



April 2nd, 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



Palm Sunday The Glorious Entry into Jerusalem

أحد الشعانين

Antiphon Prayer

O Christ God, You prefigured for us your glorious Resurrection when You raised your friend Lazarus from the tomb. Wherefore, we your beloved people, offer You praise with pure mouths, praying You to make us worthy participants in your Holy Passion and your glorious Resurrection.

For it belongs to You to have mercy on us, O Christ our God, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving and worship, and to your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

First Troparion of the Feast, Tone 1 (twice)

O Christ God, when You raised Lazarus from the dead, before the time of your passion, you confirmed the future resurrection of all. We too, like the children of old, carry before You the symbols of victory and cry out to You, O conqueror of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Second Troparion of the Feast, Tone 4 (once)

O Christ our God, we have been buried with You in baptism: wherefore we merited eternal life through your resurrection. We cry out to You, singing a hymn of praise: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

صلاة الأنديفوننة

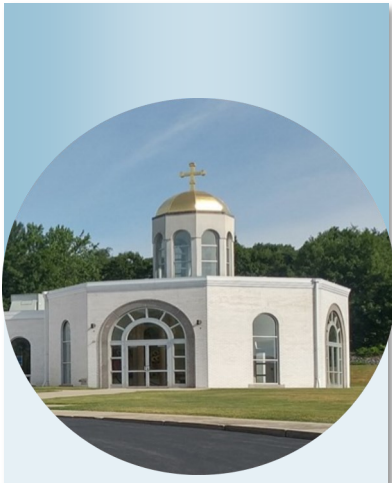
أيها المسيح الإله، لقد سبقت فرسمت لنا قيامتك الموقرة لئلا أنهضت من القبر حبيبك لعازر. فلذلك نحن شعبك المحبوب نُقدّم لك التسبيح من أفواه طاهرة، طالبين أن نُؤهلنا لمشاهدة الآمك المقدسة وقيامتك المجيدة لأن لك أن ترحمنا وتخلصنا، أيها المسيح الإله، وإليك نرفع المجد وإلى أبوك الأزلي وروحك القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الدهرين.
الشعب: آمين.

طروبارية احد الشعانين- باللحن الاول- مرتين
أيها المسيح الإله، لما أقمّت لعازر من بين الاموات قبل الآمك، مؤكداً القيامة العامّة. فنحن أيضاً مثل الفتیان، نحمل رموز الانتصار، هاتفين اليك يا غالب الموت: هوشعنا في الاعالي. مبارك الآتي باسم الرب.

طروبارية- باللحن الرابع :

أيها المسيح إلهنا، لقد دُفنا معك بالمعمودية، فاستحققنا بقيامتك الحياة الخالدة. فنصرح مسبحين: هوشعنا في الأعالي. مبارك الآتي باسم الرب.





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>



Kondakion of the Feast, (Tone 6)

O Christ God enthroned in heaven, and on earth riding upon an ass; You have accepted the praise of the angels and the hymns of the children who were crying out to You: "Blessed are You who come to restore Adam."

Epistle: Palm Sunday, Philippians 4:4-9

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

Stichon: Sing to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians
Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety, but in every prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God. And may God's peace that surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

For the rest, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever honorable, whatever just, whatever holy, whatever lovable, whatever of good repute, if there be any virtue, if anything is worthy of praise: consider these things. And what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, these things practice — and the God of peace will be with you. ALLELUIA (Tone 3) (SL. Tone 1)

Sing to the Lord a new song; for the Lord has done wonderful works.

Stichon: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel: Palm Sunday, John 12: 1-18

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany the home of Lazarus, he had raised from the dead. And they made him a supper there; and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those sitting at table with him. Mary therefore took a pound of ointment, genuine nard of great value, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and with her hair wiped his feet dry. And the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. Then one of his disciples, Judas son of Simon the Iscariot, the one who was about to betray him, said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to the poor?" Now he said this, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and holding the purse, used to take what was put in it. Jesus therefore said, "Let her be: she was to keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you have always with you, but you do not always have me." Now the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there; and they came, not only because of Jesus, but that they might see Lazarus, the man he had raised from the dead. But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also. For on his account many of the Jews began to leave them and to believe in Jesus. Now the next day the great crowd which had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took up palm fronds and went out to meet him. And they cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass, and sat upon it, as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Sion; behold, thy king comes, sitting upon the colt of an ass." These things his disciples did not at first understand. But when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered these things were written about him, and that they had done these things to him. The crowd therefore, which was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness to him. And the reason why the crowd also went to meet him was that they heard he had worked this sign.

نشيد الختام (القنداق) باللحن السادس :

أيها المسيح الإله، الجالس على عرش في السماء والراكب عفوفاً على الأرض، لقد قبلت تسبيح الملائكة ونشيد الفتية الهاتفين اليك: مبارك أنت الآتي لتُنشِش آدم

رسالة احد الشعانين

مبارك الآتي باسم الرب، الرب هو الله، وقد ظهر لنا

اعترفوا للرب فإنه صالح، لأن إلى الأبد رحمته

الرسالة (فيلبي 4: 4 – 9)

يا اخوة، افرحوا في الرب كل حين، وأقول أيضاً افرحوا. ليكن حلمكم معروفاً عند جميع الناس. الرب قريب. لا تهتموا بشيء، بل في كل شيء فلتكن طلباتكم معلومة لدى الله بالصلاة والتضرع مع الشكر. وسلام الله الذي يفوق كل فهم، يحفظ قلوبكم ويصانركم في المسيح يسوع. وبعد أيها الاخوة، مهما يكن من حق، أو أدب، أو عدل، أو نقاوة، أو صفة محببة، أو حُسن صيت، إن تكن فضيلة أو مديح، ففي هذه فلتكن أفكاركم. وما تعلمتموه وتسلمتموه وسمعتموه ورأيتموه في فهذا اعملوا، وإله السلام يكون معكم. هلوليا

زمنوا للرب ترنيماً جديداً، لأن الرب صنع عجائب

رأت جميع أقاصي الارض خلاصاً لهذا.

