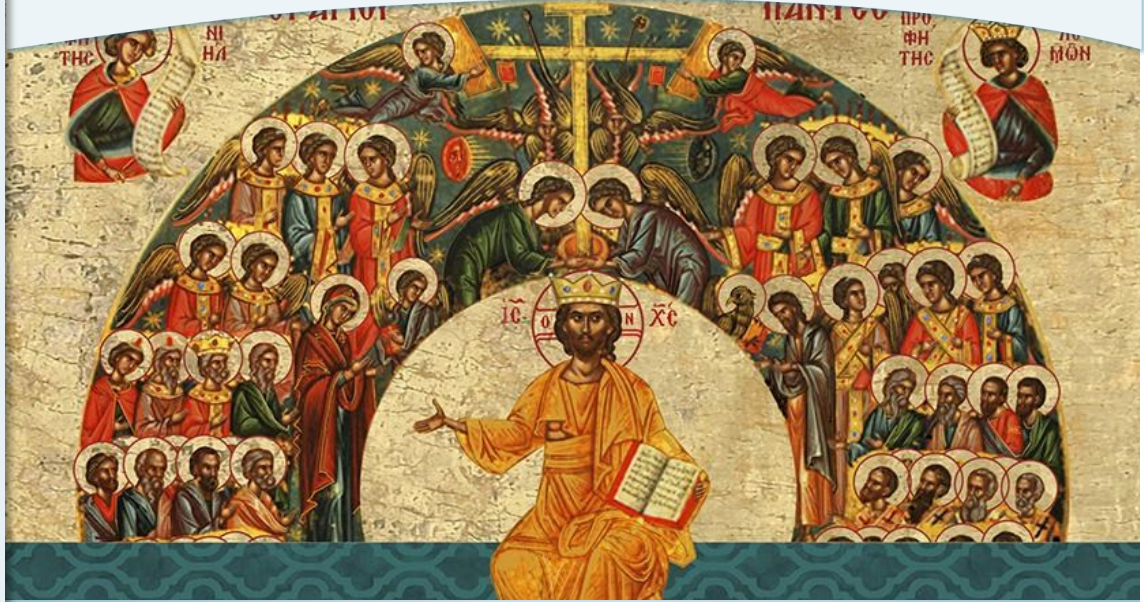




June 4, 2023

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



1st Sunday After Pentecost—All Saints Sunday الأسبوع الأول بعد العنصرة – أحد جميع القديسين

Address

15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website

www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
StBasilTheGreatMelkiteGreek
CatholicChurchRI/](https://www.facebook.com/StBasilTheGreatMelkiteGreekCatholicChurchRI/)

YouTube

<https://bit.ly/3gkl2Uk>

Email

office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Office hours

Tue-Fri 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Divine Liturgies

Sunday Divine Liturgy

9:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Pastoral Emergencies and anointing of the sick

(401)722-1345

Holy Mysteries

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before the Divine Liturgy or by appointment

Baptism

Please arrange with the pastor

Marriage

A notice of at least 6 months should be given to the pastor, before the proposed wedding date to arrange for the required interview and instructions

Antiphon Prayer

O Lord, Lover of Mankind, who are wonderful in your saints, who are the source of all holiness, You gave us your divine command: Be holy for I am Holy. You poured the Spirit of Holiness in our hearts. You made us temples for your glory. We pray You, by your mercy, to make us faithful to that Life-giving Spirit. Enlighten our minds so that we may understand your Plan of Salvation and please You by doing your will all our life.

For You are the wellspring of all holiness, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving and worship, Father, Son and Holy spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the Resurrection, 8th Tone

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 All Saints

O Christ God, your church clothed with the blood of Your martyrs all over the world, as with purple and fine linen, cries out to You: send Your mercy upon Your people, grant peace to Your fold and extend Your great compassion upon our souls.

Kondakion of the Preparation for the Feast of the Divine Body

O Faithful let us prepare our hearts as precious vessels to partake of the Lord's Banquet, with pure dispositions, and let us offer a hymn of praise in preparation to this great festivity.

صلاة الأنديفونة

أيها الربُّ المحبُّ البشر، يا مَنْ هو عجيبٌ في قَدِّيسه ويُنوب كلُّ قداسة، يا مَنْ دعانا بأمره الإلهي: كونوا قَدِّيسين لأنِّي أنا قدوس، وأفاض في قلوبنا روحَ القداسة، وجعلنا هياكل له، نسألُ مراحمك أن تجعلنا أمناء لهذا الروح المحيي، وتُنير منا العقول لندرك تديبِ رحمتك الخلاصي، ونعمل بحسب ما يُرضيك كلُّ أيام حياتنا

لأنك أنت هو مصدرُ كلِّ قداسة، وإليك نرفعُ المجد والشكر والسُّجود، أيها الأبُّ والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلَّ أوانٍ وإلى دهر الداهرين.

نشيد القيامة – باللحن الثامن

انحدرت من العلاءِ أيها التحنن، وقبلتِ الدفنَ ثلاثة أيام، لكي تعتقنا من الآلام، فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا، يا رب المجد لك.

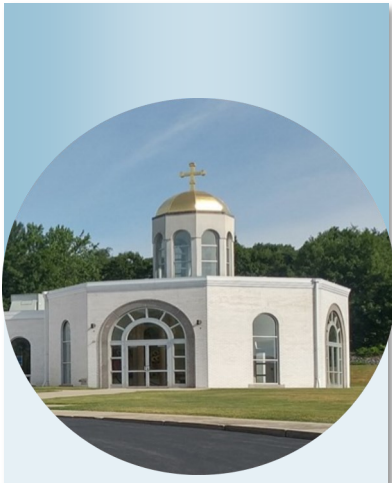
نشيد جميع القديسين على اللحن الرابع

أيها المسيحُ الإله، ان كنيسةَك المتسربلة دماءً شهدائك الذين في كلِّ العالم، مثل بُرٍّ وأرجوان، تهتفُ اليك بواسطتهم: أرسل رَأْفَتَكَ على شعبك، وهبْ لرعيَتِكَ السلام، ولنفسنا عظيمَ الرحمة.

قنداق الختام- لتقدمة عيد الجسد باللحن الثاني

لهيَّ اليوم القلوب، يا مؤمنين، كآنية نقية، لنقبل بضمير نقي وليمة الرب. مقدمين تسبيحاً لتقدمة العيد.



