



December 25, 2022

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

YouTube

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

Email

office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Office hours

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

Divine Liturgies

Sunday Divine Liturgy
9:00 AM - 11:15 AM

**Pastoral Emergencies
and anointing of the sick**
(401)722-1345

Holy Mysteries

Reconciliation

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

Baptism

Please arrange with the pastor

Marriage

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



The Feast of the Nativity according to the flesh of our
Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

ميلاد ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح بحسب
الجسد

Antiphon Prayer

O Christ, Eternal God, by Your birth from the Virgin, You appeared on earth as a man and enlightened the whole Creation. Steady our footsteps in the way of your Commandments. Infuse in our hearts the grace of knowing You and loving You, through the intercession of Your All-pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary and all your Saints. For You are our Light and our Redemption, O Christ God, and to You we render glory and to Your Eternal Father and Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the Nativity, Tone 4, (Three times)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who had been star-worshippers learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and to recognize in You the One Who rises and Who comes from on high. O Lord glory to You!

Hypacoi of the Nativity

O Little Child lying in a manger, by means of a star, heaven has called and led to You the Magi, the first-fruits of the Gentiles, astounded to behold, not scepters and thrones, but extreme poverty. What, indeed, is lower than a cave? What is humbler than swaddling clothes- and yet the splendor of your divinity shone forth in them resplendently. O Lord, glory to You!

Kondakion of the Nativity

Today the Virgin gives birth to the One Who surpasses all essences, and the earth offers a cave to God, the Inaccessible One. Angels sing His glory together with the shepherds: for to us is born a Child, God in all eternity

صلاة الأنديفونة

أيها المسيح أله الأزلّي، يا من بميلاده من البتول، ظهر على الأرض إنساناً، فأثار الخليقة كلها، وظلّ خطواتنا في سبيل وصاياك، وأهدنا إلى معرفتك ومحبتك، بشفاعته والديتك الكاملة الطهارة الدائمة البتولية مريم، وجميع قديسيك، لأنك أنت نورنا وفدائنا، أيها المسيح الإله، واليك نرفع المجد وإلى أبينا الأزلّي وروح القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين

نشيد الميلاد بالحن الرابع

ميلادك أيها المسيح الهنا، قد أظهر نور المعرفة للعالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب، فيه تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل، وعرفوا أنك من المشرق الذي من الغلاء. يا رب المجد لك.

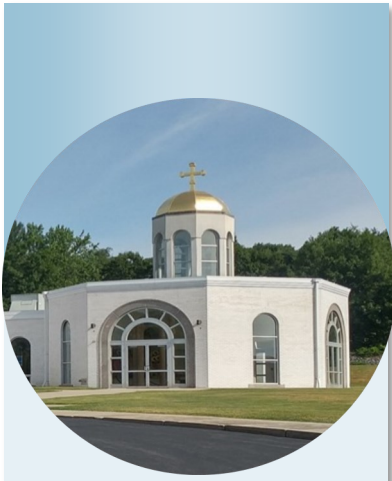
نشيد (إيباكوي) بالحن الثامن

أيها الطفل المضجع في مذود، إن السماء قدّمت لك باكورة الأمم، إذ دعت المجوس بالكوكب. فأخذهم الدهش، لا من صوالجة وعروش، بل من الم سكينة القصوى. إذ أي شيء أحقر من المغارة، أم أي شيء أوضح من القمط التي تلالاً فيها غنى لاهوتك؟ فيا رب المجد لك

نشيد الختام (فنداق العيد) بالحن الثالث

اليوم البتول تلد الفائق الجوهري، والأرض تقدّم المغارة لمن لا يلد منه. الملائكة مع الرعاة يمجدون، والمجوس مع الكوكب يسرون. لأنه من أجلنا ولد طفل جديد، وهو الإله الذي قبل الدهور.





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>



Prokimenon (Tone 8)

Let all on earth worship and sing praise to You, sing praise to Your name.

Stichon: Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth; sing praise to the glory of His name

Reading

From the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians: 4:4-7

Brethren, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that He might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" So that one is no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, an heir also of God through Jesus Christ

Alleluia (Tone 1) Ps. 18:2,3

The heavens declare God's glory, and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.

Stichon: Day pours out the word to day, and night to night imparts knowledge.