الانجيل (يوحنا 12: 1 – 18)

قبل الفصح بستة ايام، أتى يسوع الى بيت عنيا، حيث كان لعازر الذي مات وأقامه يسوع من بين الاموات. فصنعوا له هناك عشاء، وكانت مرتا تخدم، وكان لعازر أحد المتكئين معه. أما مريم فأخذت رطل طيب من مائع الناردين كثير الثمن، ودهنت قدمي يسوع ومسحت قدميه بشعرها، فعبق البيت برائحة الطيب. فقال أحد تلاميذه، يهوذا بن سمعان الإسخريوطي، الذي كان مزماً أن يُسلمه. لم يُبع هذا الطيب بثلاث مئة دينار ويعطى للمساكين؟ وإنما قال هذا لاهتماماً منه بالمساكين بل لأنه كان سارقاً، وإذ كان الكيس عنده كان يأخذ ما يلقي فيه. فقال يسوع: دعها إنما حفظته ليوم دفني. فإن المساكين هم عندهم في كل حين، وأما أنا فلست معكم في كل حين. وعلم جمع كثير من اليهود أنه هناك، فجاءوا لا من أجل يسوع فقط بل لينظروا أيضاً لعازر الذي أقامه من بين الاموات. فقصده رؤساء الكهنة أن يقتلوا لعازر أيضاً. لأن كثيراً من اليهود كانوا بسببه يذهبون فيؤمنون بيسوع. وفي الغد لما سمع الجمع الكثير الذين جاؤوا الى العيد بأن يسوع يأتي إلى اورشليم، أخذوا سعف النخل وخرجوا لاستقباله وهم يصرخون قائلين: هوشعنا، مبارك الآتي باسم الرب ملك إسرائيل. وان يسوع وجد جحشاً فركبه، كما هو مكتوب. لا تخافي يا ابنة صهيون، ها إن ملكك يأتيك راكباً على جحش ابن أتان. هذه الاشياء لم يفهمها تلاميذه أولاً، ولكن لما مُجد يسوع، حينئذ تذكروا أن هذه إنما كتبت عنه وأنهم عملوها له. وكان يشهد له الجمع الذين كانوا معه حين نادى لعازر من القبر وأقامه من بين الاموات. ومن أجل هذا استقبله الجمع لانهم سمعوا بأنه قد صنع هذه الآية.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

SUNDAY, 2023: APRIL 2, PALM SUNDAY. THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS ENTRY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **DR. ADEL ZAKI RABBAT (17th Anniv.)** by George & Dr. Sherine Mussalli & Family.
- + **ROGER CARVALHO** by his wife Mary & Family.
- + **CATHERINE & MOSES KANDO** by Mary Carvalho & Family.
- + **ROSE & THOMAS COREY** by their daughter Mary Carvalho & Family.
- + **CHARLES SARKAS, son of the late Deeb & Mary Sarkas** by the Family of the late Louis E. Azar Family.
- + **GLORIA RAWAN RAZOOK** by Ron & Ann Marie Pise.

11:15 DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **ROSE & HOUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **JULIA KISHFY (21st Anniv.)** by the Family.
- + **MICHAEL GEORGE BOUDJOUK (NJ)** by Mr. Albert & Lina Kishfy.
- + **GEORGE BOUDJOUK (4th Anniv.)** by his wife Kawsar & Children.
- + **GEORGE & HANNOUD, MAURICE KOUSSA (Maracaibo, Venezuela)** by Kawsar Boudjouk & Children.
- + **BASHIR & SAYOUD BOUDJOUK** by Kawsar Boudjouk & Children.
- + **ELIA ASSAL KOUSSA (Coro, Venezuela)** by Kawsar Boudjouk & Children.
- + **MICHEL & AGIB BOUDJOUK (Maracaibo, Venezuela)** by Kawsar Boudjouk & Children.

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.





*Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight,
and blessed is the servant
whom He shall find awake....
Behold, therefore, my soul, beware,
lest thou fallest into deep slumber....
But be thou wakeful, crying,
Holy, Holy, Holy, art Thou, O God.*

-Holy Week

Journey through Lent



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.



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church Holy Week Liturgical Services

PALM SUNDAY – April 2

- 9:00 am † Divine Liturgy on Sunday: The Entrance of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem
- 11:15 am † Divine Liturgy on Sunday: The Entrance of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem

أحد الشعانين - 2 نيسان
• 9:00 يوم الأحد صباحاً † الإحتفال بالقداس الإلهي-عيد دخول السيد المسيح إلى أورشليم (أحد الشعانين)
• 11:15 يوم الأحد صباحاً † الإحتفال بالقداس الإلهي-عيد دخول السيد المسيح إلى أورشليم (أحد الشعانين)

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY – April 5

- 6:30 pm † Blessing of the Oil of the Penitents and the Lord's Last Supper commemoration at Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with the Solemn Washing of the Feet

الأربعاء المقدس - 5 نيسان
• 6:30 مساءً † الإحتفال بالليتورجية الإلهية للقدوس باسيلوس الكبير بلبها رتبة تبريك الزيت و مسح المؤمنين
• 6:30 مساءً † قراءة الأناجيل المقدسة مع خدمة الآلام الخلاصية ورتبة غسل الأرجل

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY – April 6

- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm † Vigil at the Foot of the Cross
- 6:30 pm † Matins Service of the Crucifixion with the reading of the Passion Gospels

خمس العيد - 6 نيسان
• 8:00 صباحاً حتى 5:00 مساءً † صلاة سجود وتأمل عند أقدام الصليب
• 6:30 مساءً † قراءة الأناجيل المقدسة مع خدمة الآلام الخلاصية ورتبة الصلب

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY – Passion of Our Lord – April 7

- 6:30 pm † Burial Service of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ- Matins of Holy Saturday-Procession of Triumph

الجمعة العظيمة - 7 نيسان
• 6:30 مساءً † صلاة النحر ورتبة جناز السيد المسيح تليها خدمة فيض النور ونثر الغار كرامة إيتسار السيد المسيح على الموت

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY – The Descent Into Hades – April 8

- 6:30 pm † Resurrection Matins (Rush Service) and Divine Liturgy of Pascha followed by collation in the Culture Center

سبت النور - 8 نيسان
• 6:30 مساءً † رتبة الهجمة وخدمة القناس الإلهي إحتفالاً بعيد الفصح المجيد ولها تجمع إحتفالي في قاعة الكنيسة

EASTER SUNDAY – Resurrection of Our Lord - April 9

- 10:00 am † Resurrection Matins (Rush Service) followed by the Divine Liturgy of Pascha

عيد الفصح المجيد - 9 نيسان
• 10:00 صباحاً † رتبة الهجمة وخدمة القناس الإلهي إحتفالاً بعيد الفصح المجيد





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: March 26, 2023: Budgets: \$1,718.00: Envelopes: \$1 630.00, Loose: \$88.00; Candles: \$66.00: Stole Offerings: \$325.00; Addit'l Fuel \$10.00; Cemetery: \$20.00; Building Fund: \$140.00, Additil Melkite Support: \$190.00; Easter Lilies: \$50.00; Easter Agape Vigil Donation: \$200.00.

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.