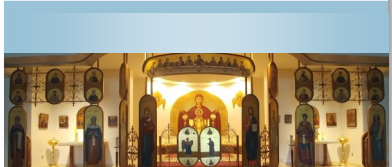


Our church organizations:

MAYA: Organization of Melkite Catholics ages 18 – 26 (and at least 1 year out of high school) under patronage of our bishop, the Most Reverend Nicholas Samra.
<https://melkite.org/maya>

MYO: Provides a common forum for all the young people of St. Basil's Church, and that the Organization initiate, coordinate, and direct religious, social, educational, and humanitarian programs designed to promote the involvement of its membership in the Christian Faith and the Melkite tradition.
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com/myo.html

NAMW: Promotes and supports vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the United States.
<https://melkite.org/namw>



Epistle: 1st Sunday of Pentecost, Heb 11:33-12:2, Prokimenon (Tone 4)

Awesome in His saints is God, the God of Israel. Stichon: In the churches, bless God, the Lord out of Israel's wellspring.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews BRETHREN, all of the saints by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead returned to them through resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and beatings, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, they were cut to pieces, they were put to the test, they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, anguished, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy) wandering in deserts, mountains, caverns and holes in the ground. And all of these, in spite of the positive witnessing of faith, failed to receive what was promised, for God was keeping something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

(12: 1) And so, having such a cloud of witnesses over us, let us get rid of every burden, and of the sin entangling us, and run with endurance to the fight proposed to us, contemplating the author and final end of faith, Jesus.

ALLELUIA (Tone 4)

The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

Stichon: Many are the trials of the just, but out of them all, the Lord will save them.

Gospel: 1st Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 10:32-38 & 19:27-30 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

The Lord said to His disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I in turn will disown before My Father in heaven. Anyone who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." Then Peter addressed him saying, "Behold, we have left all and followed You; what then shall we have?" And Jesus said to them, "Amen I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of His glory, shall also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting. But many who are first now will be last, and many who are last now will be first."

الاسبوع الاول بعد العنصرة: أحد جميع القديسين مقدمة الرسالة

عجيبُ الله في قديسيه، إله إسرائيل في المجامع باركوا الله الرب من بنابيع اسرائيل الرسالة (عبرانيين 11: 33 الى 2 12 أ) يا إخوة، إن القديسين جميعاً بالإيمان قد قهرُوا الممالك وعملوا البر، ونالوا الموعد وسدوا أفواه الأسود، وأطفأوا قوة النار، ونجوا من حيد السيف، وتقفوا من ضعف، وصاروا أشداء في القتال وكسروا معسكرات الأجنبي. واسترجعت نساءً أمواتة بالقيامة. وآخرون قد غدبوا بتوتير الأعضاء والضرب، ولم يقبلوا النجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل. وآخرون قد ذاقوا الهزة والسياس والقيود أيضاً والسجن. رجموا، نُشروا، أمُتِحُوا، ماتوا بحد السيف، ساءوا في جلود الغم والمغز، مُعوزين، مُضايقين، مَجْهُودين. ولم يكن العالمُ مُستحقاً لهم، تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الأرض. فهؤلاء كلهم المشهود لهم بالإيمان لم ينالوا الموعد، لأن الله قد سبق فَنظَرَ لنا شيئاً أفضل، لكي لا يكملوا بمعزلٍ عنا. فلذلك نحن أيضاً إذ يُحْدِق بنا مثل هذا السحاب من الشهود، فلنلقِ عنَّا كلَّ ثِقَلٍ والخطيئة المحيطة بنا بسهولة، ولنسج بصبر في الميدان الموضوع أمامنا، جاعلين نظرتنا الى يسوع مُبدي الإيمان ومُكَمِّله

هللوا الصديقون صرخوا والرب استمع لهم، ومن جميع مضايقتهم نجاهم كثيرة مضايق الصديقين، ومن جميعها يُنجيهم الرب.

الانجيل (متى 10: 32 – 38 و 19: 27 – 30)

قال الرب لتلاميذه: كلُّ مَنْ يَعْتَرِفْ بي قدام الناس، أَعْتَرِفْ أنا أيضاً به قدام أبي الذي في السماوات. ومن يُنْكِرُنِي قدام الناس، أنكره أنا أيضاً قدام أبي الذي في السماوات. لا تظنُّوا أنني جئت لألقي على الأرض سلاماً. لم آت لألقي سلاماً بل سيفاً. لقد جئت لأفترق الانسان عن أبيه، والأبنة عن أمها، والكثثة عن خمتها. وأعداء الإنسان أهل بيته. من أحب أباً أو أمّاً أو بنتاً أكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن أحب ابناً أو بنتاً أكثر مني فلا يستحقني، ومن لا يأخذ صليبه ويتبعني فلا يستحقني. فأجاب بطرس وقال له: ها نحن قد تركنا كل شيء وتبعناك، فما عسى إذا يكون لنا؟ فقال له يسوع: الحق أقول لكم، أنتم الذين تبعتموني في عهد التجديد، متى جلس ابن الإنسان على عرش مجده، تجلسون. أنتم أيضاً على اثني عشر عرشاً، وتدينون أسباط إسرائيل الاثني عشر. وكل من ترك بيوتاً، أو إخوة، أو أخوات، أو أباً، أو أمّاً، أو امرأة، أو بنين، أو حقولاً من أجل اسمي، يأخذ مئة ضعف، ويورث الحياة الأبدية. وكثيرون أولون يكونون آخرين، وآخرين يكونون أولين.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, SATURDAY, JUNE 3 & SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS.

5:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- +ANNA LEFRANCOIS by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- +ANNETTE NAJJAR by Michele Zainyeh.
- +MARY SACKAL by Diane Lazieh.
- +WILLIAM T. ASERMELY by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family (SC).

10:00a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- +HOUNEIN & ROSE KHOURY by Micheline Ghanem.
- +GLORIA (RAWAN) RAZOOK by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- +JOHN ROWEY by Elias & Barbara Deeb.
- +TONY LAHOUD KARAM, NAJAT KARAM, NOURA SOKHON, JANETTE NADDE, THERESE KHOURY by Joseph Tomeh & family.



Prayer for the dead



O God of all spirits and of all flesh, who have destroyed death, overcome the devil, and given life to the world: grant, O Lord to the souls of your servants, who have departed from this life, that they may rest in a place of light, in a place of happiness, in a place of peace, where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing. And since You are gracious God and Lover of mankind, forgive them every sin they have committed by thought, or word, or deed, for there is not a man who lives and does not sin: You alone are without sin, your righteousness is everlasting, and your word is true.

For You are the Resurrection and the Life, and the Repose of your departed servants, O Christ our God, and we render glory to You, together with your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: May 28, 2023: Budgets: \$1,338.00: Envelopes: \$1,245.00, Loose: \$93.00; Candles: \$108.00; Building Fund: \$410.00; Stole Offerings: \$2,275.00; ; Melkite Support: \$167.00.

GENERAL HOME VISITATIONS, SICK CALLS, HOSPITAL VISITS: Father Ephrem has been fully vaccinated and is now available for these parish services. Just email him at office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com and leave him your message. **PLEASE! NO GRATUITIES!** A cup of coffee or tea is just fine. He looks forward to in-person contact.

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone who is planning an **ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS** is kindly requested to notify a member of the clergy **BEFORE** reception/party plans are made. The Clergy may be already scheduled for something else on the day that you have rented a hall/restaurant. Following this policy will help avoid any later misunderstandings/hurt feelings. Thank you!

