



April 11th 2021

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



Sunday of Saint Thomas أحد القديس توما

Address :

15 Skyview Dr.
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Parish Website :

www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/StBasilTheGreatMelkiteGreekCatholicChurchRI/>

YouTube :

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

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Telephone : (401)722-1345

Office hours :

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

Divine Liturgies :

Tuesday through Friday at 9: 00 A.M.

Saturday at 4:00 P.M.

Sunday at 11:00 A.M.

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

Holy Mysteries:

Reconciliation:

Saturday 2:30 –3:30 P.M.,

Sunday 9:30-10:30 A.M., or by appointment.

Baptisms: Please arrange with the pastor.

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

Antiphon Prayer

O Christ God, You showed Thomas your side from which gushed blood and water, symbol of Baptism. You invited him to touch the wound by which mankind was healed from its ancient deep wound. We ask You to strengthen our faith in your Divinity and Humanity so that we may become witnesses to your glorious Resurrection by our words, our deeds and our way of life.

For You are our Resurrection, 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 St. Thomas 7th Tone (3 times)

While the tomb was sealed You shone forth from it, O Christ our Life, and while the doors remained closed, You stood among your Disciples, O Resurrection of all, and through them You restored a new spirit in us according to your great Mercy.

Kondakion of Pascha

Though You went down in the tomb, O Immortal One, You overthrew the power of hades, and rose victorious, O Christ God, Your greeted the Ointment Bearing Women, saying: Rejoice! You gave peace to your Apostles, and to those who had fallen resurrection.

Hymn to the Theotokos:

The angel cried out to the Woman full of grace: "Hail, immaculate Virgin!" Again, hail, for on the third day your Son is risen from the dead. Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen over you. Cry out now and rejoice, O Sion; and you, the pure one, the Mother of God, exult in the resurrection of the One to whom you gave birth.

صلاة الأنديفون

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من أظهر لتوما جنبه الذي خرج منه الدم والماء، رمز المعمودية، ودعاه ليلمس الجرح الذي به شفي الإنسان من الجرح العظيم، ثبت إيماننا بلاهوتك، فنصبح شهوداً لقيامتك المجيدة بأقوالنا وأفعالنا وسيرتنا الجديدة لأنك أنت قيامتنا أيها المسيح الإله، واليك نرفع المجد، وإلى أبليك الأزلي وروحك القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين.

نشيد القديس توما باللحن السابع (3 مرات)

إذ كان القبر مختوماً اشرقت منه ايها الحياة. ولما كانت الابواب مغلقة وقفت بالتلاميذ، ايها المسيح الاله قيامة الكل وجددت لنا بهم روحاً مستقيماً بعظيم رحمتك.

القنداق باللحن الثاني (أو الثامن)

وإن نزلت إلى القبر يا من لا يموت، فقد نقضت قدرة الجحيم وقمت كظافر، أيها المسيح الإله. وللنساء حاملات الطيب قلت افرجن. ولرسلك وهبت السلام، يا مانح الواقعين القيام.

نشيد لوالدة الاله باللحن الاول

ان الملاك خاطب الممثلة نعمة: أيها العذراء النقية افرجي. وايضاً أقول افرجي، لأن ابنك قد قام من القبر في اليوم الثالث. أستنيري أستنيري. يا اورشليم الجديدة. لأن مجد الرب قد أشرق عليك. افرجي الآن وسري يا صهيون. وأنّي يا نقيّة يا والدة الاله افرجي بقيامة ولدك.





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>



SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS PROKIMENON (Tone 3)

Great is our Lord, and great is his power, and to his wisdom there is no limit.

Stichon: Praise the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

READING from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days by the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people (and with one accord, they all would meet in Solomon's portico; but of the rest, no one dared to associate with them, yet the people made much of them. And the multitude of men and women who believed in the Lord continued to increase), so that they carried the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and pallets, in order that, as Peter went by, at least his shadow would fall upon some of them. And crowds also came to Jerusalem from neighboring towns, and they brought the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits — and all of them were healed. But the High Priest rose up, and all his supporters (that is, the members of the Sadducean sect), and being filled with hatred, they laid their hands upon the apostles and threw them into the public jail. But during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, and led them out, saying: "Go, and standing in the temple, speak to the people all the words of this life."

ALLELUIA (Tone 8)

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, let us sing gladly to God our Savior!

