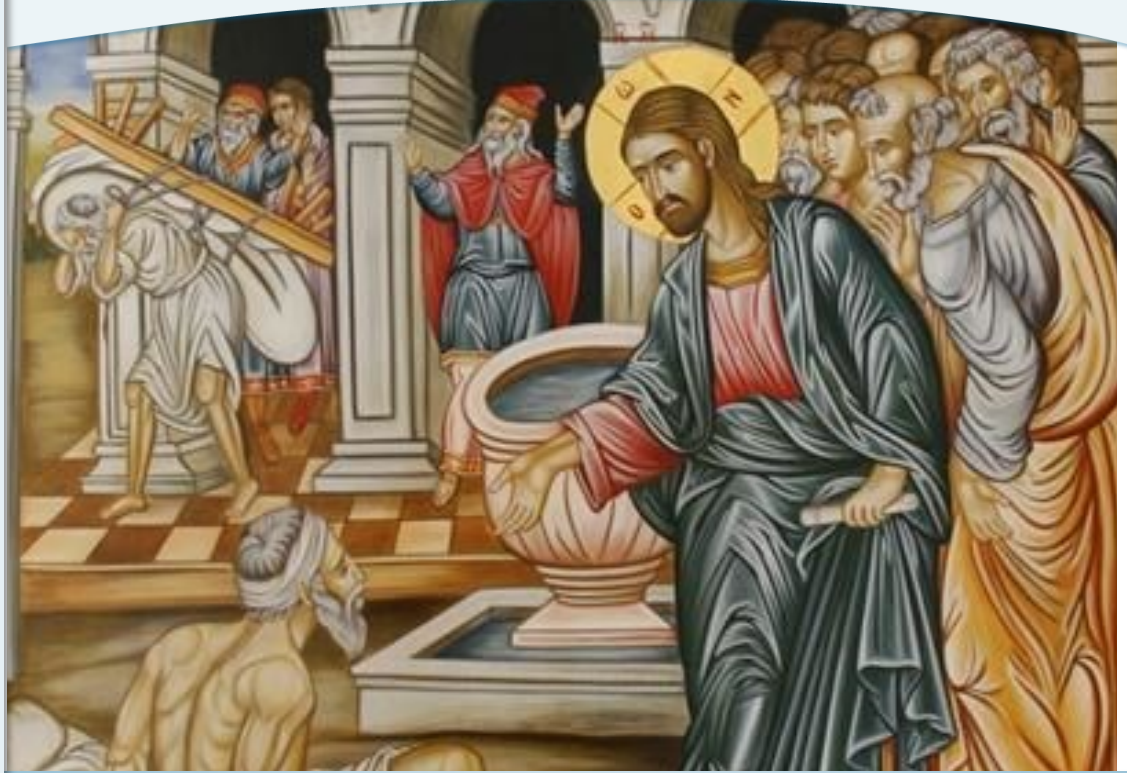




July 9, 2023

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



Address
15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook
<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

Divine Liturgy

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 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



Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

الاحد السادس بعد العنصرة

Troparion of the resurrection (5th Tone)

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our Salvation; for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross and to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion of St Basil

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.

Kondakion:

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.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس

لنشيد نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، الأزلي مع الآب والروح، المولود من العذراء لخلصنا. لأنه ارتضى أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب، ويحتمل الموت، وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بينت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأب البار ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

نشيد الختام (القنداق)

يا نصيرة المسيحيين التي لا تخزي، ووسيطتهم الدائمة لدى الخالق، لا تعرضي عن أصوات الخطاة الطالبين اليك. بل بما انك صالحة، بادري الى معونتنا، نحن الصارخين اليك بإيمان: هلمي الى الشفاعة، وأسري الى الابتهاال، يا والدة الإله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.