Gospel of the Feast, Matthew 2: 1-12, (Visit of the Magi)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi came from the East to Jerusalem saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." But when King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and so was all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and Scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And you, Bethlehem, of the land of Judah are by no means least among the princes of Judah; for from you shall come forth a leader who shall shepherd my people, Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the Magi secretly, and carefully ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared to them. And sending them to Bethlehem he said, "Go and make careful inquiry concerning the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and worship Him." Now they, having heard the king, went their way. And behold, the star they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly. And entering the house, they found the Child with Mary His mother, and falling down they worshipped Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way.

Hymn to the Theotokos

O my soul, magnify the One Who is more honorable and glorious than the heavenly powers! Behold a mystery, a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave has become heaven, the Virgin a throne of the Cherubim, and the manger a noble place where Christ our God reposes. Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!

لتسجد لك جميع الأرض ولتُشيد لك
هللوا للرب يا جميع الأرض

الرسالة (غلاطية 4: 4-7)

يا إخوة، لما بلغ ملء الزمان، أُرسل الله ابنه مولوداً من امرأة، مولوداً تحت الناموس لننال التَّبَتِّي. وبما أنكم أبناء، أُرسل الله روح ابنه إلى قلوبكم صارحاً أباً أيها الآب. فلست بعد عبداً بل ابن. وإذا كنت ابناً فأنت أيضاً وارث لله بيسوع المسيح.

هللوا للرب
الشَّمَاوَاتُ تَدَيِّعُ مَجْدَ اللَّهِ، وَالْفَلَكَ يُخْبِرُ بِأَعْمَالِ يَدَيْهِ
يَوْمَ لِيَوْمٍ يُبْدِي قَوْلَهُ. وَلَيْلٍ لِلَّيْلِ يُخْبِرُ عِلْمًا.

الانجيل (متى 2: 1-12)

لما وُلِدَ يسوع في بيت لحم اليهودية، في أيام هيرودس الملك، إذا مجوس قد أقبلوا من المشرق إلى اورشليم قائلين: أين المولود ملك اليهود؟ فإنا رأينا نجمه في المشرق، فوافينا لنسجد له؟ فلما سمع هيرودس الملك اضطرب، هو وكل اورشليم معه. وجمع كل رؤساء الكهنة وكتبة الشعب واستخبرهم أين يولد المسيح: فقالوا له في بيت لحم اليهودية، فإنه هكذا كتب بالنبي: وأنت يا بيت لحم أرض يهوذا، لسبب الصغرى في مَدُن يهوذا الرئيسية، لأنه منك يخرج المديبر الذي يرعى شعبي إسرائيل. حينئذ دعا هيرودس المجوس سراً، وتحقق منهم زمانَ النجم الذي ظهر. ثم أرسلهم إلى بيت لحم وقال: اذهبوا وابحثوا بتدقيق عن الصبي، وإذا وجدتموه فأخبروني لأذهب أنا أيضاً وأسجد له. فلما سمعوا هذا من الملك ذهبوا، فإذا النجم الذي راوه في المشرق يتقدمهم، حتى جاء ووقف فوق الموضع الذي كان فيه الصبي. فلما رأوا النجم فرحوا فرحاً عظيماً جداً. وأتوا إلى البيت، فوجدوا الصبي مع مريم أمه، فخرُّوا وسجدوا له، وفتحوا كنوزهم وقدموا له هدايا من ذهب ولَبَانٍ ومُرٍّ. ثم أوعز إليهم في الحلم بأن لا يرجعوا إلى هيرودس، فانصرفوا في طريق أخرى إلى بلادهم.

النشيد لوالدة الإله بالحن الأول

عظمي يا نفسي. من هي أكرمُ قدرًا وأرفعُ مجدًا من الجنود الغلوثة! إني أشاهد سرًا عجيبيًا مستغرباً، فالمغارة قد أضحت سماءً والبتول عرشاً شروبيمياً، والمدود محلاً شريفاً، أنكأ فيه المسيح الإله، الذي لا يَسَعُهُ مكان، فلنُسبِّحه مُعَظِّمين





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.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. CHRISTMAS DAY.

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY DIVINE LITURGIES will be offered for the SPIRITUAL & TEMPORAL WELFARE of the parishioners and friends of St. Basil's Community.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023: THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD. FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT. NEW YEAR'S DAY.

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY DIVINE LITURGIES will be offered for the SPIRITUAL & TEMPORAL WELFARE of the parishioners and friends of St. Basil's Community.