Stichon: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Gospel of the Feast, John 20: 19-31 (Skeptic Thomas) The Holy Gospel according to St. John the Evangelist

When it was late, that same day, the first of the week, though the doors where the disciples gathered had been closed for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, "Peace be to you!" And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore rejoiced at the sight of the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." When he had said this, he breathed upon them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side I will not believe." And after eight days, his disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being closed, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be to you!" Then he said to Thomas. "Bring here your finger, and see my hands; and bring here your hand, and put it into my side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." Many other signs also Jesus worked in the sight of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

مقدمة الرسالة

عظيم ربنا وعظيمة قوته، ولا إحصاء لعلمية

سبحوا الرب فإن الترنيم صالح، لإلهنا يلد التسبيح

اعمال الرسل (5 : 12 - 20)

في تلك الايام، جرت على ايدي الرسل آيات وعجائب كثيرة في الشعب. وكانوا كلهم بنفس واحد في رواق سليمان. ولم يكن احد من الآخرين يجترئ ان يخالطهم، بل كان الشعب يعظمهم. وكان جماعات من رجال ونساء ينضمون بكثرة، مؤمنين بالرب، حتى انهم كانوا يخرجون بالمرضى الى الشوارع، ويضعونهم على فرش وأسرة، ليقع ولو ظل بطرس عند اجتيازه على بعضي منهم. وكان يجتمع ايضا الى اورشليم جمهور المدن التي حولها، يحملون المرضى والمعدبين بالارواح النجسة، فكانوا يشفون جميعهم. فقام رئيس الكهنة وكل من معه، وهم من مذهب الصدوقيين، وامتلأوا حسداً. وألقوا أيديهم على الرسل وجعلوهم في السجن العام. ففتح ملاك الرب ابواب السجن ليلاً، وأخرجهم وقال: امضوا وقفوا في الهيكل، وكلّموا الشعب بجميع كلمات هذه الحياة.

هللوا

هلم نبتهج بالرب، ونهلل لله مخلصنا

فإن الرب اله عظيم، ومملك عظيم على الارض كلها.

الانجيل (يوحنا 20: 19-31)

في عشية ذلك اليوم عينه، وهو الاول في الاسبوع، والابواب مغلقة، حيث كان التلاميذ مجتمعين خوفاً من اليهود، جاء يسوع ووقف في الوسط وقال لهم: السلام لكم. ولما قال هذا أراهم يديه وجنبته، ففرح التلاميذ إذ أبصروا الرب. وقال لهم يسوع ثانية: السلام لكم، كما أرسلني الآب كذلك أنا أرسلكم. ولما قال هذا نفخ فيهم وقال لهم: خذوا الروح القدس. من غفرتم خطاياهم تُغفر لهم، ومن أمسكتكم خطاياهم أمسكت. وان توما أحد الاثني عشر الذي يُقال له التوأم، لم يكن معهم حين جاء يسوع. فقال له التلاميذ الآخرون: إننا قد رأينا الرب. فقال لهم إن لم أر موضع المسامير في يديه، وأضغ إصبعي في موضع المسامير، وأضغ يدي في جنبه لا أؤمن. وبعد ثمانية أيام كان تلاميذه أيضاً داخلًا وتوما معهم. فأتى يسوع والابواب مغلقة ووقف في الوسط وقال السلام لكم. ثم قال لتوما: هات إصبعك الى ههنا. وعاین يدي، وهات يدك وضعها في جنبی، ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً. أجاب توما وقال له: ربي والهي! قال له يسوع: لأنك رأيتني يا توما أمنت طوبى للذين لم يروا وآمنوا. وآيات أخرى كثيرة صنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه لم تُكتب في هذا الكتاب. وإنما كتبت هذه لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع المسيح هو ابن الله. ولتكون لكم اذا آمنتم، الحياة باسمه.



ST. BASIL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.



SACRIFICIAL GIVING: April 4, 2021: Budgets: \$4,272.00; Envelopes: \$4,234.00; Loose: \$38.00; Stipends: \$50.00; Candles: \$271.26; Building Fund: \$70.00; Addit'l Melkite Support: \$30.00; Addit'l Cemetery: \$5.00; Fuel: \$310.00; Lilies Donation: \$60.00; Raffle: \$100.00; Easter Offerings: \$1,630.00; CIGNA: \$2.00.

Please be advised that the weekly bulletin has not been printed due to the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, but presently, information is available online, church Facebook page and on YouTube.