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE: We are all links of a chain. A chain is as strong as its weakest link! What kind of link are you? Let us make this year 2023 the year that we give more of ourselves on the strengthening of the chain of St. Basil the Great Community. Hopefully, many more will step up in their real understanding of parish membership.

GRAPE LEAVES: The Food Fair Committee is appealing to all parishioners and friends to donate sufficient grape leaves to accommodate the needs of this popular cuisine. Anyone willing to donate some leaves can bring them to the kitchen and they will be stored in the freezer. If Christine Durnin or Jane Hanna are not there, arrangements will be made to freeze them.

2023 Food Fair Cooking Schedule Thank you for your help!

Syrian Cheese – Thursday, June 15 @ 9:00 a.m.

Kibbeh – Thursday, June 29 @9:00 a.m.

Sfeeha – Tuesday, July 11 @ 9:00 a.m.

Grapeleaves – Thursday, August 3, 9:00 a.m.

Sfeeha – Thursday, August 24@ 9:00 a.m.

Sfeeha - Thursday, September 7@ 9:00 a.m.

O Jesus, Who has said,
"Ask and you shall
receive, seek and you
shall find, knock and it
shall be opened," through
the intercession of the
Theotokos, Your Most
Holy Mother, I knock, I
seek, I ask that my prayer
be granted.

O Jesus, Who has said,
"All that you ask of the
Father in My Name, He
will grant you," through
the intercession of the
Theotokos Your Most Holy
Mother, I humbly and
urgently ask your Father
in your name that my
prayer will be granted.

O Jesus, Who has said,
"Heaven and earth shall
pass away but My word
shall not pass away,"
through the intercession
of the *Theotokos* Your
Most Holy Mother, I feel
confident that my prayer
will be granted.





SCHEDULE CHANGE: We begin our Summer Liturgy Schedule this weekend, Saturday, June 3rd and Sunday, June 4th, 2023. Beginning on these dates, there will be one Saturday evening Liturgy at 5:00 p.m. and only **one** Sunday morning Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Please pass on this notice to all family members, relatives, and friends who regularly attend services at St. Basil's.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS: Forgiveness is a two way street. Just as we should strive to freely forgive those who have offended us, we should also readily seek forgiveness from those who have offended. May the prayer below help us to consider our actions and make reparation where necessary.

Lord, open my eyes to my behavior each day. Open my ears to the way I speak to each soul I encounter. When I am short sighted or short spoken, may I be quick to recognize it and quicker still to seek reconciliation. Let me be humble enough to beg forgiveness of those I have hurt and let them be loving enough to grant it.

ST. BASIL'S FELLOWSHIP will meet this Thursday, June 1st, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Cultural Center. All members are encouraged and urged to attend and to bring new ideas to the floor for discussion. Refreshments will be served. Come one! Come all! The meetings will be changing to the first WEDNESDAY OF the month. However, due to the July 4th holiday week, the following meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12. All are welcome to attend!

I shall love the Lord thy God with my whole heart, soul, and mind. We are bound to Him in our totality. Everything comes under allegiance to Him, including what we do with our possessions. When we recognize this, we also recognize that what counts in our giving is not our share in the budget of the church, but God's share of our income.

IN EVERY BLADE OF GRASS: "Nature is a gift from God and every blade of grass is a sermon," a preacher told his summertime congregation. The next day, the minister was mowing his lawn when a member of the church came along. The parishioner stood and watched his pastor mow for a while. Then nodding his head in approval, he said, "Way to go, Pastor, cut 'em short!"

WHAT IS PRAYER: Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness...It is better in prayer to have a heart without words, than words without a heart...Properly understood and applied, it the most potent instrument of action. - *Mohandas K. Gaaandhi*

REFLECTION: "Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes." - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2023

The family of St. Basil's Church would like to congratulate our 2022-2023 high school and college graduates and those who earned higher degrees.

In order to get a complete and accurate list, we ask you to submit the names in your household. Please follow the link below and fill out the form no later than June 11th, 2023. We will honor the graduates at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

[Honoring Graduates 2022-2023 - Google Forms](#)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Following Jesus Kids bulletin



Even though we celebrate All Saints' Day one day a year, we can learn about saints and try to be more like them every day! We can also pray and ask the saints in Heaven to pray for us. We should work hard and be holy so that we can be saints one day too!

اذ كنتم في المسيح فانتم معنيون لتكونوا قديسين ،شركاء مع الله.



على مر القرون التي مرت منذ زمن المسيح ، هناك عدد لا يحصى من المسيحيين الذين تم تقديسهم من خلال نضالهم الروحي. ونحن كمؤمنين الكنيسة نعلم الكثير من القديسين ، ولكن هناك ايضا الكثير الذين لم تكشفهم نعمة الله لنا. ولهذا كرست كنيستنا المقدسة هذا الأحد لجميع قديسيها الذين عاشوا الحياة المقدسة وحصلوا على الأكليل السماوي.

في كثير من الأحيان نغمس في الحياة اليومية وننسى مصيرنا الحقيقي كبشر. الغرض من حياتنا ، والغرض الذي خلقنا من أجله ، هو أن نكون قريبين من الله. لذلك نحن مدعوون لأن نكون قديسين. يخبرنا الكتاب المقدس أيضاً، "لأنه مكتوب كونوا قديسين لأنني أنا قدوس" (1 بطرس 1: 16). وعلينا واجبات وجهاد روحي مدعوون لاكتسابه من خلال مسيرة حياتنا مع المسيح. فالقداسة إذن هي شيء نحن مدعوون لاكتسابه لأنه أمر الله. لا يمكننا أن نقول أنه من غير الممكن أن نصبح قديسين إذا كان لدينا الكثير من الأمثلة من أناس مثلنا الذين ادعوا أنهم قديسين.

1. من هو القديس؟ لا شك أنه بالطبيعة ما هو إلا مجرد بشر. لا يختلف بذلك عن أي إنسان آخر شريف. ما يختلف في القديس ليس طبيعته ولكن طبعه، ليس خلقته ولكن خلقه، ليس معيشتة بل حياته، إنه إنسان يحيا حياة الله في جسده البشري. القديس هو من يحيا بالروح القدس الذي يحركه ويقويه ويقوده إلى الحق، "قالباً بالإيمان يحيا"، وهذا يُدرك ليس بشكل أوثوماتيكي، ولا بمجرد خيار نظري، بل بجهاد ومحاولة لا تنقطع. إن تكوين القديس من طين، أي إعادة تكوين الجبلة البشرية التي هي مجرد اللحم والدم إلى خليفة ملائكية، يحتاج لمسيرة طويلة ويتطلب جهداً ليس بقليل. لذلك إن تنشئة الكائن البشري إلى قديس تحتاج إلى معرفة روحية عميقة نسميها "الإيمان"، وإلى محاولة لا تهدأ نسميها "الجهاد" الروحي. هذا هو القديس، من يتمسك بالإيمان ويعمل حسبه دون ملل.

