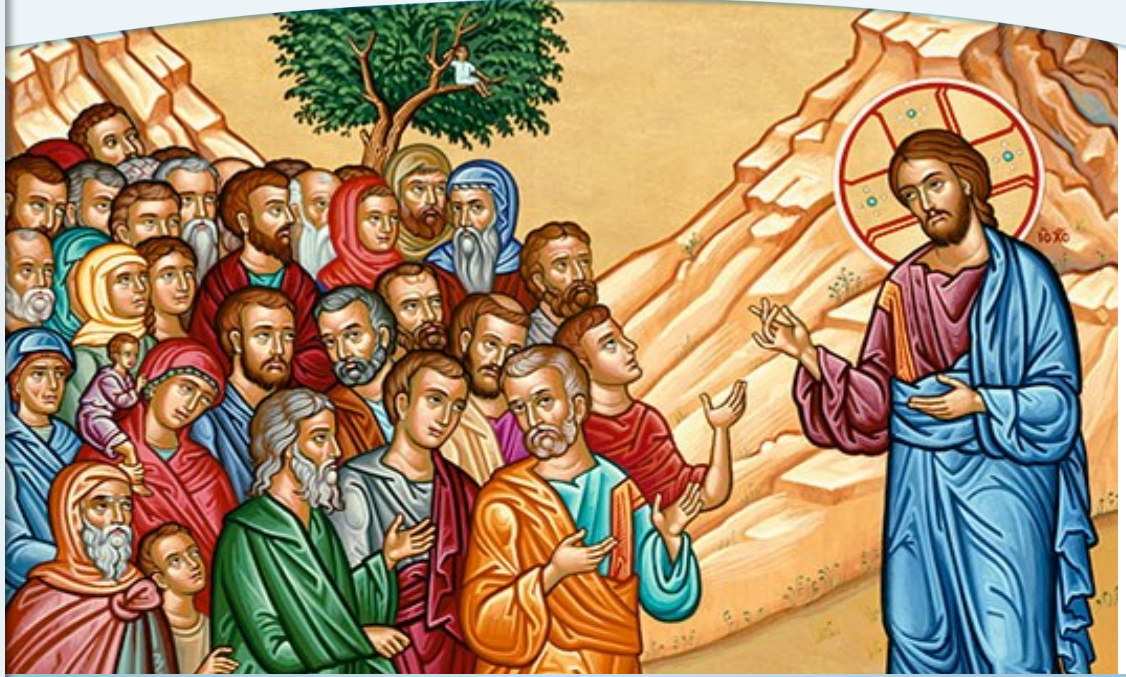




January 14, 2024

## ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Address**  
15 Skyview Drive  
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

**Tel** (401) 722-1345

**Parish Website**  
[www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

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

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

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

**Office hours**  
Tue-Fri 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Divine Liturgy**  
Winter Schedule Begins This week  
Saturday: 9:00 AM  
Sunday: 11:15 AM

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

**Holy Mysteries**

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

**Baptism**  
Please arrange with the pastor

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



### Leave-taking of the Feast of the Theophany - Commemoration of our Holy Fathers who were martyred in Sinai and Raitho

#### ANTIPHON PRAYER of Theophany

O Lord, who have saved us by the baptism of regeneration and the renewal coming from the Holy Spirit, enlighten our minds, uphold us in Faith, confirm us in Hope, fulfill us in Love, make us worthy members of your Christ, who sacrificed Himself in redemption of our souls, so that being justified by your Grace, we may inherit eternal life, For You are our Light and our Sanctification and to You we render glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

#### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8)

You descended from on high O Compassionate One; and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You!

#### Troparion of Theophany (Tone 1) Sung twice

At Your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to You by calling You his Beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, glory to You.

