

Address

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln. Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website

www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ StBasilTheGreatMelkiteGreek CatholicChurchRI/

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



ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



2nd Sunday After Pentecost

الأحد الثاني بعد العنصرة

Troparion of the resurrection (1st tone)

After the stone was sealed by the Jews and the while the soldiers were watching Your spotless body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, bestowing life to the world. Therefore, the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of life: "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your economy, O You who alone are the lover of mankind!"

Troparion of the Divine Body, (1st Tone)

Christ, having loved His own, loved them until the end and gave them His Body and Blood as food and drink. Wherefore let us offer them our veneration and say with fear: "O Christ, glory to Your presence, glory to Your compassion, glory to Your condescension: for You alone are the Lover of Mankind."

Troparion of St Basil The Great

Your voice has sounded all over the earth, that accepted your preaching. You gave a divine explanation of doctrine, and made clear the nature of creatures, and set a rule of life for men. Holy Father, and Kingly Priest, intercede with Christ God to grant us great mercy.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الاول

إن الحجر ختمه اليهود، وجسدك الطاهرَ حرسه الجنود. لكنكَ قمتَ في اليوم الثالث، أيها الخلص، واهباً للعالم الحياة. لذلك قواتُ السماواتِ هتفت اليكَ، يا مُعطيَ الحياة: المجدُ لقيامتك أيها المسيح. المجدُ لملكِك. المجدُ لتدبيركَ، يا محبَ البشر.

نشيد عيد الجسد باللحن الاول

ان المسيح إذ أحب خاصته والى الغاية أحبهم، منحهم جسده ودّمه مأكلا ومشرباً. فنحن الآن نسجدُ لهما بوقارٍ مكرمين ونهتفُ اليه بورع قائلين: المجدُ لحضورِك، أيها المسيح، المجد لحنوك، المجد لتنازلك، يا محب البشر وحدَك.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقُكَ في كل الأرض. فإنها قد قَبِلَتْ كلامك، الذي به بيَّنت العقائدَ بياناً إلهيّاً، وأوضحتَ طبيعةً الكائنات، ونظَّمتَ أخلاقَ البشرـ فيا أيها الآبُ البازُ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيحِ الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.



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.co m/myo.html

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

Kondakion of the Feast, 2nd Tone

O Christ, do not turn Your face away from me: for I partake of the bread which is Your Body and of the wine which is Your Blood. O Lord, let my sharing in these august mysteries be not for my judgment and condemnation, but for my eternal and everlasting life.

Epistle: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost - Romans 2: 10-16 PROKIMENON (Tone 1) Psalm 32:22,1

May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You

Stichon: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans

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

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

ALLELUIA (Tone 1) Psalm 17:48,506

O God, You granted me retribution and made peoples subject to me and saved me from my raging enemies. Stichon: Therefore, I will proclaim You, O Lord, among the nations and I will sing praise to Your name.

Gospel: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew 4: 18-23 (Call of the First Disciples)

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

قنداق الختام عيد الجسد باللحن الثاني

أيها المسيح، لا تستنكف من تناولي الآن الخبز جسدَك ودمك الالهي. ولا يكنِ اشتراكي أنا الشقيَ في أسرارك الطاهرة والرهيبةِ أيها السيدُ للدينونة. بل فليصر لي للحياة الإبدية الخالدة.

مقدمة الرسالة

لتكن يا ربُّ رحمتُك علينا، بحسب اتكالِنا عليك إبتهجوا أيها الصديقونَ بالربّ، بالمستقيمينَ يليقُ التسبيح

الرسالة (رومه 2: 10 – 16)

يا إخوة، المجدُ والكرامةُ والسلامُ لكلِّ من يصنعُ الخير، لليهودي أولاً ثم لليوناني. إذ ليس عند الله محاباةُ وجوه. لان كلّ الذين خطئوا وليس عندهم ناموس، فبدون ناموس، أيضاً يهلكون، وكلُّ الذين خطئوا وعندهم ناموس، فبمقتضى الناموس يُدانون. لأنه ليس السامعونَ للناموس، هم أبرارٌ عند الله، بل انما العاملونَ بالناموس، يُرَرُّرون. فإن الاممَ الذين ليس عندَهم ناموس، فهؤلاءِ حينما يعمَلون طبيعياً بما هو في الناموس، فهؤلاءِ حلنين ليس عندَهم ناموس، يكونون ناموساً للنين ليس عندَهم ناموس، يكونون ناموساً ولنفسهم. ويُظهرونَ عملَ الناموس المكتوبِ في قلوبهم، وضميرُهم شاهد، وأفكارُهم تشكو وتحتجُ فيما بينها، يومَ يدينُ الله سرائرَ الناس، بحسب انجيلي بيسوعَ المسيح.

