

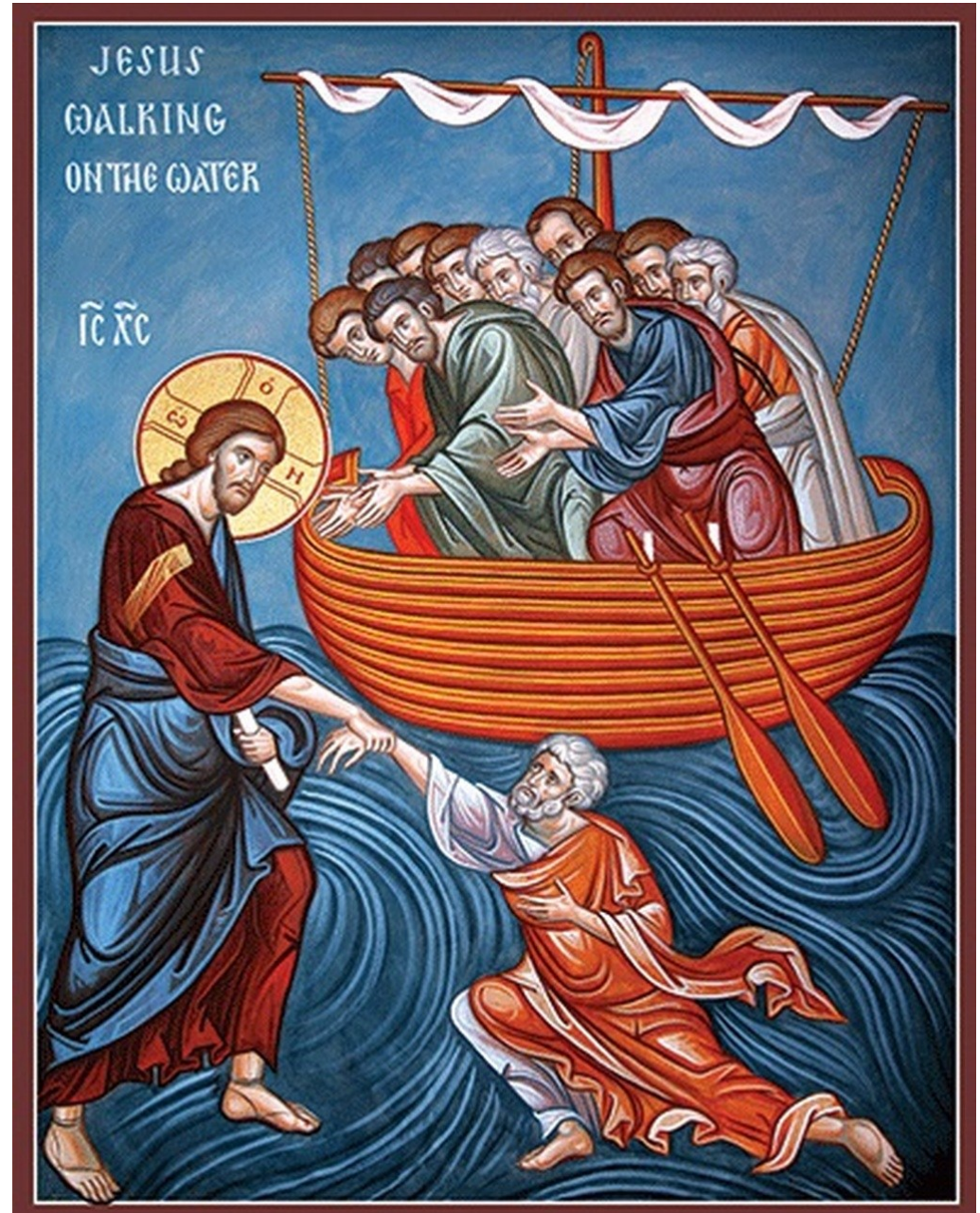
From the Divine Office for St. Panmyeleimon (Jul; 27)

O holy, victorious healer Panteleimon, intercede with the Merciful God that He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins. (Troparion)

You emulated God's mercy, and He granted you the power of healing, O Panteleimon, victorious martyr of Christ! Heal our spiritual diseases through your intercession and take away the temptations which the enemy always places before our steps, as we constantly cry out to the Lord: "Save us!"



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26, 2026



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church

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Worcester, MA 01604

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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (3rd)

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 8. Pg.42)

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You.!

Troparion of the Martyrs (Tone 4)

Your martyrs, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from you O our God, on account of their struggles. Armed with your strength, they have vanquished their persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through their supplications. O Christ God save our souls.

Troparion of Paraskeva (Tone 1)

Having justified your name by your diligent life, you inherited as a permanent possession an ever-ready faith. O blessed Paraskeva, victorious in battle. As a result, you dispensed acts of healing and you make intercession for our souls.

