



September 17, 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](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



## Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### الأحد الذي بعد رفع الصليب الكريم المقدس

#### Troparion of the Resurrection (7th tone)

You destroyed Death by Your cross. You opened paradise to the thief. You changed the weeping of the myrrhbearers, and commanded Your apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy.

#### Troparion of the Holy Cross,

“O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance, granting peace to the world. And preserve your community by the power of your Cross.”

#### 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.

#### Kondakion of the Holy Cross,

O Christ God, who chose by Your free volition to be elevated upon the holy cross, grant Your mercies to Your new people who are called by Your name. In Your power gladden the hearts of our public authorities. Strengthen them in every good deed so that Your true alliance may be for them a weapon of peace and a standard of victory.

#### نشيد القيامة باللحن السابع

لاشيء بصليبك الموت، وفتحت للحي الفردوس، وحولت نوح حاملات الطيب الى فرح، وأمرت رسلك أن يكرزوا مبشرين بأنك قد قممت، أيها المسيح الاله، مانحاً العالم عظيم الرحمة.

#### نشيد الصليب الكريم المقدس باللحن الاول

خلصن يا رب شعبك وبارك ميراثك مانحاً العالم السلام، واحفظ بقوة صليبك رعيتك.

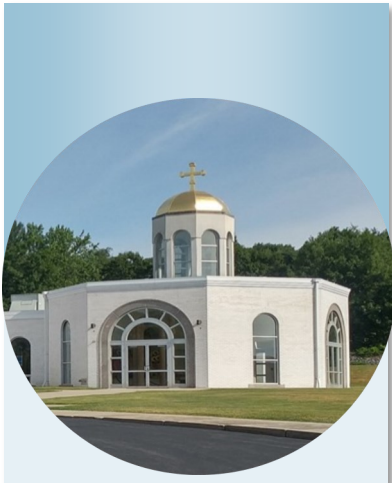
#### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بينت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأب البأز ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

#### قنداق الختام لرفع الصليب (اللحن الرابع)

يا من رُفِعَ على الصليب طوعاً، ايها المسيح الاله، امنح رؤفتك لشعبك الجديد الملقب باسمك. فتح بقدرتك ملوكتنا المؤمنين. مانحاً إياهم الغلبة على محاربيهم. لتكن لهم نصرتك سلاح سلام وشعار انتصار.





### 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>



## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST -

2 Corinthians: 6: 1-10 -

PROKIMENON (Tone 7)

The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Stichon: Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

### READING from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

BRETHREN, yes, working together with him, we beg you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation, I have helped you. (Is.49:8) Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We give no offense to anyone, that our ministry may not be blamed. On the contrary, let us behave in all circumstances as God's ministers, in much patience, in tribulations, in hardships, in distress; in stripes, in imprisonments, in riots; in labors, in sleepless nights, in fastings; in innocence, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in unaffected love; in the word of truth, in God's power; with the armor of justification on the right hand and on the left; in honor and dishonor, in evil report and good report; as deceivers and yet truthful, as unknown and yet well known, as dying, and look, we live; as punished, but not killed, as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet enriching many, as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

ALLELUIA (Tone 7)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High!

Stichon: To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

### Gospel: 16th Sunday of Pentecost, Matthew 25: 14-30

The lord told this parable: "A man going abroad, called his servants and handed over his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his particular ability, and then he went on his journey. And he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more. In like manner, he who had received the two gained two more. But he who had received the one went away and dug in the earth and hid his master's money. Then after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came and brought five other talents saying, "Master, thou didst hand over to me five talents; behold, I have gained five others in addition." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; because you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had received two talents came and said, "Master, you did hand over to me two talents; behold, I have gained two more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; because you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many; enter into the joy of your master." But he who had received the one talent came and said, "Master, I know that you are a stern man; you reap where you have not winnowed; and as I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the earth; behold, thou hast what is thine." But his master answered and said to him, "Wicked and slothful servant! You did know that I reap where I do not sow, and gather where I have not winnowed. Thou shouldst therefore have entrusted my money to the bankers, and on my return, I should have got back my own with interest. Take away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who does not have, even that which he seems shall be taken away. But as for the unprofitable servant, cast him forth into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And who has ears to here let him hear.