2023 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available – free for the taking – at both entrances of the church. By following the liturgical cycle of the church year and remembering the Saints each day is an excellent way to attach yourself more closely to the worshipping community that is the church.

EASTER FLOWERS: Many parishioners have followed the long-time tradition of donating lilies to the Church for the Easter Season. If you would like to participate in this tradition, please sign your name on the bulletin board located outside the kitchen area. Since we have a larger sanctuary area to cover, we would appreciate your generosity in this regard to enhance the Church at this most blessed season. Please give your donation to Christine Durnin.

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

STRICT FAST AND ABSTINENCE: is observed on HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, AND HOLY SATURDAY. No food between midnight and noon. No meat- at all – during those days.

TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd, is the final collection of the season for your **FUEL OFFERINGS**. Help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory, as prices have escalated rapidly. We must remember that utilities are more than doubled in our new complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th: **WASHING OF THE FEET** – We call upon 12 men to volunteer for this most noble ceremony in the life of Christ. You may contact a member of the clergy on a first come- first serve basis.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7th: **FUNERAL OF CHRIST** - 12 Men are needed to carry the Tomb in procession, and 12 Women are needed to carry the Shroud in procession around the Church. Again, on a first come- first serve basis. If you wish to have this honor, please call William Haddad at 401-258-6133.

APPARITION OF CHRIST TO HIS DISCIPLES: It is the custom in our Melkite tradition to read excerpts of the Gospel in many languages following the Easter Resurrection Liturgy, symbolizing that the Good News of the Resurrection was proclaimed through out the world in every language. Many parishioners who speak different languages have requested that they be permitted to take part in the venerable tradition....Therefore, it is only fair that we alternate readers yearly who would like to participate. We ask that anyone who is interested reading at either the Saturday evening Liturgy, or the Easter morning Liturgy, please give your name to any member of the clergy so that we can prepare a schedule in advance.

VIGIL: "Could you not watch one hour with me?" Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board for one hour of prayer – reflection – meditation. Christ is asking you and your family this question as we re-live His final hours. What is your answer?

REFLECTION: All too often our earthly treasures dominate our lives. To live in service to the church gains for us treasure in heaven.

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




The story of Easter

 Colour in each section and look up the Bible verse to follow the Easter story!




 Mark 11:1-11



 Luke 22:1-6




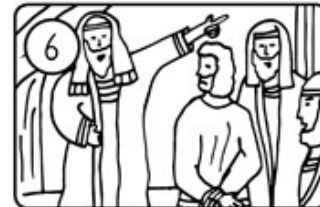
 Luke 22: 7-38




 Matthew 26: 36-46



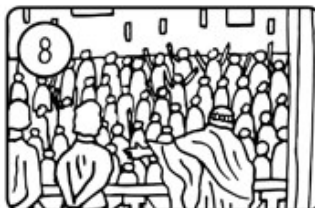
 Luke 22: 47-52




 Mark 14: 53-65



 Matthew 26: 69-75



 John 18: 28-40



 Matthew 27: 24




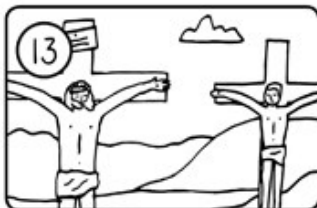
 Mark 15: 17




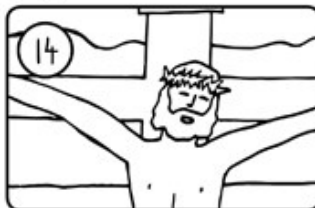
 John 19: 17




 Mark 15: 24-28




 Luke 23: 39-43



 Luke 23: 44-46



 John 19: 38-42



 Matthew 28: 1-7



 John 20: 19-23



 Acts 1: 9-11

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

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

| SUNDAYS | THEMES / GOSPEL READING | HOW TO PARTICIPATE: |
|---|---|--|
| Fast - Free Week JANUARY 29 TH |  <i>TRIDION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14 | Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week. |
| Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 5 TH |  The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32 | Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week. |
| Meatfare FEBRUARY 12 TH FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY |  The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 | Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week. |
| Cheesefare FEBRUARY 19 TH FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY |  Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21 | Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed. |
| 1 ST Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 26 TH |  <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51 | Bring an icon to church for a procession. |
| 2 ND Sunday of Lent MARCH 5 TH |  ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 | Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week. |
| 3 RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 12 TH |  VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 | Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow! |
| 4 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 19 TH |  ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31 | Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross! |
| 5 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 26 TH |  ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 | Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week. |
|  PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2 ND GREAT WEEK BEGINS |  <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18 | Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car! |
| GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 7 TH |  GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE | Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death. |
| FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 9 TH NO FASTING! |  <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17 | Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight! |

وجوه وسط الزحام في يوم دخول الرب يسوع إلى اورشليم



أحد الشعانين هو أحد الأعياد السبعة المرتبطة بالقيامة، وله خصوصية في حياة السيد المسيح والكنيسة معاً، ويمتاز بعلامات مهمة فإنه يوم فرح ويوم خلاص فالمسيح جاء ليخلص الخطاة وليصنع بداية جديدة

ثالثاً: المزيقون والمتظاهرون بالقوى: على مدى تاريخ الكنيسة، كان المزيقون ومدعو التقوى حاضرين في كل مكان وكل مناسبة "دينية"، وهم عادة من يجيدون تمثيل الإيمان، ومن يريدون أن يراهم الناس ويمدحونهم، ولكنهم لم يسلموا حياتهم لشخص الرب يسوع المسيح. وما أسهل أن يخون مثل هؤلاء الرب، كما فعل يهوذا الأسخريوطي. يأتي بعض الناس إلى الكنيسة من أجل راحة الضمير. ويأتي البعض الآخر لأنها أصبحت عادة في حياته. ويأتي فريق آخر من أجل أهداف أرضية لا تمتد إلى الأبد. مثل هؤلاء عميان ولا يعرفون الرب فعلاً، ولا يعرفون خطته لحياتهم. وعادة فإن مدعي الإيمان والمزيقين ينقادون بشكل سريع للأراء السلبية والهدامة، وهم يسرون في الطرق السهلة التي لا يوجد فيها مقاومة. فهم يذهبون إلى الكنيسة، ويقومون بأعمال العبادة المختلفة من ترانيم وصلوات، ولكنهم في نفس الوقت يعرفون حقيقة أنفسهم بأنهم ممثلون ومنافقون.

