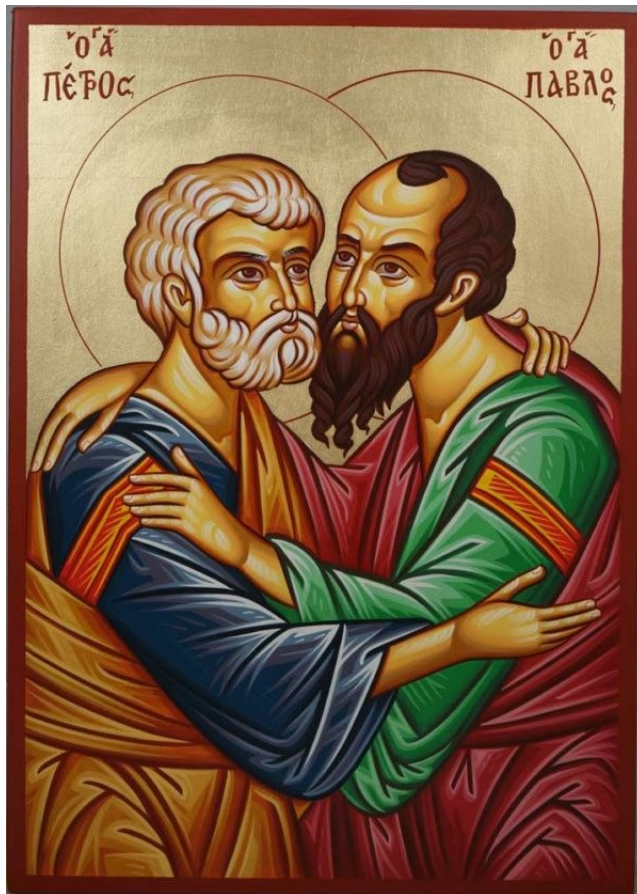


*From the Divine Office for the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul (Jun 29)*

*Let us extol Peter and Paul, the two great lights of the Church, two beacons illuminating the Church with all God's doctrine. By their preaching, they have led the Gentiles from ignorance to the knowledge of God. Wherefore, the one who 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! (Lete)*

*O Lord, You have taken up to their eternal rest and to the enjoyment of Your good things the two infallible preachers of divine truths and leaders of the Apostles, for You have accepted their struggles and their deaths as being better than any holocaust, O You who alone know the secrets of hearts! (Kontakion)*



**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JUNE 28, 2026**



**JESUS HEALING THE DEMONIACS**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church**

**256 Hamilton St.**

**Worcester, MA 01604**

**Rectory: (508) 752-4174 Hall: (508) 755-2199**

**Email: olphmelkite@gmail.com**

**Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor**

**Rev. Deacon Elias Bailey**

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**Website: olphworcester.org**

**Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM**

**Antiphon (1st)**

1: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our Savior.

***O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia***

2: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

***Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka.***

***Haleloueya.***

3: For God is a great Lord and a great King over all the earth.

***O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.***

**Entrance Hymn**

**Priest:** Come. Let us worship and bow down before Christ.

**People:** ***O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, who sing to You: Alleluia!***

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4. Pg. 40)**

The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the angel the joyful announcement of the resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral sentence, proudly told the apostles: "Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, bestowing to the world great mercy."

**Patronal Troparion (Tone 1, pg. 15)**

In giving birth you preserved your virginity, and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.

**Kontakion (Tone 2, pg. 16)**

O never failing Protectress of Christians, and their ever-present Intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

In time, Apostolic Succession came to mean that a local Church had been founded by one of the original Apostles and there was an unbroken chain between that apostle and the current bishop. This materialistic approach focused less on the succession of the teaching than on the material succession of the hierarch. Thus, the Pope of Rome was considered to be the successor of Peter and Paul and the Pope of Alexandria to be the successor of St Mark the Evangelist.

A disciple of St Irenaeus, known to us as Pseudo-Hippolytus, summarized the tradition of his Church, as follows:

"Peter preached the Gospel in Pontus, and Galatia, and Cappadocia, and Betania, and Italy, and Asia, and was afterwards crucified by Nero in Rome with his head downward, as he had himself desired to suffer in that manner.

"Andrew preached to the Scythians and Thracians, and was crucified, suspended on an olive tree, at Patras, *a town* of Achaia; and there too he was buried.

"John, again, in Asia, was banished by Domitian the king to the isle of Patmos, in which also he wrote his Gospel and saw the apocalyptic vision; and in Trajan's time he fell asleep at Ephesus, where his remains were sought for, but could not be found.

"James, his brother, when preaching in Judea, was cut off with the sword by Herod the tetrarch, and was buried there.

"Philip preached in Phrygia, and was crucified in Hierapolis with his head downward in the time of Domitian, and was buried there.

"Bartholomew, *preached* to the Indians, to whom he also gave the Gospel according to Matthew, *and* was crucified with his head downward, and was buried in Allatum, *a town* of Greater Armenia.

"And Matthew wrote the Gospel in the Hebrew tongue, and published it at Jerusalem, and fell asleep at Hieres, *a town* of Parthia.

"Thomas preached to the Parthians, Medes, Persians, Hyrcanians, Bactrians, and Margians, and was thrust through in the four members of his body with a pine spears at Calamene, a city of India, and was buried there.

"James the son of Alphaeus, when preaching in Jerusalem. was stoned to death by the Jews, and was buried there beside the temple.

"Jude, who is also *called* Lebbeaus, preached. to the people of Edessa, and to all Mesopotamia, and fell asleep at Berytus, and was buried there.

"Simon the Zealot, the son of Clopas, who is also *called* Jude, became Bishop of Jerusalem after James the Just, and fell asleep at the age of 120 years and was buried there.