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, 6th of Pentecost, Romans 12: 6-14

PROKIMENON (Tone 5)

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Stichon: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

READING from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans: 12: 6-14
BRETHREN, we have gifts differing according to the grace that has been given us, such as prophecy to be used according to the degree of faith, or ministry in ministering, or instruction in teaching, or exhortation in encouraging, or almsgiving in being generous with simplicity, or leadership in leading with discretion, or works of mercy in performing them joyfully. Let love be without pretense. Hate what is evil. Hold to what is good. Love one another with fraternal charity, being the first to honor the other. Be not slothful in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope. Be patient in tribulations, persevering in prayer. Relieve the saints' needs, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you: bless, and do not curse!

ALLELUIA (Tone 5)

Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever;
from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Stichon: For you have said, "My kindness is established forever." In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel, 6th of Pentecost, Matthew 9: 1-8 (Healing of a Paralytic at Capernaum.)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST 9:1-8

.At that time, getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over and came to his own town. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic lying on a pallet. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven you." And behold, some of the Scribes said within themselves, "This man blasphemes." And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" then he said to the paralytic "Arise, take up your pallet and go to your house." And he arose, and went away to his house. But when the crowds saw it, they were struck with fear, and glorified God who had given such power to men.

الاحد السادس بعد العنصرة

تقدمة الرسالة

أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَحْفَظُنَا وَتَحْمِينَا، مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ وَإِلَى الدَّهْرِ

خَلَّصَنِي يَا رَبُّ فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ، لِأَنَّ الْحَقِيقَةَ قَدْ ضَيَّعَتْ عِنْدَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ

الرسالة (رومة 12: 6 – 14)

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِذْ لَنَا مَوَاهِبٌ مُخْتَلِفَةٌ بِحَسَبِ النِّعْمَةِ الْمَعْطَاةِ لِمَنَا، فَمَنْ وَهَبَ النُّبُوَّةَ فَلْيَتَنَبَّأْ بِحَسَبِ مَنَاسِبَةِ الْإِيمَانِ. وَمَنْ وَهَبَ الْخِدْمَةَ فَلْيَلْزِمِ الْخِدْمَةَ، وَالْمُعَلِّمَ التَّعْلِيمَ، وَالْوَاعِظَ الْوَعِظَ، وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَ الْبِسَاطَةَ، وَالْمُدَبِّرَ الْاجْتِهَادَ، وَالرَّاحِمَ الْبِشَاشَةَ. وَلْيَتَكُنِ الْمُحِبُّ بِلَا رِئَاءٍ. كُونُوا مَاقْتِنِينَ الشَّرَّ، وَلْيَتَصَبَّقُوا بِالْخَيْرِ، مُحِبِّينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا حُبًّا أُخُوِّيًّا، مُبَادِرِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ، غَيْرَ مُتَكَاسِلِينَ فِي الْاجْتِهَادِ، حَازِينَ بِالرُّوحِ، عَابِدِينَ لِلرَّبِّ، فَرِحِينَ بِالرَّجَاءِ، صَابِرِينَ فِي الضِّيقِ، مُوَظَبِينَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ، بِأَذْلِينَ لِلْقُدَيْسِينَ فِي حَاجَتِهِمْ، عَاكِفِينَ عَلَى ضِيَافَةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ. بَارِكُوا الَّذِينَ يَضْطَهُدُونَكُمْ. بَارِكُوا وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا.

هللوا

بِمِرْجَمِكَ يَا رَبُّ أَرْزُمْنَا إِلَى الْإِبْدِ، إِلَى جِيلٍ فَجِيلٍ أَعْلُنْ حَقَّكَ بِفِي

لَأَنَّكَ قُلْتَ: إِنَّ الرَّحْمَةَ تُبْنِي إِلَى الْإِبْدِ، وَفِي السَّمَاوَاتِ يَهَيِّئُ حَقَّكَ.