رابعاً: الفضوليون، أي الذين يحركهم حب الاستطلاع. نقرأ في يوحنا 12:17-18: "وَكَانَ الْجَمْعُ الَّذِي مَعَهُ يَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ دَعَا لِعَازَرَ مِنَ الْفَقِيرِ وَأَقَامَهُ مِنَ الْأَمْوَاتِ. لِهَذَا أَيْضاً لَأَقَاهُ الْجَمْعُ لِأَنَّهُمْ سَمِعُوا أَنَّهُ كَانَ قَدْ ضَمَّعَ هَذِهِ الْآيَةَ". الذين دخلوا اورشليم مع الرب يسوع شهدوا للجموع التي كانت في المدينة عن إقامة الرب يسوع للعازر من الموت. وبين هؤلاء كان جمع من الفضوليين. هؤلاء حركهم فضولهم للمجيء من أجل رؤية هذا الإنسان الذي قام بعمل مدهل، أي إقامة لعازر من الموت. مثل هؤلاء الناس ليسوا مكرسين للرب يسوع، وليسوا أعداء له أيضاً. فهم سمعوا أشياء مثيرة وملفتة للنظر عن يسوع، وجاؤوا ليروا بأنفسهم حقيقة ما سمعوا عنه. أي أنهم كانوا يبحثون عن اختبار مدهل ومثير، ولا يبحثون عن الحق.

خامساً: المعارضون والمعادون والمتآمرون: نقرأ في لوقا 39:19: "وَأَمَّا تَعْضُ الْفَرِّيسِيِّينَ مِنَ الْجَمْعِ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: يَا مُعَلِّمُ انْتَهَى تَلَامِيذُكَ" وفي يوحنا 42:12: "نقرأ أن كثيرين من الناس: 'السَّبِّ الْفَرِّيسِيِّينَ لَمْ يَغْفَرُوا بِهِ لِيَلَّا يَصِيرُوا خَارِجَ الْمَجْمَعِ'. المعارضون للرب يسوع هم الأشخاص الذي يريدون تحقيق مصالحهم الشخصية. هم الذين يرفضون لاهوت وسلطان وملكوت الرب يسوع، ويريدون أن يجلبوا انتباه الناس إلى أنفسهم بدلاً من رب المجد يسوع. هم الذين لا يريدون أن يكرسوا أنفسهم للرب يسوع، وذلك لأن التركيز يعني التغيير، ويعني أن التركيز يجب أن ينصب على الرب يسوع وليس عليهم. المعارضون هم من يريدون أن يدعروا رسالة الرب يسوع، وأن يدعروا ويفضوا على من ينادي برسالة الرب يسوع. لاحظ قول الإنجيل المقدس في مرقس 9:11: "وَالَّذِينَ تَقَدَّمُوا وَالَّذِينَ تَبِعُوا كَانُوا يَضْرَحُونَ قَائِلِينَ: أَوْصِنَا! مُبَارَكُ الْآبِي بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ!".

لم تتغير حالة الناس اليوم. فما أسهل من أن تنقلب المشاعر والعواطف بين ليلة وضحاها. اليوم نصرخ ونهتف ونشجع شخصاً ما، وغداً ننتقل على ذات الشخص بروح النقد والهجوم والعداء. ما أسهل أن تتبع جموع الهائنين، لأن الفرصة وقتها تكون متاحة للهتاف مثل الآخرين. فعندما يكون هنالك احتفال كبير، أو اجتماع حاشد للعبادة والتسبيح، يستطيع كل فرد أن يشارك. ولكن عندما تأتي لحظة الإمتحان الحقيقي، لحظة الطاعة الشخصية للرب، فما أسهل أن يسقط الفرد ويفشل حتى في إطاعة أبسط وصايا الرب، مثل مسامحة الآخرين أو تشجيعهم أو معاملتهم بمحبة وتواضع. ننخرط بين الجموع لأننا لا نلاحظ، ونكون وجهاً في الزحام. نرتد في الكنيسة مع الجموع، ولكننا نشغل في حياتنا الروحية الفردية. وننشل في بيوتنا حتى في قراءة آية واحدة من الإنجيل يومياً.

السؤال الذي يتحدا: من أي المجموعات أنت وأنت وأنا؟ يعرف الرب يسوع كل واحد منا حتى ولو كنا بين الجموع المحتشدة. يعرف الرب يسوع قصتي وقصتك، وخطاياي وخطاياك. يرى الرب يسوع وجهك، ويرى أيضاً قلبك. يريد الرب يسوع أن يكون ملكاً على حياتك اليوم، فهل تقبله رياً ومخلصاً لك. هل تصرخ مع الجموع قائلاً: أوصِنَا. أوصِنَا. أوصِنَا.

يحتل أحد الشعانين الذي تفسره "هوشعنا أي خلص يارب" ذروة حياة يسوع العلنية السائر إلى آلامه وموته كما يُبين لنا الإنجيلي يوحنا. في هذه المناسبة وللمرة الأولى، يعلن يسوع عن ذاته أنه "ملك إسرائيل" الداخل إلى عاصمة ملكه اورشليم. في وسط تلك الهتافات توجه يسوع إلى هيكل الله ليعبده بيت صلاة ومقرراً للعبادة الحقيقية. فملكية يسوع بشكلها الشامل هي على مثال ملكية الله نفسه في اورشليم، وهذه الملكية تنطلق من إسرائيل لتصل إلى سائر الشعوب.

فمع أن الرب يسوع لم يكن قد انتصر في معركة عسكرية. ولم تكن معه جيوش جزارة. ولم يكن راكباً على مركبة تجرها خيول مزخرفة بالذهب والغار. إلا أن الناس هتفوا يومها له بصراخ لا يعلو إلا للملوك والعظماء، مع أنه جاء وديعاً ومتواضعاً وراكباً على أتان. جاء لكي يموت على الصليب من أجلنا. جاء إلى اورشليم لأنها مدينة الملك العظيم. زمن الموكب: تم دخول الرب يسوع إلى اورشليم في بداية أسبوع الإحتفال بعيد الفصح عند اليهود. وبحسب شريعة العهد القديم، كان على اليهود المشتمين في عدد من دول العالم أن يحضروا في موسم العيد إلى اورشليم لتقديم ذبائح الفصح في الهيكل. وهكذا كان عشرات الآلاف، وربما مئات الآلاف، يحتشدون في اورشليم في فترة عيد الفصح. يعني هذا الكلام بكل بساطة أن عدداً ضخماً من الناس قد شاهد دخول موكب الرب يسوع إلى اورشليم، وقد كان موكباً يضاهي موكب القادة والملوك العظام، مع أن دخوله كان بطريقة متواضعة ومسالمة. فلم يكن على رأسه إكليل انتصار، ولم يكن راكباً حصاناً قوياً، بل على جحش إبن أتان.

