



April 16th, 2023

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Address

15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website

www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
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



Sunday of St. Thomas

أحد القديس توما

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.

Kontakion of St Thomas (8th Tone):

O Christ God, Thomas explored Your vivifying side with an eager hand; and since You had entered the room while the doors were closed, He cried out with the other Apostles: "You are my Lord and my God."

صلاه الأنديفونة

أيها المسيح الإله، يا مَنْ أظهرت لتوما جنبه الذي خرج منه الدم والماء، رمز المعمودية، ودعاه ليلمس الجرح الذي به شُفي الإنسان من الجرح العظيم، ثبّت إيماننا بلاهوتك، فنُصبح شهوداً لقيامتك المجيدة بأقوالنا وأفعالنا وسيرتنا الجديدة

لأنك أنت قيامتنا أيها المسيح الإله، وإليك نرفع المجد، وإلى أبينا الأزلي وروح القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الدهرين.
الشعب: آمين.

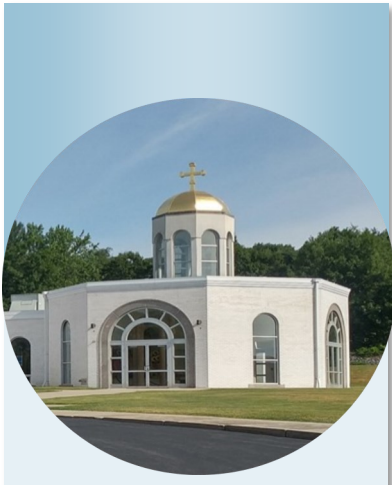
نشيد القديس توما بالحن السابع (3 مرات)

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

قنداق القديس توما (بالحن الثامن): باليمين

الفضولية، أيها المسيح الإله، جسّ توما جنبك الواهب الحياة. فإنه لما دخلت الابواب مغلقة، هتف إليك مع سائر التلاميذ: أنت ربي وإلهي.





Our church organizations:

MAYA: Organization of Melkite Catholics ages 18 – 26 (and at least 1 year out of high school) under patronage of our bishop, the Most Reverend Nicholas Samra.
<https://melkite.org/maya>

MYO: Provides a common forum for all the young people of St. Basil's Church, and that the Organization initiate, coordinate, and direct religious, social, educational, and humanitarian programs designed to promote the involvement of its membership in the Christian Faith and the Melkite tradition.
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com/myo.html

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



Epistle Acts of the Apostle, 5:12-20, 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

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 لعلمة سبّحو الربّ فإن الترنيم صالح، لإلهنا يلدّ 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 وأسرّة، ليقع ولو ظل بطرس عند اجتيازه على بعضي منهم. وكان يجتمع ايضا الى اورشليم جمهور المدن التي حولها، يحملون المرضى والمعذبين بالأرواح النجسة، فكانوا يشفون جميعهم. فقام رئيس الكهنة وكل من معه، وهم من مذهب الصدوقيين، وامتألوا 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 الربّ 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 بيديه وجنّته، ففرح التلاميذ إذ أبصروا الرب. وقال لهم يسوع ثانية: السلام لكم، كما أرسلني الأب كذلك أنا أرسلكم. ولما قال هذا نفخ فيهم وقال لهم: خذوا الروح القدس. من غفرتم خطاياهم تغفر لهم، ومن أمسكتكم خطاياهم أمسكتكم. 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 وضغها في جنبی، ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً. أجاب توما وقال له: ربي والهي! قال له يسوع: لأنك رأيتني يا توما آمنت طوبى للذين لم يروا وآمنوا. وآيات أخر كثيرة صنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه لم تُكتب في هذا الكتاب. وإنما كُتبت هذه لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع المسيح هو ابن الله. ولتكون لكم اذا آمنتم، بالحياة باسمه.





Divine Liturgy Intentions

TODAY, APRIL 16, 2023: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER. THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS.

9:00 a.m DIVINE LITURGY:

- +ALBERT YANY (1st Anniv.) by Joanne Yany & Family.
- +MICHAEL YANY by his Family.
- + JENNY KACHKAR by St. Basil's Community.
- +NANCY AISSIS by M/M V. Edward Fayan.
- +IDA SHAKAN (36th Anniv.) by her grand-daughters & Family..
- +JAMES G. ANTAYA by Lillian Antaya.
- +CHARLES P. ANTAYA (34th Birthday Remem.) by Lillian Antaya.
- +LILLIAN & FRANK LEE by Lillian Antaya.
- +HARVEY & JANINE NASSANEY by Lillian Antaya.
- +BILLY SALOME son of the late William & Florence Sarkas by the Family of the late Louis E. Azar.
- +LOUIS AGAG by Maryjoan & Steve Walsh.
- +JULIA & FRED KISHFY by Maryjoan & Steve Walsh.
- +ABRAHAM & LOUISE ELIAS by the Family.
- +RICHARD LONGTIN by Deborah Schnetzler.