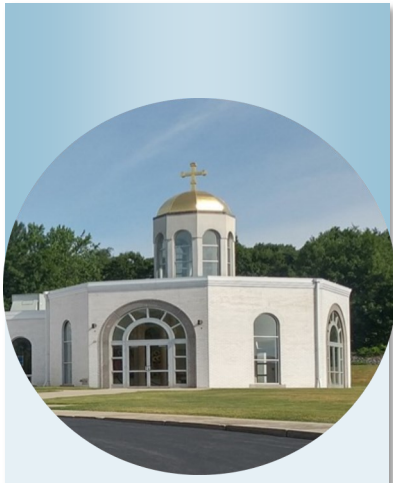
#### صلاة الأنديفونة

أيها الربُّ الإله، يا من خلصنا بغسل الميلاد الثاني، والتجديد الآتي من الروح القدس، أنز أذهاننا، بثنا في الإيمان، وطدنا في الرجاء، كملنا في المحبة، وأظهرنا أعضاء كريمة لمسيحك الذي بذل ذاته فداءً عن نفوسنا، حتَّى إذا بُرِّزنا بنعمتك نرث الحياة الأبدية لأنك أنت نورنا وتقدسنا، واليك نرفع المجد أيها الاب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلَّ أوان ...

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثامن  
انحدرت من العلاء أيها التحنن، وقبلت الدفن ثلاثة أيام، لكي تعتنقنا من الآلام، فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا، يا رب المجد لك.

#### نشيد عيد الظهور باللحن الاوول

في اعتمادك يا رب في نهر الاردن، ظهر السجود للثالوث، فإن صوت الأب تقدم لك بالشهادة، مسمىً أيالك أبناً محبوباً. والروح بهيئة حمامة يؤيد حقيقة الكلمة. فيا من ظهر وانار العالم، أيها المسيح الاله المجد لك.



### Our church organizations:

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

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

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



### Troparion of St Basil

Your voice has sounded all over the earth, that accepted your preaching. You gave a divine explanation of doctrine, and made clear the nature of creatures, and set a rule of life for men. Holy Father, and Kingly Priest, intercede with Christ God to grant us great mercy. you with the Holy Spirit."

### Kondakion of the Theophany (Tone 3)

Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe, and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us, who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

### EPISTLE: Sunday after Theophany, Eph. 4:7-13

May Your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

Stichon: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

### A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren, to each one of us the grace was given according to the measure of Christ's bestowal. Thus, it says, "Ascending on high, He let away captives; He gave gifts to men (Ps.61:19)." Now this ascending, what does it mean but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended, He it is who ascended also above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He himself gave some men as apostles, and some as prophets, and others as pastors and teachers, in order to perfect the saints for a work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the deep knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ.

### ALLELUIA: (Tone 5)

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

Stichon: For You have said, "My kindness is established forever."

In heaven You have confirmed your faithfulness.

### GOSPEL: Mt. 4:12-17, Sunday after Theophany

At that time, When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبِلتْ كلامك، الذي به بيّنت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظّمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأبُّ البَارُّ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

### نشيد الختام (القنداق) لعيد الظهور بالحن الرابع

اليومَ ظهرتْ للمسكونة يا رب، ونورُك قد ارتسم علينا، نحنُ مُسبحيك عن معرفة. لقد أتيتْ وظهرتْ أيها النورُ الذي لا يُدنى منه.

### الاحد الذي بعد الظهور

مقدمة الرسالة

لتكن ياربُ رحمتهُ علينا، بحسبِ اتكالنا عليك ابتهجوا أيها الصديقون بالربِّ، بالمستقيمين يليقُ التسبيح

### الرسالة (افسس 4: 13-7)

يا إخوة، لكل واحدٍ منا أعطيتِ النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح. لذلك يقول: لما صعدَ إلى العُلَى سبى سبياً وأعطى الناسَ عطايا. فكونُكُ صعدَ هل هو إلا أنه نزلَ أولاً إلى اسافل الأرض؟ فالذي نزلَ هو نفسه الذي صعدَ أيضاً فوق السماواتِ كلها ليملا كلَّ شيء. وهو الذي جعل بعضاً رُسلًا وبعضاً أنبياءً وبعضاً مُبشرين، وبعضاً رعاةً ومعلمين لأجل تكميلِ القديسين، لأجل عمل الخدمة، لأجل بنانِ جسدِ المسيح، إلى أن ننتهي جميعنا إلى وحدة الإيمان ومعرفة ابنِ الله، إلى رجلٍ كاملٍ، إلى مقدارِ قامةٍ ملءِ المسيح.

