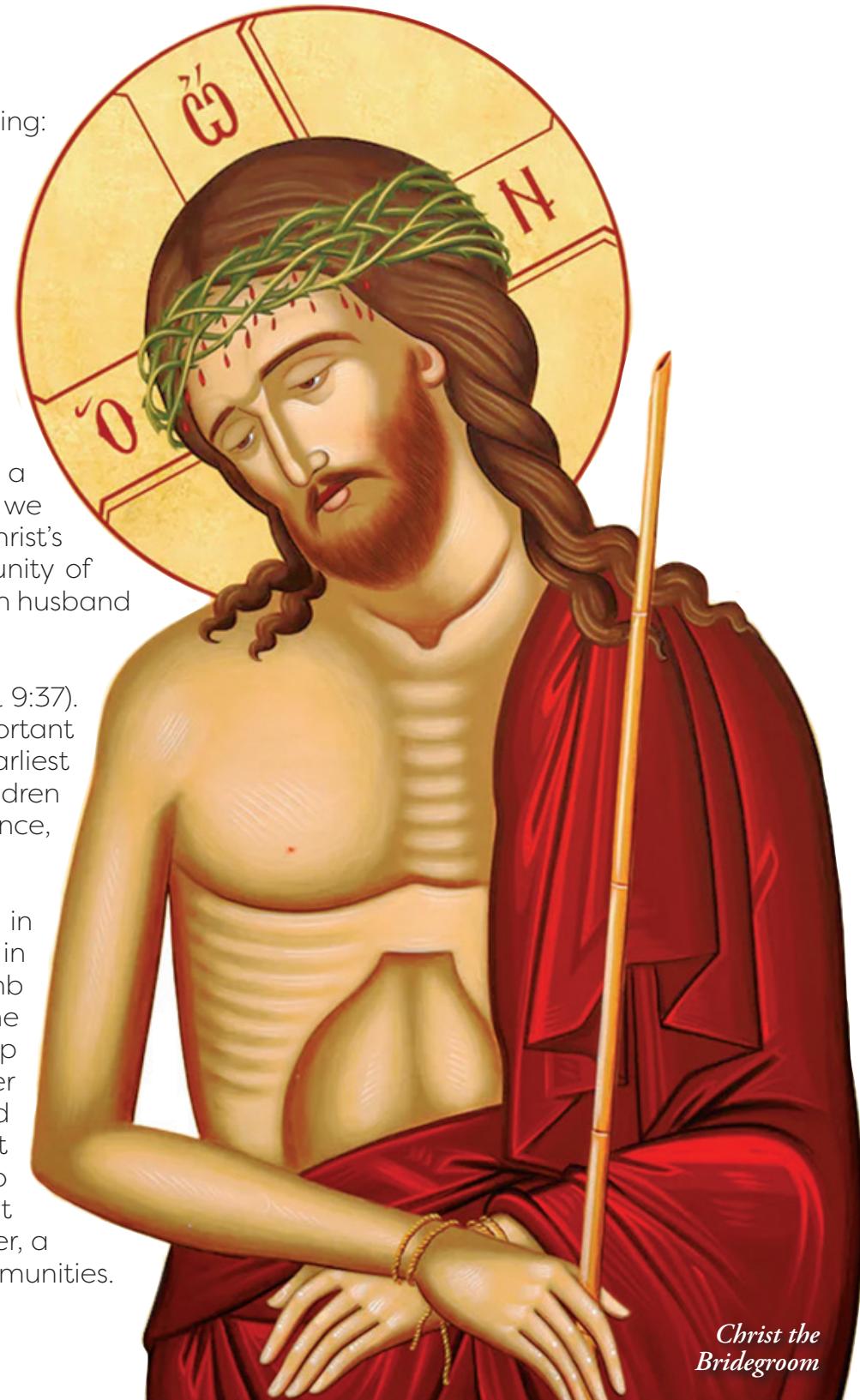
The Book of Revelation describes the final union of God and the Church as a wedding:

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
 for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
 and his Bride has made herself ready;
 it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"—
 for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to
 the marriage supper of the Lamb." (19:7-9)

The Scriptures often describe the Lord's fidelity to His people in language of a nuptial covenant or wedding feast. As a result, we learn something about how we relate to God from marriages, and we learn about Christian marriage from Christ's love for the Church. St. Paul quotes the book of Genesis on the permanent unity of marriage ("...the two shall become one flesh") to explain the mutual love between husband and wife as well as the "great mystery" of Christ and the Church.