11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + JENNY KACHKAR by St. Basil's Community.
- +TARIQ NAGM by Joseph & Yolanda Saggal.
- +MICHAEL GEORGE BOUDJOUK (NJ) by Nelly Kishfy.
- +GLORIA RAWAN RAZOOK by Kawsar Boudjouk & Family.
- +MATILDE SARKAS by Dr. Jennifer A. Sarkas.
- +LOUIS S. SARKAS by Dr. Jennifer A. Sarkas.
- +ELIAS J. SARKAS by Dr. Jennifer A. Sarkas.



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: April 9, 2023: Budgets: \$4,814.00; Envelopes: \$3,646.00; Loose: \$1,168.00; Candles: \$144.72; Stole Offerings: \$125.00; Addit'l Fuel \$15.00; Building Fund: \$90.00, Addit'l Melkite Support: \$10.00; Easter Flowers: \$300.00; Donation: \$200.00; Easter Offerings: \$2,360.00; Shepherd's Care: \$72.00; Religious Education: \$353.00.

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

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.

SHEPHERD'S CARE: The final Shepherd's Care Program collection will be taken up today to help the needy, homeless, poor, to be distributed here and abroad for this noble cause. Please transfer the monies from the mite boxes to cash or check. This would be greatly appreciated, and then it will be forwarded to the Diocese of Newton for distribution to the respective beneficiaries.

ARABIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIP: Application, eligibility information and check list is available at aef-ri.org. All scholarships and transcripts must be postmarked by April 15, 2023. Question(s) contact: aef1966@cox.net

CHRIST IS RISEN! AL MASEEH QAM! KHRISTOS ANESTI!
WITH APPRECIATION

Thank you to all who made our Great Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Celebration beautiful and memorable: those who made donations, especially the eggs and sweet bread, those who offered flowers, altar servers, choirs, readers, ushers, Tomb-bearers, Shroud-bearers, errand runners, those who decorated, cleaned and set up the church, those responsible for the Easter Decorum of the Church, those who organized the chair layout, server coordinators, sacristans, those who contributed to the Easter Collection as their Love Gift, those who prepared the Social Hour in the Cultural Center following the Easter Vigil, the clergy, and to all those who came, prayed, worshipped and joined in the never-ending experiencing of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Many thanks to those who decorated the Epitaphios (Tomb) and enhanced the sanctuary area by giving of their time and talents. OH! What can happen when we all work together for the honor and glory of God!

REFLECTION: "It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it."

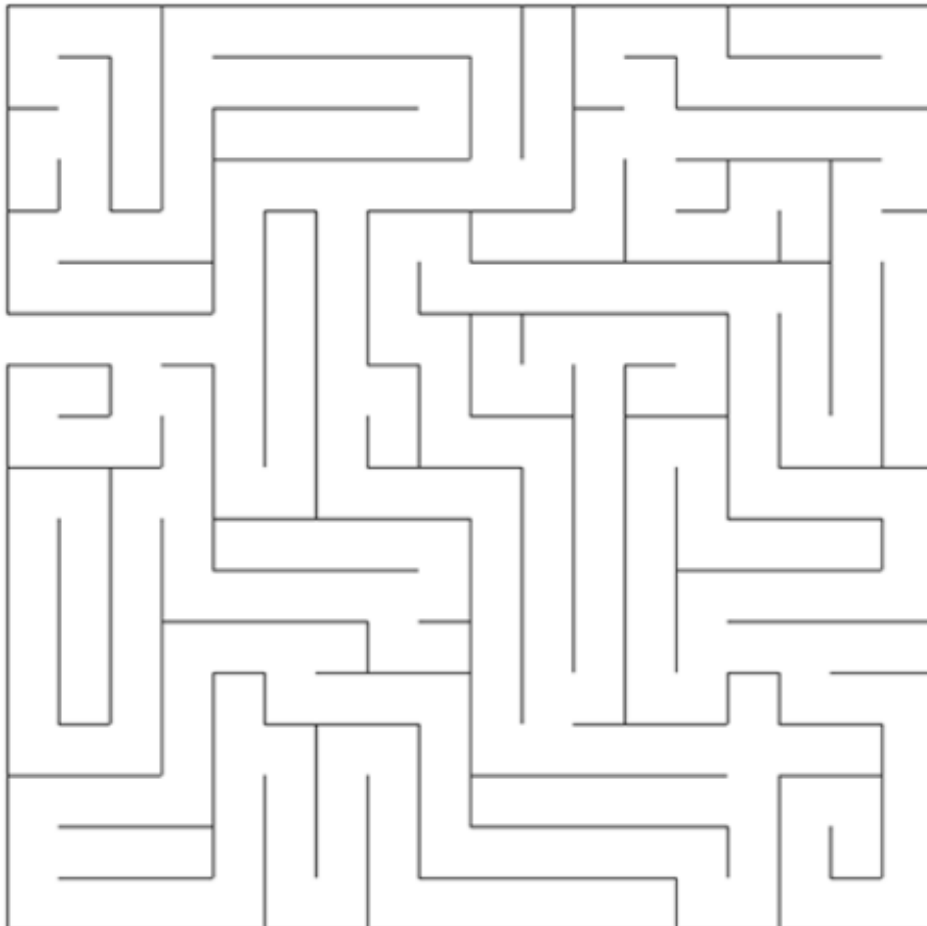
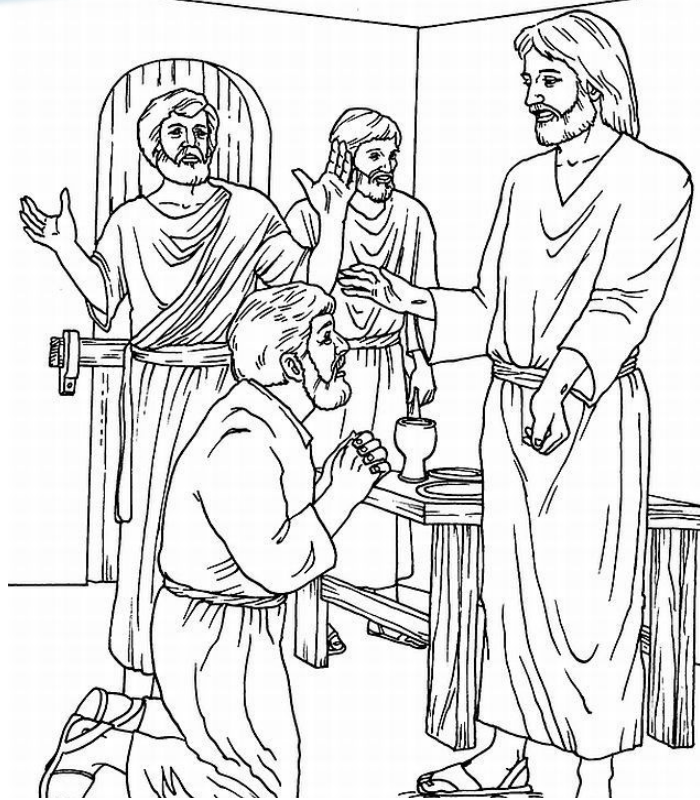
O Jesus, Who has said,
"Ask and you shall
receive, seek and you
shall find, knock and it
shall be opened," through
the intercession of the
Theotokos, Your Most
Holy Mother, I knock, I
seek, I ask that my prayer
be granted.