فللويا

الله هو المنتقمُ لي، ومُخضِعُ الشعوبِ تحتي المعظمُ خلاصَ الملك، والصانعُ رحمةً إلى مسيحه.

الانجيل (متى 4: 18 - 23)

في ذلك الزمان، فيماكان يسوعُ ماشياً على شاطئ بحرِ الجليل، أَبصرَ، أَخَوَين، سِمعانَ المدعُوً بطرُس وَأَندَراوُسَ أَخاه، يُلقيانِ شبكةً في البحر، بطرُس وَأَندَراوُسَ أَخاه، يُلقيانِ شبكةً في البحر، صَيادَي الناس. فلِلوَقتِ ترَكا الشّباك وتبعاه. وجازَ من هُناك، فرأَى أَخوينِ آخَرين، يَعقوبَ بنَ زيدى ويوحنا أَخاه، في سفينةٍ معَ أَبيهما زيدى، يُصْلحانِ شِباكهُما. فدعاهُما. وللوقتِ ترَكا السفينة وأَباهُما وتبعهم، ويكرزُ ببشارةِ الملكوت، ويَشفي كلَّ مُحضِعهم، ويكرزُ ببشارةِ الملكوت، ويَشفي كلَّ مَرض وكلَّ ضُعفِ في الشعب.







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 Allholy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.





Divine Liturgy Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, SATURDAY, JUNE 10 & SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTE-COST. OCTAVE OF THE FEAST OF THE DIVINE BODY.

5:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + ANNA LEFRANCOIS by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + ANNETTE NAJJAR by Mrs. Helen Lacy.
- + MARION E. BAKER by Caroline St. Germain & Family.
- + MARY SACKAL by Mr. Jared & Stephanie Hart.
- + WILLIAM T. ASERMELY by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family (SC).
- + RT. REV. ECONOMOS ROMANOS RUSSO by St. Basil's Church Community.

10:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + WAGIH MAZLOUM by Dr. Naji & Marylou Mazloum.
- + GREGORY NAZARIAN, ESQ. (6th Anniv.) by his mother Patricia & brother David & his Family.
- + HON. JUDGE GEORGE NAZARIAN (50th Anniv.) by his wife Patricia & son David & Family.
- + JUDITH NESSRALLA (14th Anniv.) by her sister Patricia Nazarian & Family.
- + FRED KISHFY (54th Anniv.) by M/M Norman E. Kishfy.
- + JOHN ROWEY by Faiz & Susan Albatal.
- + GLORIA RAWAN RAZOOK by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + RT. REV. ECONOMOS ROMANOS RUSSO by St. Basil's Church Community.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: June 3 & 4, 2023: Budgets: \$3,164.00: (Envelopes: \$2,920.00, Loose: \$244.00); Candles: \$54.65 Building Fund::\$750.00; Stole Offerings: \$160.00; Addit'l Melkite Support: \$105:00.

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

<u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> Anyone who is planning an <u>ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS</u> is kindly requested to notify a member of the clergy <u>BEFORE</u> 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!

<u>GRAPE LEAVES:</u> 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.





<u>THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS:</u> Forgivenss 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.

SO DON'T FORGET US! During the summer months, many of our parishioners spend time away on vacation. And that's great. We would respectfully ask that all make sure that they include the Lord during the time away by going to Liturgy wherever they are. Also, please remember that your Parish must maintain its (really, your) financial obligations during the summer months. Please do not neglect your responsibilities to maintain your spiritual home. A few send in their weekly support before they go away; a few make up for the weeks missed when they return. We thank all those who remember to display their love and support for their Church in a responsible manner.

BUDGET ENVELOPE USERS: If for any reason, you do not receive your budget-packets, please contact any member of the clergy immediately. In this way, we will be able to notify the company at once, and in turn they will mail you a first class packet.

