



February 11, 2024

## 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](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

### Facebook

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

### YouTube

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

### Email

[office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com](mailto:office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

### Office hours

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

### Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 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 and after 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



### Sunday of Cheese-Fare -

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebastea

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

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

### 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 of Cheese-fare (Tone 6)

O You who guide men toward wisdom, and give them intelligence and understanding, instructor of the ignorant and helper of the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Lord, give me word, O Word of the Father, for behold I will not refrain my lips from crying out to You: O merciful One, have mercy on me who have fallen.

### نشيد القيامة باللحن الرابع

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك بشرى القيامة  
البهيجة. ونبذن القضاء على الجدين، وقلن  
لرسل مفتخرات: لقد سلب الموت، ونهض  
المسيح الاله، واهباً للعالم عظيم الرحمة.

### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

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

### فنداق مرفع الجبن الختام باللحن السادس

أيها الهادي الى الحكمة، وواهب الفطنة، ومثقف  
الجبال، ومجيز المساكين، شدد قلبي وامنحه  
فهماً، أيها السيد، وأعطني كلاماً، يا كلمة الأب. فيها  
انا لن أمسك شفيعي عن الصراخ اليك: أيها الرحيم،  
ارحمني أنا الواقع.





### 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](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com/myo.html)

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



### PROKIMENON: Psalm 46: 7,2 (Tone 3)

Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Stichon: All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brethren, now our salvation is nearer than when we came to believe. The night is far advanced: the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly as in daytime, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in debauchery and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and as for the flesh, pay no attention to its lusts. But whoever is weak in faith, receive him without arguing about opinions. For one believes he may eat all things but another who is weak, let him eat vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who does not; and let not the one who does not eat judge the one who does, for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls but he will stand, for God is able to make him stand.

ALLELUIA: Psalm 30: 2,3 (Tone 3)

In You, O Lord, I have hoped: let me never be put to shame.

In your justice, save me and deliver me.

Stichon: Be for me a protecting God, a sheltering house to save me.

GOSPEL: Mt. 6:14-21, Sunday of Cheese-Fare

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will your Father forgive you your offenses. And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, who disfigure their faces in order to appear to men as fasting. Amen, I say to you they have had their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not be seen by men to fast, but by your Father, who is in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where worm and rodent consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither worm nor rodent consumes, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart."

### مقدمة الرسالة

رَبِّمُوا لِإِلَهِنَا رَبِّمُوا، رَبِّمُوا لِمَلِكِنَا رَبِّمُوا  
يا جميعَ الأممِ صَفِّقُوا بِالأَيْدِي، هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ  
بِصَوْتِ الإِبْتِهَاجِ

الرسالة (رومة 13: 11 ج الى 14: 4)

يا إخوة، أن الخلاصَ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْنَا الآنَ مما كانَ حينَ آمَنَّا. قد تناهى الليلُ وأقترَبَ النهارُ، فلنخلُجْ أذنَ أعمالَ الظلمةِ، ولنلبسِ اسلحةَ النورِ. لنسلُكُنَّ سُلُوكًا لائِقًا كما في النهارِ، لا بالقصوفِ والسكرِ، ولا بالمضاجعِ والعهرِ، ولا بالخصامِ والحسدِ. بل البسوا الربَّ يسوعَ المسيحَ، ولا تهتموا بالجسدِ لقضاءِ شهواتِهِ. من كانَ ضعيفًا في الإيمانِ فقبلوه بغيرِ مباحثَةٍ في الآراءِ. مِنَ الناسِ من يعتقدُ أن له أن يأكلَ كُلَّ شيءٍ، أما الضعيفُ فيأكلُ بقولًا. فلا يزدِرِ الذي يأكلُ من لا يأكلُ، ولا يدينُ الذي يأكلُ من لا يأكلُ، لأن الله قد قبله. أنتَ من أنتَ يامنُ يدينُ عبدَ غيره، انه لمولاه يثبُتُ أو يسقطُ، لكنه سيثبُتُ لأن الله قادرٌ أن يثبُتَهُ.

هللوا

عليكَ يا رَبِّ توكلتُ، فلا أُحزِرُ إلي الإبدِ، بعدلكِ  
نَجِّنِي وانتشلي

كن لي إلهًا محامياً وبيت ملجأ لخلاصي

انجيل أحد مرفع الجبن—(متى 6: 14-21)

قال الرب: إن غفرتُم للناس زلَّاتِهِم، يغفرُ لكم أيضاً أبوكم السماوي زلَّاتِكُم. وإن لم تغفروا للناس زلَّاتِهِم، فأبوكم أيضاً لا يغفرُ لكم زلَّاتِكُم. وإذا صمتُم فلا تكونوا معبِّسين كالمُمرائين فإنهم يُنكروُن وجوهَهُم ليظهروا للناس صائمين.