انجيل الاحد السادس بعد العنصرة (شفاء مخلع كفرناحوم)

الانجيل (متى 9: 1 – 8)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، رَكِبَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ، وَعَبَّرَ وَأَتَى إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَقَدَمُوا إِلَيْهِ مَخْلَعًا مُلْقًى عَلَى فِرَاشٍ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمَخْلَعِ: ثِقْ يَا بُنَيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ. فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِنْ الْكُتَّابَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ: هَذَا يُجَدِّفُ. فَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ فَقَالَ: لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ. أَنْ يُقَالَ: مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ: قُمْ وَامش؟ وَلَكِنْ لِتَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفَرَ الْخَطَايَا، حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمَخْلَعِ: انْهَضْ وَاحْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ. فَتَهَضَّ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَتْ الْجُمُوعُ تَعَجَّبُوا، وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَعْطَى النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, SATURDAY, JULY 8, & SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023: SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR PANCRATIUS, BISHOP OF TAORMINO IN SICILY.

5:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + ALICE AZAR by Fred & Iptesame Dib.
- + PHILIP HAGGAR by his Family.
- + OLGA & JAMES FAGER by Mrs. Joan Katen.

10:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + GEORGETE S. SAGGAL (Birthday Remem.) by Joseph & Yolanda Saggal.
- + MARY SACKAL by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + JOHN ROWEY by Tony & Fadia Kabak.
- + JULIA, FRED, & ELIAS J. KISHFY by M/M Norman E. Kishfy.

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: July 1, & 2, 2023: Budgets: \$2,088:00 (Envelopes: \$2,005.00, Loose: \$83.00); Candles: \$108.00; Building Fund: \$305.00; Stole Offerings: \$1,430.00; ; Addit'l Melkite Diocesan Support: \$60:00.

GENERAL HOME VISITATIONS, SICK CALLS, HOSPITAL VISITS: Father Ephrem has now been here three years and is fully available for 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!

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!

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.





SUMMER IS RATHER OBVIOUS AT CHURCH: Those who were absent from any Sunday Liturgy or arrived after the First or Second Collections, we kindly remind you that your weekly fair share of support for your church is urgently needed and anticipated. Please make up for absent weekly support. As your home bills are there whether you are at home or not, so is the same for our church. Your church and rectory expenses need to be paid by each of you whether you are here or not.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH: Lord Jesus, your heart was moved with pity for the crowds who followed you. So many of them were poor, sick and had no work. Today you continue to look with pity on the many people who are unemployed. Help them to find work. Help all of us to work for the changes that can lead to a world in which the human dignity of every person is respected. Amen!

TODAY, there will be a special collection taken up for the **UPKEEP, MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT OF THE CEMETERY.** Please be as generous as you can, and we thank you for your continued support in providing a peaceful resting place for our beloved deceased.

NATIONAL APOSTOLATE OF MARONITES: We are happy to announce that Father Ephrem and His Excellency, Bishop Francois are attending the 58th National Maronite Convention hosted by St. Anthony of the Desert Church, Fall River, MA, at the **OMNI HOTEL, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.** They will be at the closing Grand Banquet on Saturday, July 8 and participating in the Pontifical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 9, 2023.

HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON HOSTING THIS CONVENTION IN SERVING GOD, DIOCESE, & COMMUNITY IN CHARITY FOR FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL: Saturday and Sunday, August 12th & 13th. Please consider volunteering your services and limiting it to parish members for our protection, safety and security. Many volunteers are needed in all capacities. Please come through and show your support. Kindly see the chairman, Samir Boudjouk, and register your help with him wherever needed.

REFLECTION: "A proverb is one man's wit and all men's wisdom." - Lord John Russell

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of the *Theotokos* Your
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confident that my prayer
will be granted.



Following Jesus Kids bulletin



When People are Sick...

In today's Gospel reading we hear about Jesus curing the sick. Jesus wants us to follow His example and care for the sick and dying. But we can't do miracles like Jesus did!

What can we do?

Here are some ideas:



1. If someone in your family is sick, maybe you can help them out! Ask if you could read them a story, or help them by bringing them anything they need. A 'Get Well' card would be nice too!