"Matthias, who was one of the Seventy, was numbered along with the eleven Apostles, and preached in Jerusalem, and fell asleep and was buried there.

"And Paul entered into the Apostleship a year after the assumption of Christ; and beginning at Jerusalem, he advanced as far as Illyricum, and Italy, and Spain, preaching the Gospel for five-and-thirty years. And in the time of Nero he was beheaded at Rome, and was buried there."

In fact, every bishop in the world, in union with the other bishops, is a successor of all the Apostles whether his see existed in the first century or not.

**DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS**

**Today** +Charlotte Stockhaus (40 day) Requested by her family

**Next Sunday** Our Families and Friends, Living and Deceased  
 +Gordon McNeil (49 yrs). Requested by Fr. Bryan & Family

**This morning's Coffee Hr. this morning is hosted by the family of Charlotte Stockhaus**  
**Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by**

Please remember in your prayers: Zenon Tencza, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Michael Mooradian, Dennis Desplaines, Thomas Houde, Ken Jordan, Mary Rizk, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Jeannine McNeil, Neil Gartner, Linda Gartner, Arthur Hill, Houda Daou, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, Susan Bailey, Jacqueline Ventriglia, those affected by the natural disasters throughout the world, the people of Gaza, and for peace in Ukraine & the Middle East. Let us also pray for the repose of the souls of Zakeya Assaf, Genvieve Hatem, Hanna Francis, Saddalh Alkateb. If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

**Welcome to any visitors we have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.**  
**Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.**

**UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

**Mon. June 29, 6pm—Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul**

**Last Week's Collection**

**Weekly** \$ 864  
**Candles** \$ 42  
**Coffee Hr.** \$ 0  
**TOTAL** \$ 906

**God bless you for your generosity!**  
**As a reminder, we need \$2,000 per week to meet our expenses.**

**FINANCIALS**

<u>May 2026</u>		<u>YTD(10.2025-5.2026)</u>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$6,191</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>\$55,956</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,774</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$58,625</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$3,583)</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$2,669)</b>



## LET US HONOR THE HOLY APOSTLES

THE FAST OF THE APOSTLES, which we have just completed, leads up to two festivals in our Church: the Feast of the Prime Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) and the Synaxis of the Apostles (June 30). On this second day we assemble for another gathering (synaxis) in honor of the Twelve, the companions of Christ who became the core group around whom the early Church was built. As St Irenaeus of Lyons wrote, “We have learned from none others the plan of our salvation, than from those through whom the Gospel has come down to us, which they did at one time proclaim in public, and, at a later period, by the will of God, handed down to us in the Scriptures, to be the ground and pillar of our faith” (A.H.3.1.1).

The New Testament records that the first Christians sought to replace Judas who had fallen way. St Peter outlined the qualities required for an apostle: “*Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection*” (Acts 1:21, 22). To become one of the Twelve, then, one had to have witnessed the entire ministry of the Lord Jesus and His resurrection.

Two men were proposed who met these requirements, “*Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias*” (v23). Neither of these men are mentioned by name in any of the Gospels. They were presumably among the Seventy, the second rank of the Lord’s followers, whom our Church remembers with a synaxis on January 4.

### Twelve or More?

Six of the Twelve are mentioned in all four Gospels as well as Acts: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, and Thomas. Several others are mentioned in some of these writings: Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus surnamed Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite (the Zealot), Judas the son of James, Nathaniel, and Levi the tax collector.

In addition, St Paul is listed among the Twelve although his witness was to the risen Christ (see Acts 9:1-9).

Some commentators have said that some of the “extra” names are alternate names for the same people, such as the tax collector Matthew/Levi and Judas (Jude)/ Lebbaeus surnamed Thaddaeus. Many Jews at the time had Greek or Latin names as well as their family names which were Hebrew or Aramaic in origin.

Others have said that Twelve was a symbolic number in the culture which produced the Scriptures, representing perfection or completion. Still others give the following explanation: the Twelve were in fact the witnesses to the Twelve Tribes of Israel while Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles.

### What Is Apostolic Succession?

The ancient Churches sought to guarantee the apostolic origin and authority of their preaching by using the term *Apostolic Succession*. Basically, this meant that a particular Church or group of Christians taught what the Apostles taught and practiced what the Apostles did. In a similar way, the connection of a local Church with the Apostles was manifested by the connection of its bishop with the person of the Apostles.

At first this meant that the bishop knew and/or was taught by an apostle. As Irenaeus wrote about St Polycarp in the second century, “Polycarp also was not only instructed by Apostles, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, but was also, by Apostles in Asia, appointed bishop of the Church in Smyrna, whom I also saw in my early youth, for he tarried [on earth] a very long time, and, when a very old man, gloriously and most nobly suffering martyrdom, departed this life, having always taught the things which he had learned from the Apostles, and which the Church has handed down, and which alone are true. To these things all the Asiatic Churches testify, as do also those men who have succeeded Polycarp down to the present time” (A.H., 3:3:4).

### Prokimenon

**Reader:** How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**People:** How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

**People:** How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

**Reader:** How great are your works, O Lord!

**People:** In wisdom You have wrought them all.

### Epistle: Rom 10:1-10

### Alleluia

String your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and your right hand shall lead You wonderfully.

*Verse:* You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed You with the oil of joy above your companions.

### Gospel: Mt 8:28-9:1 (Healing of the Gerasene Demoniacs)

#### PICNIC MEETING

**As a reminder, our annual picnic will be Sunday, September 13 from noon to 6PM. Our next meeting will be this Tuesday, June 30 at 6:30pm in the church hall.**

**The picnic is crucial to the life of the parish! No one can do everything but everyone can do something!**

**Please join us!**