2. ما هي أشكال حياة القداسة؟ إنها طرق عديدة ولا تحصى. ولكن التقليد الكنسي صنفها في مراتب. فالمثل البشري الأعلى والأول للقديسين هو "العذراء مريم"، يليها شخصيات أولها يوحنا المعمدان، ثم تتوالى مراتب كالرسل والأنبياء والمعلمين، وبعدهم رؤساء الكهنة، وبعدهم الشهداء ثم الأبرار والمعترفين. هؤلاء كلهم عاشوا حياة الله في ظروفهم وطبيعتهم وأعمالهم وبلادهم وثقافتهم وخدماتهم وأعمالهم المختلفة. القداسة غاية ممكنة للمرأة كما للرجل، للعبد كما للحر، لإثنية كما لأخرى، في وسط العالم وخارجه، في شهادة دم وفي شهادة الضمير، وكما بلخصها بولس الرسول "إننا نمات من أجلك اليوم كله". هذه هي حركة ومسيرة القداسة، فهي في ظروف اضطهاد تنتهي بسكب دم، وفي زمن السلام تنتهي بحيات البر، وفي الخدمة الرسولية تنتهي بروساء كهنة ومعلمين وخدام رسل ومبشرين ورجال فكر... الدعوة للقداسة ليست حصرأ على فئة أو طريقة حياة محددة بين الناس. "كونوا قديسين كما أن أباكم السماوي قدوس" (كاملين)، إنها دعوة لا تستثني أحداً، إنها غاية الحياة البشرية لكل إنسان ولكل طرق الحياة.

تقدم لنا الكنيسة المقدسة كل الطرق التي تقود إلى القداسة. إن أسرار الكنيسة هي وسيلة تقديس كل مسيحي يتبع أوامر الرب. في كل مرة نذهب ونحضر القداس الإلهي، نذكرنا بهدفنا المقدس. وخاصة في نهاية خدمة القداس الإلهي. عندما يرفع الكاهن الهدايا المقدسة، وبالذات عندما يقول الكاهن القدسات للقديسين. حيث بعدها يتم تقديم جسد ودم ربنا يسوع المسيح إلى مؤمني الكنيسة، وهم من أبناء جبلتنا الذين يجاهدون ويؤمنون بنفس المعتمد المعطى لنا من كنيستنا المقدسة.

وفي المقطع الإنجيلي المخصص لهذا الأحد من متى البشير نسمع الآية التي تقول: "يا سيّد ها قد تركنا كل شيء وتبعناك".

3. كيف نُكرم القديسين؟ لا شك أننا نكرم من نحبت "ونضع السراج عالياً ليضيء لجميع من في البيت". لهذا ترانا نرسم أيقونات للقديسين ونزيّن بها كنائسنا ومنازلنا، ونحيي تذكاراتهم بالصلوات والطقوس... ونبنى الكنائس والأديار على أسمائهم، ونسمي بأسمائهم، ونطلب شفاعتهم ونُكَل عليهم... وبكلمة مختصرة نشاركهم حياتنا وهمونا وحاجاتنا.

لا توجد عبارة أكثر لياقة وجمالاً من هذه العبارة، والتي يمكن لنا أن نقدّمها مقابل نزول الروح القدس إلينا الأحد الماضي في العنصرة المقدسة. وها نحن اليوم كما ذكرت في بداية مقالتي والتي تتكلم عن قديسي الكنيسة الذين بذلوا أنفسهم وجاهدوا الجهاد الحسن من أجل الكنيسة المقدسة نعمل تذكراً لجميع القديسين. إن هذه السحابة من القديسين تبرهن على أن العنصرة حدث مستمر في التاريخ، وأن الروح القدس فاعلٌ أبداً وهذه الثمار أفضل برهان: هذه إرادة الله: أن نكون قديسين كما أن أبانا السماوي قدوس. إرادة الله هي أن ندخل في شركة قداسته في البدء كان الكلمة (المسيح)، والكلمة الأتقوم الثاني كان عند الله أي مع الله، في حركة اتصالٍ وحبٍ دائم. كان الكلمة يتّجه نحو الله. وهذه الكلمة صار جسداً وأراد يسوع أن يجعل الناس يتّجهون بدورهم نحو الله، وبكلمة أخرى أرادهم أن يشاركوه المجد الذي كان له عند أبيه. لقد جاء يسوع ليحقق إرادة الأب وليشركنا نحن البشر في حياة الثالوث الأقدس، أي لننّجّه بجنبا وحركتنا نحو الأب. وبعد الصعود أرسل لنا المسيح الروح القدس ليرشدنا إلى كامل الحقيقة، والحقيقة هي المسيح، والمسيح يتّجه بنا نحو الأب. لقد نزل الروح القدس يوم العنصرة لاتباع ما بدأه يسوع، أي ليصرخ "فينا بأنات لا توصف: أباً أيها الأب".

القديسون هم الصفحات الشريفة من التاريخ البشري، إنهم التاريخ المقدس عبر تاريخ بشري طويل، لأنهم ثمر الروح القدس في التاريخ، إنهم "قطاف الزمان" ومحصلته. القديسون هم، بحسب الطقس الكنسي لخدمة هذا الأحد، بواكير الخليقة، إنهم أولاد قران الروح بالعالم في العرس الإلهي الروحي (القداد). القديسون هم زينة الكنيسة ووجهها إلى الله وإلى العالم، غياهم يفقدوا هويتها وجودهم يعطيها شخصيتها الإلهية في وسط العالم. القداسة هي أكثر بكثير من بعض الكمالات الأخلاقية وهي أكثر من تصرفات كفضائل نسميها مسيحية. هذه الأخيرة نتاج لقلبٍ يحب كثيراً وصار المسيح بالنسبة له الحب كله. هذه المحبة لا تتطلب هجراناً أو تنكراً لأي محبوبٍ آخر. لذلك قال يسوع: "من أحبب... أكثر مني فهو لا يستحقني".

من هو القديس إذن؟ إنه من يصرخ كالعروس مع الروح إلى المسيح: "تعال". نعم، أنت دعوّتنا ونحن تبعناك، بحسب تعبير الكلمات الأخيرة من سفر الرويا. القديس هو من يترك قوة حبه باتجاه الله. والروح هو الذي يدفعا ويقودنا إلى ذلك، إن نزول الروح القدس يتطلب منا موقفاً حياً يُعبّر عنه بأجمل كلمة: "ها قد تركنا كل شيء وتبعناك".

يقول القديس يوحنا الذهبي الفم: "إكرام القديس هو الاقتداء بالقديس". إذن، لا نشارك القديس همونا وحسب، بل نشاركه قداسته، ونشهد معه ونحيا مثله. فإكرام القديسين هو قبول دعوة من دعاهم ودعانا، فندخل في "شركة القديسين". الخطيئة وحدها تخرجنا من "شركة القديسين". حياة القداسة نقدر أن نعيشها نحن ايضا في أعمالنا وخدماتنا لكن بشرطين، اللذين يذكرهما الرسول بولس في رسالة اليوم: أولاً أن نلق عنا الخطيئة وثانياً أن نتسابق مع القديسين بالصبر والجهاد الذي أمامنا، "متمتدين مثلهم وناظرين، إلى رئيس الإيمان ومكمله يسوع"، أمين.