الحقُّ أَقول لكم، انهم قد نالوا اجرهم. أما أنتَ فإذا صمتَ، فادهنْ رأسَكَ وأغسل وجهَكَ، لئلا تظهَرَ للناس صائماً بك لأبيكَ الذي في الخفيةِ، وأبوك الذي ينظرُ في الخفيةِ هو يجازيكِ علانيةً. لا تكتنوا لكم كنوزاً على الارضِ، حيثُ يُفسدُ السوس والصدأ، وحيثُ ينقبُ السارقون ويسرقون.

لكن اكنوا لكم كنوزاً في السماء، حيثُ لا يفسدُ سوس ولا صدأ، ولا ينقبُ السارقون ولا يسرقون. فإنه حيثُ يكون كنزك هناك يكون قلبك أيضاً





# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024: SEVENTH SUNDAY BEFORE PASCHA. SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE.**

**9:00 a.m:**

- + **LOORESE & FREDERICK G. ISSA, SR.** by their sons & Family.
- + **ANTONY, MARY, FADI BAYLOUNEH** by Peter & Rania Tanzi.
- + **PETER, VIRGINIA TANZI** by Peter & Rania Tanzi.
- + **JAMES ALLAM (47<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)** by the Family.
- + **LAYLA ANGELA CHARETTE (7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)** by her loving grandparents Nick & Joyce Kayata.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Joseph & Barbara Monsour.
- + **MICHAEL MASSUD** by Richard, Christine, Rebecca & Marissa Barrett.

**11:15 a.m:**

- + **ANNETTE NAJJAR (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.)** by her Family.
- + **ANTHONY J. NAJJAR (3<sup>RD</sup> Anniv.)** by his Family.
- + **VICTORIA ALCHIKH** by Bishara & Wafaa Tahhan.
- + **YOUSEF GEORGI DEEB** by Elias Saman Chaij.
- + **MAGEE MARTINEZ** by George J. Mardo.
- + **JOSEPH P. HANNA** by John & Najat Khoury.

*"HAPPY BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS for **MELISSA DOMANEY** by Abe & Michele Domaney.*

## 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:** February 4, 2024: Budgets: \$5,256.00 (Envelopes: \$5,173.00; Loose: \$53.00; Candles: \$78.00; Stole Offerings: \$185.00; Building Fund: \$280.00; Addit'l Cemetery: \$25.00; Activity: \$500.00.

Father Ephrem has now been here three and a half years and has been fully available for parish services. Just email him at [office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com](mailto: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 this New Year.

**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.

**2024 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS** are available-free for the taking-at both entrances of the Church. Following the liturgical cycle of the church year and remembering the Saints each day is an excellent way to attach yourself more closely to the worshipping community that is the church.

**REFLECTION:** *"The young man knows the rules, but the old man knows the exceptions."* – Oliver Wendell Holmes

**ANY NEEDS OR THOUGHTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, SUGGESTIONS, ETC.** that you may have, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Parish Advisory Council or any standing committee immediately. Explanations/Corrections/Discussions/Changes will never be made unless all bring these concerns to us. Let us remain the united and caring community that we are.

**RHODE ISLAND CATHOLIC'S ANNUAL FEBRUARY SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN** is underway. To subscribe to your national award-winning diocesan newspaper, just drop the specially marked Subscription Drive weekly envelope into the collection basket; log onto [w.w.w.thericatholic.com](http://w.w.w.thericatholic.com) and click Subscribe at the left order renew and even pay for your subscription online with a credit or debit card or call the newspaper's Circulation Desk at 272-1010 to subscribe by phone. Your Diocesan Newspaper depends on its faithful readers to continue its 146<sup>th</sup> year mission of bringing the good news of the church to your home each week. Subscription only \$30 per year.

**CLEANLINESS AND HEALTH:** Please pick up after yourselves and the children during and following Coffee Hour; insects and rodents are attracted by what we leave throughout and around the interior and exterior of the building; it takes but a few moments to clean up well. Cultural Center, kitchen, and bar, should always be free of open food items. Everyone: please take note: Hall dining tables, coffee serving areas, stainless steel tables, counters, sinks, stove etc. should be soap washed after every use and before leaving the building. The custodian does not always come in on our desired schedule. Thank you!

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE** of any change of address or telephone number information. This will cut down on returned mail and time waste. Unfortunately, this has been an ongoing request but to no avail. Kindly give this your undivided attention and as Our Lord says in His parables: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear. "

**TODAY**, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS**. Please help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory, as prices are escalating rapidly. Also, we must remember that utilities are more than doubled in this complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

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.