The Lord said that whoever welcomes a child in his name welcomes him (Mark 9:37). Christian marriages are open to children, and parents are the first and most important teachers and evangelists of their offspring. Education in the faith begins in the earliest years through formal teaching, by praying together at home, and at church. Children return the favor by aiding their parents' growth in holiness, teaching them patience, forgiveness, and humility in admitting mistakes.

The close relationship between the Church and the family can also be seen in Scripture's use of familial language to describe how we relate to one another in Christ. St. Luke relates how a woman shouted out to Jesus, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you!" and Jesus responded with the surprising words, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (11:27-28). Scripture does indeed indicate that Mary is blessed because of her maternity (Luke 1:43), but the Lord teaches here that her obedience to the word of God is even more precious. She is one who heard the word of God and kept it (Luke 1:38-45). The same thing is true for all disciples: the union of those who obey the Lord is stronger even than the family. We see in St. Paul's letters that the earliest Christians already used the language of family to address each other, a habit that grew in the early centuries of the Church, especially in monastic communities.



Christ the
Bridegroom

NOVEMBER

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MT 28:16-20 (1) 1 COR 12:27-31; 13:1-8 LK 16:19-31 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 6	2 1 THES 2:20; 3:1-8 LK 11:29-33 MARTYRS, WONDERWORKERS AND PHYSICIANS COSMAS AND DAMIAN	3 1 THES 3:8-13 LK 11:34-41 Martyrs Akindinus, Pegasus, Aphthonius, Elpidephor and Anempodius	4 1 THES 4:1-12 LK 11:42-46 Father Joannicios the Great - Hieromartyr Nicander, Bishop of Myra - Hermeus, a priest	5 1 THES 4:18; 5:1-10 LK 11:47-54; 12:1 Martyrs Galaction and his wife Episteme	6 1 THES 5:9-13; 24-28 LK 12:2-11 Father Paul, Archbishop of Constantinople, Confessor	7 2 COR 11:1-6 LK 9:1-6 Thirty-two Martyrs of Melitene - Father Lazarus the Wonderworker
8 MK 16:1-8 (2) HEB 2:2-10 LK 8:41-56 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 7	9 2 THES 1:1-10 LK 12:13-15; 22-31 SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL AND GABRIEL AND ALL THE HEAVENLY POWERS	10 2 THES 1:10-12; 2:1-2 LK 12:42-48 Martyrs Onesiphorus and Porphyry - Mother Matrona	11 2 THES 2:1-12 LK 12:48-59 Apostles Olympus, Rhodion, Sosipater, Tertius, Erastes and Quartus - Martyr Orestes	12 2 THES 2:13-17; 3:1-5 LK 13:1-9 Martyrs Menas, Victor, Vincent and Stephanida - Father Theodore the Studite	13 JN 10:1-9 HEB 7:26-28; 8:1-2 JN 10:9-16 FATHER JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE	14 ACTS 8:26-39 JN 1:43-51 APOSTLE PHILIP
15 MK 16:9-20 (3) EPH 4:1-7 LK 10:25-37 TONE 8 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS Beginning of the Nativity Fast	16 1 COR 4:9-16 MT 9:9-13 APOSTLE MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST	17 1 TIM 1:8-14 LK 14:25-35 Father Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neo-Caesarea	18 1 TIM 1:18-20; 2:8-15 LK 15:1-10 Martyrs Plato and Romanos	19 1 TIM 3:1-13 LK 16:1-9 Father John the Merciful - Father Nilus	20 1 TIM 4:4-8; 16 LK 16:15-18; 17:1-4 Preparation of the Feast of the Entrance	21 LK 1:39-49; 56 HEB 9:1-7 LK 10:38-42; 11:27-28 ENTRANCE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE
22 LK 24:1-12 (4) EPH 5:8-19 LK 12:16-22 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 1	23 1 TIM 5:1-12 LK 17:20-25 Apostles Philemon, Apphias, Archippus and Onesimus - Martyrs †	24 1 TIM 5:11-21 LK 17:26-37; 18:8 Fathers Gregory, Bishop of Agrius and Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium †	25 GAL 3:23-29; 4:1-5 MK 5:24-34 LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE	26 1 TIM 6:17-21 LK 18:31-34 GREAT-MARTYRS CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA AND MERCURY †	27 2 TIM 1:1-2; 8-18 LK 19:12-28 Fathers Alypius the Styliste and Nikon the Preacher of Penance	28 GAL 5:22-26; 6:1-2 LK 10:19-21 Martyr Stephen the Latter and Irenarchus †
29 LK 24:12-35 (5) EPH 6:10-17 LK 18:18-27 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 2	30 MT 4:18-23 1 COR 4:9-16 JN 1:35-51 APOSTLE ANDREW, THE FIRST-CALLED	Martyrs Paramon and Philumenes				