As an essential part of this New Year, we are all invited to return to the Father, to the communal banquet of joy, where divine mercy triumphs over wrong and injustice. What better way can we begin anew than by attending Divine Liturgy and receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.





DIOCESE OF NEWTON
for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America

Office of the Bishop

Christmas 2022

"We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

Dear Melkite Catholic faithful and beloved friends,

Christ is born! Glorify Him. Almasceh Wulidah. Fa-Majidoo.

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we remind ourselves that we are no longer estranged from our Creator, because the Creator has entered His creation and taken our human nature to Himself.

This mystery is not a past reality. Through our Baptism into Christ, we are made one with Him and we are able to experience the Incarnation and the Manifestation of God as a present and daily reality.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we remind ourselves that we who are one with the Lord are called "*Christ*"ians and have received the greatest gift of all, that of becoming children of God. The Acts of the Apostles tells us: "in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians" (11:26). Therefore, the blessing of being called a Christian is especially meaningful to us as Melkite Catholics who trace our roots to the first Christian communities in Jerusalem and Antioch.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remind ourselves of our Apostolic roots and our commitment to sharing this authentic faith with our brothers and sisters in the United States and anywhere around the world.

My prayer for all of us is that we discover our greatest joy of all, that we are beloved children of God. Transformed by this, may the light of our faith in Christ, radiate from us to our family and our community, and be lived in an overflowing way in all our Melkite Catholic parishes.

To you and to all our friends across the United States and around the world, I send my warmest greetings and heartfelt Christmas blessings.

May our newborn King grant mercy, peace, health, and salvation to you and to all this Christmas season and in the upcoming year.

+ François

Bishop François Beyrouti
Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America



DIOCESE OF NEWTON
for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America

Office of the Bishop

"إِنَّا رَأَيْنَا نَجْمَهُ فِي الْمَشْرِقِ فَوَاقَيْنَا لِنَسْجُدَ لَهُ." (متى 2: 2)

أحبائي المؤمنين الملكيين الكاثوليك،

المسيح وُلِد... فجدّوه

فيما نحتفل بميلاد ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح، نتذكّر أنّنا لم نعد بعيدين عن خالقنا، لأنّ الخالق دخل خليقته واتّخذ طبيعتنا البشريّة لنفسه.

إنّ هذا السرّ ليس حقيقة مضت، لأنّنا عندما اعتمدنا في المسيح أصبحنا قادرين على أن نختبر التجسّد وظهور الله كحقيقة يومية حاضرة.

فيما نحتفل بميلاد المسيح، نتذكّر أنّنا واحدٌ معه. لذا، ندعى مسيحيّين وننعم بأعظم هبة، وهي أنّا أصبحنا أبناء الله. ويقول لنا سفر أعمال الرسل: "في أنطاكية أولاً دُعِيَ التلاميذ مسيحيّين" (26:11). وعليه، فإنّ نعمة تسميتنا مسيحيّين تعني الكثير، خصوصاً لنا نحن الملكيين الكاثوليك، لأنّ جذورنا تعود إلى الجماعات المسيحيّة الأولى في أورشليم وأنطاكية.

بينما نحتفل بتجسّد المخلص، فلنذكّر أنفسنا بجذورنا الرّسوليّة والتزامنا بمشاركة إيماننا الأصيل مع أخوتنا وأخواتنا في الولايات المتّحدة وسائر أنحاء العالم.

صلاّتي لأجلنا جميعاً بأن نكتشف فرحتنا العظمى، وهي أنّنا أبناء الله المحبوبون، فيها نتحوّل، فيشعّ نور إيماننا بالمسيح ويضيء عائلاتنا وجماعتنا ويغمر جميع رعايانا الكاثوليكيّة ويُنعشها.

أبعث إليكم وإلى جميع أصدقائنا في الولايات المتّحدة والعالم، أحرّ التحيّات وأخلص الأمنيات بمناسبة عيد الميلاد، سائلاً ملكاً المولود طفلاً أن ينعم عليكم وعلى الجميع، بالرّحمة والسّلام والعافية والخلاص، في موسم الميلاد والعام الجديد.

+ François

+ فرانسوا

المطران فرانسوا بيروتي،

أبرشيّة نيوتن لكنيسة الرّوم الملكيين الكاثوليك في الولايات المتّحدة الأميركيّة.



SACRIFICIAL GIVING: December 18, 2022: Budgets: \$4,241.00: Envelopes: \$4,133.00, Loose: \$108.00; Candles: \$103.00; Stole Offerings: \$245.00; Building Fund: \$225.00; Addit'l Fuel: \$80.00.