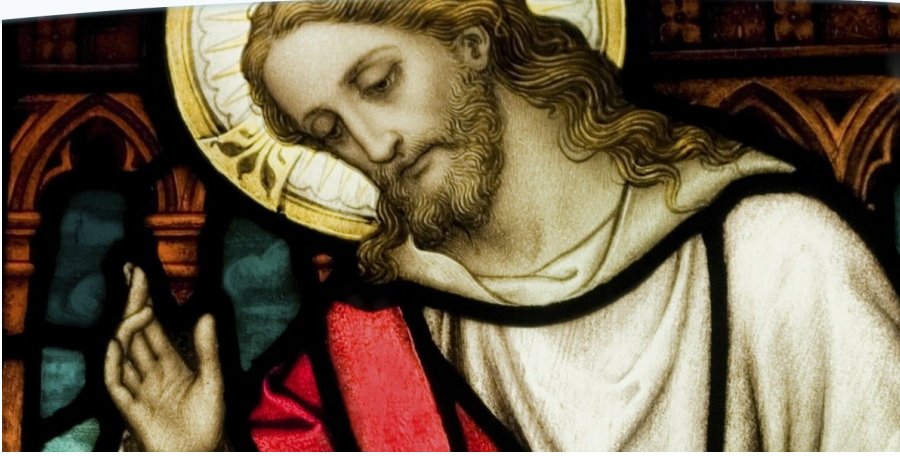


2. Always pray for people who are sick. Your prayers can help them get better, or they might help your sick friend to understand why God is letting them suffer.

What about when you are sick? When you are sick or hurt, think about Jesus suffering on the cross. Offer your pain to Him and tell Him that you want to suffer with Him so that people will be saved from their sins. Be thankful for people who help you when you are sick. Remember, they take Jesus' place!



معجزات يسوع



ثالثاً: أن الفالج يشير إلى عدم الحركة، والخطيء إنسان لا يتحرك في اتجاه الحياة الأبدية والحق والخير، فهو أشل يداً ونفساً وقدمًا وجميع أعضائه مصابة بعدم الحركة، فهو لا يمد يده لعمل الخير، ولا يسعى بقدميه إلى بيت الله، وأعضاؤه عاطلة من الخدمة، فهو عضو أشل أمام الأبدية.

أحبائي: إن العديد من المؤمنين بالرب يسوع تساورهم أحياناً الشكوك بألوهته لأنهم لا يرونه بعين الإيمان أنه ليس مجرد إنسان وهو ليس كموسى وسائر الأنبياء. وله وحده إذن السلطان على مغفرة الخطايا كما يعلمنا الإنجيل المقدس لذلك فإن ما نعرفه عنه وما ندرکه كبشر هو أقل بكثير مما لا ندرکه ولا نعرفه. عندما نسكب نفوسنا أمام الله بتواضع نسلّم بإيمان بدستور الإيمان النيقاوي ونقبل كل الحقائق الإلهية العقيدية والمبادئ المسيحية السامية ببساطة القلب والفكر ونتمسك بالرب يسوع ولا ندع الشكوك أن تساور قلوبنا وعقولنا ولا نسمح للمشككين أن ينزلوا بنا إلى درك الخطية وعدم الثقة بالمسيح يسوع ربنا، حينذاك ننال مغفرة الخطايا، حينذاك نثق بأن بإيمان ورجاء ومحبة نحمل جميع الذين أصيبوا بمرض الفالج الروحي العضال من أصدقائنا وأقربائنا، ونأتي بهم أمام الرب يسوع لينالوا مغفرة الخطايا والشفاء التام من جميع الأمراض الروحية والجسدية. أجل، إن المفلوجين روحياً قد ازداد عددهم كثيراً في جيلنا هذا الفاسق الخاطيء، والروح قد انحرفت عن الحق وصارت بعيدة عن الله، لقد شلت أعضاء الروح إن صحّ هذا التعبير قبل أن تشلّ أعضاء الجسد والمسيح حي. فأين إيماننا وأين رجاؤنا بل أين محبتنا له وللقریب؟