هللوا

بمراجمتك ياربُ ارنمُ إلى الابد، الى جيل فجيل أعلُنْ حَقْكَ بغمي لأنك قلت: إن الرحمة تُبني إلى الابد، وفي السماواتِ يُهَيَّأُ حَقْكَ.

### انجيل الاحد الذي بعد عيد الظهور

الانجيل (متى 4: 12-17)

في ذلك الزمان، لما سمع يسوعُ ان يوحنا قد أسلم، انصرفَ إلى الجليل. وترك الناصرة وجاءَ فستكنَ في كفرناحوم التي على شاطئ البحر، في تخوم زبولون وتفتاليم، ليتِمَّ ما قيلَ بأشعيا النبي القائل: أرضُ زبولون وأرضُ نفتاليم، طريقُ البحر عبرُ الأردنِ جليل الأمم. الشعبُ الجالسُ في الظلمة أبصرَ نوراً عظيماً، والجالسون في بقعة الموت وظلاله أشرقَ عليهم نور. ومنذئذُ ابتدأ يسوعُ يكرِّرُ ويقول: توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السماوات.





# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024: SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY. LEAVE-TAKING OF THE THEOPHANY.**

**9:00 a.m:**

- + **VICTORIA ALCHIKH (40 Day)** by the Family.
- + **YOUSEF GEORGI DEEB (6 Month Anniv.)** by his wife Katrine & Family.
- + **GATTAS ALCHIKH** by Najib & Seda Hana & Family.
- + **DR. GHANEM G. HANA** by Najib & Seda Hana & Family.
- + **IBRAHEEM HANA** by Najib & Seda Hana & Family.
- + **WILLIAM T. ASERMELY** by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family (SC).

**11:15 a.m:**

- + **JOSEPHINE BASSALEH (40 Day)** by her daughter Therese Chalhoub.
- + **MAGEE MARTINEZ** by Charles, Francine, & Julie Robot.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Micael & Afaf Ashkar.

## 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:** January 7, 2024: Budgets: \$6,048.00 (Envelopes: \$5,930.00; Loose: \$118.00; Candles: \$48.00; Stole Offerings: \$125.00; Building Fund: \$30.00; Addit'l Christmas Offerings: \$40.00; Initial Offerings: \$155.00; Fuel: \$90.00; Addit'l Cemetery: \$100.00.

Father Ephrem has now been here three and a half years and has been fully available for parish services. Just email him at [office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com](mailto:office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com) and leave him your message. PLEASE! NO GRATUITIES! A cup of coffee or tea is just fine. He looks forward to in-person contact this New Year.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone who is planning an ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS is kindly requested to notify a member of the clergy BEFORE reception/party plans are made. The Clergy may be already scheduled for something else on the day that you have rented a hall/restaurant. Following this policy will help avoid any later misunderstandings. Our thoughts and prayers are directed to our elderly and sick parishioners in this joyous season. We ask the Emmanuel to strengthen your faith so that you may accept His will, and may He bring you peace, joy, and health for the coming year.

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

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

**REFLECTION:** "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." - Lao Tzu

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

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

**ATTENTION PARENTS:** Unless there is a real physical situation, excessive extended trips by your children to the rest rooms during Liturgy is unnecessary and distracting.

**CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE:** From January 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, the whole Church celebrates a Unity Octave in honor of the Chair of St. Peter. Prayers and supplications are addressed to God that He may hasten the day of reunion according to Christ's prayer "that all may be one", like You, O Father, and I are one." This reunion of all Christians is to constitute the fullness of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

*O Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, on the eve of your redemptive suffering You frequently asked your Heavenly Father that your followers be one, as You are one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We implore You, divine Master, to bestow upon all Christian Churches the unity of faith, of hearts and purpose, so that they become one flock under the leadership of One Shepherd according to your wish. Grant us, Lord to love one another as You loved us, so that, seeing our unity, the world may believe in You and embrace your message of peace and love. For You are the Prince of Peace and Lover of Mankind, 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. Amen!*

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.



We  Our Volunteers



## APPRECIATION CELEBRATION NIGHT

**SAVE THIS DATE & TIME**

**Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Saint Basil the Great Church** cordially invites **all** who have in **ANY** way, shape or form assisted the parish during the past year to an evening of appreciation with hot and cold buffet.  
Come join us in comradery and togetherness.

If you are able to attend, please respond no later than: **Sunday, January 28, 2024.**

For further information, please contact Barbara O'Rourke at 401-636-1802.

كنيسة القديس باسيليوس الكبير تدعو بكل مودة جميع من ساعدوا الكنيسة بأي شكل من الأشكال خلال العام الماضي لحضور حفل تقدير مع بوفيه ساخن وبارد. إذا كنت قادرًا على الحضور، يرجى الرد قبل يوم الأحد 28 كانون الثاني 2024. لمزيد من المعلومات، يرجى الاتصال بـ باربرا أورورك على الرقم 401-636-1802

# VOLUNTEERS

  
change lives





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

**BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI**

December 18, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today I am announcing a special Called by Name Campaign to identify faithful men in our diocese who, through God's providence, could be called to serve as priests, deacons, subdeacons, or readers. The campaign will take place January 13-14, 2024.

As you know, the Melkite Church has a great need for "more workers for the harvest." I firmly believe that our future clergy will come from our own parishes, but we need the entire Church to identify them, so that we can offer support and encouragement as they discern their vocations.

I have asked all of our clergy to share their vocation stories in January. As you reflect on the story shared by your priest or deacon, please consider the following:

**1) For Young People**

For those of you discerning your life's vocation, be open to serving the church, including priesthood or religious life. God's calling is a beautiful gift – be courageous and open to his call! Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full. Do not be afraid. If God is calling you to serve in a particular way, to include the diaconate or priesthood, then nothing less will satisfy.

**2) For All Parishioners**

I invite you to think deeply about the men in your parish who you believe might be called to deeper service. While God is the one who calls, he often uses our voices. **Please write down at least one name using the envelope provided at Divine Liturgy, or submit names online at [melkite.org](http://melkite.org)**

This initiative is near to my heart, and I ask you to please participate thoughtfully, so that it will be a great success throughout the diocese. And please join me in praying that the Lord will raise up many new leaders who have humble hearts to serve.

With my prayers and appreciation,

Most Reverend François Beyrouiti, Ph.D./D.Th.  
Eparchial Bishop of Newton,  
The Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America



MELKITE CATHOLIC  EPARCHY OF NEWTON

# CALLED BY NAME

## Bulletin Item for January 13-14

### Today is Called by Name Sunday!

Bishop François is asking all parishioners to submit the names of faithful men who could be called to serve as readers, subdeacons, deacons, or priests. The bishop will then send them a letter of encouragement, and the Vocation Office will offer gentle assistance as they discern their vocation. Please participate by using the response card, or online at [Melkite.org](http://Melkite.org). Thank you for being the “voice of Christ” and identifying the future servant-leaders of our Church!



MELKITE CATHOLIC  EPARCHY OF NEWTON

# CALLED BY NAME

## Announcement January 13-14 (the weekend itself)

*Please read aloud at all Divine Liturgies*

*Alternatively, feel free to include these instructions in the homily*

Today is **Called By Name Sunday**, the day when Bishop François is inviting everyone in the diocese to submit names of faithful men who could be called to serve as readers, subdeacons, deacons, or priests.