PLEASE NOTE: Before making any **ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS**, please contact the Church in advance. We would rather not have you disappointed if you've already made commitments without checking our schedule first.

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

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, and on Christmas Day, December 25th, there will be a special collection taken up for your **CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**. Envelopes for this purpose may be found in your weekly budgets, or you may obtain one on your way out at either entrance of the church.

Next weekend, December 24th and December 25th, there will also be a SPECIAL COLLECTION for **MELKITE DIOCE-SAN SUPPORT**. Please help subsidize our support for the operation of our Diocese. Much appreciated!

On New Year's Eve, December 31st, and Sunday, January 1st, there will be a special collection taken up for your **INITIAL OFFERINGS**. Your offering will help us defray the cost of the envelope system which is so vital in our parish support.

MAKE A GOOD BEGINNING. Often the strength of our first effort indicates the manner in which we maintain our responsibilities.

2023 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available – free for the taking – at both entrances of the church. By 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.

FLOWERS: Many parishioners have followed the long tradition of donating poinsettias to the Church for the Christmas Season. If you would like to participate in this tradition, please sign your name on the bulletin board located outside the kitchen and make donation of \$10.00 to Christine Durnin. Since we have a larger sanctuary are to cover, we would appreciate your generosity in this regard to enhance the church at this most blessed season.

ENVELOPE USERS: It would be helpful to us if you could please check off the amount on the outside of the budget envelope. This will allow for more efficiency and accuracy in the recording of your budgets. Thank you kindly! Also, it has been observed that some people have forgotten to fill their budget envelopes with their offering (some sealed, others unsealed), and it is awkward to put us in this kind of position. We humbly ask you to be more careful in this regard.

IN PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE: Please continue to remember in your prayers all the needs of the parish family, the sick and suffering, those who have asked for our prayers, the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church, those people who have been denied their basic human rights and dignity, the oppressed, the lonely, the homeless and those who suffer, and those who have no peace of mind or heart.

REFLECTION: "The gladness of Christmas is Hope; the spirit of Christmas is Peace; the heart of Christmas is Love."

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.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Once again, as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, Christmas Greetings are sent to you, together with sincere gratitude for your loyal and generous cooperation throughout the year. May the true joy of a holy Christmas fill your hearts and the hearts of your loved ones during the coming year of 2023. It is hoped all our parishioners and friends will receive Holy Communion on Christmas and thus offer their hearts filled with love to our Infant Savior. In the Spirit of Christmas, the material needs of the parish are recommended to your charity. God bless you for your aid in His work.

Father Ephrem, Father Joe, Deacon Edmond, Deacon Gilbert

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Following Jesus Kids bulletin



More than  thousand years ago, Heavenly Father sent the  Gabriel  Mary, a young
 woman in the  of Nazareth. Gabriel told  that she  give birth  a  who was
 the Son of God. The  's name  Jesus.  married  Joseph, a carpenter. He, , had
 been told by an  that  's   the Savior. Later, the emperor of Rome com-
 manded everyone  pay a tax.   journeyed  , the city of their
 ancestor, ,  pay the tax. It was time    have her , but all the
  s were full.   had  live in a . There  gave birth
 Jesus  laid Him in a  used  feeding . That night an  appeared
 nearby . The  told the  that the Savior, Jesus Christ, was born in
 that they  find Him in a . Many heavenly beings joined the
 praising God  declaring peace on . The  went   the ,
 then told others about Him. Later, the  were led by a   the place where Jesus
 was. They worshiped Him  gave Him precious . A time long  told by  s
 had finally come.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



The glorious feast of Christmas is finally here, and what a mysterious blessing it is. For the Eternal Word of God becomes a human being—as helpless a babe as was ever born—with a manger for His crib. Angels sing in His honor. The lowly shepherds and the foreign wise men worship Him. A young virgin becomes a mother, not simply of a Son, but of the Son of God. And kings tremble, for this baby brings to earth a Kingdom not of this world.

The good news of Christmas is that Jesus Christ is born this day, not to judge or to destroy us, but to save and bless us. He is the Second Adam in Whom the diseased decay of the first Adam is healed. By becoming one of us, He brings us into the life of God. We are made holy, we are fulfilled, we are raised to life eternal in Him.