Next Weekend, April 10 & 11 there will be a **SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.** Please give out of the abundance of your heart.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Father Ephrem, Father Joe, Deacon Edmond, and Deacon Gilbert, wish to express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your thoughtful greetings, cards, and generous gifts at this Easter Season and for all personal kindnesses.

May our Risen Savior bless you with the peace and confidence of our holy faith which allows us to share in such magnificent mysteries!

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!

PRAYERS FOR FR. DANIEL NASSANEY: March 17th Father Dan was scheduled to have an MRI to determine the results of the radiation treatment and the size and condition of the tumor. The operation itself took place, Wednesday, April 7th. What happens after will depend on the results of the operation. He thanks you all for your messages, cards, prayers and good wishes and conveys a BLESSED EASTER to all! May Almighty God, Physician of our souls and bodies stretch forth His right hand above the priest-servant, Fr. Dan, and heal him from this devastating illness in His Divine Providence.

2020 BUDGET STATEMENTS AVAILABLE: It is that time of year to start thinking about the preparation of your 2020 Federal Income Tax Returns. Statements of your offerings to the Church for 2020 will only be issued upon request. If you would like a statement, please contact Father Joe at the rectory at 722-1345. To those who have been using envelopes, we extend our thanks, and a reminder to please mark the amount enclosed which facilitates the recording of your contributions and allows for more accuracy. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD!!!**

MEMORY ETERNAL: It is with deep sadness that we announce to you the passing into eternal life of the handmaid of God, **CLAUDINE RABBAT**, paternal grandmother of Dr. Sherine Mussalli. May she rest in peace!

Also, the passing into eternal life of the servant of God, **TODD HARRAKA**, son of Anthony & Nancy Harraka, and the nephew of George Harraka of our Parish. May he rest in peace!

(Please remember the repose of their souls in your prayers as well as all the souls of the faithful departed! May their memories be eternal!)

REFLECTION: Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.



Divine Liturgy Intentions



TODAY, APRIL 10, AND SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER. SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS.

4:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **GLORIA MACKSOD (1st Anniv)** by her children and their Families.
- + **PAULINE GIRARD (15TH Anniv.)** by Terry Noury McMichael.
- + **ELLA SARKAS DEEB AZAR (32nd Anniv.)** by her grand-daughters, Pamela Azar & Patricia Azar Antonelli.
- + **REV. ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY** by George & Jeanne Harraka.
- + **ANGELA MAZZONE** by Alberta Mardo.
- + **JOSEPH HARRAKA** by the Costa Family.
- + **ANTHONY NAJJAR** by Alberta Mardo.
- + **MARY TAHAN** by Tony & Myrna Brahimsa.
- + **VICTORIA PROCHNIAK** by Michael & Joanne Kanakry & Family.
- + **YVONNE HAGGAR COLABELLA** by Michael & Lorraine Yabroud.
- + **JAY PAUL** by his parents, Dr. & Mrs. Biswa N. Paul.
- + **JAMES N. ALLAM** by Pat-Luc St. Germain.

11:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **CLAUDINE RABBAT (40 Day)** by George & Sherine Mussalli & Family.
- + **DR. ADEL RABBAT (15th Anniv.)** by George & Sherine Mussalli & Family.
- + **JAMES L. & LILLIAN SALOME** by their children & their Families.
- + **ANTWANET KASATLI** by Eugenie Mashata & Family.
- + **ADEL ALBATAL** by Samir & Hanaa Boudjouk.
- + **MICHAEL ALAM** by Faiz & Susan Albatal.
- + **MARIE CLAIRE CHOUHA** by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy
- + **LINDA ALKHOULY HADDAD** by Neil, Yola Karraz & Family.
- + **PHILIP FRANCIS** by Fawwaz Francis.
- + **NIDAL NASSORY** by Fawwaz Francis.
- + **YOSIF BITRUS** by Fawwaz Francis.
- + **HUDA YOSIF** by Fawwaz Francis.
- + **NADIM MEKA** by Fawwaz Francis.
- + **LOUIS P. KISHFY** by Kawsar Boudjouk.
- + **YOUSSEF AGHIA** by Joseph & Najat Charchafiah
- + **GEORGETTE A. SAGGAL** by Aboud & Mira Saggal.
- + **RUTH PERRY** by Kenneth, Ann, Allyson & Kimberly Sabbagh.
- + **JOSEPH P. AZAR, JR.** by Joe & Yolanda Saggal.
- + **GEORGE BOUDJOUK** by M/M Craig Kishfy & Family.
- + **YOUSSEF MADOUR** by Samir Boudjouk & Family.
- + **YUSUF & BLANCHE MUSSALLI** by Ken & Ann Sabbagh.
- + **GEORGE DECKEY** by Gloria Deckey & Family.
- + **GEORGEANNA DECKEY** by Hon. Thomas Lazieh & Sons
- + **ELIAS J. KISHFY** by Dennis Dakake.
- + **JULIA & FRED KISHFY** by the Family.
- + **ALBERT J. KISHFY** by Kevin Kishfy
- + **FRANCIS A. SAGGAL** by Patrick, Mary, Brooke & J.P. Saggal.
- + **JAY PAUL** by his parents, Dr. & Mrs. Biswa N. Paul.
- + **HOLY & FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY** by M/M Joseph Saggal.