واليوم في هذا التذكار المقدس يجدر بنا التأمل في عذة أسئلة تدور في خلدنا وتساعدنا على فهم "شركة جميع القديسين" لننتمي إليها:

GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS



On the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the memory of all Saints.

Who were the Saints? – They were true Christians.

Jesus Christ was incarnate and the Holy Spirit descended, so as to renew human nature, so as to make men angel-like due to their spiritual perfection. The Saints proved that this Divine Plan was not in vain.

The Saints are witnesses before the world of the spiritual heights, to which man can be raised through faith in Christ and life in the Church. The Saints proved that life in the Church indeed leads to salvation, to holiness, to God.

This is not a coincidence that the Sunday of All Saints follows Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is symbolised by water in the Scripture; while earth symbolises the human nature, made of earth. The Holy Spirit as heavenly rain poured on earth, and it produced its first fruits – the Saints. In the Kontakion of the feast, we sing “The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the firstfruits of creation, O Lord, and Creator”. The saints were men similar to us; like all of us they experienced interior struggle of flesh and spirit, they went through temptations and even falls. They always acknowledged that they reached their spiritual heights not through their own effort but by God’s grace.

The Saints expose our laziness because we have received the same grace of the Holy Spirit as they, but because of our slothfulness it remains idle in us.

The Saints received from God many talents of Grace and multiplied it manifold. As for us, we dug our only talent into the earth, i.e. concentrated all our attention and energy on earthly activities, which will not follow us to the future life. What do people strive for: wealth, success, wellbeing – all these have importance only in this life. And what matters in the future life is different: enduring of afflictions, bearing one’s cross, humility, chastity of the spirit and body, selfless labour for God and neighbours.

Not all can be such spiritual giants as the Saints, but all are called to follow them on the way of Christian life, which leads to holiness.

Christianity is not a theory or philosophy, but the new life in Christ. That’s why it is vital that there might be a living example of this new life. When the Apostles preached the Good Tidings, they didn’t teach only with their words but offered themselves as a living example. “*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ*” (1 Cor. 11) – St Paul writes to Corinthians.

St Seraphim of Sarov said to one of his disciples: “Acquire the spirit of peace and thousands will be saved around you”.

Holiness has never ceased on earth even till recent times. But are there saints in our time? – God knows this. In any case, the light of holiness in the world has greatly diminished and the spiritual darkness increased, which is one of the signs of the last times.

In the epistle which was read today St Paul exhorts us:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin... and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus.” (Hebr. 12)

Dear Believers! The main thing in the life of the saints is the great love they had for their neighbor. If we love our neighbor who is so close to us, then we can say with confidence that we love God who is in heaven. No one has ever seen God, but “if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:12). Today’s celebration reminds us of our vocation to holiness. So let the example of Christ and all the saints inspire us to a life full of love for God and our neighbors.

Know your Faith

Who are the Melkites

The Melkites, or Byzantine rite Catholics of Middle Eastern origin, are the descendants of the early Christians of Antioch (Syria). Christianity was established in this area of the Middle East by St. Peter before he traveled on to the imperial city of Rome. In the 5th century, there arose some teachers who said that Christ was not truly God and truly man as well. They would not accept the teaching of the Catholic Church as defined by the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) Those in the Middle East who did accept the decision of Chalcedon followed the lead of the Byzantine emperor and were dubbed Melkites or King's Men from the Aramaic word "melek" meaning King.

SO MELKITES ARE THE PRESENT DAY CATHOLICS WHO FOLLOW THE BYZANTINE WORSHIP, THEOLOGY, AND SPIRITUALITY WHOSE TRADITION IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE MELKITES ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH.

Antioch was one of the first cities to become a center of the Christian faith. It was in Antioch that St. Paul started his first apostolic journey, and before Peter was in Rome, he was the head of the Church of Antioch.. One of the most important Antiocheans of the earlier church was St. John Chrysostom

In 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicaea the patriarchates of Alexandria and Antioch were established. Like the patriarchate of Jerusalem (Council of Chalcedon 451 A.D.) Antioch was both a territorial and juridical entity. The government of the church was held by the Sees of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. The bishops of these sees were given the title of Patriarch. After the capitol of the Roman empire was moved to Constantinople, that city was also elevated to a Patriarchal see (381 A.D.) and given the ranking of "second only to the See of Peter" (Rome).

With the seventh century onslaught of the Islamic conquest of the Middle East, the Melkites found themselves under non-Christian domination. During most of this first Islamic period the Melkites were well treated as a "protected people, but they were frequently denied all civic and social responsibilities. When the Byzantine Empire re-conquered the Middle East, the fashions of Constantinople were incorporated into the liturgical life of the Melkite Church. Between 960 and 1085 A.D. much of the imperial style of Constantinople became a part



of the Melkite ritual. Despite the now close ties to Constantinople, the Melkite peoples never broke off relations with Rome and with the Pope.

The great strain between the Melkite Church and Rome happened because of the Crusader. When the Western Catholics came into the Holy Land they did not recognize the legitimacy of the Eastern methods of worship. In the worst cases marauding Crusaders ransacked orthodox churches, and at best cases they simply installed Latin patriarchs and bishops usurping the local control of the church. By the end of the Crusades there was an estrangement between the churches, but the Melkites never actually broke off relations with Rome.

The reign of the Mamelukes from 1250 to 1516 put an end to the Western occupation of the Middle East but it also brought harsh reprisals on the Christians of Antioch. Sustained destruction of religious sites, persecutions of clergy, and massacres of faithful led to a depopulation of entire Christian communities. For at least two centuries after the Ottoman conquest in 1516, the persecutions continued unabated. The Turkish sultan wanted his capital, Constantinople, to be the religious capital of the East, so he gave the Ecumenical Patriarch complete authority over all the Melkite hierarchy. Although the Antiochean church was under the direct control of the Orthodox Church, the Melkites managed to maintain some links to Rome. Because the Melkite patriarchs were chosen from the local clergy, the church remained in union with Rome while under the direction of Constantinople. Some of the Melkite hierarchs were more dis-

posed to Constantinople, while others favored the authority of Rome - but as "the church in the middle," the Melkites retained their allegiance to the Holy See.

In the 1600's western missionaries to the Middle East found fertile ground among the Melkites who were eager to obtain an educated clergy. Soon the Jesuits, Cappuchins, Carmelites, and Franciscans were educating and preaching the Word to a Melkite faithful starved for religious resources. . In 1709 Patriarch Cyril V formally recognized the authority of the Pope of Rome as the head of the Church. Some of the Antiochean faithful looked to the West for salvation of their church, while others only saw the missionaries as outsiders who did not understand their eastern customs, ancestral laws, and had not gone through the centuries of deprivations. As a result in 1724 the church split in two. One faction under the influence of Constantinople became known as the Antiochean Orthodox, while the other group, loyal to Rome, became known as the Melkite Catholics.