الاحد السادس عشر بعد العنصرة

مقدمة الرسالة

الرَّبُّ يُوْتِي شَعْبَهُ قُوَّةً، الرَّبُّ يُبَارِكُ شَعْبَهُ بِالسَّلَامِ  
قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ، قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ أَبْنَاءَ الْكِبَاشِ

### فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية الى أهل كورنثس

يا إخوة، إذ نحنُ معاوونون، نُحَرِّضُكُمْ أَنْ لَا يَكُونَ قَبُولُكُمْ نِعْمَةً اللَّهِ بَاطِلًا لِأَنَّهُ يَقُولُ، إِنِّي اسْتَجَبْتُ لَكَ فِي وَقْتٍ مَقْبُولٍ، وَأَعْنَتُكَ فِي يَوْمِ خَلَاصٍ. فَهَذَا الْآنَ وَقْتُ مَقْبُولٍ، هَذَا الْآنَ يَوْمُ خَلَاصٍ. وَلَسْنَا نَأْتِي بِمَعْرَةَ فِي شَيْءٍ لئَلَّا يَلْحَقَ خَدْمَتُنَا عَيْبٌ. بَلْ نَظْهَرُ أَنْفُسَنَا كَخَدَّامِ اللَّهِ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، فِي الصَّبْرِ الْكَثِيرِ وَالْمُضَابِقِ، وَالضَّرُورَاتِ وَالْمَشَقَّاتِ، وَالْجُلْدَاتِ وَالسُّجُونِ، وَالْاضْطِرَابَاتِ وَالْأَتْعَابِ، وَالْأَسْهَارِ وَالْأَصْوَامِ، وَالطَّهَارَةِ وَالْمَعْرِفَةِ، وَطُولِ الْأَنَاءِ وَالرَّفْقِ، وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ وَالْمَحَبَّةِ بِلَا رِئَاءٍ، وَكَلِمَةِ الْحَقِّ وَقُوَّةِ اللَّهِ، بِأَسْلِحَةِ الْبِرِّ عَنِ الْبِيْمِينِ وَعَنِ الْبِسَارِ، بِالْمَجْدِ وَالْهَوَانِ، بِسَوْءِ الصَّبِيَّةِ وَحُسْنِهِ. كَأَنَّا مُضَلُّونَ وَنَحْنُ صَادِقُونَ، كَأَنَّا مَجْهُولُونَ وَنَحْنُ مَعْرُوفُونَ، كَأَنَّا مَائِتُونَ وَهِيَ إِنَّا أَحْيَاءُ، كَأَنَّا مُؤَدَّبُونَ وَلَا نُقْتَلُ، كَأَنَّا حَزَانِي وَنَحْنُ دَائِمًا فَرِحُونَ، كَأَنَّا فُقَرَاءُ وَنَحْنُ نُغْنِي كَثِيرِينَ، كَأَنَّا لَا شَيْءَ لَنَا وَنَحْنُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ