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!."

<u>WHAT IS PRAYER:</u> 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 is the most potent instrument of action. - *Mohandas K. Gaaandhi*

ACTIONS TEACH: If a child sees his parents day in and day out behaving with self-discipline, restraint, dignity and a capacity to order their own lives, then the child will come to feel in the deepest fibers of his being that this is the way to live. If a child sees his parents day in and day out living without self-restraint or self-discipline, then he will come in the deepest fibers of being to believe that that is the way to live. - M. Scott Peck in The Road Less Traveled

REFLECTION: "Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted." - Unknown

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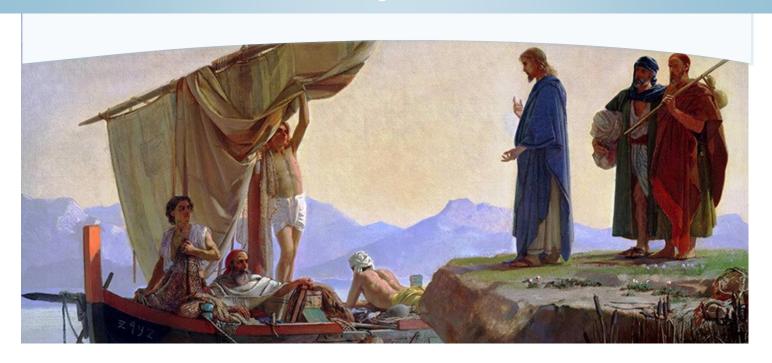
The family of St. Basil's Church would like to congratulate our 2022-2023 high school and college graduates and those who earned higher degrees.

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.





اليوم تبدأ رحلة يسوع الطويلة، رحلة "صيد البشر"، رحلة "البحث عن الخروف الضال"، رحلة تأسيس "ملكوت السماوات" بدءاً من هذا العالم، وهي رحلة ستوصله يوماً إلى الصليب، الذي لا بدّ منه لكي تكون الحياة الأبديّة لكل من آمن به، ولكي يدخل إبن الإنسان "في المجد الذي كان له من قبل إنشاء العالم"... وقد إختار في بداية كرازته، أن يتّخذ له تلاميذ، يسمعون الكلام العام الذي يُلقيه على الجموع، ويسمعون أيضاً الكلام الخاص الذي سوف يقوله لهم وحدهم، فيكونوا له شهوداً على أقواله وآياته، وصولاً إلى أنبياء..." (كما يقول بولس الرسول)، وحسب مقاصد الله. صلبه وقيامته، ويُكملوا رسالته من بعده... اليوم، هو سائر على ضفاف البحيرة، حيث يكثر الصيّادون الذين يرتزقون من مهنة صيد السمك. لن يجد إلا صيّادي سمك في تلك الناحية، وهو عالم بذلك. يرى أخوَين على مقربة من الشاطىء، سمعان (بطرس) وأندراوس إبنَى يونا، وهما يُلقيان شبكتهما. فيبادرهما بالدعوة إلى إتباعه، ويُحدّد لهما هدف هذه الدعوة: "أن يُصبحا صيّادَين للناس"... فيقومان للحال ويتركان كل شيء وراءهما ويتبعانه. يُكمِل الربّ مسيرته بصحبة التلميذَين الأولَين، وإذا به يُصادف أخوَين آخرَين، يعقوب ويوحنا بصحبة أبيهما زيدى (على البَرّ هذه المرّة)، وهما يُصلِحان شباكهما. فيتكرّر الطلب الأول، وتتكرّر معه الإستجابة نفسها، لكن هذه المرّة، إضافةً إلى تركهما الشِباك والسفن، فإنهما يتركان أيضاً أباهما زيدى. بذلك، أصبح لدى يسوع فوج أول من التلاميذ، وابتدأ من حينه يجول في قرى الجليل، مُبشّراً بملكوت السماوات، مع الآيات (العلامات) التي تصحبه (شفاءات من الأمراض على إختلافها)، مُعطياً بذلك مصداقيةً حسيّةً لتعليمه.