كان الرب يعلم تماماً ما الذي ينتظره في اورشليم من خيانة واعتقال وتعذيب ومحكمة وجلدٍ وصلبٍ وموت، ومع ذلك جاء إلى اورشليم علناً لكي تتم كل نبوءات الله فيه. دخل الرب يسوع اورشليم متواضعاً وراكباً على أتان. أي دخل بعمل رمزي يشير إلى أنه: 1. رئيس السلام: دخل الرب يسوع اورشليم بسلام، ولذلك لم تعترض على دخوله السلطات الرومانية التي كانت تحتل اورشليم في أيام المسيح. فمن يركب حماراً ولا يحمل سلاحاً لا يهدد أمن الدولة، ولا يؤثر مشاكل لأحد، إلا لمن أراد أن يثار من محبة الناس وهتافهم لرب المجد يسوع، وهم رجال الدين بالتحديد.

لو تفحصنا الجموع جيداً، لوجدنا أنه كان هنالك خمسة أنواع من الناس وسط هذا الحشد الكبير:

أولاً: المؤمنون المكرسون: هم الذين يتبعون الرب يسوع ويخضعون لمشيئته، ويعترفون به رياً وسيداً لحياتهم، ويطيعونه إلى التمام، ويذهبون ويعملون ما يريده منهم، ويعطون من حياتهم طوعاً لمجد الرب. وهؤلاء كانوا تلاميذه من الرسل وغيرهم. كما نقرأ في متى 6:21: "فَدَّهَبَ التَّلَامِيذَانِ وَفَعَلَا كَمَا أَمَرَهُمَا يُسُوعُ".

ثانياً: المرتبكون والمحتارون والضائعون: وهم الأغلبية بين الجموع، وهم مثل الغنم التي لا راع لها. نقرأ في متى 10:21: "وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ أُورُشَلِيمَ ارْتَجَبَتِ الْمَدِينَةُ كُلُّهَا قَائِلَةً: مَنْ هَذَا؟". فقال الجموع في الآية 11: "هَذَا يُسُوعُ النَّبِيُّ الَّذِي مِنْ نَاصِرَةَ الْجَلِيلِ". المرتبكون هم عادة الذين لا يعرفون حقيقة هوية الرب يسوع. فالجموع في اورشليم قالت أنه نبي. وكثيرون اليوم يؤمنون أنه مجرد نبي. ويوجد كثيرون اليوم، بمن فيهم الملحدون، يقولون أن يسوع كان معلماً مثالياً صالحاً، غير مدركين حقيقة شخصه بأنه الله القدوس البار. وحتى في كنايسنا المسيحية، وبين المحتفلين بذكرى أحد الشعانين، نجد أن كثيرين لا يعرفون حقاً من هو يسوع: فهم لا يعرفون خطة الله لحياتهم، ويعتمدون على برهم الذاتي وعلى أعمالهم للخلاص. أي أنهم يحتفلون بذكرى دخول الرب يسوع الى اورشليم دون أن يعرفوه نهائياً. كذلك فإن الضائعين والمرتبكين لا يفهمون رسالة الرب يسوع والقصد من مجيئه، مثل سكان

CELEBRATION OF PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



Joyful acclamations at Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, followed by his humiliation. Festive cries followed by brutal torture. This twofold mystery accompanies our entrance into Holy Week each year, as reflected in the two characteristic moments of today's celebration: the initial procession with palm branches and the solemn reading of the Passion.

Let us enter into this movement, guided by the Holy Spirit, and thus obtain the grace we sought in our opening prayer: to follow in faith our Saviour's example of humility, to heed his lesson of patient suffering, and thus to merit a share in his victory over the spirit of evil.

Jesus shows us how to face moments of difficulty and the most insidious of temptations by preserving in our hearts a peace that is neither detachment nor superhuman impassivity, but confident abandonment to the Father and to his saving will, which bestows life and mercy. He shows us this kind of abandonment by spurning, at every point in his earthly ministry, the temptation to do things his way and not in complete obedience to the Father. From the experience of his forty days in the desert to the culmination of his Passion, Jesus rejects this temptation by his obedient trust in the Father.

Today, too, by his entrance into Jerusalem, he shows us the way. For in that event, the evil one, the prince of this world, had a card up his sleeve: the card of *triumphalism*. Yet the Lord responded by holding fast to his own way, *the way of humility*.

Triumphalism tries to make it to the goal by shortcuts and false compromises. It wants to jump onto the carriage of the winner. It lives off gestures and words that are not forged in the crucible of the cross; it grows by looking askance at others and constantly judging them inferior, wanting, failures... One subtle form of triumphalism is spiritual worldliness, which represents the greatest danger, the most treacherous temptation threatening the Church (De Lubac). Jesus destroyed triumphalism by his Passion.

The Lord truly rejoiced with the people, with those young people who shouted out his name and acclaimed him as King and Messiah. His heart was gladdened to see the enthusiasm and excitement of the poor of Israel. So much so, that, to those Pharisees who asked him to rebuke his disciples for their scandalous acclamations, he replied: "If these were silent, the very stones would cry out" (Lk 19:40). Humility does not mean denying reality: Jesus really is the Messiah, the King.

Yet *at the same time* the heart of Jesus was moving on another track, on the sacred path known to him and the Father alone: the path that leads from "the form of God" to "the form of a servant", the path of self-abasement born of obedience "unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:6-8). He knows that true triumph involves *making room for God* and that the only way to do that is by *stripping oneself,*

by *self-emptying*. To remain silent, to pray, to accept humiliation. There is no negotiating with the cross: one either embraces it or rejects it. By his self-abasement, Jesus wanted to open up to us *the path of faith* and to precede us on that path.

The first to follow him on that path was his mother, Mary, the first disciple. The Blessed Virgin and the saints had to suffer in walking the path of faith and obedience to God's will. Responding with faith to the harsh and painful events of life entails "a particular heaviness of heart The night of faith. Yet only from that night do we see the dawn of the resurrection break forth. At the foot of the cross, Mary thought once more of the words that the angel had spoken about her Son: "He will be great... The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 1:32-33). On Golgotha, Mary faced the complete denial of that promise: her Son was dying on a cross like a criminal. In this way, triumphalism, destroyed by the abasement of Jesus, was likewise destroyed in the heart of his Mother. Both kept silent.

In the footsteps of Mary, countless holy men and women have followed Jesus on the path of humility and obedience. Today, World Youth Day, I would like to mention all those young saints, especially the saints "next door" to us, known only to God; sometimes he likes to surprise us with them. Dear young people, do not be ashamed to show your enthusiasm for Jesus, to shout out that *he is alive* and that he is your life. Yet at the same time, do not be afraid to follow him on the way of the cross. When you hear that he is asking you to renounce yourselves, to let yourselves be stripped of every security, and to entrust yourselves completely to our Father in heaven, then rejoice and exult! You are on the path of the kingdom of God.