هَلْلُولِيَا

صَالِحِ الْاعْتِرَافِ لِلرَّبِّ، وَالْإِشَادَةِ لِاسْمِكَ أَيُّهَا الْعَلِيِّ

لِيُخَبِّرَ بِرَحْمَتِكَ بِالْغَدَاةِ، وَفِي اللَّيْلِ بِحَقِّكَ

### الإنجيل متى (25: 14-30)

قال الربُّ هذا المثل: إنسانٌ مسافرٌ، دعاء عبيدة وسلم إليهم أمواله. فأعطى واحدا خمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ، وآخرَ وِزَنَتَيْنِ، وآخرَ وِزَنَةً، كل واحد على قدر طاقته، وسافر في الحال. فذهب الذي أخذ الخمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ، وتاجر بها، فربح خمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ أُخْرٍ. وكذلك الذي أخذ وِزَنَتَيْنِ ربح هو أيضا وِزَنَتَيْنِ أُخْرَيْنِ. وأما الذي أخذ وِزَنَةً الْوَاحِدَةَ، فذهب وحفر في الأرض ودفن فضةَ سيده. وبعد زمان طويل، قدِمَ سيّدُ أولئك العبيد وحاسبهم فدنا الذي أخذ الخمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ، وأدّى خمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ أُخْرٍ قائلًا: يا سيّد، خمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ سلّمتُ إليّ، وهذه خمسَ وِزَنَاتٍ أُخْرٍ قد ربحتها علاوةً عليها. فقال له سيده: نعمًا أيها العبدُ الصالحُ الأمين، كُنْتَ آمِنًا فِي الْقَلِيلِ، فَسَأَقِيمُكَ عَلَى الْكَثِيرِ. أدخل إلى فرح سيديك. ودنا الذي أخذ وِزَنَتَيْنِ فقال: يا سيّد، وِزَنَتَيْنِ سلّمتُ إليّ، وهاتان وِزَنَتَانِ أُخْرِيَانِ قد ربحتهما علاوةً عليهما. فقال له سيده: نعمًا أيّها العبدُ الصالحُ الأمين، كُنْتَ آمِنًا فِي الْقَلِيلِ، فَسَأَقِيمُكَ عَلَى الْكَثِيرِ. أدخل إلى فرح سيديك. ودنا الذي أخذ وِزَنَةً وقال: يا سيّد، علّمتُ أنك إنسان قاسٍ، تحصّد حيث لم تزرع، وتجمّع من حيث لم تذر. فخفّت وذهبتُ فدقنتُ وِزَنَتَكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ. فهوذا مالك عندك. فأجاب سيده وقال له: أيها العبدُ الشريزُ الكسلان، قد علّمتُ أنني أحصدُ حيث لم أزرع، وأجمع من حيث لم أذر. فكان ينبغي أن تسلّم مالي وفضتي إلى الصيارفة، ومتى قدّمتم أنا أسترّد مالي مع ربي. فخذوا منه وِزَنَةً، وأعطوها للذي معه العشر وِزَنَاتٍ. لأنّ كلّ مَنْ لَهُ يُعْطَى فَيَزِدَادُ، وَمَنْ لَيْسَ لَهُ فَحَتَى مَا هُوَ لَهُ يَنْزِعُ مِنْهُ. والعبدُ البطال، ألقوه في الظلمة الخارجية. هناك يَكُونُ الْبُكَاءُ وَصُرْفُ الْأَسْنَانِ. ولما قالَ هذا صاح: من له أُذُنَانِ لِلسَّمَاعِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ.



# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023: SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS.**

**10:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY**

**LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SPIRITUAL & TEMPORAL WELFARE OF ALL PARISHIONERS, BENEFACTORS, NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE PRESENT MONUMENTAL CHURCH COMPLEX**



## 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.





#### To all Parishioners:

Due to the extreme weather we experienced last night, we made a decision to extend the nomination process of the Parish Advisory Council (PAC). We did allow for the nominations by those in attendance on Wednesday evening, however we will also allow for nominations to take place on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour (10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.). If you would like to nominate an individual, or if you are interested in being a nominee, please plan on being present on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

All accepting nominees will then prepare and submit a brief one-paragraph summary. This summary should include any relevant background and why he/she believes they should be elected to the PAC. This summary should be in a Word document and emailed to [susanalbatal@yahoo.com](mailto:susanalbatal@yahoo.com) by 9:00 a.m. on Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>. The election of the new PAC will take place by in-person voting via secret ballot on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> where the above-mentioned summaries will be made available for all to review. Voting will begin immediately following the 9:00 a.m. liturgy and conclude at 1:00 p.m. The top 8 vote getters will become elected members of the PAC.

Any questions should be directed to the Nominating Committee, which is comprised of Deacon Gilbert Altongy, Susan Albatal and Tony Brahimsha.

Thank you for your active participation in this critically important role within our Parish.

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING:** September 10, 2023: Budgets: \$2,508.00 (Envelopes: \$2,471.00, Loose: \$37.00); Candles: \$75.00; Stole Offerings: \$295.00; Building Fund: \$50.00; Addi'tl Cemetery: \$50.00.

**SUMMER IS SLOWLY COMING TO A CLOSE:** Some people have been away on vacation, at summer homes, on business trips, or visiting. A noticeable drop in the Sunday attendance and weekly donations has occurred with all of our parishioners not coming to Church on a regular basis during this time. As a result, your Parish has really suffered heavily for these summer months as it attempts, with the assistance of those who are faithful, to maintain the buildings, offices and life work of the community. Please do not neglect your responsibilities of the expenses of your spiritual home that occur during the times that you are fortunately able to be away. Your support may be conveniently mailed in for each Sunday that you were and are away. Thank you for your anticipated, hopeful and loving concern!