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.



Following Jesus Kids bulletin



**From
Doubting**



**To
Believing**

Seeing and Believing



As we continue to celebrate the glorious good news of this season of Pascha, we recall how Christ called doubting Thomas to faith in His great victory. “He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.’” Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord

and my God!’” Still bearing His wounds even in His glorified body as the God-Man, the Risen Christ brought Thomas to faith through the witness of His own deified flesh.

The Apostles saw the Lord after His resurrection with their eyes, touched Him with their hands, heard His voice with their ears, felt His breath on their skin, and even saw Him eat food. (Luke 24: 36-43) The good news that “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” comes from a resurrection in glory of a complete Person with a human body marked by the wounds of torture and crucifixion. His resurrection is not an escape from the body, but its fulfillment. The Eternal Word Who created us by breathing into the dust of the earth now breathes physically on His Disciples as He empowers them to carry out His ministry of bringing salvation to the world, even to the point of forgiving sins in His name. Here are powerful signs of what it means for human beings to be in the likeness of God and partakers of the divine nature by grace.

These are not merely details of ancient history, but reminders that we participate in Christ’s Passover from death to life by how we live as whole, embodied persons. We were baptized physically with water into Christ’s death in order to put Him on like a garment, in order to rise with Him into a new life of holiness. To be blunt, the Christian life is not simply about our emotions, ideas, or opinions; it is not reduced to what we say we believe. For those who are truly in Christ will live in ways that manifest the brilliant life of the resurrection, that radiate the holy light of the Savior’s great victory over sin and death. As St. John put it, “If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

We are probably all tempted at times to think how much easier it would be to serve God if we did not have our particular set of bodily limitations and problems. Some are challenged by physical or mental illness, while others wrestle with passions for the pleasures of food, sex, alcohol, or other substances. Eating disorders and unrealistic expectations of what their bodies should look like ruin the health and well-being of some, while others struggle to accept that their male or female bodies are signs of who they are in God’s image and likeness. Many today ignore the sacredness of the intimate bodily union of man and woman, which makes two into one flesh. The epidemic of pornography in our culture reflects a repudiation of the sacredness of the flesh and blood through which we encounter the living icons of Christ. Some refuse to honor the bodies of their neighbors by becoming blind to the humanity of children in the womb, of people with skin of a different color, or of terminally ill patients in chronic pain. And whether it is greed, sloth, anger, or refusal to help

the needy with our time, attention, and resources, there is no sin that does not show itself physically in some way in the lives of those who struggle with it.

No matter what someone’s particular struggles, weaknesses, or failings are, we must respond with compassion, for we too are among the sick who need the Physician. Nonetheless, no physical condition can ever

make us sin or do evil. The problem is not that we have bodies, but that we choose to remain in the tomb, that we would rather walk in the darkness than in the light. For it is no sin to be ill or to be tempted in any way. The Lord Himself suffered terribly on the cross and was tempted. It is a sin, however, to let any of our wounds become excuses for not walking in the light as best we can. It is a sin to let anything fill our lives with such darkness that we refuse to open our eyes—and our lives—to the good news of the resurrection. It is a sin when we think that God must remove this or that problem in order to earn our faithfulness, in order to be worthy of our devotion. As we celebrate Christ’s great victory over sin and death, we must not be afraid to expose our wounded selves to Him with humility as we say with St. Thomas “My Lord and my God!”