هل لنا ثقة بأن باستطاعة المسيح أن يشفي أولئك ويشفي أنفسنا أيضاً وقد تلبستها أمراض الخطايا، لنأت إذن إلى الرب يسوع كما أتى إليه ذلك المخلع، ولنقتد به بالصلاة إليه كي يشفي نفوسنا المريضة ونفوس أصدقائنا وأقربائنا وكل من يمّت إلينا بصلّة، تلك النفوس التي قد أصابها فالج اللامبالاة، فلا صوم ولا صلاة، ولا توزيع صدقات. ولا بد في أعجوبة شفاء المخلع أن نلاحظ شفاعتهم له عند الرب يسوع، لقد رأى الرب يسوع إيمانهم. نقول أن ذلك المفلوج كان مؤمناً وقد لا يكون مؤمناً. فالرب يسوع إذن يقبل شفاعة المؤمنين ويشفي من يشاء من مرضى الروح والجسد ويغفر الآثام الكثيرة. فلنقدّم إليه الصلوات الحارة بإيمان ورجاء ومحبة والدعاء المستمر لأجل أنفسنا ولأجل الآخرين. ألم يحدث لنا أن كنا في ضيق أو في مرض أو ألم وفجأة تنفرج عنا هذه الشدة، ذلك أن أناساً مؤمنين كانوا قد جثوا أمام الرب وطلبوا إليه بالصلاة الحارة لينقذنا، وقبل الرب شفاعتهم. أو أن القديسين الذين علينا أن ننقدي بسيرتهم والذين تتنعم أرواحهم الآن في فردوس النعيم مع المسيح يشفعون فينا لننال شفاء النفس والجسد .

كان السيّد المسيح يقوم بشفاء الجسد بمحيّة فائقة للغاية كما أنّ الله يكشف بواسطة هذه الأشفيّة عن خلود التكوين الجسدي وذلك بكامل قوته . ولذلك عندما يموت أحد فإننا نحيط جسده (أو جسدها) بحنانٍ وورع كبيران للغاية. حيث أنّ الجسد مخلوق من الله وقد وضع الله فيه كامل محبّته. هنالك ثمّة شيء آخر أيضاً: لقد أصبح هو نفسه إنساناً لقد تسربل الله ذاته بالجسد ولم يكشف لنا بهذا فحسب وهو: أنّ الإنسان بهذا التصميم وأنّه بهذه العظمة وبهذا العمق حتّى أنّه باستطاعته أن يتحد مع الله ويصبح شريكاً في الطبيعة الإلهية بل وأيضاً بأنّ جسداً قادرٌ على حمل الروح وأن يكون حاملاً لله بالفعل.

مغفورة لك خطاياك فالخطية هي سبب ألأمنا. والمسيح يبحث عن شفاء الإنسان من المرض. الداء. ولنفهم أن كثيراً ما يؤدبنا الرب بأمراض الجسد بسبب خطايانا، يؤدبنا في الجسد لكي لا ندان مع العالم (عب 12: 5-11). ومن تألم في الجسد يكف عن الخطية (ابط 1: 4). والمسيح حين يغفر الخطايا فهو يشفي النفس لتتمتع بالبنوة . فالسيد الرب هو فاحص القلوب والكلّي.

السيد المسيح لم يقل أيما أيسر أن أعفر الخطايا أما أن أشفي المريض، بل أيما أيسر أن يقال كذا أو كذا. لأن في نظر الناس أن الأيسر هو أن يقال مغفورة لك خطاياك من أن يقال قم إحمل سريرك وإمشي. فإنه إذا قال مغفورة لك خطاياك فلن يرى أحد الخطايا وهي تغفر، ولكن لو قال قم إحمل سريرك فهنا سيظهر صدقه إن قام الرجل وحمل سريره.

لا نعلم كثيراً عن هذا المفلوج، ويبدو أنه كان شاباً في ريعان الشباب عندما جاءوا به إلى المسيح، لأن لغة المسيح له «يابني.. تفيد (على الأغلب) أنه كان حديث السن... ولا نعلم متى وكيف أصابه هذا الفالج أو الشلل الكامل، ولا نعلم هل كان بسبب الخطية أم لا، لكن من المعتقد أن الشاب في مطلع حياته . أوغل في الإنم، وتمادى في الشر، وربما كان ذلك هو السبب المباشر فيما انتهى إليه من الشلل التام، على أي حال إن الشلل يرمز إلى الخطية من نواح ثلاث:

أولها أن المريض بالفالج يكون عديم الحساسية أو ضعيفها، والخطيء عديم الحس أو كما يقول الرسول في وصف الأمم البعيدين عن الله : «الذين إذ هم قد فقدوا الحس أسلموا نفوسهم للدعارة ليعلموا كل نجاسة في الطمع» (أف 4 : 19).