## Holy Lent Prayer Schedule

**Monday** 6:30 PM Forgiveness Vespers

**Tuesdays** 6:30 PM Great Compline

**Wednesday** 6:30 PM Divine Liturgy

**Fridays** 6:30 PM Akathist to the Mother of God

## برنامج صلوات الصوم المقدس

الإثنين الساعة 6:30 مساءً - صلاة التوبة

الثلاثاء الساعة 6:30 مساءً - صلاة النوم الكبرى - يا رب القوات

الأربعاء الساعة 6:30 مساءً - الإحتفال بالقداس الإلهي

الجمعة الساعة 6:30 مساءً - صلاة المدائح لوالدة الإله

# Prayer for Lent



“O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness, the lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to your servant. Yes, O Lord, and King grant me to see my own sin and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed from all ages to all ages. Amen”

# Following Jesus Kids bulletin



**ByziKids 2024**  
**Countdown to Pascha**  
*Western Calendar Edition*

<b>March 17</b> Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Learn her story and be inspired!	<b>March</b> As we get closer to Pascha, let's practice singing the Troparion... secretly, of course. It's still lent!	<b>March 19</b> Learn about St. Longinus today and how his eyesight was restored by Jesus. How merciful is HE?!	<b>March 20</b> After you receive Jesus in the Eucharist tonight, close your eyes and snuggle with Him a while.	<b>March 21</b> Practice the prayer to the Theotokos today!	<b>March 22</b> Today is the last day of the Great Fast. Passion week is coming soon.	<b>March 23</b> Lazarus Saturday Listen to the gospel story & think about what you would do if you saw that!	<b>March 24</b> Palm/Flowerly Sunday Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!	<b>March 25</b> Great and Holy Mandy The Annunciation Mt 2:18-20 Talk with your family about ways you can be a fruitful branch.	<b>March 26</b> Great and Holy Tuesday Mt 26:1-16 Keep the light burning for Jesus in your soul!	<b>March 27</b> Great and Holy Wednesday Mt 26:6-16 Tonight YOU can receive HOLY UNCTION	<b>March 28</b> Great and Holy Thursday 1 Cor 11:23-32 Spend some extra time with Jesus in prayer tonight.	<b>March 29</b> Great and Holy Friday Be especially quiet and solemn today in honor of Jesus suffering and death.	<b>March 30</b> Great and Holy Saturday Help your family prepare for the celebration to PASCHA!	<b>March 10</b> Sunday of St. John of the Ladder Step by step, We're getting close	<b>March 11</b> Make "Crown of Thorn Pretzel Rolls" Get the recipe at ByziMom.com	<b>March 12</b> Be a helper like Simon of Cyrene. Help someone with a difficult task today	<b>March 13</b> Set aside a special time to sit before your icon corner and rest with Jesus a while	<b>March 14</b> Help someone whom you are tempted NOT to love today	<b>March 15</b> Tonight, listen for the entrance hymn & pray with the angels when Jesus enters!	<b>March 16</b> Practice the prayer to the Theotokos today	<b>March 4</b> Review the litany said at Divine Liturgy and think of someone you know for each petition	<b>March 5</b> Do a secret good deed for someone who is in need.	<b>March 6</b> Watch for another opportunity to be a helper today!	<b>March 7</b> Review and discuss the guidelines for proper behavior at Liturgy with your family	<b>March 8</b> Think about the angels today and how your own angel helps you keep the fast	<b>March 9</b> Clean your closets today and consider donating things you've outgrown	<b>February 25</b> Sunday of the Paralyzed Man Practice prayer today!	<b>February 24</b> Remember to practice obedience, as Jesus was obedient to his parents too!	<b>February 23</b> Take time to look outside notice the wonderful things God has made.	<b>February 22</b> Learn about your patron saint	<b>February 21</b> O Joyful Light Make beeswax candles for your icon corner	<b>February 11</b> Cheese-fare/ Forgiveness Sunday: Ask forgiveness of all in your household	<b>February 12</b> Clean Monday The Great Fast Begins! Here we go!	<b>February 13</b> Clean Tuesday It's a great day to clean your room!	<b>February 14</b> Clean Wednesday Practice your prostrations	<b>February 15</b> Clean Thursday Learn the Prayer of St. Ephrem	<b>February 16</b> Clean Friday Make Kutjia (Koliwa) in honor of St. Theodore's miracle	<b>February 17</b> Saturday of Theodore the Recruit Read this really cool story at ByziMom.com	<b>February 18</b> Sunday of Orthodoxy Gather your icons and have a procession!	<b>February 19</b> Visit someone who is sick or lonely, or maybe send them a card	<b>February 20</b> Plant some basil seeds in pots today for Pascha
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# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week JANUARY 21 <sup>ST</sup>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week JANUARY 28 <sup>TH</sup>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 4 <sup>TH</sup> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 11 <sup>TH</sup> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1 <sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 18 <sup>TH</sup>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2 <sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 25 <sup>TH</sup>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3 <sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Lent MARCH 3 <sup>RD</sup>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent MARCH 10 <sup>TH</sup>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5 <sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Lent MARCH 17 <sup>TH</sup>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24 <sup>TH</sup> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MARCH 29 <sup>TH</sup>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MARCH 31 <sup>ST</sup> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!