Remember that the Savior has taken upon Himself even the worst bodily wounds. It is through them that He has brought life out of death and brilliant light out of the darkest tomb. He has conquered even death itself. Do you see what that means? Even our darkest inclinations ultimately do not stand a chance against His glory, if we will only expose them to Him, if we will only offer them to Him for healing. And though it probably will not happen instantaneously, our wounds will find healing as we move step by step further into His light. Darkness is simply the absence of light and it disappears when it is illumined. The same Lord Who conquered Hades and the tomb for our salvation, and Who invited Thomas to touch His wounds, will bring us as whole, embodied persons into the new day of His Kingdom if we will only keep turning as best we can from the darkness as we struggle to live faithfully each day in the midst of the problems, pains, and weaknesses that beset us. We must all take that journey one day at a time.

The good news is that Christ does not ask us to conquer sin and death by our own power, for He has already done that. But He does ask us truly to have faith, which requires a faithful life, even as we constantly ask for His mercy and strength to participate as fully as possible in the joy of His resurrection. We will not do that with a fake spirituality that relies purely on emotions or ideas, but as whole persons of flesh and blood enlivened by the One Who made us in His image and likeness and even died and rose again for our salvation. So let us celebrate Pascha by walking in the light as best we can with all our wounds, for that is how we will open ourselves to the light that has made even the tomb radiant with the divine glory. If He can do that to a grave, just imagine what He can do with us.

الإيمان والشك



عظة قداسة البابا فرنسيس

قد يفكر أحدٌ منا قائلًا: إن خطيئتي هكذا عظيمة، ويُعدي عن الله كبعد الابن الأصغر في المثال الإنجيلي، وعدم إيماني مماثل لشك توما؛ ليس لدي شجاعة الرجوع، أو التفكير في أن الله يمكنه أن يقبلني أو أنه ينتظرنى أنا بالذات. ولكن الله ينتظرك أنت بالذات، ويطلب منك فقط شجاعة الذهاب إليه. فكم من مرة سمعت، في خدمتي الرعوية: "يا أبتى، أخطئ كثيرًا"؛ والدعوة التي قدمتها دائما هي: "لا تخف، إذهب له، إنه ينتظرك، وسيقوم هو بكل شيء". كم من العُروض الزمنية التي نسمعها حولنا، لكن دعونا نسمح لعرض الله من أن يلامسنا، فهذا العرض هو لمسة محبة. فبالنسبة لله نحن لسنا مجرد أرقام، بل أننا مهمون، بل أننا أهم شيء بالنسبة له؛ حتى وإن كنّا خطأ، فنحن أعز ما في قلبه.

لقد شعر آدم بعد الخطيئة بالعار، بأنه عريان، وشعر بثقل ما فعله؛ لكن الله لم يتركه؛ وإن كان قد بدأ في تلك اللحظة الابتعاد عن الله بسبب الخطيئة، فقد وجد أيضا الوعد بالعودة، أي إمكانية الرجوع له. فقد سأله الله مباشرة: "آدم، أين أنت؟"، كان يبحث عنه. لقد تعرى يسوع من أجلنا، لقد حمل على ذاته عار آدم، وتعري خطيئته ليغسل خطيئتنا؛ إننا بجراحه شفيينا. تذكروا كلمات القديس بولس: بماذا يمكنني أن أفخر سوى بضعفي، وبفقري؟ في الإحساس حقا بخطيئتي، وبالنظر إلى خطيئتي يمكنني أن أرى وأقابل مع رحمة الله، ومع محبته والذهاب له للحصول على المغفرة.

لقد رأيت في حياتي الشخصية لمرات عديدة وجه الله الرحيم، وصبره؛ رأيت في أشخاص كثر شجاعة الدخول في جراح يسوع وقول: يارب إني هنا، فاقبل فقري، واخف في جراحك خطيئتي، واغسله بدمك. ورأيت دائما أن الله قد فعل، قد استجاب، وعزى وغسل وأحب.

الأخوات والإخوة الأحباء، دعونا نترك رحمة الله لتغمرنا: واثقين من طول أناة التي تمنحنا كل الوقت؛ دعونا نتحلى بشجاعة الرجوع لبيته، والسكن في جراح محبته، لنترك أنفسنا لمحبه، وللقاء برحمته في الأسرار المقدسة. سنشعر بعطفه، الذي ما أروع، وسنشعر بعناقه وعندئذ نصبح، نحن أيضا، أكثر قدرة لتقديم الرحمة، والصبر، والمغفرة، والمحبة.

جميع الحقوق محفوظة ٢٠١٣ - حاضرة الفاتيكان

نحتفل اليوم بالأحد الثاني من الزمن الفصحى، والمسمى أيضا بأحد "الرحمة الإلهية". كم هو رائع واقع الإيمان هذا في حياتنا: **رحمة الله!** فمحبة الله هي هكذا عظيمة، وهكذا عميقة تجاهنا، محبة لا تنفص، محبة ترافقنا بدا بيد، وتوازرنا، وتنهضنا، وترشدنا.