ثانياً: إن عدم الاحساس يصل مرات كثيرة عند الخطيء إلى اللامبالاة والاستهتار.

Christ's healing



I am sure that we have all felt stuck, trapped, or paralyzed in one way or another at some point in our lives. Whether we were physically ill or caught in an unhealthy relationship or an unfortunate situation at work, life is full of circumstances where we seem to lack the strength to move forward in freedom. The same is true when we think about the spiritual life and our own personal characteristics. Learning to put others before ourselves, to restrain various appetites and desires, and to stop behaviors to which we have become addicted are all very difficult things to do. Sometimes we fall into despair and simply give up because we have had so little success in overcoming our paralysis. Sometimes we feel helpless before the problems and challenges that we face.

The good news is that Jesus Christ gives us all solid grounds for hope in gaining strength, freedom, and salvation. This Tuesday is the great feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, when we celebrate the revelation of His divinity to Peter, James, and John, for Christ was illumined brilliantly with light, and the voice of the Father proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." At the same time, we continue in the Dormition fast as we prepare to celebrate on August 15 how the Theotokos shared in the resurrection of her Son—body, soul, and spirit—and followed Him into the heavenly Kingdom upon her death.

Taken together, these feasts remind us that God's salvation liberates us from captivity to the brokenness of our lives in our corrupt world, for the Son of God has truly taken on every dimension of our humanity and transfused it with holiness. He was transfigured before His disciples and we too may be changed by uniting ourselves as fully as possible with the Lord. His divinity will be revealed through us as we shine with light even as the paralyzed man was enabled to get up and walk toward his house. As for him, the process of healing begins with the forgiveness of sins which Christ mercifully grants to all who come to Him with humble repentance. His mercy is such that He forgave this wretched man without the fellow saying anything at all due to the faith of his friends who literally carried him to Christ. Perhaps his paralyzed state was also a sign of his humility and dependence upon the Lord and an image of our collective sickness and decay. The Savior did not stop, however, with forgiving his sins, for He transfigured his life by enabling—indeed, by ordering—him to get up, pick up his bed, and walk home.

The truth is that Christ says exactly the same thing to us all, for His forgiveness is not some kind of legal degree but a true participation in His life, holiness, and divinity which heals and transforms us into living icons of His salvation. He calls and enables us all to live the kind of life described by St. Paul: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...Bless those who persecute you: bless and

do not curse." No, it is not easy to live that way, especially in relation to people who have wronged us or whom we do not find it easy to like or in situations where we have trained ourselves to see only the bad in others and what else can go wrong. Likewise, it surely was not easy for the paralyzed man to transition from being an invalid to having an active life, for we tend to get used to whatever state of life we are in and find it stressful, frustrating, and scary to act differently. No matter how miserable we make ourselves, we often prefer that to the difficult course of change for the better.

Even though we fall down like toddlers taking their first steps with some frequency, we must keep moving forward as best we can in the new life that Christ has given us. Otherwise, we will end up rejecting Him because we will worship ourselves and attempt to make Him in our own image, to use Him simply to get what we want and disregard everything else to which He calls us. Certainly, we are all inclined to do that because of our self-centeredness and pride, but that is precisely why we have to gain strength in denying ourselves so that we can refocus our energies on serving the Lord and our neighbors in whom He is present to us each day.


As anyone who has tried to fast, pray, show generosity to the needy, and forgive others learns very quickly, we all suffer from some degree of paralysis. It is often astonishingly hard to inconvenience ourselves even a little bit in order to give attention to God and our neighbors or to restrain our slavery to our taste buds, stomachs, and bank accounts. When the Church calls us to undertake these spiritual disciplines, it is not as a punishment or because God likes us to see us suffer. It is because we need help in getting up from our beds and moving forward with our lives. We are all too comfortable with the misery of our weakness and paralysis. Our feeble struggles to embrace the spiritual disciplines reveal to us the truth about ourselves and should lead us to call in humility for the Lord's help in serving Him more faithfully.