"All of the people here present who await from You great and abundant mercy"

We cherish our ministers in the Church and offer them special reverence and prayers. We admire and offer gratitude to skilled cantors, to "those who toil and those who sing." What is there to say about everyone else, the laity? It is easy to fall prey to the mistaken idea that the laity are merely passengers on the boat of salvation, along for the ride—contributing money and prayers—but standing by to let the real work of salvation be done by the professionals.

In reality, almost every word in Scripture about the people of God is about the laity, a word which means "people" (*laos*). All the baptized participate in Christ's priestly identity, having been made a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9). All are called to deny themselves and follow Jesus (Mark 8:34), and to abound in love becoming "pure and blameless for the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10). St. Paul expresses this well in his letter to the Ephesians:

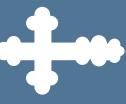
So then you ["you" refers here to all the faithful] are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (2:19-22)

The laity also have a special vocation to serve the Lord in the world, through the everyday work of business, politics, education, and labor. Through their baptism and chrismation, lay Christians are also entrusted with the right and duty of working to make the message of salvation known by all. As St. Peter wrote to Christians in Asia Minor, "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15).

DECEMBER

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 LK 24:36-53 (6) HEB 13:17-21 LK 13:10-17 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS TONE 3	7 HEB 3:5-11; 17-19 LK 20:27-44 FATHER NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER	1 2 TIM 3:16-17; 4:1-4 LK 19:45-48 Prophet Nahum	2 2 TIM 4:9-22 LK 20:1-8 Prophet Habakkuk	3 TI 1:5-14 LK 20:9-18 Prophet Zephaniah	4 GAL 3:23-29; 4:1-5 MK 5:24-34 GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA	5 LK 6:17-23 GAL 5:22-26; 6:1-2 MT 11:27-30 FATHER SABAS THE SANCTIFIED
13 JN 20:1-10 (7) COL 3:4-11 LK 14:16-24 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS TONE 4	14 HEB 8:7-13 MK 8:11-21 Martyrs Eustrates, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, Orestes and the Virgin Lucia	8 HEB 4:1-13 LK 21:12-19 Father Patapios	9 GAL 4:22-27 LK 8:16-21 MATERNITY OF ANN	10 HEB 7:1-6 LK 21:28-33 Beginning of the shorter Nativity Fast	11 HEB 7:18-25 LK 21:37-38; 22:1-8 Father Daniel the Styliste	12 JN 10:1-9 EPH 5:8-19 JN 10:9-16 FATHER SPIRIDON THE WONDERWORKER
20 JN 20:11-18 (8) HEB 11:9-10; 32-40 MT 1:1-25 SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - GENEALOGY TONE 5	21 HEB 11:17-31 MK 9:42-49; 10:1 Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer	22 HEB 12:25-27; 13:22-25 MK 10:2-12 Great-martyr Anastasia	23 JAS 1:1-18 MK 10:11-16 Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete	24 HEB 1:1-12 LK 2:1-20 Paramony of the Nativity	25 MT 1:18-25 GAL 4:4-7 MT 2:1-12 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	26 1 TIM 6:11-16 MT 12:15-21 SATURDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
27 JN 20:19-31 (9) ACTS 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60 MT 2:13-23 SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - HOLY JOSEPH, JAMES AND DAVID TONE 6	28 JAS 2:14-26 MK 10:46-52 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia	29 JAS 3:1-10 MK 11:11-23 Innocents put to death in Bethlehem - Father Marcellus, Abbot	30 JAS 3:11-18; 4:1-4 MK 11:22-26 Venerable Melany - Martyr Anysia	31 JAS 4:7-17; 5:1-9 MK 11:27-33 Leave-taking of the Nativity of our Lord		SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
PROTMARTYR ARCHDEACON STEPHEN						