في إنجيل اليوم، يختبر القديس توما حقيقة الرحمة الإلهية، تلك الرحمة التي لها وجه ملموس، وجه يسوع، يسوع القائم من بين الأموات. لم يشأ توما أن يصدق ما قالها له التلاميذ: "لقد رأينا الرب"؛ لم يعد يكفيه وعد يسوع، الذي سبق ونطق به: سأقوم في اليوم الثالث. أراد أن يرى، أراد أن يضع يده في أثر المسامير وفي الجنب. فكيف كانت ردة فعل يسوع؟ **الصبر**: فيسوع لم يُهمل توما العنيد في عدم إيمانه؛ يعطيه أسبوعا من الوقت، لا يغلغ أمامه الباب، ينتظر. فيتعرف توما على فقره، وعلى قلة إيمانه. "ربي وإلهي": بهذه الصبحة البسيطة والمفعمة بالإيمان هي جوابه على صبر يسوع. لقد ترك نفسه لتغمره الرحمة الإلهية، لقد رآها ماثلة أمامه، في جراح اليدين والرجلين والجنب المفتوح، فيسترد يقينه: أصبح إنسانا جديدا، ليس بعد غير مؤمن، بل مؤمنا.

دعونا نتذكر أيضا بطرس: لقد أنكر يسوع ثلاث مرات، في الوقت الذي كان يجب عليه أن يظل قريبا منه؛ فعندما لمس القاع، هناك التقى بنظرة يسوع التي، بصبر، وبدون كلام قالت له: "يا بطرس، لا تخف من ضعفك، ثق فيّ"؛ وهنا يفهم بطرس، ويشعر بنظرة محبة يسوع وبيكي. كم هي رائعة نظرة يسوع هذه - وكم مفعمة بالعطف! إخوتي وأخوتي دعونا ألا نفقد أبدا الثقة في رحمة الله الحليمة!

لنتذكر لتلميذي عماوس: أصحاب الوجه الحزين، والخطى الفارغة، بلا رجاء. لكن يسوع لا يهملهما؛ يسير معهما على الطريق، وليس وحيدا! وبصبر يفسر لهما الكتب المقدسة وكل ما قيل عنه فيها ويتوقف ليقاسم معهما الأكل. هذا هو أسلوب الله: فهو لا يفقد صبره كما نفع نحن، راغبين في الحصول كل شيء سريعا، حتى مع الأشخاص. إن الله صبور معنا لأنه يحبنا، ومن يُحب يتفهم، يرجو، يثق، ولا يهمل، ولا يقطع الجسور، ويعرف أن يغير. دعونا نتذكر هذا في حياتنا كمسيحيين: الله ينتظرنا دائما، حتى عندما نبتعد عنه! فهو قريب دائما، وإن عدنا إليه فهو دائما مستعدة لاحتضاننا.

إن صبر الله يجب أن يجد فينا **شجاعة العودة إليه**، مهما كان الذنب، ومهما كانت الخطيئة المرتكبة في حياتنا. لقد دعا يسوع توما لأن يضع يدا في جراح يديه ورجليه وفي طعنة جنبه. نحن أيضا بإمكاننا الدخول في جراح يسوع، يمكننا لمسه واقعبا؛ إن هذا ما يحدث فعلينا في كل مرة ننال الأسرار بإيمان.

كلما زادت مراحلنا كلما فاضت استحقاقاتنا (ن، م، 5). إن هذا مهم: شجاعة الاستسلام لرحمة يسوع، والثقة في طول أناته، والهروب دائما في حمى جراح محبته.