Melkites serve as a witness to the Roman Catholic Church. We have, for centuries, maintained such practices as a married clergy, the election of bishops by the Church as a whole, collegial government and so forth. Many of these features are unknown to Roman Catholics and many Catholics feel that our practices may be more suited to today's world than their Roman counterpoint. Our presence is a witness to the universality of the Catholic Church.

Melkites also serve as a witness to the Eastern Orthodox Churches. To the extent that we are true to ourselves, we exist as a living example that one can be true to a different heritage and yet be truly Catholic, i.e. in communion with Rome. Thus we exist as an example, for good or bad, of what other Churches can expect if and when they too achieve a union with the Church of Rome.

Melkites also provide a different option for people searching for Christ. Any church exists to bring its people to Christ. There are many for whom the 'style of Christian living' practiced in our Church is more compatible than contemporary Western forms. For these people the Melkite Church can serve a very important function; it can be their way to God.

Source : <https://melkite.org/faith/faith-worship/the-melkites>



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



JUNE	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 St Justin the Philosopher Romans 1:28-2:10 Matthew 5:27-32	2 St Nicephoros the Confessor Romans 2:14-28 Matthew 5:33-41	3 Leave-taking of Pentecost وداع العنصرة Romans 1:7-12 Matthew 5:42-48
حزيران - يونيو 2023	4 All Saints Sunday أحد جميع القديسين Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 10:32-38; 19:27-30	5 St Dorotheos of Tyre Romans 2:28-3:18 Matthew 6:31-34, 7:9-11	6 St Hilarion the Younger Romans 4:4-12 Matthew 7:15-21	7 St Theodotos of Ancyra Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 7:21-23	8 Feast of the Divine Body عيد الجسد الالهي 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 John 6:48-54	9 St Cyril of Alexandria Hebrews 7:26-8:2 Matthew 5:14-19	10 Sts Alexander and Antonina Romans 3:19-26 Matthew 7:1-8
MAY 2023	11 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الثاني بعد العنصرة Romans 2:10-16 Matthew 4:18-23	12 King's Birthday St Peter of Athos Romans 7:1-13 Matthew 9:36-10:8	13 St Aquilina Romans 7:14-8:2 Matthew 10:9-15	14 Holy Prophet Elisha Romans 8:2-13 Matthew 10:16-22	15 Leave-taking of the Feast of the Divine Body وداع جسد الرب Romans 8:22-28 Matthew 10:23-31	16 St Tikhon of Cyprus Romans 9:6-19 Matthew 10:32-36, 11:1	17 Sts Manuel, Sabel and Ishmael Romans 3:28-4:3 Matthew 7:24-8:4
JULY 2023	18 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الثالث بعد العنصرة Romans 5:1-10 Matthew 6:22-33	19 St Jude the Apostle Jude 1:1-15-2:11-25 Matthew 11:2-15	20 St Methodios of Patara Romans 10:11-11:2 Matthew 11:16-20	21 St Julian of Tarsus Romans 11:2-12 Matthew 11:20-26	22 St Eusebios of Samosata Romans 11:13-24 Matthew 11:27-30	23 Holy Martyr of Agrippina Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 1:29-45	24 Nativity of St John the Forerunner مولد يوحنا المعمدان Romans 13:11-14:4 Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80
	25 4 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الرابع بعد العنصرة Romans 6:18-23 Matthew 8:5-13	26 St David of Thessalonica Romans 12:4, 5, 15-21 Matthew 12:9-13	27 St Samson the Hosteller Romans 14:9-18 Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30	28 Relics of Sts Cyrus and John Romans 15:7-16 Matthew 12:38-45	29 Sts Peter and Paul the Apostles الرسولان بطرس وبولس 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 Matthew 16:13-19	30 Synaxis of the Apostles محفل مقدس للرسول 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 Matthew 9:36-10:8	