I hope that we are all doing our best to be transfigured into the new life that Jesus Christ has brought to the world as the Second Adam in whom our corrupt, fallen humanity is healed, restored, and blessed. I hope that none of us will rest content to lie in the bed of our passions, weaknesses, and self-indulgent addiction to life as we have come to know it on our own terms. For our Savior did not come to make us feel better about ourselves, to help us succeed by worldly standards, or even simply to forgive us. He came to make us participants in the life of the Holy Trinity, to become by grace what God is by nature. Yes, that means shining with light and holiness as He did at the Transfiguration. Let us take even the small, faltering steps of which we are capable to become more like Christ—to rise, take up our beds, and walk as best we can, trusting that His grace and mercy are healing us from our paralysis and weakness, and ushering us out of misery into a new and joyful way of living.

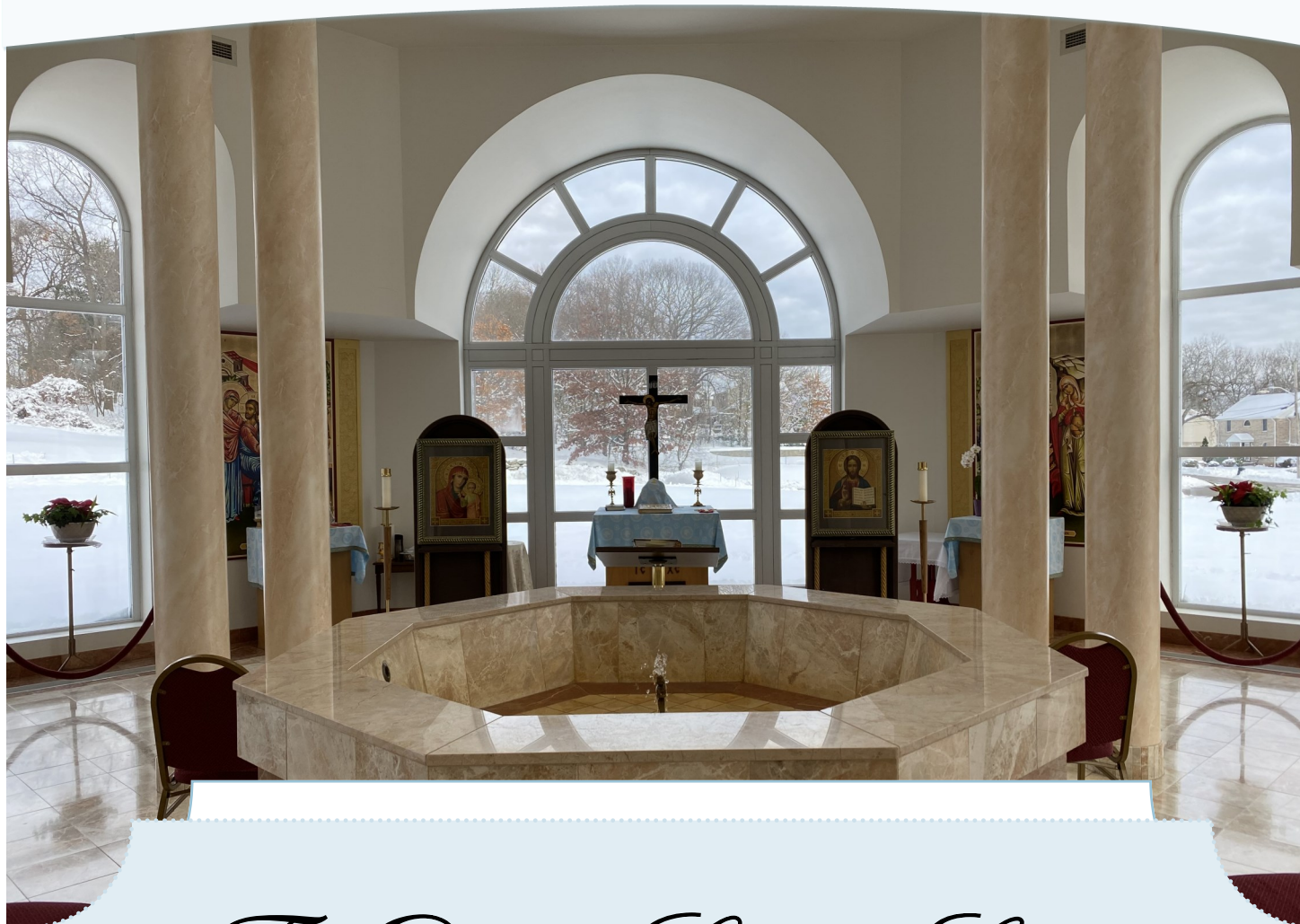


LITURGICAL CALENDAR



JULY	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>تموز – يوليو 2023</p> <p>JUNE 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>AUGUST 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>	30 9 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد التاسع بعد العنصرة 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 Matthew 14:22-34	31 St Eudocimos 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Matthew 21:18-22					1 Sts Cosmas & Damian Romans 8:14-21 Matthew 9:9-13
	2 5 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الخامس بعد العنصرة Romans 10:1-10 Matthew 8:28-9:1	3 St Hyacinth Romans 16:17-24 Matthew 13:10-23	4 St Andrew of Crete 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Matthew 13:24-30	5 St Athanasios of Athos 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:8 Matthew 13:31-36	6 St Sisois the Great 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Matthew 13:36-43	7 St Thomas of Maleum 1 Corinthians 4:5-8 Matthew 13:44-54	8 St Procopios Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 9:18-26