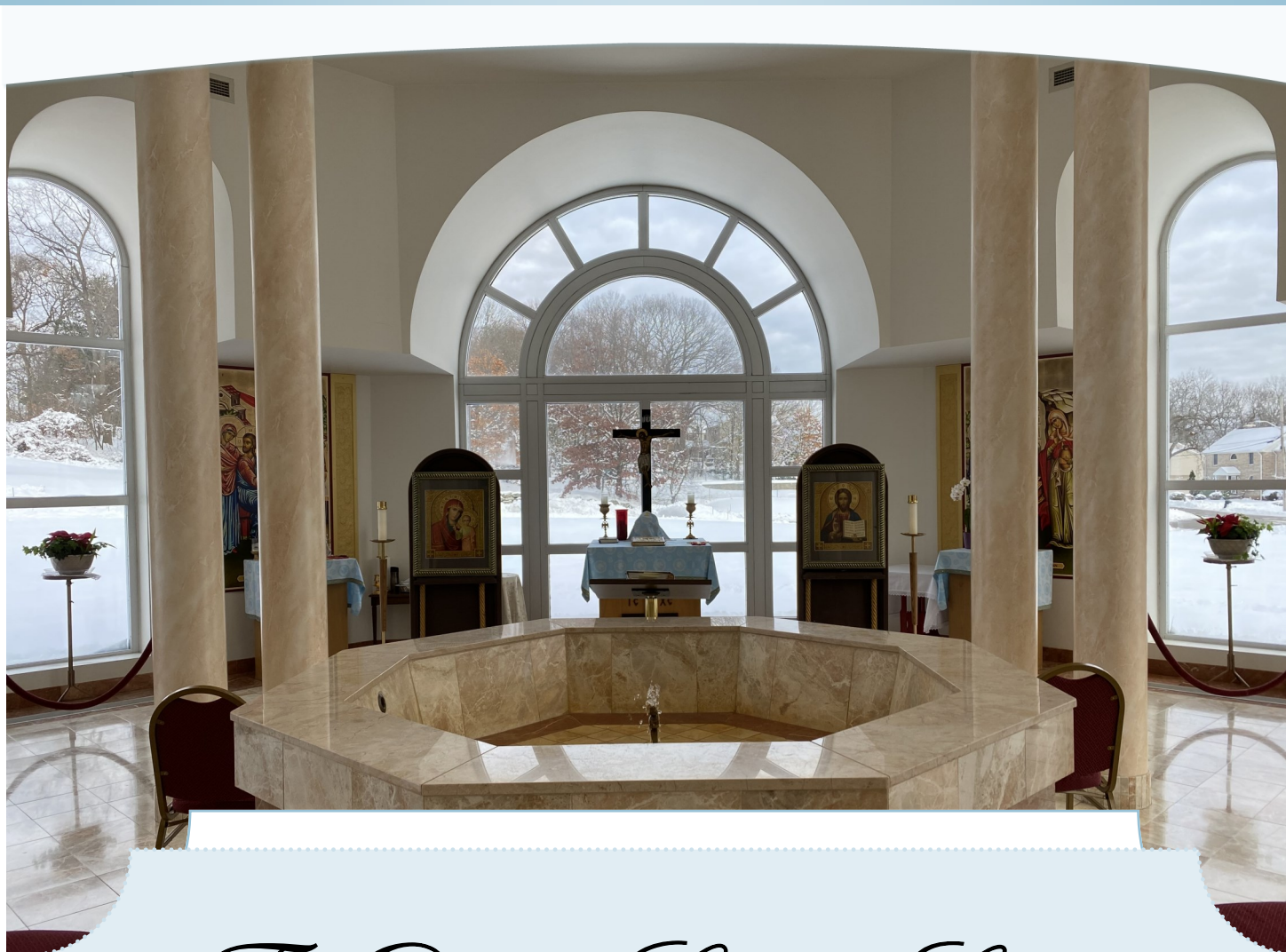


LITURGICAL CALENDAR



| APRIL | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|  نيسان – أبريل 2023 MARCH 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 MAY 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | 30 Sunday of the Paralytic أحد المفلج Acts 9:32-42 John 5:1-15 | | | | | | 1 Lazarus Saturday سبت لعازر Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 8:27-31 |
| | 2 Palm Sunday أحد الشعانين Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18 | 3 Great & Holy Monday الاثنين العظيم المقدس Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 24:3-35 | 4 Great & Holy Tuesday الثلاثاء العظيم المقدس Ephesians 1:1-9 Matthew 24:36-26:2 | 5 Great & Holy Wednesday الأربعاء العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 Matthew 26:6-16 | 6 Great & Holy Thursday الخميس العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-27:1-2 John 13:3-17 Luke 22:43-44 | 7 Great & Holy Friday الجمعة العظيمة المقدسة Eothinon: Twelve Gospels | 8 Great & Holy Saturday سبت النور المقدس Romans 6:3-12 Matthew 28:1-20 |
| 9 Easter Sunday أحد الفصح العظيم المقدس Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17 | 10 Monday of New Week الإثنين لتجديدات Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 John 1:18-28 | 11 Tuesday of New Week الثلاثاء لتجديدات Acts 2:14-21 Luke 24:12-35 | 12 Wednesday of New Week الأربعاء لتجديدات Acts 2:22-38 John 1:35-51 | 13 Thursday of New Week الخميس لتجديدات Acts 2:38-43 John 3:1-15 | 14 Friday of New Week الجمعة لتجديدات Acts 3:1-8 John 2:12-22 | 15 Saturday of New Week سبت لتجديدات Acts 3:9-16 John 3:22-33 | |
| 16 St Thomas Sunday أحد الرسول توما Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31 | 17 St Simeon the Persian Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11 | 18 St John, disciple of Gregory Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21 | 19 St John the Hermit Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24 | 20 St Theodore Trichinas Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30 | 21 St Theodore of Pergia Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-6:2 | 22 St Theodore Sykeotes Acts 5:21-32 John 6:14-27 | |
| 23 St George the Triumphant Sunday of Holy Myrrh-bearers أحد حمامات الطيب Acts 12:1-11 Mark 15:43-16:8 | 24 St Elizabeth the Wonderworker Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60 John 4:46-54 | 25 Anzac Day St Mark the Apostle 1 Peter 5:6-14 Luke 10:16-21 | 26 St Basil of Amasia Acts 8:18-25 John 6:35-39 | 27 St Simeon Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44 | 28 Sts Jason and Sosipater Acts 8:40-9:19 John 6:48-54 | 29 St Memnon the Wonderworker Acts 9:19-31 John 15:17-16:2 | |

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

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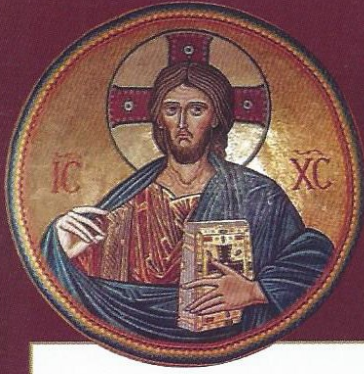
Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



THE LORD SAID: "THEY TELL YOU THIS
POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL
OF THEM, FOR THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED
OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT SHE GAVE
OF HER POVERTY PUT IN ALL THE LIVING
THAT SHE HAD." *MARK 12:41-42*

"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.