> إن يسوع يبدأ اليوم كرازته "الملكوتيّة"، ونراه يوجّه الدعوة لبعض الأشخاص من أجل إِتَّباعه، كي يُصبحوا تلاميذ له وفوق ذلك "صيّادي بشر" (حرفيّاً). إنه يُحدّد منذ البداية هدف هذه الدعوة، وهي دعوة خاصة جداً. سوف يظلُّون "صيّادين"، أي المهنة نفسها، لكنهم سوف ينتقلون إلى الصيد في "بحار أخرى"، وبأبعاد مغايرة كليّاً، بعد أن يختم "الصيّاد الأكبر" رسالته على الأرض. وسوف تكون كلمة الله هي الشبكة الجديدة التي تجمع "الأسماك" على أنواعها ومن كل "بحار" (أصقاع) الأرض.

وهنا، لا بدّ من التوقّف عند ثلاث ملاحظات:

* الأولى هي أن هذه الدعوة لإتباع يسوع هي صورة لدعوته إلى كل منا، فكلَّنا بالأساس مدعوّ بالمعنى الواسع للكلمة. وإننا كمسيحيّين، "إذ قد إعتمدنا بالمسيح، قد لبسنا المسيح". فالهويّة المسيحيّة هي بحدّ ذاتها دعوة إلى الحياة في المسيح والشهادة له بحياتنا. إن الشهادة الحياتيّة اليّوميّة، خصوصاً بالعلامة الفارقة لتلاميذ السيّد (محبّة بعضهم البعض)، هي بحدّ ذاتها كفيلة بتكرار "الصيد العجائبيّ" للبشر، وهذه دعوة عامة يشترك بها "جسد المسيح السريّ"، الذي هو الكنيسة.

 الثانية (والمُرتبِطة بالأولى)، هي أن هناك دعوةً خاصةً لبعض الأشخاص من أجل حمل البشارة والتكرّس الحياتيّ لهذا الهدف. وفي هذا الإطار، يحمل هؤلاء الأشخاص المدعوّين للتكرّس، مسؤوليّة أكبر من سائر المؤمنين، لأنهم مؤتمنون على إيصال "كلمة الحياة" والأسرار إلى "جسد المسيح السرّيّ"، وإلى باقي الخليقة التي لم تصل إليها بُشرى الخلاص. وهناك تنوّع في الدعوات حسب مواهب كل شخص "فهناك معلّمون وهناك

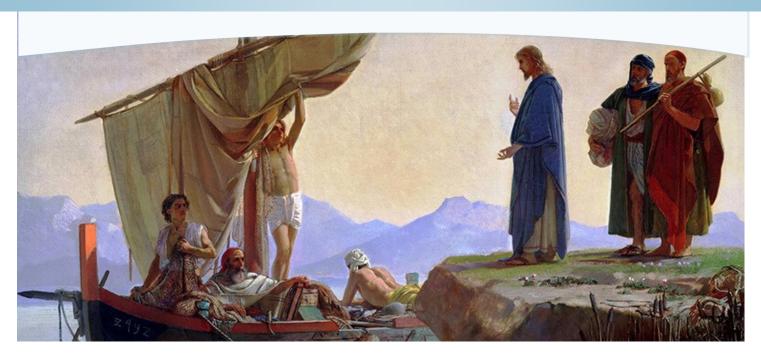
* الثالثة، هي أن الربّ لم يتوجّه بدعوته هذه، لعلماء في الناموس أو لفقهاء في العلوم المُختلِفة في ذلك العصر أو لأصحاب مقامات عالية الشأن، بل دعا أناساً بُسطاء من المُجتمع العاديّ، أناساً "غير متفلسِفين"، لا مراكز إجتماعيّة وسياسيّة يتعلّقون بها، لا أموال ولا مُمتلكات أرضيّة يخافون عليها... وهذا ما يريده يسوع، لأنه هو نفسه من الطبقة الشعبيّة "ليس له موضع يُسند إليه رأسه" (متى 8: 20)، ولأن الرسالة السامية التي سوف يباشر بها، تتطلّب تخلّياً كبيراً، قد يصل إلى حد إخلاء الذات بالكامل، وهذه كانَّت مسيرة السيّد له المجد "إذ أخلى ذاته آخذاً صورة العبد..." (في 2: 7). ونرى اليوم الصيّادين الذين إستجابوا لدعوة يسوع، قد تركوا كل شيء (وهم أصلاً لم يكونوا يملكون الكثير)، وحتى الروابط العائليّة، من أجل إتباع يسوع.