Festive acclamations and brutal torture; the *silence* of Jesus throughout his Passion is profoundly impressive. He also overcomes the temptation to answer back, to act like a "superstar". In moments of darkness and great tribulation, we need to keep silent, to find the courage not to speak, as long as our silence is meek and not full of anger. The meekness of silence will make us appear even weaker, more humble. Then the devil will take courage and come out into the open. We need to resist him in silence, "holding our position", but with the same attitude as Jesus. He knows that the battle is between God and the prince of this world, and that what is important is not putting our hand to the sword but remaining firm in faith. It is God's hour. At the hour that God comes forth to fight, we have to let him take over. Our place of safety will be beneath the mantle of the holy Mother of God. As we wait for the Lord to come and calm the storm (cf. Mt 4:37-41), by our silent witness in prayer we give ourselves and others "an accounting for the hope that is within [us]" (1 Pet 3:15). This will help us to live in the sacred tension between the memory of the promises made, the suffering present in the cross, and the hope of the resurrection.



St. Ephrem Prayer

O Lord and Master of my life,
take from me the spirit of sloth,
despair, lust of power,
and idle talk.


But give rather the spirit of
chastity, humility, patience, and
love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me
to see my own transgressions,
and not to judge my brother, for
blessed art Thou, unto
ages of ages. Amen.



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 السبت 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 🇦🇺 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 | |

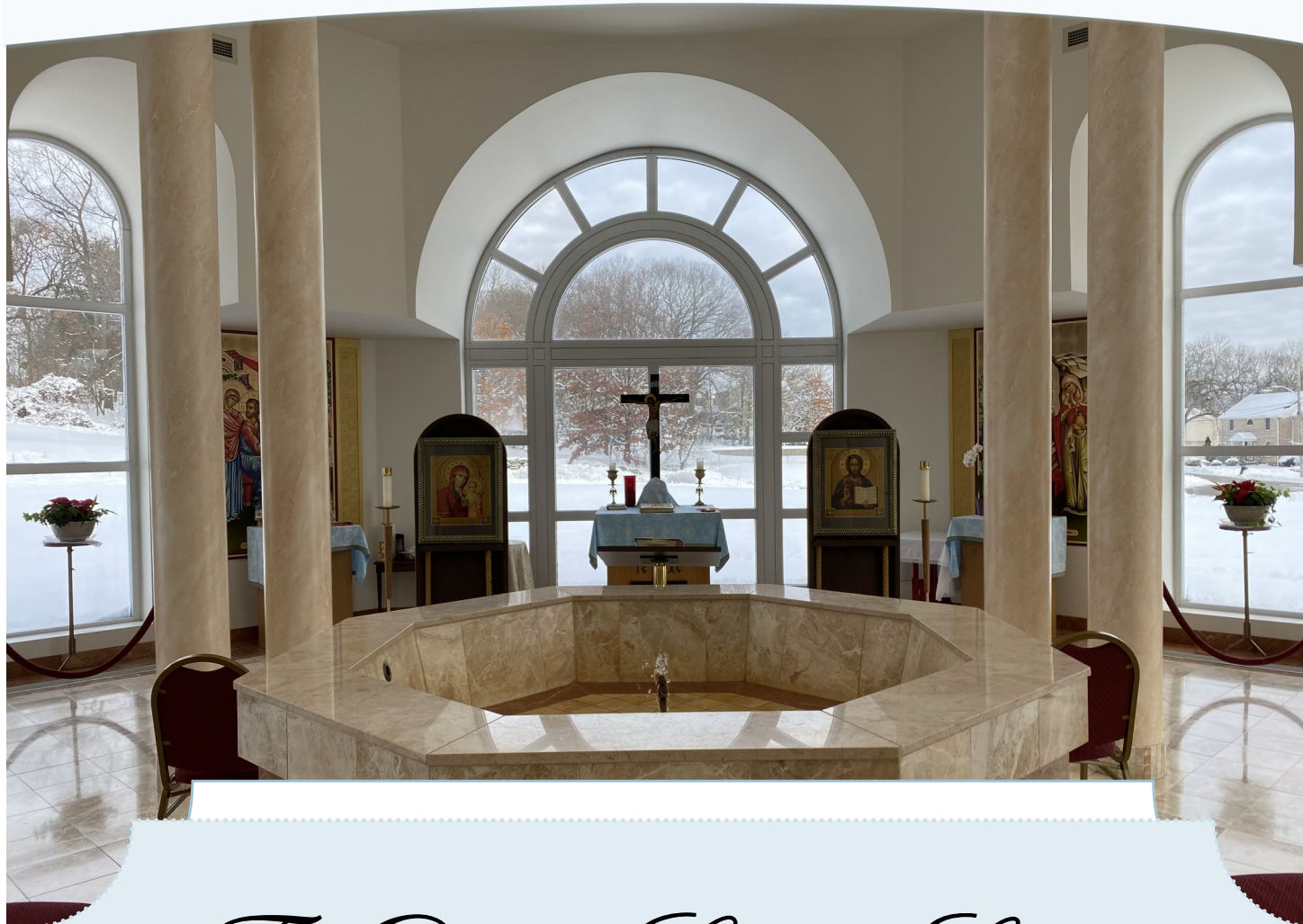
✠ Church Major Feasts

🐟 Abstain from Meat

🕒 Fast from midnight until noon

🌸 Lenten Season

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Divine Liturgy

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

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

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

YouTube
<https://bit.ly/2VJgvnS>

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.



SHEPHERD'S CARE Associated Charities Great Lent 2023

"There is no sin that alms cannot cleanse. Charity is a medicine suitable for any wound."

St. John Chrysostom

Almsgiving is an essential pillar of Great Lent. Owing to your love and faithful support, the diocese has been able to help orphans, the hungry, the homeless, addicted, destitute, runaway teens, victims of war, victims of disease and disaster, and so many others through Shepherd's Care Associated Charities.

Shepherd's Care is much more than simply raising funds for charity. It is a guide to assist us in living a holy Lent through understanding and practicing the cornerstones of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As Great Lent begins please pick up a brochure and a coin box when you come to church. Put it on your dining table or in your icon corner, anywhere you will see it and be inspired to remember the needy. Throughout Lent place your offerings in the box. At the end of Great Lent simply bring the proceeds of your mite box to the church as your offering for Shepherd's Care.