**Formal Visitation of Bishop Francois to RI** which concurs with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our monumental complex this weekend Saturday & Sunday, September 16 & 17, 2023. Grand Banquet, Saturday, September 16 in the Cultural Center @ 6:00 p.m.; Solemn Pontifical Divine Liturgy, Sunday, 10 a.m. Also, His Excellency Richard G. Henning, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Providence will honor us by his presence & first visitation at the Grand Banquet on this auspicious occasion. Your generation and all those who preceded us put their heart and soul into this project. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad, in it!

May Sayidna Francois & Bishop Richard experience in the years to come, the same joys and support of their predecessors in shepherding the flock of their respective Dioceses. **EIS POLLA ETI, DHESPOTA! LEE SANEENA KATHEERA, YA SAYED! MANY YEARS, MASTER! AD MULTOS ANNOS!**

**ANY NEEDS, THOUGHTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, SUGGESTIONS, ETC.** they you may have, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Clergy or Council 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.

**REFLECTION: "Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position."**

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



# EMBRACING THE CROSS IN YOUR LIFE

Imagine Jesus looking you in the eye and saying the following words:

“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23).

“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:27).

Those are the stark words Jesus spoke to the original disciples. And it floored them. Pick up your cross?

Christians today have a comfortable familiarity with the image of the cross: We have crosses in our churches, some people have crosses hanging in our homes and some even wear crosses as jewelry around their necks. But that was certainly not the case in Jesus' day. In fact, in the first-century Roman world, the whole idea of the cross was completely abhorrent. The cross was the Roman Empire's most dreadful instrument of torture, humiliation and execution. The famous ancient Roman orator Cicero once said, “The very word ‘cross’ should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes and his ears.” You didn't even want to think about the cross.

That's what makes Jesus' statement so startling. For Jesus to tell his disciples to pick up a cross and follow him would have been as shocking as him telling people in the modern world to pick up their electric chairs or pick up their guillotines and follow him. Of all the images Jesus could have used to depict discipleship, why would he choose this most horrific one? Noah got a rainbow. Moses got a burning bush. The Magi got a star in the sky. Why do Jesus' disciples get a cross?

Because, as we will see, it's only through the cross that we find our ultimate fulfillment in life and experience what we're made for: the total, perfect, self-giving love of God himself.

When you are on mission for the Gospel, you should expect trials, roadblocks, obstacles, rejection. Don't be surprised when mission requires a lot of your time and energy, when people misunderstand you, when people turn down your invitations or turn away from the Gospel. All this happened to Jesus, so you shouldn't expect anything less. After all, Jesus promised the cross, not comfort. But why?

It all has to do with his love. For Jesus, the cross is much more than a form of execution. It's ultimately his fullest revelation of God's inner life, which is all about total self-giving love: “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8). For all eternity, the Father loves the Son and gives himself totally to the Son. The Son in return loves the Father, giving of himself completely to the Father, holding nothing back. And this bond of love between the Father and the Son is the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. God's inner life as the Trinity is all about perfect, infinite, self-giving love.



But what happens when the Eternal Son of God enters time and space and takes on human flesh in Jesus Christ? He continues doing what he has done for all eternity: giving himself in love totally to the Father. But in Christ, the Son's infinite divine love is now expressed in finite human nature. That's like putting a rubber balloon up to a water hydrant: the balloon is going to explode. When

infinite love expresses itself in our limited, finite humanity, it will involve suffering, sacrifice, death: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13).

There are many ways we can express our love through little acts of self-denial. The more we pick up our cross daily and follow Jesus, the more we will become like him and love like him. This is how we know that we are truly living as disciples (being “in earnest,” as Cardinal Newman calls it): We are willing to embrace the cross.