# Forgiveness Sunday

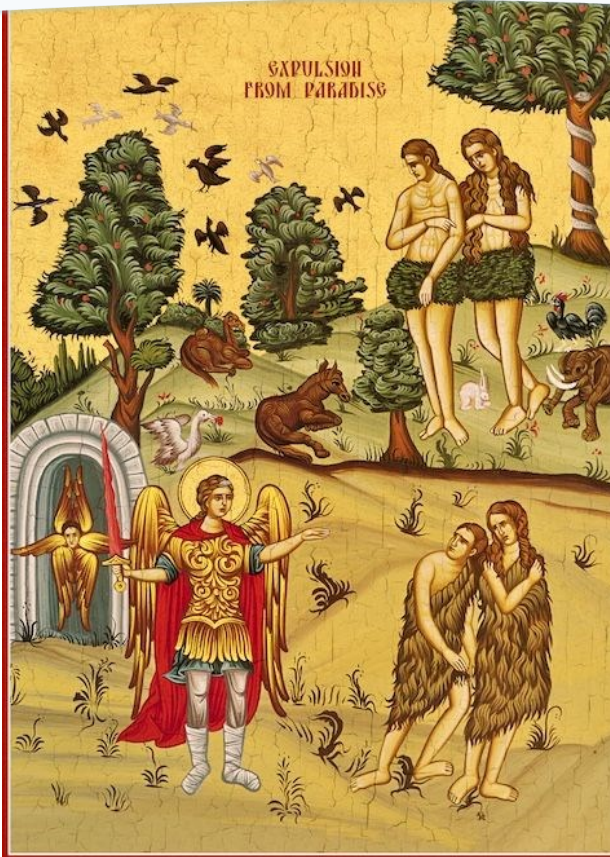
Tomorrow is Monday. Not just any Monday, but Clean Monday, the first day of Clean Week, the beginning of Great Lent, a time of particular prayer and fasting. Great Lent will take us on a journey through forty days, or six weeks, to Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday and then Holy Week. At the end of that Week, God willing, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Night. For we are now fifty days exactly from Easter Day.

This Sunday is known as Forgiveness Sunday, and also Cheesfare Sunday for it is the last day on which we may eat dairy produce. On it we remember the Fall of Adam and Eve and how they lost Paradise by eating 'the forbidden fruit', which is why we fast, eating only 'the permitted fruit'. How exactly did that Fall happen?

We know from the Scriptures that the first man and the first woman lived in Paradise, in Eden. We know also that they walked with God, meaning that they lived in harmony and communion with God, suffering neither sin, nor sorrow, neither aging, nor death.

We know also that they disobeyed God. The cause of their disobedience was in the temptation of pride: they thought that they knew better than their Maker. Creation, given freedom, thought that it was greater than the Creator. The fact that the first man and first woman preferred to trust in themselves, rather than in God, to trust in their proud self-importance, led to their fall from communion with God. But once they had rejected God, they also rejected freedom from sin and its result, sorrow, and freedom from aging and its result, death.

The cure for their Fall was made clear to them; it was in doing the opposite of all they had done. Instead of disobedience, they needed obedience; instead of pride, they needed humility. In other words they had to turn back on what they had done in repentance and ask forgiveness. At first they had been unable to do this. When God had first spoken to Adam and Eve after their act of disobedience, Adam had blamed Eve, and Eve had blamed the serpent. Neither had had the humility to take responsibility for his errors and ask for forgiveness. It was not that God did not know what they had done; it was simply that He wanted to give them the opportunity to ask Him, and to ask each other, for forgiveness. Instead they blamed each other and in the process blamed God their Maker. We can hear the Devil laughing.



To us, as children of Adam and Eve, God also gives opportunities to ask for forgiveness, as Adam and Eve should have done. He gives us the sacrament of Confession. Confession does not exist because God wants to know what we have done or left undone. He already knows that. Confession exists because God is giving us an opportunity to own up to our mistakes and failings. He wants us to ask for forgiveness, so that we can then take strength from Him through the prayers of the priest, so as to clean ourselves and strive not to repeat our mistakes.

Giving and receiving forgiveness is an action that purifies and that opens the door for even greater things. The more the soul is filled with God the more He calls it to move further beyond. If we refuse to forgive, it is not that God is unable to forgive us. Forgiveness shines from the Cross for all whether we desire it or not.