DECEASED CLERGY

MEMORY ETERNAL

Abboud, BSO, Father Elias	11/22/1937	Haddad, BCO, Father John	5/1940	Nahas, Father Peter	11/21/1926
Abboud, BSO, Father Gregory	6/29/1978	Haddad, BSO, Father Cyril	4/15/1986	Najmy, BAO, Bishop Justin	6/11/1968
Abdennour, BAO, Father Benedictos	4/28/1947	Haddad, BSO, Father John W.	1/27/1998	Nasr, BCO, Father Makarios (El-Hajj)	9/06/1908
Aboody, Father Charles	5/29/2017	Haddad, BSO, Father William	5/05/2001	Nicholas, Father Dimitri	9/1963
Abouzeid, BSO, Father Peter	11/26/1960	Hage, BSO, Father Simon	8/15/2004	Nocerino, Brother Andreas	3/23/1999
Abraham, BSO, Father Nicholas	8/16/1973	Haggar, Father Joseph	3/23/2025	Pride, Deacon Robert	9/10/2011
Adcock, Father Basil William	8/04/1998	Hajjar, BSO, Father Malatios	3/29/1949	Rasi, Father Richard	11/13/2002
Akel, Father Elias	2/17/1932	Hajjar, BSO, Father Peter	6/15/1996	Raya, Archbishop Joseph	6/10/2005
Aneed, Father Anthony Joseph	8/24/1970	Hallack, BCO, Father Andrew	10/09/1962	Riashi, BCO, Archbishop George	10/28/2012
Anid, Father Cyril	11/04/1968	Handal, Father Ephrem	3/14/2023	Riashi, BCO, Father Agabios	7/06/1984
Antoun, Father Elie	3/27/2008	Hassey, Father Athanase	2/04/2007	Riashi, BCO, Father Raphael	6/06/1963
Aaraktingi, Father Nicholas	7/18/1973	Hatoum, BCO, Father Dimitri	10/07/1986	Richardson, Deacon David	6/23/2025
Azoon, Father Philip	3/05/2012	Heinmeyer, Deacon Carl	8/12/2009	Ritchey, Deacon Seraphim	10/02/2022
Badaoui, BSO, Father Adib	7/07/2006	Herr, Deacon David	3/10/2024	Rosov, Deacon Nicholas	8/08/2004
Bardaoui, Father Michel	1/04/1987	Hill, Deacon James	3/08/2021	Roumie, BAO, Father Seraphim	12/12/1940
Bassoul, BSO, Archbishop John	8/09/1977	Hindy, Father John E.	11/18/1938	Russo, Father Romanos V.	6/08/2023
Batal, BSO, Father Philip	10/17/1906	Hull, Father Michael	7/19/2019	Saba, BSO, Father Eftimios	8/20/1956
Bechewate, BSO, Father Abraham	10/10/1923	Jacopin, Father Armand	12/10/1971	Sahyouni, Archdeacon Elias	4/15/2013
Borkhoche, BSO, Father Nicholas	4/11/1985	Jadaa, BSO, Father John	5/07/2016	Saliba, BCO, Father Nemetallah	1/21/1976
Boury, BCO, Father Ananias	1/21/1963	Jock, Father Timothy	8/11/1948	Salman, BSO, Father Clement	9/13/1951
Burke, Deacon Thomas	11/26/2017	Jolly, Father Michael	4/10/2015	Salmone, BCO, Father Philip	7/06/1967
Capucci, BAO, Father Peter	4/20/1973	Kadry, BCO, Father Michael	7/13/2024	Samaha, BCO, Father Makarios	7/16/2023
Castañon, BSO, Father Ramon	10/31/1991	Kaiser, Deacon Joseph	1938	Samra, Father Basil G.	12/05/1939
Chalhoub, Father Maximos	5/30/2002	Kalaff, BCO, Father Theophile	8/03/1957	Sanki, Father Paul	1/18/1905
Cholewinski, Deacon Stan	8/27/2011	Kandalافت, BSO, Father Joseph	3/11/1989	Sawaya, BCO, Father Basil	7/01/1969