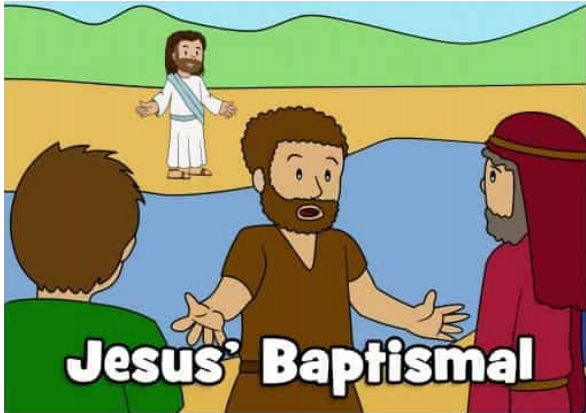
Is there someone you know who may be called? Help us to encourage them by sharing his name and contact information. There are two ways to do so: using the response cards provided, or online.

To submit names online, use the QR code on the card that points to [melkite.org](http://melkite.org). It's quick and easy to submit names via this online form.

Those whose names are submitted will receive communications from Bishop François and the Vocation Team with encouragement to discern how God is calling them to serve.

Thank you for your participation!

# Following Jesus Kids bulletin



When Jesus was 30 years old, He knew it was time to start the special work God had given Him.

The first place Jesus went was to see his cousin, John, by the Jordan River.

John was busy preaching and telling people they needed to repent and be baptised.

1



When John saw Jesus, point to him and told everyone, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John knew the most important thing he could do was point people to Jesus.

2



John couldn't believe it when Jesus' asked to be baptised. John knew that Jesus had never sinned.

But Jesus told John, it was right to be baptised and he wanted to show everyone the right thing to do.

So John agreed and baptised Jesus in the Jordan River.

3



As soon as Jesus' came back out of the water, something amazing happened.

The Holy Spirit came down out of heaven like a beautiful dove and landed on Jesus and God spoke from heaven. "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

4



# التوبة



في المقطع الإنجيلي من بشارة القديس متى الذي تقرأه الكنيسة في هذا اليوم الانطلاقة الفعلية لبشارة الرب يسوع في العالم، "ومنذئذ ابتداء يسوع يكرز ويقول: توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السموات" (متى 4:17). ويأتي هذا بعد أن تعمد يسوع المسيح في نهر الأردن على يد القديس يوحنا المعمدان. والشهادة التي أتت من السماء قائلة: "هذا هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سررت"، وبعد إنتصاره على إبليس في التجربة (متى 4: 1 - 12) حيث جاءت الملائكة تخدمه. بعد ظهوره الإلهي كان لا بد له من أن يبدأ الكرازة بدءاً من الجليل، جليل الأمم.

وارتبطت الحياة أحيائي دائماً في ذهن الناس بالنور، لذلك سمى يسوع ذاته "أنا نور العالم"، ليعني بذلك أنه "حياة العالم". ولذلك سُمي عيد الظهور بعيد الأنوار. والترانيم تقول: "اليوم ظهرت للمسكونة يا رب، ونورك قد ارتسم علينا". وبذلك تتحقق النبوءة التي سمعناها في هذا النص: "الشعب الجالس في بقعة الموت وظلمته اشرق عليه نور". ولكن الإنجيلي متى عندما يستشهد بهذا الآية يذكرنا بداود النبي المنشد: "إني ولو سررت في وادي ظلال الموت لا أخاف شراً، لأنك أنت معي. عصاك وعكازك هما يعزبانني" (مزمور 4: 23). المؤمن لا يخاف من أي شر، ولا يخاف الموت حين تأتي الساعة، لأنه واثق كداود من أن الله لن يتخلى عنه ولن يدعه يرى فساداً طالما كان هو مستعداً بالتوبة الدائمة، ومستنيراً بهدي النور الإلهي.