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.

The Great Martyr St. Panteleimon

One of the most revered Unmercenaries in both East and West is the Great Martyr St. Panteleimon the Healer. He lived in Asia Minor from 284 to 304 and was thus a contemporary of St. George and other martyrs. Like them he suffered martyrdom in the same persecution.

Our saint was born in Nicemedia, the regional capital, about the year 284 to a pagan father, Eusturgios, and a Christian mother, Eubula. At birth he was given the name Pantaleon, which means “in all things like a lion.” His mother began teaching him the Christian faith but she died when her son was still a boy. Raised by his father, Pantaleon was taught to join him in worshipping the ancestral gods of the region.

The highly intelligent lad was entrusted as a teenager to the noted physician Euphrosinos to learn the practice of medicine. As was the custom, he accompanied his master everywhere to study his methods. Since Euphrosinos was occasionally called to the imperial court Pantaleon attracted the attention of the Eastern emperor, Maximian. He successfully completed his studies and began the practice of medicine himself.

Pantaleon’s Conversion

The young physician often passed a house where three priests – Hermolaos, Hermippos and Hermocrates – were living in seclusion. They had survived a notorious massacre in 303 when thousands of Christians, who had taken refuge in the principal church in Nicomedia, were slaughtered. Hermolaos noticed him and invited him in. In the course of what became frequent conversations, Hermolaos praised Pantaleon for his skills, but also challenged him: “But, my friend, of what use are all your acquisitions in this art, since you are ignorant of the science of salvation?”

Pantaleon was well disposed to Hermolaos’ teaching, but was only convinced to accept baptism through the following event. The young physician once happened to see a child stricken on the street, bitten by a poisonous snake. Pantaleon began to pray to our Lord Jesus Christ that the dead child might be revived and that the poisonous reptile might die. He firmly resolved that, should his prayers be answered, he would become a follower of Christ and would accept baptism. Pantaleon saw the child come back to life and the great viper burst into pieces. Pantaleon was then baptized by Hermolaos and was given the name Panteleimon (“all-compassionate”). Panteleimon began urging his father, Eustorgios, to accept Christ. When Eustorgios saw his son heal a blind man by invoking the name of Christ, he came to believe and was baptized, along with the man who had regained his sight.

After Eustorgios’ death, Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, sick, needy and indigent. Everyone who came to him he treated without charge, healing them by invoking Jesus Christ. He would visit those in prison, especially Christians, whose numbers were filling the prisons, and treat their wounds, thus living up to his Christian name. This naturally attracted the attention of people and they abandoned their other physicians to be treated by Panteleimon.

The other physicians reacted by denouncing Panteleimon as a Christian. Maximian urged Panteleimon to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to the Roman gods, but he refused. On the contrary, Panteleimon healed a paralyzed man in the emperor’s presence by invoking Christ. Maximian dismissed this as some kind of trick and condemned Panteleimon to death. He suffered martyrdom, along with the three priests who had befriended him, on July 27, 304.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today **Our Families and Friends, living and deceased**

Next Sunday **+William & Bertha Rahall.** Requested by Nick Rahall

This morning's Coffee Hr. this morning is hosted by **Laurance & Seemon Aulo** and family

Next Sunday's Coffee Hr. will be hosted by **Nick Rahall**

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.

Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$654
Candles	\$ 37
Coffee Hr.	\$ 30
Parish Needs	\$130
TOTAL	\$851

God bless you for your generosity!

As a reminder, we need \$2,000 per week to meet our expenses.



Welcome to any visitors we have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.