Our Lord brings His great joy to the world humbly and peaceably. He does not arrive in the earthly splendor of a king, with the military power of a conquering general, or in the material comfort of the rich. Instead, He takes the lowest, most vulnerable place for Himself: born in a cave used as a barn to a family that lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and the cruelty of Herod. Soon Joseph would take the Virgin Mary and the young Jesus to Egypt by night, fleeing for their lives from a wicked, murderous king. What a difficult, lowly way to come into a dark and dangerous world, not unlike how refugee children are born in parts of the Middle East, Africa, and other war-torn regions to this very day.

But when we pause to consider the glory of our Lord's Incarnation, we should not be surprised at all. For what does it mean for the Immortal One to put on mortality? What does it mean for the One Who spoke the world into existence to become part of that creation? What does it mean for the King of the universe to become subject to the kings of the world? It means humility and selfless, suffering love beyond our understanding. For our Lord, God, and Savior is not a rational concept to be defined, but a Person Who shares His life with us. So that we could enter into His life, He

entered into ours, sanctifying every bit of what it means to be a human being, literally from the womb to the tomb that could not contain Him.

The wise men show us how to respond to the unbelievably good news that God has become a human being: they worship Him. Let us follow their example this Christmas season by worshipping Him as we open ourselves to the glorious transformation that the Incarnate Son of God brings. For Christ is born, and the peace and joy of God's kingdom are ours even as we live and breathe in the world as we know it. Christ is born, and we encounter Him in every human being, especially the poor, needy, and outcast. Christ is born, and we participate in the eternal life for which we were created in God's image and likeness.

Yes, this wonderful news really is true. And the only limits on the blessing of Christmas are those that we place on ourselves. For the One Who comes as a humble, meek, peaceable baby in a manger never forces us or anyone else. He is the Mystery of Love made flesh for our salvation. If we accept Him, we must become participants in the deified humanity that the God-Man Jesus Christ has brought to the world. We must live in this world in ways that reflect the deep truth of the Incarnation. We must become living icons of the good news of this season.

So this Christmas, let us be like Mary the Theotokos who received Him with joy, like the elder Joseph His steadfast protector, and like that strange combination of lowly shepherds and Persian astrologers who first worshipped Him. Let us welcome Him into our life and live accordingly, for now nothing but our own refusal can separate us from His love. That, my brothers and sisters, is the good news of Christmas.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

تأمل في معاني المغارة

إلى الملائكة، ولو أنهم كانوا ينظرون إلى أغنامهم، لما رأوا علامة السماء. وهذا مهم جداً بالنسبة لرعاة الكنيسة ولكل مسيحي ولكل صاحب قرار أن ينظروا إلى السماء والى شريعته الإلهية، والى المحبة المتجلية في عمل الله وكل الخلاق ورحمته اللامتناهية لضعفنا وخطايانا، قيل أن يصدرنا أحكامهم على من هم مسؤولون عنهم.

يقول الإنجيل عن هؤلاء الرعاة: "طوبى لأنقياء القلب، فإنهم يعاينون الله" (متى 5: 8).

لأن محبتهم للمسيح المولود، تخطت فقرهم، والكثير من هموم الحياة التي كانت تثقل كاهلهم، وجعلتهم يتبعون كلام الملائكة، ويهرعون إلى المغارة، ليجدوا مريم ويوسف، والطفل مضجعا في المذود (لو 2: 16)، فأصبحوا أغنياء بالله الذي افقر لأجلهم. فبلغوا مع المجوس إلى الذي لا يُبلغ إليه: أي إلى الله. فهم إذن العيون الشاحصة نحو السماء، والمتأمل في أمورها.

يرمز الرعاة أيضاً إلى المسيح، الراعي الصالح (يو 10: 11)، والى الرسل، الذين هم رعاة العالم. وكل واحد منا هو راعٍ لإخوته البشر العائشين معه. فهم إذن، يطرحون علينا السؤال التالي: "إلى أين تتجه أنظارك؟ إلى السماء أم إلى الأرض؟ إلى الخدمة أم إلى التسلسل؟ إلى الذي يدوم أم على الذي يزول؟

ونحن بدورنا، إن لم نتخل عن ذاتنا، وننطلق مثل الرعاة، متخليين عن راحتنا وأنانيتنا الشخصية، لنفتش عن الطفل الجديد، فلن يتم الميلاد في حياتنا، ولن نرى شيئاً من عجائبه

يرمز القديس يوسف إلى الطاعة الواعية والصامتة. ويرمز إلى تكميل إرادة الله بصمت. فهو لم يتمرد لم يتذمر. واستطاع أن يحمي الله المتجسد بيسوع المسيح، بصمته المصلي. وتصرف كما أمره الملاك بدون جدال. وهو يرمز إلى الإنسان المترقب لعلامات الله في حياته، دون أن يرفضها أو يتهرب منها، حتى لو يفهمها.