Coriarty, BSO, Father George	2/03/2002	Karam, BCO, Father Lawrence	12/17/1933	Sawaya, BCO, Father Clement	11/18/1949
Cueter (Kwaiter), Archbishop Elias	6/09/1985	Kattan, Father Abraham	1/31/2004	Sawaya, BCO, Father Gerasimos	11/22/1982
Dagher, BSO, Father George	11/08/2012	Kayata, BSO, Father Beshara	1/21/1983	Sayegh, BSO, Father Philip K.	2/13/1947
Dagher, BSO, Father Joseph	5/18/1997	Kelliher, SA, Father Alexander	4/14/2021	Sayegh, Father Anthony	1/17/1995
Denisoff, Father Elias	9/07/1971	Kerame, Father Oreste	10/27/2011	Shaheen, BSO, Father Basil	1/28/1953
Dick, MSSP, Father Gabriel	8/10/2014	Kerby, Father Robert	5/23/2007	Sharkey, Father Antoine	
Dionne, Deacon Irenaeus	11/02/2012	King, Father James	10/07/2014	Shashaty, BSO, Father Raymond	
Egan, Father William J.	12/27/1985	Kirk, Father David	8/27/2007	Shatawee, BSO, Father Alexios	
Eliane, Father Julien	2/08/2011	Kolitsos, Father Andrew	5/19/1996	Shofany, Father Dr. Saba	
Elya, BSO, Bishop John A.	7/19/2019	Lawler, Deacon Paul	4/17/2021	Simon, BSO, Father Joseph	
Essa, Father Badie George	6/03/1997	Ledbetter, BSO, Father Dominic	4/28/2015	Simon, Father Athanasius	
Faddoul, Father Salem	3/23/1992	Leonarczyk, Father Theophan	7/29/2022	Sion, BSO, Father Paul	
Farhat, Deacon Lawrence	3/29/2005	Leonard, Father John	4/28/1969	Skaff, Father Elias	
Faulk, Deacon Edward	9/11/2021	Littlefield, Father Philaret	4/13/1982	Soloman, Deacon James	
Fayad, BCO, Father Thomas	9/20/1939	Maloof, Father Allen	8/24/1965	St. Germain, Father Andre	
Flynn, Father Thomas	2/29/2024	Malouf, BSO, Father Lucien	10/03/2000	Tawil, Archbishop Joseph E.	
Francavilla, Father Joseph	11/13/2019	Malouf, Father Paul Kattini	8/20/2004	Thalge, BSO, Father Beshara	
Frey, BSO, Father Ross	6/21/2014	Mardelli, Father Maximos	5/1925	Totongy, BAO, Father Cyril	
Gannam, BSO, Father Athanasius	01/26/1938	Marji, Deacon Ibrahim	12/30/1988	Wakim, BSO, Father Theophane	
Gannam, BSO, Father Nicolas	12/27/1926	Marsha, BSO, Father Basil	5/02/1988	Warde, BSO, Father Polycarp	
Gebara, BSO, Father Ignatius	12/31/1928	McCarthy, Deacon Michael Patrick	1/04/1928	Wehby, BAO, Father Albert	
Gedah, BSO, Father Raphael	12/29/1975	McHugh, OFM Cap, Deacon Malachy	2/11/2021	Weyrich, Deacon Paul	
Geha, Father Peter	1/20/2021	Medawar, BCO, Father Nicholas	12/11/2019	Yany, Deacon George	
Ghaby, Father Jean	6/24/2025	Michalenko, MIC, Father Seraphim	7/04/1964	Youssef, BSO, Father Clement	
Ghandour, Deacon Stephen (Saad)	10/11/1992	Milienewicz, Father Frank	6/29/2006	Zahar, BSO, Father Flavian	
Ghattas, BSO, Bishop Ignatius	11/16/2013	Mufleh, BSO, Father Malatios	9/14/2019	Zammar, BSO, Father Michel	
Ghazal, BCO, Father Edmond	9/09/1955	Munn, Father Daniel	6/08/1926		
Ghosn, BCO, Father Bernard	7/27/1987	Murphy, BSO, Father Gerasimos			
Gorayeb, Father Albert		Nahas, BSO, Father Basil			