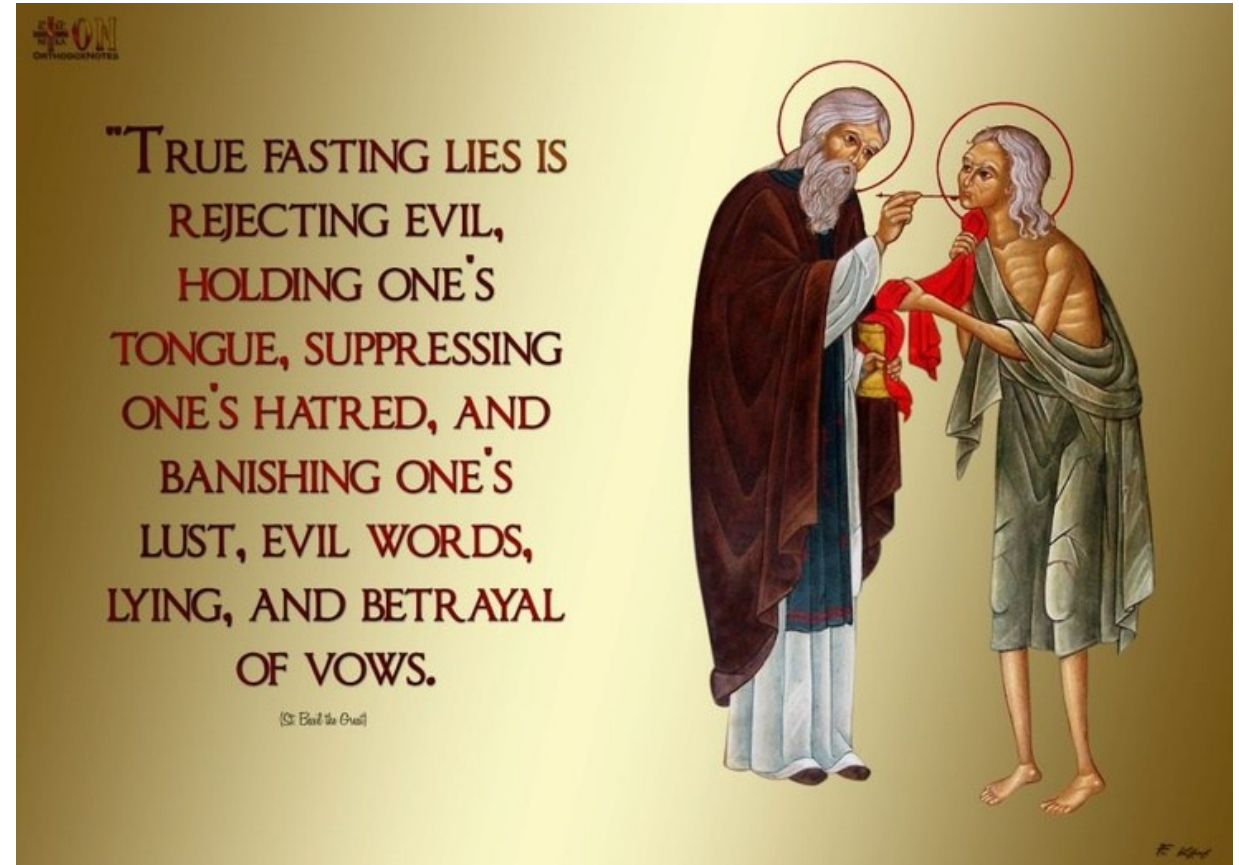
Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Mon Aug 3, 6PM - Paraclisis

Wed Aug 5, 6PM - Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Transfiguration

Mon Aug 10, 6PM—Paraclisis



ST. PANTELEIMON

FEW CHRISTIANS HAVE NOT HEARD of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. After living in India for twenty years, teaching in a (middle class) girls high school, she received what she termed “a call within a call” to devote the rest of her life to caring for the sick poor while living among them. At her death there were over 4500 sisters in the religious community she founded. Mother Teresa is a modern example of what our Tradition calls “Unmercenary Healers,” people – usually physicians – who cared for the sick without pay, offering their skills back to God as their sacrifice of praise. The troparion usually sung in honor of these Unmercenaries speaks of them living out the command of Christ to the Twelve, “*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give*” (Matthew 10:8). Then, as now, physicians were respected members of society and expected to be remunerated for their services, which is why the sick poor were often ignored in the ancient world. The Unmercenary Healers were the exception to this rule.

Unmercenary Healers

The Eastern Churches have, for centuries, honored a number of Unmercenaries, several of whom were also martyrs in the early persecutions. A few of them (and their feast days) are:

- **Ss. Cosmas and Damian** of Asia Minor (November 1)
- **Ss. Cosmas and Damian** of Rome (July 1)
- **Ss. Cyrus and John** in Egypt (January 31)
- **St Julian** in Homs, Syria (February 6)
- teenaged medical student **St Thallaios** (May 20)

Some Unmercenaries were not trained physicians but rather native healers, usually associated with rural areas and practicing what we might call “alternative medicine” today. Among them we venerate **St Tryphon** (February 1) who healed livestock as well as people in his village, Lampsacos.

Not a few of these Unmercenaries were women. Among them the Church honors **Ss. Zenaida and Philonella** (October 11), who operated a clinic at a healing spring in Thessaly, and the precursors of Mother Teresa, **Ss. Hermione and Eukhidia** (September 4), who established the first hostel for the homeless poor in Ephesus. These and others are also remembered in a collective feasts of the Holy Unmercenaries in the calendars of some local Churches, generally in October or November.

Prokimenon

Reader: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about Him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

People: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about Him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Reader: God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is his name.

People: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about Him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Reader Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them;

People: Let all round about Him bring gifts to the awesome Lord! .

Epistle: 1 Cor 3:9-17

Alleluia

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us sing joyfully to God our Savior!

Verse: Let us greet his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