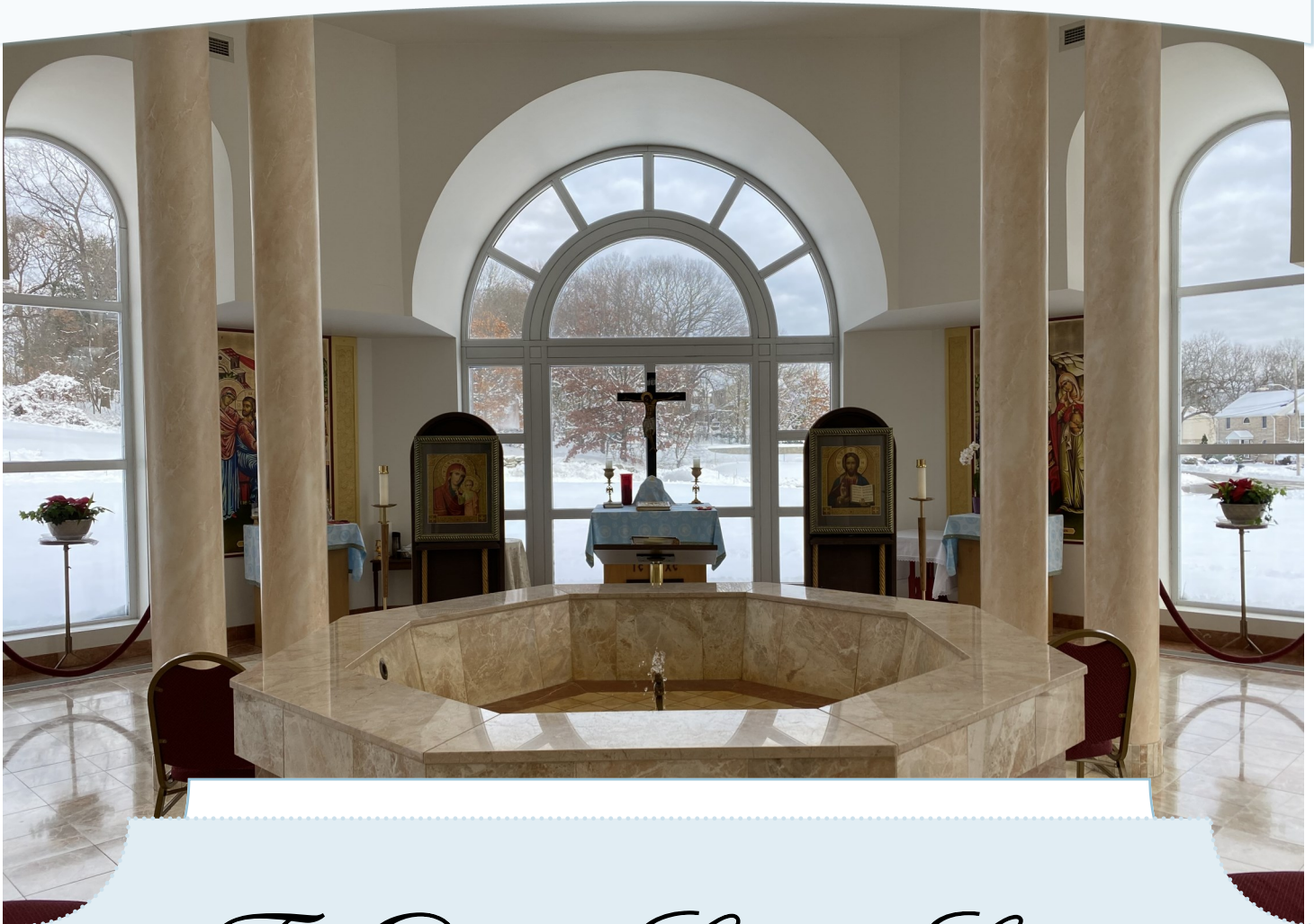
✠ Church Major Feasts

🐟 Abstain from Meat

🕒 Fast from midnight until noon

🌸 Lenten Season

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Divine Liturgy

- **9:00 am**
- **11:15 am**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available Tuesday to Friday before or after the Divine Liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

**Check our website
for Church news and updates at**
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

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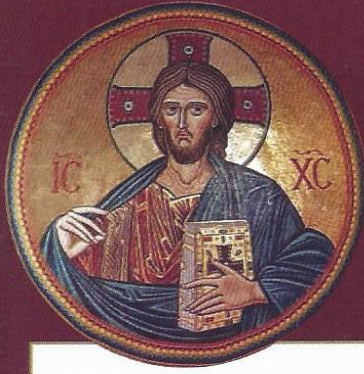
YouTube
<https://bit.ly/2VJgvnS>

Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER" 2 COR 9:7

Donations are greatly appreciated especially during this pandemic crisis. Please click on the link below to donate.
Thank you and God bless you and yours.



VOCATION PLAN

Christ Calls All to Serve

FEBRUARY 2023

Bishop François forms New Vocation Team

The goal is to create a “Culture of Service & Vocations” within the Melkite Catholic Church

As Bishop François Beyrouti begins his episcopal ministry, he is emphasizing the Lord’s invitation to “serve one another humbly in love” (Gal 5:13). In this spirit, one of his key priorities is to strengthen our focus on vocations throughout the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton.

Thanks be to God, over the past few years, the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States has been blessed with many new vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Looking toward the future, we can also see that many parishes have aging clergy who have been faithfully serving for so many years. Thus, there is a serious need to ensure uninterrupted pastoral care for our 50 churches and communities and to respond to the needs of our faithful who are asking us to establish new parishes.

Thus Bishop François has convened a new Vocation Team, headed by Fr. John Mefrige and composed of four other priests from each region of the eparchy. The challenge for the team is threefold.

The first task is to re-organize our efforts, both by standardizing the formation of priests and deacons, as well as establishing a clear process for men to discern God’s call.

Secondly, Bishop François’ vision is that new vocations will flow organically from active ministry in local parishes. Put simply, the men who will one day serve as priests and deacons must now be serving generously in other capacities. A campaign is planned to identify these men—both single and married—and invite them to discern a potential role as reader, subdeacon, deacon, or priest.



Finally, the Vocation Team aims to dramatically improve communications about vocations within the eparchy. For example, the Melkite Catholic community in the United States needs to see the joys of married clergy with families, as well as the blessing of men who serve celibately or enter monastic life. We have a number of digital and print projects planned for 2023 and beyond.

In summary, the Vocation Team is preparing to enter a multi-year process of organizing, inviting, and communicating a “pro-vocations” message throughout the eparchy. The overall vision is to build upon the core message that *Christ calls all to serve*—in all sorts of capacities—to make us a true *ecclesia*, a living Church. Every vocation is vital, including marriage and family, nuns, monks, and the clergy who lead our liturgical worship. ☀

INSIDE

Three Key Areas of the New Vocation Plan

1. Organization
2. Invitation
3. Communication



Organization



BEGAN NOVEMBER 2022

Vocation Team Roles

Fr. John Mefrige in San Antonio, Texas, is the director of our new Vocation Team. He is joined by representatives from various regions:

- Fr. Dimitri Saliba - Western Region
- Fr. Elias Dorham - MidAtlantic Region
- Fr. Philip Raczka - New England
- Fr. Bryan McNeil - Deacon Formation

In addition to representing a region of the eparchy, each member will also take on specific roles, including:

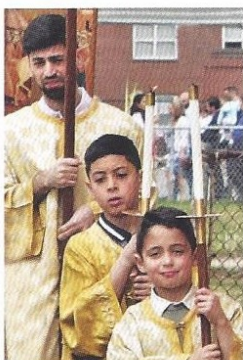
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

Clergy & Candidate Databases

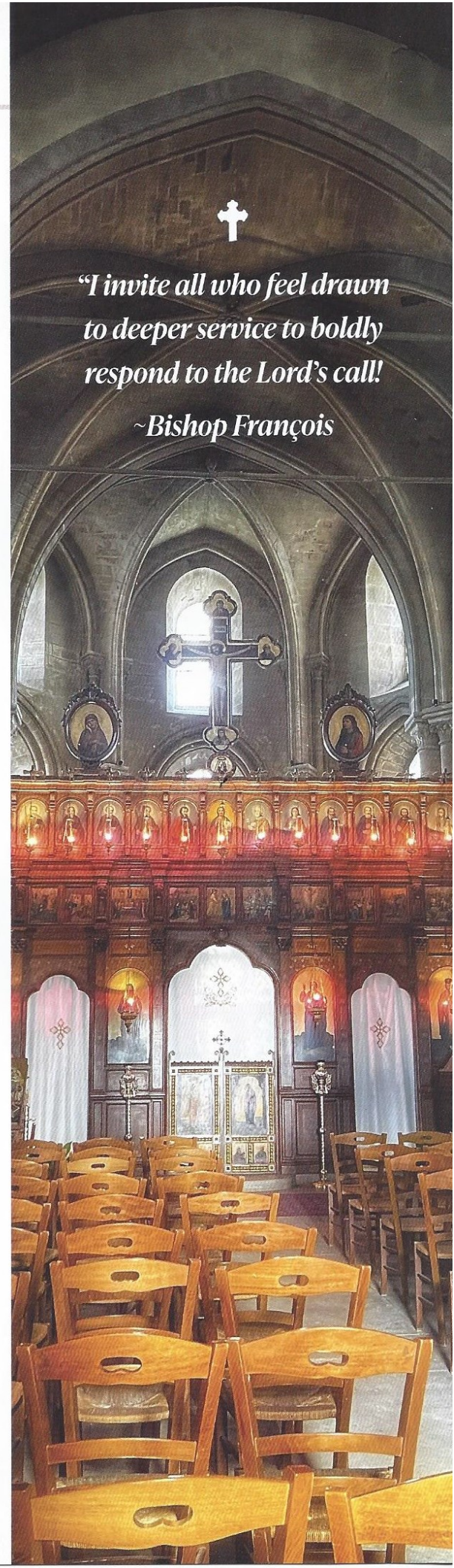
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement dates and estimate how many new men we need in formation to serve our growing communities. Similarly, our Vocation Team is streamlining the way we keep track of prospects with a new database of candidates.