But if we refuse to forgive, then we cannot know forgiveness for ourselves. We will not recognize what it is when it comes. "In thy light we shall see light," we sing every Sunday because only in God can we know God. So it is with forgiveness. Only by forgiving can we recognize and come to embrace forgiveness and if we are in God, then forgiveness flows from us. It is a movement that goes both ways. For if forgiveness does not flow from us to others, then it is a sign that we have not embraced it for ourselves.

God does not need our confession, but we do.

Every confession is a repeat, in the New Eden of the Church, of that opportunity given to Adam and Eve in Eden, to ask God for forgiveness.

Unlike human-beings, God always forgives those who sincerely, with repentance, ask Him for forgiveness.

However, before we ask forgiveness of God, we first have to ask forgiveness of each other.

And just at this time, on Forgiveness Sunday and all during Clean Week, it is the custom of Orthodox throughout the world to come to Confession, to ask God for forgiveness, preparing ourselves for Communion next Sunday. First, therefore, we must ask each other for forgiveness. We can ask forgiveness of those who are not here by visiting them or telephoning them. But of those who are here, we can now ask forgiveness directly, for all our errors towards them in thought,

# When you fast

*Jesus said, 'and when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your father who sees in secret will reward you:'*

*Matthew 6: 16-18 (Gospel of Cheesefare Sunday)*



When people think of the word "Lent," the word "fasting" is one of the first things that comes to mind. The cornerstone of Lent is not fasting, but repentance and growing in our faith. Fasting is a tool that is used to assist in spiritual growth. Fasting is also mischaracterized as a form of deprivation, rather than a spiritual discipline. Because fasting is so misunderstood, it is many times done incorrectly.

In the Orthodox world, we use the word "passions" to describe tendencies that each person has that lead us to sin. Each of us has a "passion" for anger, lust, power, greed, ego, etc. We do not get through life without wrestling with each of these, sometimes on a daily basis. The most basic "passion" is hunger. While we can go a day without a lustful thought or an angry thought, we can't go more than a few hours without a hungry thought. So, if we can tame our passion for eating, we can hopefully tame our other passions. If we can discipline ourselves to go without certain kinds of food, we can hopefully discipline ourselves so that we can go without certain kinds of behavior that are spiritually destructive. Thus, fasting is not about giving up something only to get it back. Fasting is about getting control of our passions, maintaining control over them, and ultimately giving control of ourselves to God.

If you've never fasted before, I would not recommend doing a strict fast. Try fasting from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent (and then throughout the year), then next year try fasting Wednesdays and Fridays plus all of the first week of Lent and all of Holy Week. Then work up from that.

Below is a guide of some levels of fasting:

- Level one -- Fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week
- Level two -- Fast from meat and fish on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week
- Level three -- Fast from meat the entirety of Lent and Holy Week
- Level four -- Fast from meat and fish the entirety of Lent and Holy Week
- Level five -- Level four and eliminate dairy products during Holy Week
- Level six -- Level four and eliminate dairy products on Wednesday and Fridays and during Holy Week.
- Level seven -- Level four plus eliminate dairy products during all of Lent and Holy Week
- Level eight -- Level seven plus eliminate oil and wine during Holy Week
- Level nine -- The strict fast - no meat, fish, dairy products, wine or oil during the entirety of Great Lent

*\*\*Fish is allowed on March 25 (Annunciation) and Palm Sunday; oil and wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, except for Holy Saturday.*

After a few years at one level, challenge yourself to go up a level.

More important, however, than fasting from food, is fasting from the behaviors that are spiritually destructive. We need to fast from things that get us in trouble - perhaps the television, alcohol, inappropriate materials on the computer and in movies, foul language, etc. Fasting also does not mean "looking" deprived, complaining about what you can't eat, or making a show of your fasting. In fact, if you are fasting and you are invited to someone's home for dinner and they serve meat, eat the meat, don't make a big deal out of your fasting. Also, do not pass judgment on others who are not fasting to the degree you are. Saint Paul reminds us in Romans 14:3-4: "Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own Master that he stands or falls." As Christ tells us, our fasting is seen by our "Father who is in secret," and He will reward us for our efforts.

**Again, Lent is not a season of deprivation, nor should we "give up" something only to get it back once Lent is over. Lent is about repentance, and making small and permanent changes to bring us closer to the Lord, changes that will last long after Lent is over. This is the purpose of the Lenten journey. Fasting is an aid to help us in this.**

*The time has come - the start of our spiritual contests, the victory over demons, the full armor of self-control the angels' dignity, the confidence before God. Thereby did Moses become conversant with the Creator, and heard the invisible voice. Lord, through fasting make us worthy to worship Your Passion and Holy Resurrection, as You love humanity. (Doxastikon of Orthros, Cheesefare Sunday, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)*

**Give some thought to your fasting plan for Lent today!**

# الصوم . المحبة والمسامحة (مرفع الجبن)



ان تغفر ذنوب الاخرين دائما يعتبر امر في غاية الصعوبة ، فنحن بشر لنا طبيعة ضعيفة ، فكرامتنا وعزة النفس التي نملكها تمنعنا من ان نغفر او نجعلنا متزمتين براينا ولا نقبل الاخرين .