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.



"My Lord and My God"



We often judge people by one mistake. We never let them forget it. Further, we never let the world forget it. When we think of David, we think of his sin. We forget what a great man he was in spite of his failure. When we think of Jacob, we think of how he stole his brother's birthright. When we think of Peter, we remember his denial. Shakespeare said, "The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones." This is what happened to Thomas. No doubt he showed great faith many times, but we remember him because of his doubt. Today when someone is skeptical, we call that person a doubting Thomas. In reality Thomas was one of the most steadfast and loyal apostles among the Twelve. How many times we have wrongly judged someone!

I. We know that Thomas was skeptical by nature.

- ◆ A. Thomas believed with much difficulty. One day when Jesus was preaching far from Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, his friend Lazarus became seriously ill. In great haste Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, sent for Jesus to come and heal him. When word of Lazarus's sickness reached Jesus, he deliberately lingered for two days. The apostles, remembering the threat of mob action on their last trip to Jerusalem, presumed that was the reason. However, at the end of two days, Jesus surprised them by announcing that he was departing for Bethany. They protested, saying, "The Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?" (John 11:8). Jesus answered, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless, let us go unto him" (vv. 14–15). Thomas responded, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (v. 16). His comment seems to reveal excessive pessimism. He could see nothing but disaster ahead. Melancholy marked him.
- ◆ B. We must hasten to add that some of the most creative spirits who have ever lived have been of this nature. Georgia Harkness, a theologian and author, described her personal struggle with depression in *The Dark Night of the Soul*. She told how she came through the valley to find strength and victory in her experiences. In the Scriptures we find expression of this temperament in Job, David, Elijah, and Jeremiah. If Thomas was melancholy, he had plenty of company.
- ◆ C. Again, when Jesus sought to assure the disciples of eternal life, the spirit of Thomas was revealed. "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself" (John 14:2–3). Thomas broke in, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" (John 14:5). Thomas could not accept things without questioning them. He was a realist who wanted to be sure.
- ◆ D. Thomas utterly refused to believe the resurrection. Even after the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, Thomas said,

"Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails ... I will not believe" (John 20:25). Thomas had to see for himself. He was the last to concede the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Have you doubted? Most of us have. The psalmist cried out, "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Ps. 13:1).

II. Thomas wanted to believe.

There is a difference between honest and dishonest doubters. Some people just do not want to believe. They prefer a life of ungodliness. They make up excuses and blame others as a cover for their own dishonesty. This was not the spirit of Thomas. Thomas wanted to believe.

III. Thomas found sympathy from Jesus.

- A. Christ blames no one for wanting to be sure. Jesus did not condemn Thomas for his doubts. Jesus knew that once Thomas fought his way through the wilderness of his doubts, he would be the surest man in Christendom. Jesus never says, "You must have no doubts," but rather, "You must struggle with your doubts until you reach certainty." Jesus appeared again and said to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands" (John 20:27). Jesus spoke to him as a sincere disciple whose faith was weak, not as one with an evil heart of unbelief. Thomas's answer was immediate. He fell down prostrate at Jesus's feet and exclaimed with a warm, passionate cry of joy, "My Lord and my God!" His doubts vanished in the presence of the living Christ like morning mist in the sunlight.
- B. Thomas has given assurance to the world. His confession was noble—the most advanced, in fact, made by any of the Twelve during the time they were with Jesus. The greatest doubter attained the fullest and firmest belief. Thomas declared his belief in the miraculous by proclaiming, "The One who was dead is alive! This One who was crucified has become my Lord!" He acknowledged Jesus as the Christ.