CLERGY ORDINATIONS . AXIOS AXIOS AXIOS

Abboud, Deacon Fred	5/06/2017	Frechette, Father Paul G.	5/21/1978	Nasrallah, Deacon Tareq	8/12/2001
Abyad, Father Zyad	1/09/2022	Gallaro, Bishop George	Priest . 5/27/1972	Nasser, Deacon Andre	6/01/1980
Abu-Lail, Father Samir	9/14/1994		Bishop . 3/31/2015	Negm, Deacon Magdi	6/21/1998
Adams, Father Robert	5/16/2016	Geiger, Father Damon	7/05/1971	O'Malley, Deacon Thom	8/15/2004
Al-Mimas, Father Fadi	8/18/2000	Ghali, Father Adel	7/20/1984	Olt, Deacon Joseph	11/19/2006
Alam, Father Alam	9/18/1981	Ghandour, Deacon Stephen	9/15/2002	Ortiz, Deacon Eric	11/16/2025
Albuqain, Father Fares	12/13/2019	Ghanoum, BSO, Father Gabriel	12/21/1993	Parent, Father Basil	11/09/1986
Altongy, Deacon Gilbert	8/24/2014	Gosselin, Father Lawrence	6/05/1976	Pesta, Deacon Jacob	2/02/2008
Anatolios, Father Khaled	2/14/2015	Graham, Father James	11/13/1993	Plowman, Deacon Kent	8/28/1994
Ayala, Father Sergio	7/17/2016	Haddad, Deacon Gregory	5/12/1996	Raczka, Father Philip	5/25/1980
Azar, Father John	6/26/1988	Haddad, Father Georges	9/19/2020	Rafidi, Deacon Fadi	10/02/2007
Babcock, Father James	1/25/1981	Hanna, Deacon Elie	8/10/2014	Raheb, Deacon Edmond	6/18/1992
Bagdasar, Deacon Edward	10/06/1996	Hanna, Father Victor	5/23/1992	Richardson, Deacon David	12/19/1990
Bailey, Deacon Elias	9/27/2009	Harrington, Father Ignatius	8/07/1982	Rimmer, Deacon Marion	9/18/1988
Barakeh, BSO, Father Imad	7/09/2005	Helo, Deacon Estephanos	2/04/2008	Rose, Deacon Dorotheos	1/10/2016
Baroody, Deacon Andrew	2/01/2015	Jajeh, Deacon Sami	11/18/2012	Rose, Father Justin	5/28/1995
Baroody, Father David	8/28/2022	Jebber, Deacon Dennis	10/24/2004	Rosensweig, Deacon Steven	9/11/2022
Basinski, Deacon Roland	12/06/1987	Kakaty, Father Edward	4/30/1972	Sabbagh, Father Choukri	9/14/2014
Bathouche, Father Ezzat	8/22/2008	Karout, Deacon George	11/02/1997	Saliba, BCO, Father Dimitri	10/22/2011
Beyrouti, Bishop François	Priest . 10/04/1998	Kashou, Deacon Elias	7/11/2010	Samaan, Father Rezkallah	7/20/1986
	Bishop . 10/12/2022	Khasho, Deacon Habib	7/22/2001	Samaha, Father Victor	8/21/1958
Bisharat, Father George	6/19/1993	Koury, Father James	6/13/1992	Samra, Bishop Nicholas	Priest . 5/10/1970
Black, Deacon David	11/14/2004	Kozhaya, Father Sayed	7/20/1997	Bishop . 7/06/1989	Bishop . 10/11/2009
Black, Father Oliver	8/16/2020	LaBat, Father Sean	2/20/1999	Sarkis, Deacon Elias	7/10/2022
Bourjaili, Deacon Nicholas	7/23/2006	Layous, Father Ziad	5/12/2019	Sayegh, Father George	12/02/1995
Boutros, Father Peter	6/12/2000	Macmillan, Deacon John	4/28/1992	Shalhoub, Deacon Robert	7/22/2001
Brown, Father Shaun	4/10/1994	Macoul, Deacon Michael	9/21/2014	Shehata, Deacon Antoine	5/18/1980
Bsarany, Deacon Edward	12/06/1987	Maliekal, Father George	1/01/2001	Sherman, Father Kenneth	10/19/2012
Carnazzo, Father Hezekias	5/01/2016	Manuele, Father Christopher	2/26/2006	Shihadeh, Father Musil	6/03/2000
Carter, Father Tyler	5/18/2024	Matta, Father Nassir	10/23/1978	Skrocki, Father Michael	6/28/1987
Costanzo, Deacon Stephen	11/16/2025	McAnerny, OP, Father Brendan	7/07/1988	Smith, Father Alexei	7/06/2002
Copenhagen, Father Michael	12/30/2015	McCarthy, Father Dennis	6/10/2017	Steinmetz, Father Thomas	7/06/2005
Daaboul, Deacon Jamil	12/05/2021	McCarthy, Father Emmanuel C.	8/09/1981	Thomas, Father Joseph	11/21/1971
Daratony, Deacon Joseph	10/12/1975	McNeil, Father Bryan	5/27/2017	Trabulsy, Deacon Rick	9/06/2009
Davis, Father Thomas	12/01/2019	Mefrige, Father John	9/		