2023-2024

Standardizing the Application & Formation Process

We have had a wealth of excellent candidates, but their paths to ordination have been widely varied. Our plan is to standardize the entire process, for both priests and deacons, beginning with a new, more rigorous application process, and continuing with well-defined tracks for both married and celibate seminarians.



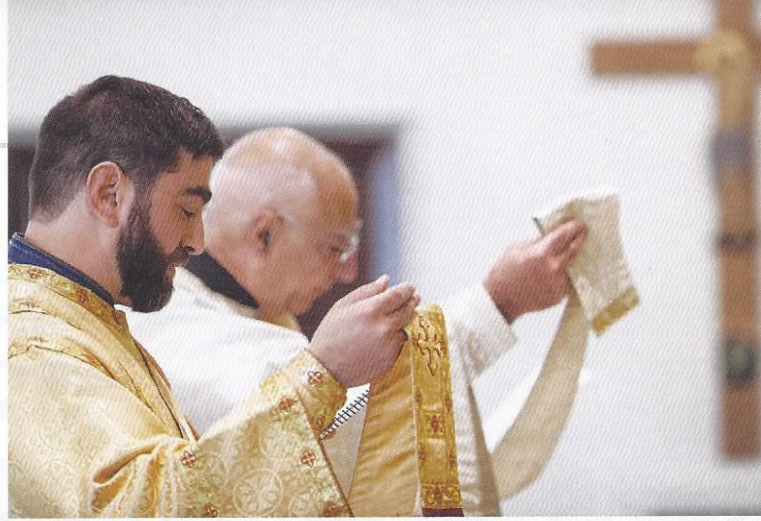
*“I invite all who feel drawn
to deeper service to boldly
respond to the Lord’s call!”*

~Bishop François

Invitation

Becoming Fishers of Men

A call to deeper service is always a call from Christ himself. Experience shows, however, that the call is most often mediated by parish priests. Over the next three years, the role of priests as “inviters” will be a recurring theme in our regular Clergy meetings and annual Clergy Conference. We will also be sending resources to equip priests to be mentors to men in their parishes. The goal is to encourage priests to be true “fishers of men.”



FALL 2023

Called by Name ✠

Will You Help Identify Future Clergy?

Perhaps the most exciting part of our Vocation Plan is a campaign to identify candidates for readers, subdeacons, deacons, and priests. “Called by Name” will be an eparchy-wide process in which clergy and laity can submit the names of men in our parishes who may

be called to these ministries. Importantly, candidates should be longstanding, faithful members who have demonstrated stability of life and a heart for service. As Jesus told us: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15).

WINTER 2023-2024

Online Discernment Meetings

Men who are submitted in the Called by Name campaign will be invited to begin the discernment process through a series of online meetings with Bishop François and the Vocation Team. The purpose is to open dialogue and offer guidance for listening to God’s call.

SPRING 2024

Discernment Retreat

Those who have faithfully participated in the online meetings will be invited to an in-person Discernment Retreat. This is an opportunity for talks, personal prayer, and Liturgical Prayer. The goal is that after the retreat, we will have a good sense of the next cohort of men who will advance into formation, either toward diaconate or priesthood.



Communication



SPRING AND FALL, 2023-2024

Vocations Bulletin

In the coming months, keep your eyes open for our Vocations Bulletin! It will be similar in format to this Vocation Plan and will include articles and photos highlighting our new seminarians, readers, subdeacons, deacons, priests, monks, and nuns. We will also focus on their families who nourish them and also highlight couples who are in ministry together. The overall goal is to show that living out one's baptism is the path to holiness—and that responding to God's call begins with faithful service and an open heart.

APRIL AND NOVEMBER, 2023-2024

Bi-annual Vocation Days

Twice a year, in Spring and Fall, the Vocations Team will prepare resources for parishes to place special emphasis on vocations, by preaching as well as in children's catechesis and youth ministry. This will align with the readings and Feast days in our Melkite Catholic liturgical calendar.

New Online Presence for Vocations

We will include robust vocation pages on the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's website, Melkite.org. This will refresh our online presence, and provide a platform for our Called by Name program and other Vocation resources.

Other Communication Efforts

In Year Two of our Vocation Plan, we would like to re-energize our social media presence, specifically with a series of videos on priests, deacons, and seminarians. We will also work on an e-newsletter with tips and encouragement for young people to live out their baptism and discern their vocations.



All Have a Role to Play

The Vocation Plan is not just the work of the Vocation Team. It requires the enthusiastic support of clergy, educators, and those who work with youth. Above all, it requires families who make their home a true domestic church. All are encouraged to find some role to play. Keep in mind that our Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Vocation Plan is open to your feedback and creativity. Feel free to be creative in your parish and to share with us your ideas and most importantly begin to develop a culture of ministry that encourages Vocations in your family and parish. It is never too early to reply personally or to keep your eyes open to send us names of those you feel should be encouraged to serve in this way. ☀️

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



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Campaign Facts:



Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000



Outstanding Goal: \$340,000



Contribution Ranges: \$20 to \$50,100

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 51%

"It's not about how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"
-Mother Teresa

Current & Future Projects:



Church Roof Repair: Project completed, estimated cost of \$400,000...final cost \$321,000.



Rectory Roof Repair: Proposals received, estimated cost \$18,000, pending review.



Church Window Repairs: Proposals received, estimated cost \$9,000, pending review.



HVAC & Boiler Replacement: Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000.



Flooring Upgrades: Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), pending review.



Parking Lot Sealing: Project complete at both Rectory & Church...final cost \$14,000.



Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & Vent Cleaning: Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning estimated cost \$9,000.



Exterior/Masonry /Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals.



Security Cameras/Door Upgrades: Camera system complete, final cost \$10,500. Door proposal received, pending review.

Important Highlights

- We are extremely grateful to all of those who have contributed and supported the campaign thus far.
- The finance committee has begun strategy planning on maximizing the return of current financial reserves for future projects. God willing, this will prevent the need for another capital campaign and *allow for a more spiritual focus!*
- As reflected above, donations have varied in amounts, we do not expect everyone to support with the same amount...*However, we do pray that everyone will support this important campaign!*
- This is an open and transparent campaign, if you have any questions, suggestion, or concerns Fr. Ephrem or any of the committee members would be more than happy review/discuss during coffee hour or feel free to call them at the numbers listed below.



For more information contact any of the committee members, [click here](#), or scan this code with your Smartphone Camera!

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737
Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190
Kyle Mardo: 401-578-5369

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