كذلك حين شك يوسف في قلبه وخاف، لم يتردد أن يأخذ مريم، كما أمره الملاك، مخضعاً منطقته لنعمة الله وعمله. فهل من إيمان أكبر؟ إنه بنى بيته على صخر الإيمان، فلم تحطمه سيول الشك "فكل من سمع أقوالي هذه وعمل بها يشبه رجلاً عاقلاً بنى بيته على الصخر: فهطل المطر، وجاءت السيول، وعصفت الرياح، وانقضت على ذلك البيت فلم يسقط لأن أساسه ثابت على الصخر" (متى 7: 24-25)

رَبِّي يسوع، في زمن الحب والعطاء، زمن التجسد، حيث يصبح الله إنساناً ليصبح الإنسان إلهاً. تُرسل السماء خالقها، وتستقبل الأرض من يقدسها؛ ويتأله الإنسان، لأن الله يصبح ابن الإنسان، وترتل الملائكة بالمجد، ويبلغ المجوس ملء الحقيقة بلقائهم طفل المذود، ويجد الرعاة الراعي الصالح. "وتلد العذراء الكلمة الكائن قبل الدهور، ولادة تفوق كل وصف، وتقدم الأرض المغارة لمن لا يدنى منه. فافرحي أيتها المسكونة، ومجدي من شاء أن يظهر طفلاً جديداً، إلهاً الذي قبل الدهور." شكراً يا يسوع، لأنك أصبحت صغيراً، لكي نصبح نحن الصغار، قريبين إلى الله بك، وجعلت روحك يصلّي فينا: "أباً أيها الأب". لك المجد يا متجسداً في حبك. آمين.



هي مكونة من حجر، محفورة في الصخر. والبيت الصامد والقوي الذي تحدّث عنه المسيح، هو البيت "المبني على الصخر". وقد سمى المسيح بطرس صخراً: "وأنا أقول لك: أنت صخرٌ وعلى هذا الصخر سأبني كنيستي، وأبواب الجحيم لن تقوى عليها" (متى 16: 18). **ترمز المغارة إذن إلى قلب الإنسان الثابت في الله أمام كل الصعوبات والتجارب.** ونتأمل في نصن للقديس غريغوريوس اللاهوتي، يتكلّم فيه عن بيت لحم: "كزمو بيت لحم، هذه القرية المتواضعة، التي رفعت حقارتكم إلى مجد السماء. مجدوا من ولدوا في المغارة، لأن المغارة أصبحت باب "عدن" (أي باب الجنة).

لم تعد بيت لحم قرية حقيرة في مدن يهوذا، بل أصبحت قلب كل إنسان يولد فيه الله.

لم تعد مجهولة في الزمان والمكان، بل أصبحت في كل مكان وزمان، وفي حياة كل إنسان قيل الله. "نعم لقد أصبحت بيت لحم كبيرة، واتسعت المغارة للمكون كله، إذ وسعت رب الكون، فصارت تشبه قلب كل محب. واكتملت بذلك النبوة، إذ أعطت بيت لحم (أي بيت الخبز) المسيح خبزاً حياً لكل الناس، من يأكل منه يحيا إلى الأبد.

تأمل في النجم:

يرمز النجم إلى النور: "أنتم نور العالم" (متى 5: 14). والمسيح نور. وقد جاء النور إلى العالم ليضيء الظلمة: "ما دمت في العالم، فاتنا نور العالم" (يو 9: 1).