ثالثاً – الخُلاصة الروحيّة:

لم يفهم التلاميذ طوال فترة كرازة يسوع البُعد الحقيقيّ للكثير من أقواله، فقد تركوا كل شيء وتبعوه، تركوا صيد السمك كما أن البعض ترك أباه... وساروا وراءه، غير مُدركين فعليّاً إلى أيّ "بحر" يتوجّهون وأيّ "سمك" سيصطادون. غير أنهم فهموا كل شيء فيما بعد على ضوء القيامة أولاً، ولكن خصوصاً على ضوء الروح القدس الذي أنارهم وذكّرهم بكل ما قال وفعل الربّ يسوع أثناء تدبيره على الأرض. فما أن حلّ الروح القدس عليهم حتى دبّت الحياة في الجماعة الأولى، وكانت خطبة بطرس الأولى خير شاهد على "الصيد العجائبيّ" في ذلك اليوم المجيد.

في أحد "دعوة الرسل الأوائل"، نتأمل بدعوتنا نحن، أولاً كمسيحيين إذ علينا أن نحمل هذه الهويّة بالفعل لا "على التذكرة"، فنحيا بموجبها لأن دعوة الربّ لنا هي دعوة إلى الحياة الشاهدة على محبّة الله للبشر. وإن كنا مُكرّسين، فالمسؤوليّة مُضاعفة لأن "من يُعطى الكثير، سوف يُطلب منه الكثير". وإن العالم بأسره هو "البحر" الواسع المليء ب"الأسماك"، التي تنتظر "شبكة" بُشرى الخلاص، كي تمتدّ إليها وتحوي في طياتها أكثر بكثير من "مئة وثلاثة وخمسين" (يو 21: 11).

"Follow Me" A call for all!



In some ways, we may envy Peter, Andrew, James, and John for the clarity of their call. On the day that Jesus Christ called them to leave everything behind and follow Him, there was no question what He wanted them to do. The message was clear and they did as they were told.

Of course, that was only the beginning of their ministry as disciples and apostles. As we know from reading the rest of the gospels, these men did not have a clear understanding of who Christ really was until after His resurrection. Nothing in their background had prepared them for this unusual kind of Messiah or for the great sacrifices that following Him would require. But on the day that the Lord called His first disciples, He did not require perfect understanding. He asked only that they leave behind the life that they had known and take the first steps in following Him.

That was not a small thing, of course. Imagine how hard it would be if Christ made very clear to you that He wanted you to give up the only occupation you had ever known, leave your family behind, and literally follow Him as He went around teaching, preaching, and healing the sick. On that particular day, despite the enormity of this calling and their less than full understanding of it, these men did as they were told and became "fishers of men" for the Kingdom of God. They were clearly chosen to be Christ's disciples, but they certainly did not have it easy in any way for the rest of their lives.

It is a blessing and a challenge to have a strong and clear sense of what God wants you to do in life. How many holy people—from the very first Christians until this very day—die as martyrs or suffer abuse and persecution for their faithfulness to Christ? To take even small steps toward a holy life requires struggle, persistence, and a willingness to endure tension within our own souls and usually with other people. To lead a righteous life requires loving God with every ounce of our being and our neighbors as ourselves. Try to do that seriously and you will find yourself fighting many battles, especially in your own soul.

That was certainly true our Lord's disciples, who failed with some frequency to obey or even understand what Christ expected of them. They largely abandoned Him at His arrest and crucifixion, and it was not until He appeared to them after His resurrection and gave them a measure of the Holy Spirit that their eyes were truly opened. It was not until the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that they boldly and effectively became "fishers of men" whose preaching and miracle-working ministry brought multitudes into the life of Christ. As a consequence of their apostolic ministry, they took up their crosses in suffering persecution, hardships of all kinds, and even death as martyrs. The Lord did not call them to an easy life of special privilege, but to an extremely demanding one of sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom.

At the end of the day, He does the same with us all. Of course, the details will be different. We are not fishermen in first-century Palestine or the very

pillars of the Church in the sense that they were. St. Paul surely did not have us in mind when he wrote to the Romans about Jews and Gentiles. It is possible to get so caught up in the particular callings and circumstances of others such that we miss the larger point. To be perfectly clear, the larger point is that we are all fully responsible for hearing and responding to God's calling in our lives, no matter how imperfectly we understand it or how difficult it is to obey.