This year, due to the recent tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria, all proceeds from Shepherd's Care 2023 will be given to alleviate their suffering. If you would like to make a donation to assist those who have lost loved ones, have been injured, or had their property damaged or destroyed, you may mail a donation to the address below. The check may be made out to: "Diocese of Newton" with the memo: "Shepherd's Care Earthquake Relief." Mail to Diocese of Newton Shepherd's Care, 3 VFW Parkway, W. Roxbury, MA 02132. You may also make online donations through your parish's online portal, or at: www.melkite.org/donate. Please specify: "Earthquake relief."

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity on behalf of those less fortunate.

Weekend of March 19, 2023

Our Shepherd's Care Associated Charities 2023 campaign is in full swing. If you haven't already done so, please consider making this Lent more meaningful for you by opening your heart to the less fortunate. All proceeds from this year's campaign go to relief efforts for the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Shepherd's Care Associated Charities

Shepherd's Care began in 1988 at the request of the faithful and clergy who saw a need for a united effort among all Melkite Catholic Parishes in the United States to reach out to people in need. By means of this initiative, our eparchy reaches out in love through financial assistance to people in need here in the United States and abroad. Over the years Shepherd's Care has raised more than \$250,000.

Through your love and faithful support, the diocese has been able to help orphans, the hungry, the homeless, drug addicted, the destitute, runaway teens, victims of war, victims of disease and disasters, and so many more.

Donations are distributed to local parish charities such as soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, eparchial charities, world charities, and offers tuition assistance to seminarians of the Eparchy.

But Shepherd's Care is much more than raising funds for charitable causes. More importantly, it is a guide to assist us in living a Holy Lent through understanding and practicing the Lenten cornerstones of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



**Shepherd's Care
Associated Charities
Eparchy of Newton
3 V.F.W. Parkway
West Roxbury, MA 02132-7727**



SHEPHERD'S CARE Associated Charities Great Lent

"There is no sin that alms cannot cleanse. Charity is a medicine suitable for any wound."

St. John Chrysostom

The Widow's Mite

Each year during the Great Fast, the Church encourages us with the example of the "widow's mite". We receive a little box – a "mite box" which we take home. This box symbolizes the offerings (alms) we give during Lent, together with our increased prayers, fasting, and abstinence.

"When He looked up, he saw some wealthy people putting their offering into the treasury, and He noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth. But she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood"



Our Lord, in His infinite wisdom, recognized that the widow's mite was so very valuable. The poor widow gave from her need. She gave to God everything she had.



Lenten Gift Box

Each family, indeed every person, is invited to take home a Lenten gift (mite) box. Put it on your dining table, or in your icon corner, anywhere you will see it and be inspired to remember the needy. Throughout Lent place your offerings in the box. Some people try to put in the amount they save by abstaining from certain foods. Children find it especially fun to use a coin calendar.

At the end of Great Lent bring the proceeds of your mite box to the church as your offering for Shepherd's Care. If you are presenting a check please make it payable to **SHEPHERD'S CARE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES**. You may also

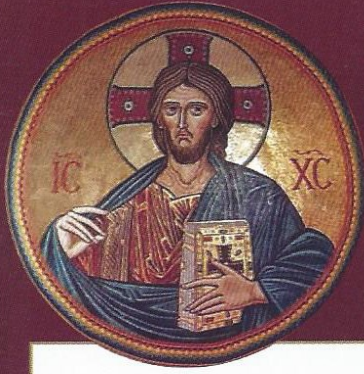
make donations by check directly to the Eparchial Office. Address is on the back. Together our eparchial family can help alleviate the sufferings of God's people.

All proceeds from Shepherd's Care Associated Charities go directly to the charities. The Bishop, together with his advisors, insures that 100% of the money is given to the needy at home and abroad.

Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated by all who will benefit from them. The Fathers of the Church encourage us to always be humbly grateful and remember those in need. In helping others, we are doing the will of God.

"The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry. The garment in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor."

St. Basil the Great



MELKITE CATHOLIC  EPARCHY OF NEWTON

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:

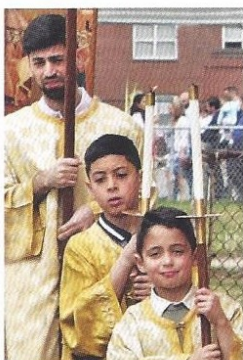
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

Clergy & Candidate Databases

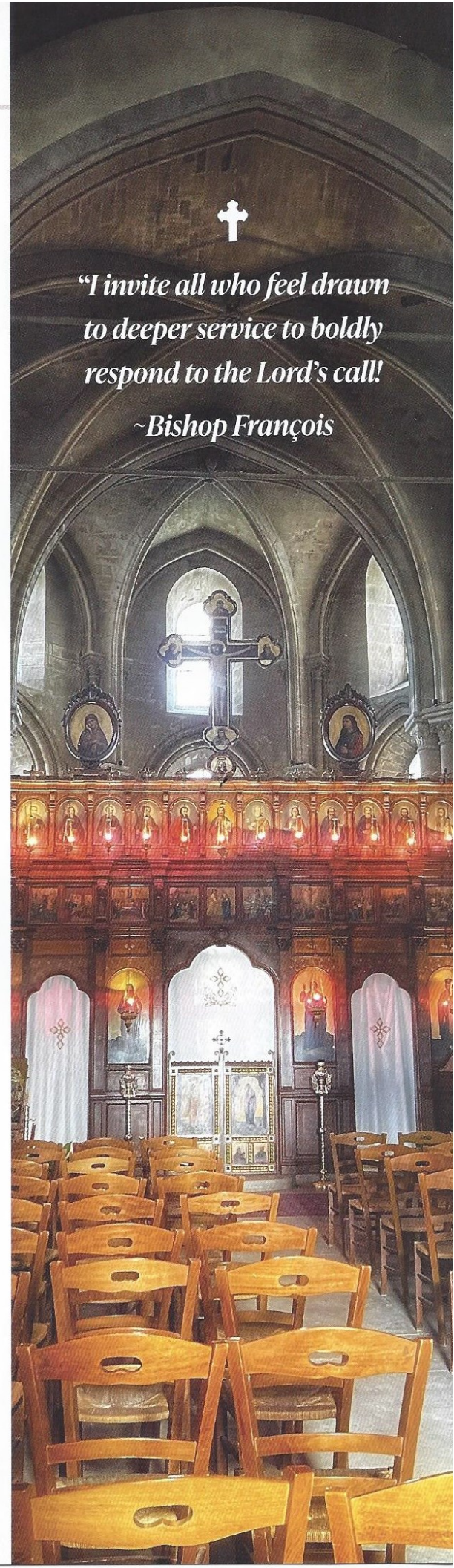
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement 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. 🌟

MELKITE CATHOLIC



EPARCHY OF NEWTON

3 VFW PARKWAY, WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132-7722 • 617-323-9922 • MELKITE.ORG • VOCATIONS@MELKITE.ORG

BYZANTINE KIDS MAGAZINE!