فكيف ان نسامح من خدعنا وجرحنا واراد الشر . فهل كان الرب يسوع يعلم بصعوبة هذا الامر؟ نعم بالتأكيد كان يعلم بذلك ، لذلك يعتبر الغفران عنصر اساسي في الايمان المسيحي.

لقد علمنا يسوع منذ بداية رسالته على الارض على ضرورة الغفران وذلك من خلال الصلاة الابانا علمها لتلاميذه ولنا نحن من بعدهم ، اذا من الواجب والضروري ان نغفردنوب الاخرين لكن نحن ننال الغفران ، الغفران يتطلب محبة كبيرة وايمان كبير وشجاعة لكي نستطيع ان نغفر وفي نفس الوقت ننال الغفران .

فلقد ارانا يسوع يجسده البشري الضعيف قوة ايمانه بالله الأب وكيف تحمل الأم الصليب وطلب ان تغفر ذنوب جلاديه وصاليه، فالبعض منا يقول بانهم ليسوا يسوع لكي يستطيعوا ان يغفروا ذنوب الاخرين. هذا الكلام غير صحيح وغير مثمر ، بل يعني اننا لم نفهم رسالة يسوع ودعوة يسوع الحقيقية لنا ،

فنحن يجب ان نكون اقوياء ، ثابتين في الايمان لكي نستطيع غفران ذنوب الاخرين . هذه القوة التي نالها تلاميذ المسيح حين حل الروح القدس عليهم ، ونحن من بعدهم حين نقبل الروح القدس ونتركه يعمل فينا . ( لنا امثلة كثيرة من الرسل والقديسين سلكوا في نفس طريق معلمهم يسوع لكي يكونوا لنا ايضا مثالا صالحا في الغفران ، مثل القديس استفانوس.

الشياطين يحاول دائما العمل في نقاط ضعفنا ، في الكبرياء وعزة النفس ، نعم الشيطان يجربنا كما حاول من قبل ان يجرب الرب يسوع ، لكن الرب يسوع استطاع ان يتغلب على الشيطان بطبيعته البشرية ، اذا نحن ايضا لنا القدرة على ان نتغلب على الشيطان بايماننا بان الرب يسوع صلب ومات وقام من بين الاموات ، كل هذا من اجل مغفرة خطايانا .

ايها الاحياء: الله يقول لنا في هذا النص الذي قراناه الآن : مهما كانت قسوة وعناد الانسان فامام المحبة والغفران يستلم ويضعف وتخور قوته، اي ان المحبة تقوى على كل جبروت . لن تستطيعوا ان تغفروا او تسامحوا من القلب الا اذا طلبتم المساعدة من الله لانكم في الحقيقة امام عدو شرس وخبيث يوحي لكم بان الاهانة كبيرة ، ابن الكرامة .. انت مجني عليك . فاهزموا عدوكم الحقيقي اولا بطلب القوة من الله لتغفروا .

عندما تغفروا من قلوبكم بقوة من الله فستتمتعون بشعور جديد لم تحسوه من قبل ، هو شعور بانكم فعلا تحبون هذا الشخص وعلى استعدادكم لمساعدته ، تشعرون باحساس الفرح وبانكم تطيرون فوق الارض بحرية .

لذلك يا احبائي : فان الصوم ليس فترة تعذيب للذات ، انما هو فترة تسودها المحبة والشعور بمحبة وفيضان النور علينا ، الصوم هو فترة يملؤها النعم والبركات السماوية التي يسكبها الله في قلوبنا وفي حياتنا .

الصوم هو فترة نتعلم فيها المحبة ، والمحبة هي كل شيء في المسيحية ومتى وجد الانسان المحبة وجد الله المحبة ، وهذا ما يعنيه قول الانجيل : ان غفرت للناس زلاتهم يغفر اباكم السماوي زلاتكم ، والمحبة لا يقابلها الا المحبة .

ولكم اخيرا يا احبتي جميعا: ان تكونوا من داخلين الى الملكوت وليكون صومكم مباركا ومفعما بالنعم السماوية وصياما سهلا موصلا لجميعنا الى الملكوت السماوي .