In many ways, we have much less of an excuse than Christ's first disciples, for we have the benefit of their example and of so many generations of faithful people who have gone before us in following Jesus Christ. As Orthodox Christians, we have received the fullness of God's revelation in the ongoing life of the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit. But instead of patting ourselves on the back and simply taking pride in these great blessings, we must humbly accept the great responsibility that they give us. Like the Jews of old, we must remember that it is no great thing to be a recipient of God's requirements if we do not actually do what He requires. Like the Gentiles mentioned by St. Paul, we must remember that it is no accomplishment to have a conscience that leads us in the right direction if we do not actually follow it. And our participation in the Church will be of no benefit to us if we ourselves do not become living witnesses of our Savior's victory over sin and death in our daily lives.

In this season of the Apostles Fast, we want to become more like those blessed men who left everything behind in response to the Savior's call, even though they often fell short. Their understanding was imperfect and the same was true of their actions on many occasions. But the Lord did not abandon or reject them, even when they abandoned Him. He is merciful and calls us all to accept His mercy when we realize that we have not been doers of His will and have disregarded His calling. Like the apostles, we do not yet have perfect faith and obedience; but just like them, we are responsible to respond to the calling we have received as best we can. To do so will never be easy or without sacrifice; we will often stumble along the path of discipleship. But if we continue the journey with humble repentance, we will grow each step of the way in hearing Christ's calling more clearly and in gaining the strength to obey Him more fully.

As hard as it is to believe, Jesus Christ calls each of us with the urgency that He called those first disciples and apostles. We are every bit as responsible for obeying Him as they were, indeed even more responsible because we have the benefit of their example. They had to wait three years for Christ's resurrection and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, while we do not. Far more than the Jews of the Old Testament or the ancient Gentiles, God has opened the eyes of our souls to know what He requires of us. He has given us a great calling to share personally in His eternal and holy life. There is no question about that. The only question is how we will respond to the One Who says to each and every one of us: "Follow Me."