	9 6 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد السادس بعد العنصرة Romans 12:6-14 Matthew 9:1-8	10 The 45 Martyrs of Nicopolis 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:11 Matthew 13:54-58	11 St Euphemia 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Luke 7:36-50	12 Sts Proclus and Hilarion 1 Corinthians 7:12-24 Matthew 14:35-15:11	13 Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 1 Corinthians 7:24-35 Matthew 15:12-21	14 St Joseph the Confessor 1 Corinthians 7:35-8:7 Matthew 15:29-31	15 Sts Cyricos and Julitta Romans 12:1-3 Matthew 10:37-11:1
	16 Fathers of the first 6 Ecumenical Councils آباء المجامع لمسكونية السنة الأولى Titus 3:8-15 Matthew 5:14-19	17 St Marina Galatians 3:23-4:5 Mark 5:24-34	18 St Emilian 1 Corinthians 10:5-12 Matthew 16:6-12	19 St Macrina 1 Corinthians 10:12-22 Matthew 16:20-24	20 The prophet Elijah (Elias) النبي إيليا التشبيبي James 5:10-20 Luke 4:22-30	21 Sts Simeon Salos and John 1 Corinthians 11:8-23 Matthew 17:10-18	22 St Mary Magdalene 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 Luke 8:1-13
	23 6 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الثامن بعد العنصرة 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Matthew 14:14-22	24 St Christina 1 Corinthians 11:31-12:6 Matthew 18:1-11	25 Dormition of St Anne رقاد القديسة حنة أم وادة الإله Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21	26 St Hermolaos and his companions 1 Corinthians 13:4-14:5 Matthew 20:1-16	27 St Panteleimon 2 Timothy 2:1-10 Luke 21:12-20	28 Sts Prochor, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 Matthew 21:12-14, 17-20	29 Sts Callinicos and Theodota Romans 14:6-9 Matthew 15:32-39

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Divine Liturgy

- **Saturday: 5:00 pm**
- **Sunday: 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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for Church news and updates at**
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"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.



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Eid El Saydeh

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Saturday



Andre Ibrahim
✦ his band

Saturday



DJ Michael Elias

Sunday



Mitch Kaltsunas
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Sunday, August 13th

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

Sharing our Faith
SECURING OUR FUTURE



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!

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Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190

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