ودائماً تتردد كلمة التوبة، والتوبة كما يعرفها الآباء القديسون هي "تغيير الذهن أو العقل"، التوبة ليست أن تبكي أو تنوح أو أن ترثي أحد ما، بل هي أن تغير ذهنك وطريقة تفكيرك، إن كنت تفكر دوماً بالخطيئة أو كنت منغمساً بهوى من أهوائك، عليك أن توقف التفكير به أو عنه ولتبدأ التفكير بالأمور الصالحة، وبذلك تكون قد قمت بتغيير ذهنك عن التفكير بالشر للتفكير بالأعمال الصالحة، هذا هو المعنى الحقيقي للتوبة، إذا التوبة ليست حالة نفسية أو عصبية ليست أن تنوت وتصرخ: قد تبت، قد تبت. بل هي بناء الذات، أي أن تعود لذاتك وتبنيها بناء صالحاً، لا أن تبكي وتقول أو أن تعاتب نفسك، بل هي أن تغير ذهنك لتصلح حياتك، لتصلح ذاتك فتصبح إنساناً جديداً.

"توبوا فقد اقترب ملكوت السموات". الكتاب المقدس برّمته، من البداية إلى النهاية، هو دعوة مفتوحة ودائمة إلى التوبة واكتسابها نمطاً في الحياة. فالله منذ البدء يحث الناس على التوبة، وبدء رسالة الرب يسوع توجز كل هذه الرسالة: هي دعوة إلى التوبة. فما من أحد يقدر على أن يتلقى نعمة الله ما لم يتطهر بالتوبة عما ارتكبه من خطايا وأثام.

التوبة هي الطريق المؤدية إلى الحياة الأبدية، لأن الإنسان إذ عصى الكلمة الإلهية وسمع للشرب وتخلخت ثقته بالله فقد الحياة ومات روحياً بالخطيئة، لذلك أتى يوحنا المعمدان يمهّد الطريق أمام السيد المسيح ويدعو الناس إلى التوبة، وحين أتى يسوع واعتمد على يد يوحنا وانطلق إلى الجليل، أكد ضرورة العودة بالتوبة إلى الله لأن الإنسان الخاطئ لا يمكنه أن يكون قريباً من الله، لأنه لا يمكن أن يلتقي النور مع الظلام، فبينما الله نور ويشرق على كل البشر، نرى الخطيئة ظلاماً وموتاً للبشر، لا يشفى منه الإنسان بغير التوبة.

لذلك يتوجّب علينا أن نقضي على قساوة قلوبنا كي نستطيع أن نسمع صوته حين ينادينا إلى التوبة، "اليوم إذا سمعتم صوته فلا تقسّوا قلوبكم" (مزمور 95: 8).

وكلمة أخيرة يجدر بنا الانتباه إلى أنّ بعض ما نظنه نوراً في العالم الحديث الذي نحيا فيه إنّما هو ظلام يتلبّس لباس النور. علينا الاهتداء بالنور الحقيقي كي نميز بين ما هو حق وما هو باطل، فلا نحيا في الظلام متوهمين أننا في النور.

# One word: Repentance



In the Gospel reading today, on this Sunday after Theophany, we hear the very first sermon that Christ ever gave in his public ministry: “Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!”

With just these few short words, Christ begins His earthly ministry, and he summarizes all of the Gospel that is to come. Yet the first word He says is “repent.” “Repent” in the original Greek literally means to “change one’s mind – to change one’s heart” and to “turn God-ward.” In order to see Christ and to believe in Him, we must repent. In order to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, we must repent. In order to take even the first step, we must repent.

Repentance is not a one-time thing, or some grand, romantic gesture. We who sin almost continually – if not in our actions, then in our thoughts – must constantly turn back to God and repent. To repent, we must die to ourselves and live to God. And we must die daily. And many times daily. Maybe thousands of little deaths each and every day – but death to sin and death to death. Repentance is a death that brings life! This sense of paradox is captured quite wonderfully in a quote written on a wall in St. Paul’s Monastery on Mt. Athos which says: “If you die before you die, then when you die, you will not die.”