LITURGICAL CALENDAR



حزيران – يونيو 2023

MAY 2023

S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

JULY 2023

S M T W T B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

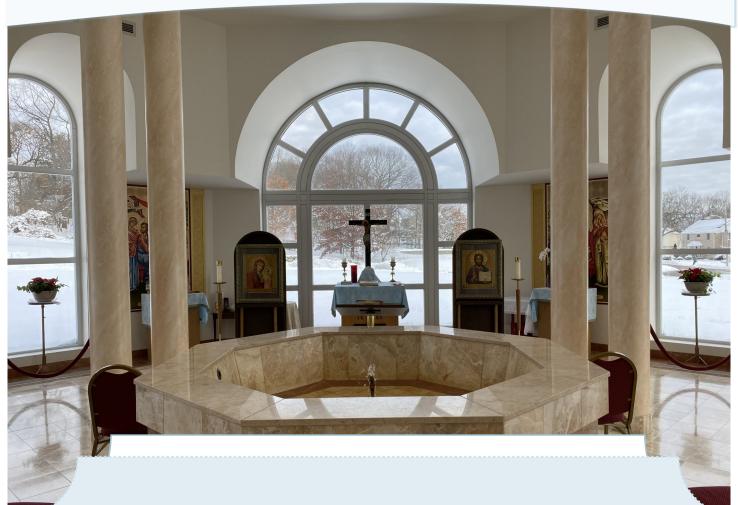
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2	3
					St Justin the Philosopher	St Nicephoros the Confessor	Leave-taking of Pentecost وداع العنصرة
					Romans 1:28-2:10 Matthew 5:27-32	Romans 2:14-28 Matthew 5:33-41	Romans 1:7-12 Matthew 5:42-48
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
•	All Saints Sunday أحد جميع القنيسين	St Dorotheos of Tyre	St Hilarion the Younger	St Theodotos of Ancyra	Feast of the Divine Body عيد الجسد الألهي	St Cyril of Alexandria	Sts Alexander and Antonina
	Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 10:32-38; 19:27-30	Romans 2:28-3:18 Matthew 6:31-34, 7:9-11	Romans 4:4-12 Matthew 7:15-21	Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 7:21-23	1 Corinthians 11:23-32 John 6:48-54	Hebrews 7:26-8:2 Matthew 5:14-19	Romans 3:19-26 Matthew 7:1-8
5	11	12 King's Birthday	13	14	15	16	17
3 0 7	2 nd Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الثاني بعد العصرة	St Peter of Athos	St Aquilina	Holy Prophet Elisha	Leave-taking of the Feast of the Divine Body وناع جمد الربّ	St Tikhon of Cyprus	Sts Manuel, Sabel and Ishmael
	Romans 2:10-16 Matthew 4:18-23	Romans 7:1-13 Matthew 9:36-10:8	Romans 7:14-8:2 Matthew 10:9-15	Romans 8:2-13 Matthew 10:16-22	Romans 8:22-28 Matthew 10:23-31	Romans 9:6-19 Matthew 10:32-36, 11:1	Romans 3:28-4:3 Matthew 7:24-8:4
s	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
5 22	3rd Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الثالث بعد العنصرة	St Jude the Apostle	St Methodios of Patara	St Julian of Tarsus	St Eusebios of Samosata	Holy Martyr of Agrippina	Nativity of St John the Forerunner
9	Romans 5:1-10 Matthew 6:22-33	Jude 1:1-15-2:11-25 Matthew 11:2-15	Romans 10:11-11:2 Matthew 11:16-20	Romans 11:2-12 Matthew 11:20-26	Romans 11:13-24 Matthew 11:27-30	Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 1:29-45	Romans 13:11-14:4 Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80
	25	26	27	28	29	30	
•	4 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الرابع بعد العنصرة	St David of Thessalonica	St Samson the Hosteller	Relics of Sts Cyrus and John	Sts Peter and Paul the Apostles الرسولان بطرس وبولس	Synaxis of the Apostles محفل مقدس للرسل	
	Romans 6:18-23 Matthew 8:5-13	Romans 12:4,5,15-21 Matthew 12:9-13	Romans 14:9-18 Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30	Romans 15:7-16 Matthew 12:38-45	2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 Matthew 16:13-19	1 Corinthians 4:9-16 Matthew 9:36-10:8	







Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Divine Liturgy

- Saturday at 5:00 pm
- Sunday at 10:00 am

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

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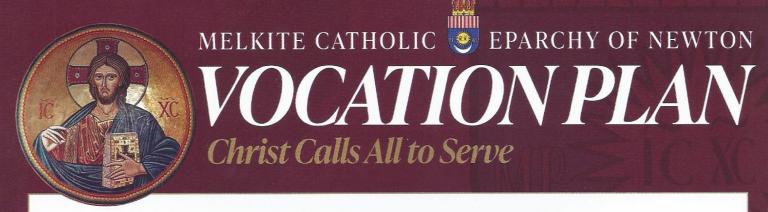
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Contact us for information and ideas

office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com





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

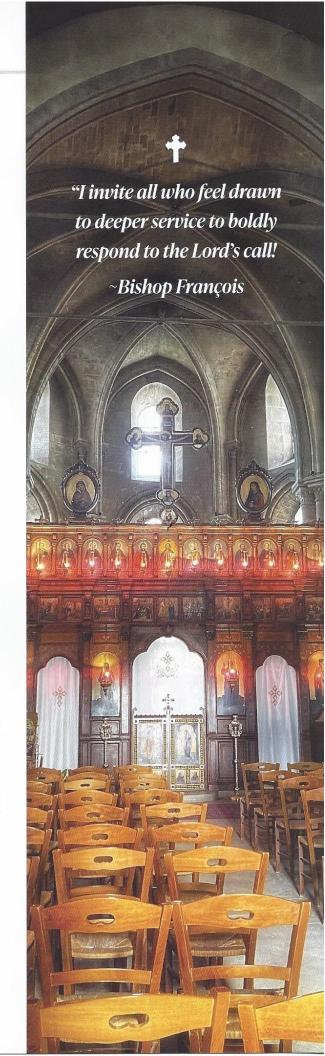
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement 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.



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.





OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865



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, <u>click here</u>, 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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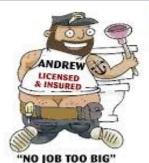
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