ويرمز النجم أيضاً إلى يسوع الذي يقودنا إلى الآب. والى المسيحيين الذين يقودوننا إلى الله. لذلك نحن أبناء النور وأبناء النهار. ويرمز أيضاً إلى المبشرين الذين يبشرون بالنور في عالم الظلمة. ويرمز إلى الكاهن الواقف أمام الهيكل. فهو نجم يضيء الكنيسة كلها، ويوجهنا نحو الله الموجود في الهيكل. لذلك على المؤمنين أن يتمسكوا بالمسيح "كما بمصباح يضيء في مكان مظلم، إلى أن ينفجر النهار ويشرق كوكب الصبح في قلوبكم" (2 بط 1: 19). **فالنجم إذن، دعوة لنا لنكون النور على المنارة، وليس تحت المكيال (متى 5: 14-16).**

الذهب والبخور والمر:

قدّم المجوس للمسيح الذهب دلالة على أنه ملك، وملكه أبدي وسلطانه لا يبلى؛ ودلالة على أن مجد البشر لا يدوم بدون مجد الله. وقدموا له البخور، دلالة على أنه إله أزلي، وأن كل من لا يرتبط به لا يثبت. وقدموا له المرّ دلالة على أنه كائن، سيتحمل آلام الإنسانية، الذي بطل مفهومها كعقاب. وطالما أن هناك إنساناً يتألم فبالله لا يزال يتألم. **فالمغارة إذن، هي مكان التقاء الإنسان مع الله بالتواضع، المرشد إلى الآب. تجسد الله في عالم الإنسان، وسلطان الله على الأرض.**

يرمز الرعاة إلى الله الآب الراعي (حزقيال 34: 1-16) ويرمز الرعاة أيضاً إلى الفقراء، الناظرين إلى السماء، الذين كانوا ينظرون



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



DECEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 كانون الأول – ديسمبر 2022 NOVEMBER 2022 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 JANUARY 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					1 Holy Prophet Nahum 1 Timothy 3:1-13 Luke 20:9-18	2  Holy Prophet Habakkuk 1 Timothy 4:4-8,16 Luke 20:19-26	3 Holy Prophet Zephaniah Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 12:32-40
	4  St John the Damascene 10 th Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد العاشر بعد عيد الصليب Galatians 3:23-4:5 Luke 13:10-17	5 St Sabbas the Sanctified Galatians 5:22-6:2 Matthew 11:27-30	6 St Nicholas of Myra Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23	7  St Ambrose of Milan 1 Timothy 5:22-6:11 Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24	8 Prep of Maternity of Anne, grandmother of our Lord 1 Timothy 6:17-21 Luke 21:28-33	9  Maternity of Anne Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21	10  Beginning of the Nativity Fast بدء صوم الميلاد Galatians 5:22-6:2 Luke 13:19-29
	11  Holy Ancestors of Christ أحد الأجداد القديسين Colossians 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-25	12  St Spyridon of Trimythus Ephesians 5:8-19 John 10:9-16	13  St Eustrates and his companions 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 Mark 8:22-26	14  St Thyrcos and his companions 2 Timothy 4:9-22 Mark 8:30-34	15  St Eleutherios 1 Titus: 5-14 Mark 9:9-15	16  Holy Prophet Haggai Titus 1:15-2:10 Mark 9:33-41	17  Holy Prophet Daniel Ephesians 1:16-23 Luke 14:1-11
18  Genealogy of Christ أحد نسب السيد المسيح Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25	19  St Boniface Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19 Mark 9:42-10:1	20  Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord Hebrews 4:1-13 Mark 10:2-12	21  St Juliana of Nicomedia Hebrews 5:11-6:8 Mark 10:11-16	22  St Anastasia Hebrews 7:1-6 Mark 10:17-27	23   Paramony of Christmas بارمون الميلاد Hebrews 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20	24  Saturday before the Nativity السبت الذي قبل الميلاد Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 13:19-29	
25  Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ ميلاد سيدنا يسوع المسيح Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12	26  St Joseph the Betrothed Synaxis of the Theotokos Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23	27 St Stephen Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 Matthew 21:33-42	28 Holy Martyrs of Nicomedia Hebrews 10:1-18 Mark 11:22-26	29 Holy Innocents in Bethlehem Hebrews 10:35-11:7 Mark 11:27-33	30 St Anysia Hebrews 11:8-16 Mark 12:1-12	31 Leave-taking of the Nativity وداع الميلاد 1 Timothy 3:13-4:5 Matthew 3:1-6	

NEW YEAR – THEOPHANY

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festal Divine Liturgy.

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festal Divine Liturgy with Youth Pageant.