CHURCHES AND MISSIONS

Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church of the United States of America

CHANCERY . melkite.org

3 VFW Parkway . West Roxbury, MA 02132 . 617-323-9922 . chancellor@melkite.org

Eparchial Bishop: Bishop François Beyrouti, Ph.D./D.Th. . **Chancellor:** Fr. Thomas Moses . **Vice-Chancellor:** Fr. George Maliekal

ALABAMA

St. George Church

425 16th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205
Office Phone: 205-252-5788
Email: parishadmin@stgeorgebham.com
Website: saintgeorgeonline.org
Pastor: Fr. Justin Rose

ARIZONA

St. John of the Desert Church

3718 E. Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85032
Office Phone: 602-787-4787
Email: Fr.Peter.boutros@melkite.org
Website: stjohnofthedesert.com
Pastor: Fr. Peter Boutros
Associate Pastor: Fr. Ziad Abyad

CALIFORNIA

Annunciation Mission

381W. Center Street . Covina, CA 91723
Cell Phone: 626-893-0302
Email: fr.george.sayegh@melkite.org
Administrator: Fr. George Sayegh

Bakersfield Community

(Bakersfield, CA)
Please contact the chancery.

Holy Cross Church

451W. Madison Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870
Office Phone: 714-985-1710
Email: office@holycrossmelkite.org
Website: holycrossmelkite.org
Administrator: Fr. Oliver Black

Mission Viejo Community

served by Holy Cross Melkite Catholic Church (Placentia, CA)
The Divine Liturgy is at St. Kilian's Roman Catholic Church
25872 Estanciero Drive
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
Fr. Oliver Black

Palm Springs Community

204 S. Calle El-Segundo
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Cell Phone: 313-912-6538
Email: Bp.Nicholas.Samra@melkite.org
Administrator: Bishop Nicholas Samra

St. Anne Co-Cathedral

11245 Rye Street . North Hollywood, CA 91602
Office Phone: 818-761-2035
Email: stannecathedral@melkite.org
Website: melkitesinlosangeles.org
Pastor: Fr. Dimitri Saliba, BCO

St. Elias Mission

1212 Turner Court
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Email: stellas.hayward@melkite.org
Website: stellasmelkite.org

St. George Church

9501 Folsom Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95827
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Email: office@stgeorgemelkite.org
Website: stgeorgemelkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo

St. Jacob Mission

2235 Galahad Road
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Email: stjacob.sandiego@melkite.org
Website: stjacobmelkite.org
Administrator: Fr. Shaun Brown

St. Paul Mission

538 Concord Street
El Segundo, CA 90245
Office Phone: 310-322-1892
Email: fr.alexei.smith@melkite.org
Website: stpaulmelkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Alexei Smith

St. Philip Mission

168 S. I Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410
Cell Phone: 909-289-2098
Administrator: Fr. Paul Fallouh

Virgin Mary Mission

42030 Avenida Alvarado, Suite A
Temecula, CA 92590
Cell Phone: 909-289-2098
Email: Fr.Paul.Fallouh@melkite.org
Website: virginmarymgcc.com
Administrator: Fr. Paul Fallouh

CONNECTICUT

St. Ann Church

181 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT 06811
Office Phone: 203-743-5119
Email: pastor@saintann.org
Website: saintann.org
Pastor: Fr. Philip Racza

St. Ann Church

41 Cross Road . Waterford, CT 06385
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Email: stann.waterford@melkite.org
Website: stannmelkitechurch.org
Pastor: Fr. Dennis McCarthy

FLORIDA

Jacksonville Community

Prince of Peace
6320 Bennett Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Email: jaxmelkites@gmail.com
Website: jaxmelkites.org

St. Jude Church

126 SE 15th Road . Miami, FL 33129
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Email: office@stjudemiami.org
Website: stjudemiami.org
Pastor: Fr. Ezzat Bathouche