IV. Thomas emerged stronger because he doubted.

Thomas's faith became strong and vibrant. Tradition has it that he took the gospel to India. Tertullian said about the early Christians, "No man would be willing to die unless he knew he had the truth." They would not have died for a dream. They would not have been loyal to a figment of their imagination. Thomas emerged victorious and became faithful unto death in his witness for God. We emerge victorious as we wait on God to reveal himself.

Conclusion

Do you have doubts? Keep doing the best you know right where you are. Stay faithful. Keep trusting, following, serving, praying. God will reveal himself. He will show you the nail prints.



القديس توما هو انا وانت

ولمساو وسمعوا وتحسسوا طريق كرازة الحق؛ ساجدين ناطقين بصوت واحد: (ربي والهلي)... فجروح صليبه المميته باقية وظاهرة؛ وقد صارت علامات حياة... وهذه من معجزات الكرازة التي تأسست على العيان واللمس والإمسك بنار اللاهوت.

فقد أحدثت أهوال آلام الصليب صدمة عقلية لدى الكثيرين؛ ومن بينهم توما الذي تشكك وتشكك فكره بالمسامير والطعنة والأشواك والجلدات والدم والماء النازفين... هذا الشك الذي قاده لملازمة جراح المسيح كي يشفي كل جراح الشك بشكل أفضل من لو كتب مجلدات لا تُحصى.

لذلك أعاد له الرب نفس كلماته التي نطق بها منادياً: يا توما (هات إصبعك إلى هنا وأبصر يدي؛ وهات يدك وضعها في جنبتي ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً). وكان الرب في رحمته حقق له الشروط المُغلظة التي طلبها كي يؤمن وحتى لا يكون غير مؤمن... لذلك أجابه توما قائلًا: (ربي والهلي)؛ مسجلاً أول اعتراف علني بالوهية المسيح القائم حال ظهوره أمامهم بلحمه وعظامه وبآثار الآلام وبصوته هو هو؛ بينما الأبواب مغلقة... إنه الملاء الذي يملأ الروح والبصيرة والقلب... الملاء الذي لا تسعه عين ولا يحيطه فكر أو إدراك.

إن هذه الجراحات التي أعلنها الرب وأظهرها في ظهورات قيامته؛ ستظل ظاهرة في مجيئه الثاني؛ عندما يأتي على السحاب وتظهره كل عين والذين طعنوه أيضاً؛ تلك العلامات هي سر حياة وفرح وغفران وخلص ورجاء وبهاء المنتظرين... وهي في ذات الوقت علامة قضاء وفرح رهيب وخزي مخيف للذين رفضوها وازدروا بها... هذه الجراحات هي جراحات خُبه ورحمته وخلصه لنا... هي الجراحات التي أسست كرازة التلاميذ الرسولية، وهي التي تعلن شفاعة الابن الوحيد عنا لدى الأب، وهي أيضاً التي ستبقى لديونة الأشرار في يوم الرب العظيم.

إن هذه الجراحات تدعونا اليوم جميعاً لنلمسها ونجسها كي نتقوى ونتثبت بالتوبة وأعمال التوزيع والخير ووليمة الإفخارستيا، فأَي من لم يثق بالآلام؛ ليس له الحق في خبرة القيامة.

إن مسيحننا القائم يأتي إلينا في خوفنا وشكنا؛ ليداوي ويشفي كل عاطفة سطحية وكل تساؤل وكل جرح وارتداد، يمنحنا سلامه وأجوبته؛ عندما يطل بوجهه علينا ويُسمعنا صوته المُفرح؛ محولاً كل شك إلى حُجة إيمان؛ ليس فقط ببراهين فلسفية؛ بل ببرهان قطعي مُعاش حسب الإنجيل؛ نعيشه في عِليننا؛ في خفاء؛ معانين عظمته الفصحية، ويكون هو لنا حياتنا كلنا ورجاءنا كلنا وشفاعنا كلنا وخلصنا كلنا وقيامتنا كلنا.

توما هو كل انسان يؤمن بالرب، لكنه عندما يرى ما لا يتوقعه، عندما يرى ان الواقع يكذب ما كان ينتظر، عندما يرى الآلام والصعاب في الحياة يتشكك ويقول اكيد ما يحدث لي ليس من عند الرب. كيف يسمح الرب بكل هذا؟ كيف لا يتدخل؟ لماذا كل هذا الآلام، الموت، الصعاب؟ لماذا؟ كيف؟

توما هو انا وانت عندما نتشكك من الامنا ونفقد الرجاء، عندما يخيب ظننا. عندما يتصرف الرب في حياتنا بطريقة مختلفة عما كنا نتوقعه. فنفقد الايمان، ونعتقد انه ما يحدث لنا ليس من الله. نفقد الايمان بان الله قادر ان يحول موتنا لحياة وان يقيمنا حتى من اعماق قبورنا التي دفنا فيها لسبب او لآخر.