This is a constant battle from the moment we are born until our very last breath.

Repentance is not simply an emotional state. It isn’t simply feeling sorry, although this is part of it. Repentance is a turning from darkness to the light of Christ. It is about moving away from selfishness to selflessness, moving away from death to life. It is not some protracted, morose state of being. Instead, repentance brings true joy. When we truly repent and truly turn to God, then we receive the grace of God and we are joyful! When we turn to Christ in repentance, this turning brings life, light, joy and peace – the very fruits of the Holy Spirit. Our lives are new and different – full of joy. Full of life and vigor. This is what it means to repent. This is what Christ is saying when He says, “the Kingdom of God is at hand.” This Kingdom can be experienced here and now, if we repent and

turn to God.

Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life – the Living Kingdom. Christ sets for us a banquet table, and He calls us together with Him and to dine with Him. He feeds us with His own self – His own sacrifice – the Body and Blood of our Lord.

And why are these two statements linked together: “Repent” and “the Kingdom of God is at hand”? It is this way because Christ is “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). He has accomplished everything for us and for our salvation. He has reconciled us to God and has prepared and acquired for us the Heavenly Kingdom. All God requires of us is that we accept it. Our salvation is given to us by God free and complete, but we must accept it.

Indeed, Christ offers us salvation, if only we will turn to Him. The Kingdom of Heaven and Christ the King are ineffably close to us – much closer than we can imagine. Closer to us than the beating of our own heart. Closer to us than our next breath. “Behold I stand at the door” of your heart, and knock, says Christ. “If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in with him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.” (Rev. 3:20) It is only through repentance that we can open wide the doors of our heart to our Saviour, the Heavenly King. On this first Sunday after Theophany, let us recall our own baptism, and our own baptismal promises. Let us turn from our sins and fix our gaze on Christ. Through a true repentance let us open wide the doors of our heart to Christ and to the Kingdom of Heaven as we look ahead towards Lent – that great season of repentance. “Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” Amen.



# Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



## *The Divine Liturgy Schedule*

### **Divine Liturgy**

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

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Welcome to*

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

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

**On Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/StBasilMelkiteChurchRI/>

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



# *Crowned in Glory & Honor*

## **Couples' Retreat Day**

Married and Engaged Couples

Please join us for a day of prayer,  
guidance, discussion, and confession

Saturday, January 27, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*Childcare Provided*

Our Lady of the Annunciation Melkite Catholic Church  
7 VFW Parkway  
West Roxbury, MA

**Please Register by January 20, 2024**

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/gUwyuBn95a6KEx6r6>

Suggested Donation: \$50 per Couple

Payment to: Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral

Memo: "Couples' Retreat"

Questions email: lhoms@icloud.com





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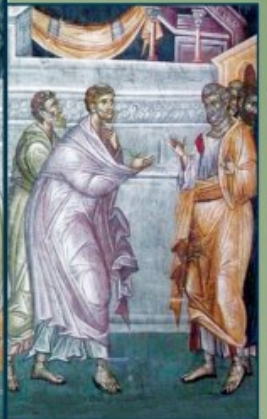
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**4-7 2024**



*Becoming Disciples.*



*The Emmaus Experience*  
(Luke 24:13-35)



*Making Disciples.*

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*at the*

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*Becoming Disciples.*

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

*Making Disciples.*

# PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM

## INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

*if Purchased Separately from Package*

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

## COMPLETE PACKAGES

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

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

*Make Checks Payable to:*

**ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHEDRAL**  
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*Mail Payment and Form to:*

**Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral**  
7 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
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**GRAND TOTAL \$**

Registration material will be picked up at the convention registration desk

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

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

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

## REGISTRATION

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

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

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

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 09/15/2023



## St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

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SECURING OUR FUTURE



### Campaign Facts:



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



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



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

### Parish Community Facts:



**Total Registered Families:** 410



**Active Families:** 200



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

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

### Current & Future Projects:



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

### Important Highlights

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



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

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737

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