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy **Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord – St Basil's Feast - New Years' Day**
(at St. Elias's Chapel)

Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (at St. Elias's Chapel)

Thursday, January 5 – Feast of the Theophany

6:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

Sunday, January 8 – Solemnity of the Theophany

9:00 a.m. English Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

11:15 a.m. Arabic Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

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New Year's Eve 2023

Saturday, December 31st, 8:30 pm – 2:00 am

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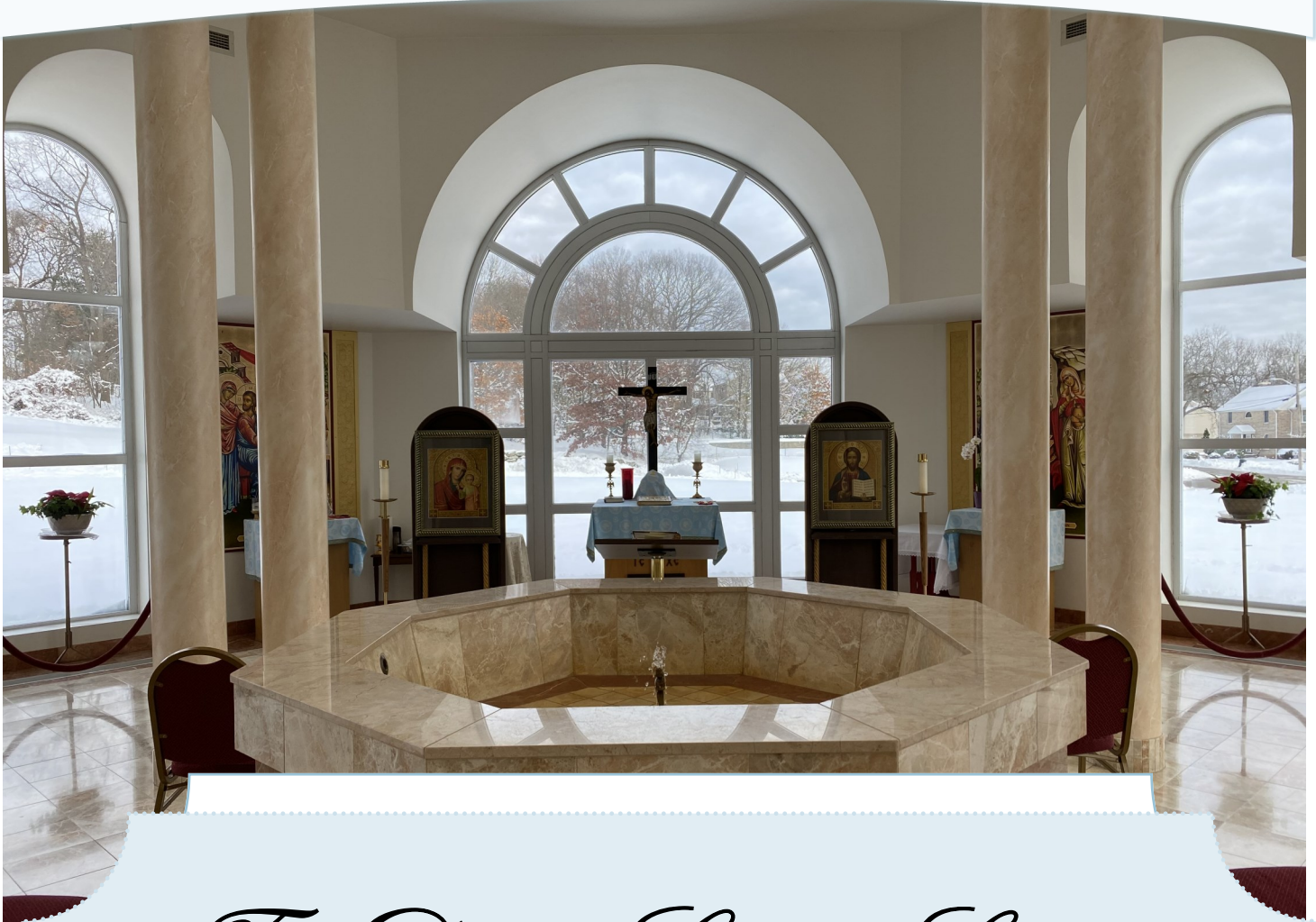
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Faiz AlBatal 401-692-1808
Ranim Nassar 401-489-4482
Kyle Mardo 401-578-5369

All Tickets must be pre-paid (Cash, checks, credit) - Deadline December 26, 2022

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Divine Liturgy

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

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

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Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 11/4/2022



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: \$363,000



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.



Walk In Cooler & Kitchen Repairs: Reviewing needs and potential options.



Exterior/Masonry /Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals.



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

Important Highlights

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



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

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737

Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190

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