VOCATION PLAN

Christ Calls All to Serve

FEBRUARY 2023

Bishop François forms New Vocation Team

The goal is to create a “Culture of Service & Vocations” within the Melkite Catholic Church

As Bishop François Beyrouti begins his episcopal ministry, he is emphasizing the Lord’s invitation to “serve one another humbly in love” (Gal 5:13). In this spirit, one of his key priorities is to strengthen our focus on vocations throughout the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton.

Thanks be to God, over the past few years, the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States has been blessed with many new vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Looking toward the future, we can also see that many parishes have aging clergy who have been faithfully serving for so many years. Thus, there is a serious need to ensure uninterrupted pastoral care for our 50 churches and communities and to respond to the needs of our faithful who are asking us to establish new parishes.

Thus Bishop François has convened a new Vocation Team, headed by Fr. John Mefrige and composed of four other priests from each region of the eparchy. The challenge for the team is threefold.

The first task is to re-organize our efforts, both by standardizing the formation of priests and deacons, as well as establishing a clear process for men to discern God’s call.

Secondly, Bishop François’ vision is that new vocations will flow organically from active ministry in local parishes. Put simply, the men who will one day serve as priests and deacons must now be serving generously in other capacities. A campaign is planned to identify these men—both single and married—and invite them to discern a potential role as reader, subdeacon, deacon, or priest.



Finally, the Vocation Team aims to dramatically improve communications about vocations within the eparchy. For example, the Melkite Catholic community in the United States needs to see the joys of married clergy with families, as well as the blessing of men who serve celibately or enter monastic life. We have a number of digital and print projects planned for 2023 and beyond.

In summary, the Vocation Team is preparing to enter a multi-year process of organizing, inviting, and communicating a “pro-vocations” message throughout the eparchy. The overall vision is to build upon the core message that *Christ calls all to serve*—in all sorts of capacities—to make us a true *ecclesia*, a living Church. Every vocation is vital, including marriage and family, nuns, monks, and the clergy who lead our liturgical worship. ✨

INSIDE

Three Key Areas of the New Vocation Plan

1. Organization
2. Invitation
3. Communication



Organization



BEGAN NOVEMBER 2022

Vocation Team Roles

Fr. John Mefrige in San Antonio, Texas, is the director of our new Vocation Team. He is joined by representatives from various regions:

- Fr. Dimitri Saliba - Western Region
- Fr. Elias Dorham - MidAtlantic Region
- Fr. Philip Raczka - New England
- Fr. Bryan McNeil - Deacon Formation

In addition to representing a region of the eparchy, each member will also take on specific roles, including:

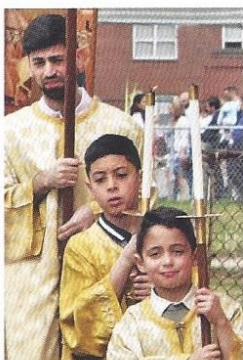
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

Clergy & Candidate Databases

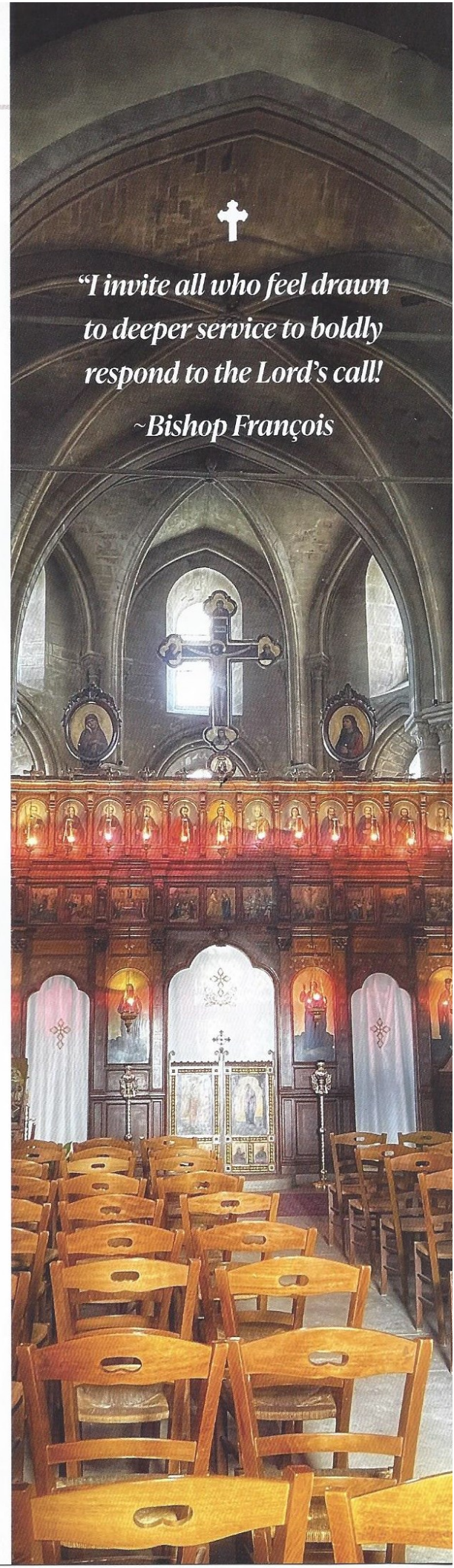
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement dates and estimate how many new men we need in formation to serve our growing communities. Similarly, our Vocation Team is streamlining the way we keep track of prospects with a new database of candidates.