Get a full yearly subscription: 12 monthly issues, delivered to your door, for only \$10/issue!
<https://www.byzimom.com/product-page/byzikids-magazine-12-month-subscription>

The team at ByziKids Magazine strongly believes in the power of prayer!
Proceeds from your subscription will be donated to the support of Eastern Christian monastic communities!
For more information about the monasteries we help, see our mission statement on the ByziKids page of ByziMom.com!

FREE [Online Byzikids Magazine for April :](https://tinyurl.com/2p9555wv)
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9555wv>

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

MASSUD & SONS FLOOR COVERING, INC. ESTABLISHED 1972

(401) 724-6674

772 Dexter Street., Central Falls, RI

www.massudflooring.com

Carpets-Vinyl-Hardwood-Laminate-Ceramic Tile

"Come See The Massud Family Today"

**FAMILY
OWNED & OPERATED
FOR OVER 48 YEARS!**

Schedule your appointment



JAMES M. PROCTER

SALES MANAGER

NMLS# 23362

TOLL FREE : 844-500-5552X3501

DIRECT : 401-589-1601

MOBILE : 401-744-1532

E-FAX : 866-449-9855

JAMES.PROCTER@NATIONSLENDING.COM

800 OAKLAWN AVE. SUITE C-201, CRANSTON, RI 02920

New England Stone

15 Branch Pike

Smithfield, RI 02917

(401) 232-2040

Monuments . Benches . Paving Blocks



Lila Delman
Real Estate

MICHELLE H. LEFRANCOIS

Sales Associate

369 South Main St.

Providence, RI 02903

401-274-1644

M 401-935-5854

F 401-331-1719

E Michelle.Lefrancois@LilaDelman.com

RAHEB LAW



JOSEPH RAHEB, ESQ. ALEXANDER J. RAHEB, ESQ.
SAMUEL J. RAHEB, ESQ. ADRIENNE F. RAHEB, ESQ.

650 GEO. WASHINGTON HWY., #200
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND 02865

phone 401-333-3377 fax 401-334-4152

STEPHEN M. CUSHMAN, CPA., MST



Certified Public Accountants
Mardo, Lachapelle & Palumbo, LLP
221 Broadway Providence RI 02903

401-274-8400

Fax : 401-274-9242

Email: steve@mlcpa.com

webpage: mlcpa.com



SHARON DeSIMONE, EA
401-651-1112

LincolnTaxServicesofRI@yahoo.com
650 George Washington Hwy.
Lincoln, RI 02865-4206

JAMES A. BRIDEN

Attorney At Law

Blais Cunningham & Crowe Chester, LLP

P.o.Box 1325 150 Main street Pawtucket, RI 02862

www.Blaislaw.com

401-723-1122

Fax : 401-726-6140

Email : jbriden@blaislaw.com

REGAL CONSULTING GROUP

REAL ESTATE CONSULTING AND VALUATION

MICHAEL P. LEFRANCOIS JR.

PRESIDENT & CHIEF CONSULTANT

640 GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY-BLDG B

SUITE 103-LINCOLN RI 02865

401-626-6619

MIKE@REGALCGROUP.COM

COSTIGAN - O'NEILL FUNERAL HOME



Phone: (401) 723-4035
220 COTTAGE STREET • PAWTUCKET, RI 02860

John H. O'Neill
Vincent P. O'Neill

"Catholic Funeral Directors"

FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES



Navigant
CREDIT UNION

Proud to be part of your community.

401.233.4700 — www.navigantcu.org

New location:

3102 Mendon Rd. Cumberland, RI 02864

Phone: (401) 658-1155

ADVERTISEMENTS

NAYCO

Great Family Store

190 Front Street
Lincoln Shopping Center

724-7504



Gonsalves/Pastore Realty
126 Broad Street, Cumberland,
RI 02864

V. Edward Fayan

Broker/Associate * Licensed in RI & MA

Bus: 401-728-2770 Cell : 401-474-7279

Shirley A. Moon Lemay, CPIW



Blais
INSURANCE

Tel : 401-725-0070
Fax : 401-726-2620
P.O. Box 158, One Walker Street
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865



www.fayanlaw.com

Keith E. Fayan, Esq.

Hope Artiste Village
1005 Main Street, Unit 1204
Pawtucket, RI-02860
T: 401-475-2755 F: 401-223-6387
kef@fayanlaw.com
Admitted in Mass & RI



A Brilliant Choice!

Carl J. Sahady

President
Narragansett Shopping Plaza
(Next to Stop & Shop)
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Park Printers, Inc

Service-Quality-Affordability

Full service Printing since 1976
496 Power Road, Pawtucket, RI
401-728-8650



"NO JOB TOO BIG"

**THE AFFORDABLE
PLUMBER & SON**
401.255.6996



"NO JOB TOO SMALL"



"CUSTOMIZE YOUR DREAMS"

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY & ON-SITE
JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR WHILE YOU WAIT
CASH 4 *GOLD/SILVER/DIAMONDS/PLATINUM*
SAMI KARRAZ, PRESIDENT - 508-643-3543
ELIEJEWELERS@COMCAST.NET
999 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST., N. ATTLEBORO, MA 02760
(EMERALD SQUARE MALL LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR)

Feel Better Live Better



YOUR HEALTH. YOUR CHOICE.

Lincoln: 401.475.6599

PATRICIA MELKOUN VP of Administration

www.elitephysicaltherapy.com

pmelkoun@elitephysicaltherapy.com

Lincoln: 401.475.6599
Cranston: 401.533.9616
N. Smithfield: 401.597.5840
Warwick: 401.737.4581
E. Greenwich: 401.398.7988
Providence: 401.276.0800
Coventry: 401.615.3140

Northeast
INVESTMENT GROUP



Jeffrey M. Boudjouk

Managing Partner - Wealth Advisor
jeff@northeastinvestmentgroup.com

Phone: 401-213-8315 • Toll Free: 855-232-6748 • eFax: 401-329-0039
1000 Chapel View Blvd., Suite 200 • Cranston, RI 02920
www.northeastinvestmentgroup.com



Offshore Seafood

'Quality at its best'
Fresh Frozen

Bob Marcoux 401-737-3763



Thinking About Selling?

Contact Justin for a Complimentary Home Valuation



Justin Dower

Listing Specialist & Realtor®
Licensed in RI, MA & NY

(631) 466-1399

Find me: Justin.SpectrumREC.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated Equal Housing Opportunity