ان غفرت للناس زلاتهم يغفر لكم ابوكم السماوي ايضا

فان جاع عدوك فاطعمه وان عطش فاسقه ، لانك ان فعلت هذا تجمع جمر نار على راسه (رو 20-21)

ايها الاحياء : ها نحن في الاحد السابع قبل الفصح وايضا نحن في الاحد الرابع من احاد التهيئة للصيام الكبير والآخر فيها .

ان هذا اليوم معروف بمرفع الجبن ويسمى كذلك باحد الغفران ، حيث غدا ندخل باذن الله الصيام الكبير المقدس . الذي هو ليس بنظام اكل خاص فقط وانما هو اعمق من ذلك بكثير ها نحن داخلون فترة حرب وجهاد روحي مع قوى الشر الكامنة فينا .

فليس الهدف ان نصوم عن طعام فقط وانما نحن نحارب شهواتنا ومغريات هذا العالم

يقول القديس بولس الرسول في رسالته اليوم ، علينا ان نهتم باجسادنا لقضاء حاجاتها كالاكل او الملابس انتم تعرفون المثل الانجيلي الذي يقول : انظروا الى طيور السماء انها لا تزرع ولا تحصد وابوكم السماوي يقيتها . لذلك لا نتهم للمأكل او الملابس ، علينا ان نكنز في فترة الصوم لنا كنوزا في السماء تقربنا من الله ، ونساعدنا ان نرت الملكوت السماوي .

ايها الاحياء في صلواتنا السحرية لهذا اليوم كما في انجيل اليوم هناك محوران تدور حولها كل صلواتنا وطقوسنا لهذا اليوم .

المحور الاول : هو اقامة تذكارات لطراد آدم من الفردوس ، الذي جلس هناك بيكي ، ألا يشبه طرد آدم وحواء من الفردوس حالة الانسان بعد السقوط ، حالة البكاء والشقاء التي تستحق التوبة والنحيب ، كما تقول التراتيل عندنا.

السبب لطراد آدم وحواء من الفردوس هو غياب الصوم ، فالصوم هو الاداة التي تعيد المصالحة بين الادميين والله .

يقول القديس باسيليوس الكبير : بدأ الصوم في الفردوس ، لا تأكل من شجرة الخير والشر ، طرد ابوين الاولين من الفردوس بسبب عدم الصوم . بالصوم نحن ندخل الى الملكوت .

المحور الثاني: هو الغفران ، اي طلب الغفران من الله ووهب الغفران للقريب ، هذا ما يتكلم عنه انجيل اليوم . اذ يتكلم عن غفران الله وغفراننا للاخرين مباشرة قبل كلامه عن الصوم ، لاجل هذا الكنيسة تنهي استعدادها للصوم بالغفران لكي ندخل الصوم بالفرح وبالسلام وبالقوة .

هذا يعني اننا سنتصالح مع الله بالصوم الذي نبدأه بالغفران للقريب والمصالحة معه ، قد يكون من السهل ان نساعد الفقير ونحسن الى انسان غريب او قريب ، لكن الاصعب هو ان نسامح الانسان القريب .

لهذا وضعت الكنيسة في طقوسها ، والطقس يعني اسلوب المنظور والعمل لممارسة الايمان ، ان يلتقي المسيحيون اليوم مساء احد الغفران في صلاة الغروب . حيث يتبادلون في نهاية الصلاة القبلة الاخوية ويصافح كل منهم الاخر ويقول له سامحيني يا اخي لاجل المسيح . علامة للمصالحة والمحبة التامة .

لان الغفران والصفح والمسامحة هو الحب الذي يشفي المرض ويزيل الالم ، مغفورة خطاياك قم وامش .

هناك سؤال دائما يطرح كم من مرة اغفر ذنوب اخي ، هل سبع مرات؟ سؤال طرحه بطرس الرسول للرب يسوع ، ونحن من الممكن ان نسأله ايضا للرب يسوع ونسأله لانفسنا بالرغم من اننا نعرف الجواب الوافي وذلك من خلال الرب يسوع لبطرس ، بالغفران سبعين مرة سبع مرات ، اي ما يعني ان تغفر ذنوب الاخرين على الدوام وبدون تعداد .

# Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



## *The Divine Liturgy Schedule*

### **Divine Liturgy**

- Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:15 am

The Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation is available before and after the Divine Liturgy or by appointment.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Welcome to*

## **St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church**

**Check our website  
for Church news and updates at**  
[www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

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**Contact us for information and ideas**  
[office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com](mailto: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.

**MYO Bake Sale**  
**Sunday, February 11**  
**(After both liturgies)**



# Day of Prayer for Ukraine

February 24, 2024 at St. Michael  
Ukrainian Catholic Church  
394 Blackstone St, Woonsocket,  
RI 02895

February 24, 2024 marks the second anniversary of Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine and the 10th anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea and the Luhansk & Donetsk eastern regions of Ukraine.