الرب القائم لا يتشكك منا اليوم بل يقول لنا: "كن مؤمناً". وبهذا يخلق فينا الايمان من جديد. احد توما هو خبر مفرح لكل من فقد الايمان، لكل من هو متشكك من واقعه اليوم، لكل من تعثر من احداث حياته. فليقبل تلك الكلمة من المسيح "كن مؤمناً".



في اليوم الثامن لقيامه الرب تحتفل الكنيسة (باحد توما) ويُسمى (احد الحنود) أو (الأحد الجديد) وهو واحد من الأعياد السيديّة الصغرى؛ لأنه ذكرى تثبيت الخلاص، فاليوم الأول للقيامه واليوم الثامن لهما وحدتهما الحميمة؛ إذ بعد ثمانية أيام (أوكتاف القيامة) Октавъ أي بعد سبعة أيام نعيّد بأحد توما في الأحد التالي لأحد للقيامه؛ لأن توما لم يغد رمزاً للشك؛ بل ليقين القيامة.

وكذلك اليوم الثامن يشير إلى الدهر الآتي. ونحن نعيّد في هذا اليوم الثامن لتكثر للبيعة الإيمان والسلام؛ وتحقق شهادة القيامة، إزاء كل الشكوك وفوق كل الشكوك بأن المسيح (حقاً) قام بنفس جسده الذي عُلق به على الصليب... وقد ورثت الكنيسة الطوبى التاسعة لجميع الذين آمنوا ولم يروا؛ لأنهم مطّوبون بعمل يحوي الأعمال جميعاً؛ ويرتقي فوق كل المُعضلات المانعة للخلاص.

لقد كان التلاميذ مجتمعين بعد ثمانية أيام ومعهم توما؛ في (يوم أحد) يوم الرب المقدس؛ فكما بدأ الخلق الأول يوم أحد، يبدأ الخلق الثاني أيضاً في اليوم عينه... جاء يسوع وسط ترقب أول كنيسة اجتمعت بكامل هيئتها... ظهر لهم بطلعته البهية؛ كغالب للموت وقاهر للهاوية، تشع عبر جروح يديه ورجليه طاقات النور البهيج؛ وموجات الخلاص والشفاء الأبدية؛ تسري كنهز حياة؛ يغسل أساسات الكنيسة بغسل الحياة وغفران الخطايا.

دخل والأبواب مُغلقة لئيرينا أنه لما خرج لم يحل البتولية... دخل العليّة كما خرج من البطن... صوّر الأبواب المُغلقة لبتولية أمه. لم يفتح لما دخل وخرج من البطن؛ وخواتيم البتولية مضوّنة، فقوّته تحدّث كل الحدود؛ لأنه غير المحدود الذي لا يُحدّ. دخل من الأبواب جسداً وعظاماً؛ جسده ولمسوه وسمعوه وعابونه... وهو الذي ينضح بسلامه ورجائه ويخلص جميعنا من السبي.

بحضوره في العلية يصير هو سلامنا (سلام لكم) يسكب سلامه (يا ملك السلام أعطنا سلامك) ويمنحه كعطية نفوق وتُدّهل كل العقول... ليست كتحية مجردة؛ لكنها موهبة تسري في النفوس والقلوب والأفكار، تترسخ وتدم مستمرة وسط الضغوطات والعواصف وتجارب العمر.

سلامه بدد خوف التلاميذ المنكسحين؛ فقد ظهر لهم والأبواب مغلقة لسبب خوفهم؛ وقد أحكموا غلقها بمتاريس وأقفال. لكن المسيح هو نفسه الباب؛ وهو الذي بيده مفاتيح كل المغاليق. ألغى الأولويات والترتيبات والقوانين؛ لأنه فوق الزمان والمكان والحدود والحُجب. مانحاً سلامه وفرحه كعطية مجانية تسد فقر وجوعة كل زمان... وبركة سلامه حاملة لقوة وثمره القيامة؛ وهي التي تجعلنا سفراء سلامه في العالم؛ المبشرين بأخباره المفرحة.