2023-2024

Standardizing the Application & Formation Process

We have had a wealth of excellent candidates, but their paths to ordination have been widely varied. Our plan is to standardize the entire process, for both priests and deacons, beginning with a new, more rigorous application process, and continuing with well-defined tracks for both married and celibate seminarians.



*“I invite all who feel drawn
to deeper service to boldly
respond to the Lord’s call!”*

~Bishop François

Invitation

Becoming Fishers of Men

A call to deeper service is always a call from Christ himself. Experience shows, however, that the call is most often mediated by parish priests. Over the next three years, the role of priests as “inviters” will be a recurring theme in our regular Clergy meetings and annual Clergy Conference. We will also be sending resources to equip priests to be mentors to men in their parishes. The goal is to encourage priests to be true “fishers of men.”



FALL 2023

Called by Name ✠

Will You Help Identify Future Clergy?

Perhaps the most exciting part of our Vocation Plan is a campaign to identify candidates for readers, subdeacons, deacons, and priests. “Called by Name” will be an eparchy-wide process in which clergy and laity can submit the names of men in our parishes who may

be called to these ministries. Importantly, candidates should be longstanding, faithful members who have demonstrated stability of life and a heart for service. As Jesus told us: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15).

WINTER 2023-2024

Online Discernment Meetings

Men who are submitted in the Called by Name campaign will be invited to begin the discernment process through a series of online meetings with Bishop François and the Vocation Team. The purpose is to open dialogue and offer guidance for listening to God’s call.

SPRING 2024

Discernment Retreat

Those who have faithfully participated in the online meetings will be invited to an in-person Discernment Retreat. This is an opportunity for talks, personal prayer, and Liturgical Prayer. The goal is that after the retreat, we will have a good sense of the next cohort of men who will advance into formation, either toward diaconate or priesthood.



Communication



SPRING AND FALL, 2023-2024

Vocations Bulletin

In the coming months, keep your eyes open for our Vocations Bulletin! It will be similar in format to this Vocation Plan and will include articles and photos highlighting our new seminarians, readers, subdeacons, deacons, priests, monks, and nuns. We will also focus on their families who nourish them and also highlight couples who are in ministry together. The overall goal is to show that living out one's baptism is the path to holiness—and that responding to God's call begins with faithful service and an open heart.

APRIL AND NOVEMBER, 2023-2024

Bi-annual Vocation Days

Twice a year, in Spring and Fall, the Vocations Team will prepare resources for parishes to place special emphasis on vocations, by preaching as well as in children's catechesis and youth ministry. This will align with the readings and Feast days in our Melkite Catholic liturgical calendar.

New Online Presence for Vocations

We will include robust vocation pages on the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's website, Melkite.org. This will refresh our online presence, and provide a platform for our Called by Name program and other Vocation resources.

Other Communication Efforts

In Year Two of our Vocation Plan, we would like to re-energize our social media presence, specifically with a series of videos on priests, deacons, and seminarians. We will also work on an e-newsletter with tips and encouragement for young people to live out their baptism and discern their vocations.



All Have a Role to Play

The Vocation Plan is not just the work of the Vocation Team. It requires the enthusiastic support of clergy, educators, and those who work with youth. Above all, it requires families who make their home a true domestic church. All are encouraged to find some role to play. Keep in mind that our Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Vocation Plan is open to your feedback and creativity. Feel free to be creative in your parish and to share with us your ideas and most importantly begin to develop a culture of ministry that encourages Vocations in your family and parish. It is never too early to reply personally or to keep your eyes open to send us names of those you feel should be encouraged to serve in this way. 🌟

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

Sharing our Faith
SECURING OUR FUTURE



Campaign Facts:



Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000



Outstanding Goal: \$340,000



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

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 51%

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

Current & Future Projects:



Church Roof Repair: Project completed, estimated cost of \$400,000...final cost \$321,000.



Rectory Roof Repair: Proposals received, estimated cost \$18,000, pending review.



Church Window Repairs: Proposals received, estimated cost \$9,000, pending review.



HVAC & Boiler Replacement: Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000.



Flooring Upgrades: Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), pending review.



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



Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & Vent Cleaning: Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning estimated cost \$9,000.



Exterior/Masonry /Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals.



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

Important Highlights

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



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

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737
Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190
Kyle Mardo: 401-578-5369

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