St. Nicholas CHURCH

5715 Lake Ida Road
Delray Beach, FL 33484
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Email: parish@stnicholasmelkite.org
Website: stnicholasmelkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Gabriel Ghanoum, BSO

GEORGIA

St. Ignatios Church

1003 Merry Street
Augusta, GA 30940
Office Phone: 706-364-6219
Email: stignatios.augusta@melkite.org
Website: melkitechurch.wixsite.com/st-ignatius-augusta
Pastor: Fr. Alexei Woltomist

St. John Chrysostom Church

1428 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
Office Phone: 404-373-9522
Email: contact@stjohnmelkite.org
Website: stjohnmelkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Elias Dorham

ILLINOIS

St. John the Baptist Church

200 E. North Avenue
Northlake, IL 60164
Cell Phone: 617-771-6633
Email: stjohnthebaptist.northlake@melkite.org
Website: stjohnmelkite.com
Pastor: Fr. Imad Barakeh
Fr. Sergio Ayala

INDIANA

Notre Dame University

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Malloy Hall Chapel / Notre Dame University
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Home Phone: 574-204-2338
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Fr. Khaled Anatolios

KENTUCKY

Pikeville Community

St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
147 Bryan Street
Pikeville, KY 41501
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Email: fr.robert.adams@melkite.org
Fr. Robert Adams

MARYLAND

Annapolis Community

(Annapolis, MD) served by
Holy Transfiguration Melkite Catholic Church (McLean, VA)

MASSACHUSETTS

Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral

7VFW Parkway
West Roxbury, MA 02132
Office Phone: 617-323-5242
Email: annunciationcathedral@melkite.org
Website: bostonmelkite.org
Rector: Fr. Thomas Moses
Weekend Ministry:
Fr. Marwan El Khoury, BSO

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

256 Hamilton Street
Worcester, MA 01604
Office Phone: 508-752-4174
Email: Fr.Bryan.McNeil@melkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Bryan McNeil

St. Joseph Church

241 Hampshire Street
Lawrence, MA 01841
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Email: stjoseph.lawrence@melkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Ziad Layous

MICHIGAN

Our Lady of Redemption Church

29293 Lorraine Avenue
Warren, MI 48093
Office Phone: 586-751-6017
Email: olor-office@melkite.org
Website: olormelkite.org
Administrator: Fr. Elias Eid

St. Joseph Church

725 Mt. Hope Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
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Website: stjosephmelkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Michael Skrocki

St. Michael Mission

585 Mill Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
Cell Phone: 617-971-7173
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Website: stmichaelmelkite.org
Administrator: Fr. Fares Albuqain

NEBRASKA

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7859 Lakeview Street
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Administrator: Deacon Fred Abboud

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Our Lady of the Cedars Church

140 Mitchell Street
Manchester, NH 03103
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Website: olcnh.org
Pastor: Fr. Thomas Steinmetz

NEW JERSEY

St. Ann Church

802 Rifle Camp Road
Woodland Park, NJ 07424
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Email: fr.musil.shihadeh@melkite.org
Website: saintannmelkite.com
Pastor: Fr. Musil Shihadeh
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sayed Kozhaya

St. Demetrius Mission

184 Cliff Street
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Cell Phone: 857-203-1034
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Administrator: Fr. Sayed Kozhaya

NEW YORK

Christ the Savior Church

491 Palisade Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10703
Office Phone: 914-963-6680
Email: christthesavior.yonkers@melkite.org
Pastor: Fr. Victor Hanna

St. Basil Church

901 Sherman Drive
Utica, NY 13501
Office Phone: 315-732-4662
Email: stbasilthegreat.utica@melkite.org
Website: stbasilutica.org
Administrator: Fr. James Koury

PENNSYLVANIA

Our Lady of Mercy Mission

501 Ridge Avenue
Allentown, PA 18102
Cell Phone: 484-747-7006
Email: fr.rezkallah.samaan@melkite.org
Administrator: Fr. Rezkallah Samaan

St. Joseph Church

130 N. St. Francis Cabrini Avenue
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Email: Fr.Kenneth.Sherman@melkite.org
Website: melkitescranton.org
Administrator for Liturgical and Pastoral Affairs: Fr. Kenneth Sherman

RODE ISLAND

St. Basil the Great Church