قيامته والحجر موضوع؛ وظهوره والأبواب مغلقة؛ ووقوفه في الوسط (المركز)؛ وعطية سلامه جميعها هي علامات قيامته التي تأكّدت ببراهين حية كثيرة لا تُقاوم... فمسيح القيامة هو مسيح الصليب؛ الحي والذي كان ميتاً؛ وها هو حي إلى أبد الأبد... ذاك الذي قضى عليه وكأنه (قطع من أرض الأحياء). وها هو بجروحه المميته يتراعى لهم حياً واقفاً أمامهم؛ فقد أعطي أن يكون له حياة في ذاته. وعلامات الآله وجروحه الغائرة هي نفسها شهادة قيامته؛ إذ أنه قائم وكأنه مذبح؛ كي يشترينا ونصرخ نحوه قائلين: (اقتننا لك يا الله مخلصنا؛ لأننا لا نعرف آخر سواك؛ اسمك القدوس هو الذي نقوله؛ فلتحيا نفوسنا بروحك القدوس؛ ولا يقوى علينا نحن عبيدك موث الخطية؛ ولا على كل شعبك)... علامات الآله هي براهين مجد قيامته التي قتلت أوجاعنا؛ ومنحت الجسد البشري عطية الأبدية المقدسة؛ خالداً غير مانت.

لقد أخضع المسيح القائم جسده للروية واللمس؛ لتكون خبرة صادقة وشهادة عيان في استعلان شخصه (قد رأينا الرب). لتكون قيامته موقع التصديق للعقل والقلب؛ لجميع من أبصروا

Following Jesus Kids bulletin



Doubting Thomas Word-Find

Find the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle, and when you're done use the left over letters to fill in the blanks near the end.

T W E L V E S I N S R M
H R Y W U D J E W S E L
O E V E N I N G O R J F
M C D E L S A A S F O O
A E F K E C I P E A I R
S I E N S I L E N T C G
H V A D S P S A D H E I
A E R M Y L O C K E D V
N B E L I E V E D R G E
D J E S U S P I R I T N
S I D E B L E S S E D O
U N B E L I E V I N G D

In the EVENING when the doors were locked where the DISCIPLES were for FEAR of the JEWS, Jesus came and said, "PEACE be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples REJOICED. JESUS said again, "Peace be with you. As the FATHER has sent me, so I SEND you." He breathed on them and said, "RECEIVE the Holy SPIRIT. Whose SINS you forgive are FORGIVEN them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

THOMAS, one of the TWELVE, wasn't there when Jesus came so they told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said, "UNLESS I see the mark of the NAILS in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A WEEK later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were LOCKED, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my HANDS, and bring your hand and put it into my SIDE, and do not be UNBELIEVING, but believe." Thomas said to him,

"_____!"
Jesus said, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? BLESSED are those who have not seen and have BELIEVED."



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

APRIL



نيسان - أبريل
2021

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			

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					

Liturgical Symbols:

- Abstain from meat
- Church Major Feasts
- Fast from midnight until noon
- Lenten Season

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Great & Holy Thursday الخميس العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-27:2 John 13:3-17; Luke 22:43-44	2 Great & Holy Friday الجمعة العظيمة المقدسة Eothinon: Twelve Gospels	3 Great & Holy Saturday سبت النور Romans 6:3-12 Matthew 28:1-20
4 Easter Sunday أحد الفصح العظيم المقدس Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17	5 Monday of New Week أثنين التجديدات Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 John 1:18-28	6 Tuesday of New Week ثلاثاء التجديدات Acts 2:14-21 Luke 24:12-35	7 Wednesday of New Week أربعاء التجديدات Acts 2:22-38 John 1:35-51	8 Thursday of New Week خميس التجديدات Acts 2:38-43 John 3:1-15	9 Friday of New Week جمعة التجديدات Acts 3:1-8 John 2:12-22	10 Saturday of New Week سبت التجديدات Acts 3:9-16 John 3:22-33
11 St Thomas Sunday أحد الرسول توما Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31	12 St Basil of Parios Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11	13 St Martin, Pope of Rome Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21	14 Sts Aristarchos, Pudeos and Trophimus Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24	15 St Crescent Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30	16 Sts Agapia, Irene and Chionia Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-6:2	17 St Simeon the Persian Acts 5:21-32 John 6:14-27
18 Sunday of Holy Myrrh-bearers أحد حاملات الطيب Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8	19 St John the Hermit Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60 John 4:46-54	20 St Theodore Trichinas Acts 8:5-15 John 6:27-33	21 St Theodore of Pergia Acts 8:18-25 John 6:35-39	22 St Theodore Sykeotes Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44	23 St George the Triumphant القديس جاورجيوس Acts 12:1-11 John 15:17-16:2	24 St Elizabeth the Wonderworker Acts 9:19-31 John 15:17-16:2
25 Anzac Day Sunday of the Paralytic أحد المفلج 1 Peter 5:6-14 John 5:1-15	26 St Basil of Amasia Acts 10:1-16 John 6:56-69	27 St Simeon Acts 10:21-33 John 7:1-13	28 Mid-Paschaltide منتصف الخمسين Acts 14:6-18 John 7:14-30	29 St Memnon the Wonderworker Acts 10:34-43 John 8:12-20	30 St James the Apostle Acts 10:44-11:10 John 8:21-30	