Come and pray with us for the people of Ukraine.

3:30 PM Rosary Prayer - led by The Knights of  
Columbus of Rhode Island



4:00 PM Byzantine Divine Liturgy of St. John  
Chrysostom, celebrated by the pastor

4:45 PM "Common Man for Ukraine", a  
Rotary Club project presented by Susan  
Mathison from Plymouth, NH, describing  
their efforts to help the children and  
orphans of the current war in Ukraine.  
<http://www.commonmanforukraine.org/>



Opportunities will be available for prayer, fellowship, and sharing of our resources.

**SAVE**  
*The*  
**DATE**

**JULY**  
**4-7 2024**



*Becoming Disciples.*

*The Emmaus Experience*  
(Luke 24:13-53)

*Making Disciples.*

# 53rd National Melkite Convention

*hosted by*

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*at the*

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*Mention 53rd National Melkite Convention for discounted rate*

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# 53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

## JULY 4-7 2024

*hosted by*

### OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

7 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
 Tel: (617) 323-5242, (617) 323-5248  
 Fax: (617) 325-2662



*Becoming Disciples.*

*Making Disciples.*

### The Emmaus Experience

*(Luke 24:13-53)*

## SOUVENIR BOOK - AD ORDER FORM

*fill out this form or use the link below to sign up online:*

**[melkiteconvention.flocknote.com/signup/148969](http://melkiteconvention.flocknote.com/signup/148969)**

Contributor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Fax or Cell ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Solicited By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Contributor Email \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Owner/Relative \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL & BUSINESS AD PRICES

*Please Mark the Desired Category*

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- COLOR Back Cover Inside \$3,000
- COLOR Front Cover Inside \$3,000
- Full Page Gold \$1,000
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#### STANDARD B/W PAGES

- Full Page \$ 500
- Half Page \$ 300
- Quarter Page \$ 200

*Photos for full pages only*

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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 7 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132

**Attn: Father Philip Raczka**

Tel: (617) 323-5242, (617) 323-5248 Fax: (617) 325-2662

**Make Checks Payable to: ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHEDRAL**  
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# 53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

## JULY 4-7 2024

*hosted by*

**OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL**

*at the*

**MARRIOTT BOSTON QUINCY**



*Becoming Disciples.*

*The Emmaus Experience*  
(Luke 24:13-53)

*Making Disciples.*

## PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

*if Purchased Separately from Package*

Individual Events	Price per ticket	Quantity	Total Cost
Thursday, July 4 . Opening Night BBQ	\$80.00		
Friday, July 5 . Hafleh	\$95.00		
Saturday, July 6 . Grand Banquet	\$130.00		
Sunday, July 7 . Farewell Brunch	\$45.00		
		<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	

### COMPLETE PACKAGES

*Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evenings only – **SUNDAY BRUNCH NOT INCLUDED***

Evening Social Events	Price per package	Quantity	Total Cost
Purchased before 5/15/24	\$275.00		
Purchased after 5/15/24	\$305.00		
		<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	

*Make Checks Payable to:*

**ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHEDRAL**  
*Memo: Convention Package*

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**Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral**  
7 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
**DO NOT SEND CASH**

**GRAND TOTAL \$**

Registration material will be picked up at the convention registration desk

**NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR**

Please complete the entire registration form and mail it with your payment to the address on the left.

*For further information,*  
contact Our Lady of Annunciation Cathedral at (617) 323-5242

### REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Parish/City \_\_\_\_\_

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 09/15/2023



## St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

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### Campaign Facts:



**Campaign Goal:** \$1,000,000



**Outstanding Goal:** \$329,240



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

### Parish Community Facts:



**Total Registered Families:** 410



**Active Families:** 200



**% of Active Families Participation:** 55%

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

### Current & Future Projects:



**Church Roof Replacement:** Project completed, final cost \$321,000.



**Rectory Roof Replacement:** Project completed, final cost \$18,850.



**Church Window Repairs:** Project completed, final cost \$9,000. Additional window was found to need repair, awaiting additional estimate.



**HVAC & Boiler Replacement:** Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000. Boiler does need immediate replacing, awaiting timeframe. HVAC system is okay for now.



**Flooring Upgrades:** Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), awaiting samples and timeframe.



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



**Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & HVAC Vent Cleaning:** Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning completed, final cost \$9,020



**Exterior/Masonry/Walkway Repairs:** Awaiting proposals. Maintenance to mosaic of The Blessed Mother completed, cost \$8,000.



**Security Cameras/Door Upgrades:** Camera system complete, final cost \$10,500. Electrification of doorway proposal received, pending completion.



**Central Air Conditioning and HVAC improvements to Rectory:** Project completed, final cost \$56,665.

### 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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