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness."

At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus.

May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected

and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with our priests and spiritual care givers. May they know that they are loved and cared for.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few,

Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



We are pleased to announce

The Daily Divine Liturgy

At St. Elias Chapel (St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church)

Tuesday through Friday at 9 A.M.

Saturday at 4 P.M.

Sunday at 11 A.M.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” *John 11:25*

Remember me in your Kingdom

You are invited to the Divine Liturgy for the departed
in the Lord in the Hope of Resurrection
On the last Wednesday of the Month at 6:30 pm

أَنَا هُوَ الْقِيَامَةُ وَالْحَيَاةُ. مَنْ آمَنَ بِي وَلَوْ مَاتَ فَسَيَحْيَا. (يو 11: 25)

اذكرني في ملكوتك

أدعوكم إلى القداس الإلهي

من أجل الراقيدين على رجاء القيامة

في الأربعاء الأخير من كل شهر الساعة 6:30 مساءً

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER"

2 COR 9:7

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Seeking
Money
for College?**

**Apply for the Arabic Educational
Foundation of RI**

**Arabic Educational Foundation of RI
is now accepting college scholarship applications**

**Scholarship Applicants must meet the following
requirements:**

**High school seniors and current undergraduates of Arabic descent
who are or will be enrolled as full-time students at an accredited
college for the 2021-2022 academic year**

Eligibility information and applications can be found on the AEF website or
Facebook. For more information, Please contact
AEF board member: Theresa McMichael at tmcmichael@cox.net

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2020

VISIT www.aef-ri.org

FACEBOOK <https://bit.ly/37wNCBj>

Alerts and Latest Guidance

- **Social Gatherings:** as of October 30, the indoor and outdoor social gathering limit is 10 people because social gatherings have been the source of many positive cases.
- **Early closures:** All restaurants, bars, gyms, recreational facilities, and personal services must close at 10 p.m. Sunday – Thursday and at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. (*Effective November 8, 2020*)
- **Stay-at-home advisory** is in effect from 10 p.m. – 5 a.m. Sunday – Thursday and from 10:30 p.m. – 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. (*Effective November 8, 2020*)
- **Venues of assembly:** The capacity limit for indoor venues (performing arts venues, movie theaters, houses of worship) is 50% of normal capacity with a maximum of 125 people. The limit for outdoor venues is 66% of normal capacity with a maximum of 150 people. (*Effective November 8, 2020*)
- **Catered events:** The capacity limit for indoor catered events is 25 and for outdoor catered events is 75, with exceptions for previously scheduled weddings. (*Effective November 8, 2020*)
- **Large retailers:** The capacity limit for big box stores (more than 30,000 square feet of space) is one person per 150 square feet. (*Effective November 8, 2020*)
- **Business travel:** Businesses are asked to cancel any non-essential, work-related travel. (*Effective November 8, 2020*)
- **Masks** are required any time you're near people who don't live with you, including at the gym.

REOPENING RI

Wear a mask that protects you and others

Wearing a face covering in public places helps protect you and anyone near you from COVID-19. **Your mask should fit snugly but comfortably over your nose, mouth, and chin without any gaps.**



RECOMMENDED

- Face mask worn the right way and at least two layers thick
- * N-95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare providers and other first responders



NOT RECOMMENDED

- Face shield alone
- Loose-fitting bandana
- Face mask with valve
- Face mask worn the wrong way
- Neck gaiter only one layer thick

Always wash your hands after handling or touching a used mask. Wash and dry cloth face coverings after use each day. Learn more about how to handle and care for your mask at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html

Masks should not be worn by children younger than age two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without help.

Last updated: 08/25/2020

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