As you seek to take on a new disposition toward self-denial and learn to embrace the crosses in your own life, the first step is to do some reflection. Set aside some time for prayer in which you examine the crosses in your life and reflect on how Jesus might be asking you to respond to them. Consider the following questions:

- In what ways is your spiritual life or your mission still focused on self, rather than on surrendering to Christ?
- Is your mission driven by love or by what you get out of it?
- Do you maintain relationships with those who are different from you or who may misunderstand your faith? Or do you choose to associate with those who are similar to you?
- When you encounter challenges in mission (people don't come to Bible study, people say no to the Gospel or to an invitation), do you get discouraged or tempted to give up? Or do you persevere and offer up the trials for love of souls?
- Do you attempt to hide from persecution or rejection, or do you continue to pursue others with a heart of love?
- Do you pray more for the various situations you want Jesus to change, or do you bring the darkened areas of your own heart to Jesus and allow him to transform them as he desires?

After your reflection, choose one way you can embrace these crosses and set a goal for how you will do that every day.

## احمل صليبك.. كن مصلوباً لا صالِباً



11). والرسول بولس تصرَّع كثيراً من أجل "شوكة في الجسد"، ولكن طَلِبَ إليه أن يحتملها، وسمع رسالة لكل مَنْ يجتازون مثل ضيقته: "تكفيك نعمتي لأن قوتي في الضعف تكمل". (2كو 12: 9)

- ويتصل بالمعنى السابق أيضاً احتمال رفيق الحياة أو القريب (شياً أو شاباً أو طفلاً) المريض أو المُعاق أو فاقد العقل أو المنحرف. وبعض هذه الآلام أفسى احتمالاً مما لو كانت في الإنسان نفسه. والتعايش معها خاصة لو امتدت طويلاً محنة قد يهون معها الموت. ولكن استحضر شركة الصليب مع

المسيح هنا تملأ النفس بروح الطاعة والتسليم "ليمن يقضي بعدل" (1بط 2: 23)، والثقة في أن هذه الآلام ليست منسية قدام الله، وسيأتي اليوم الذي يكافأ فيه من صبروا إلى المنتهى (مت 24: 13).

- وبالنسبة للخادم في خدمته، فإنَّ حَمَلَ الصليب هو بذل نفسه من أجل مخدميه صلاةً وجهداً وقتاً واحتمالاً وصبراً وافتقاراً وملاحقةً للشاردين والمقاومين لإعادتهم إلى الحظيرة، والاهتمام بالبعيد والقريب، والغريب والضيف، والاتضاع حتى إلى غسل الأقدام طاعةً لوصية السيّد.

### الالتزام الثالث: يترك كل ما له:

نحن لا نستطيع أن نتبع إلها ونحن نحمل معنا أثقالنا: محبتنا لذواتنا ولمبول جسدينا وللعالم والمال والأشياء. وكان تترك التلاميذ الأوائل للسفينة الممتلئة بالسّمك الكثير وللأهل ليتبعوا يسوع (مت 4: 20 و22، مر 1: 18 و20، لو 5: 11)، وتترك لاوي لمكان الجبابة (مت 9: 9، مر 2: 14، لو 5: 28)، وتترك السامرية لجرّتها (يو 4: 28)؛ رمزاً للتخلّي عن الماضي الشرير (أو المضاد للإيمان) أي للتوبة وتحول توجّه الحياة نحو المسيح. فتغيير الحياة شرط واضح لنصير ضمن خاصة الرب أي تلاميذه. والشاب الغني، الذي استكثر أن يتخلّى عن أمواله ويورّعها على الفقراء (3)، أخفق أن يتبع الرب (حاملاً الصليب)، رغم نيته الطيبة، لأنه أحب أمواله أكثر (مت 19: 16-22، مر 10: 17-22، لو 18: 18-23). والقدّيس بولس، عندما تبع يسوع، حسب موقعه المرموق في الجماعة اليهودية وكل التزامه الناموسي واضطهاده للكنيسة، وهو ما كان له رباً وكراماً؛ خسارة ونفاية من أجل فضل معرفة الرب وبزّه وربحه (في 3: 4-8).

والذين يريدون "خدمة السيّد" باعتبارها الحل الوسط المريح الذي يتيح لهم إرضاء ذواتهم وتخدير ضمائرهم بالتدنيّ الشكلي، هي مرفوضة من قِبَل الرب لأنها حل محكوم عليه بالفشل (مت 6: 24)، وطريق لا يؤدي إلا إلى الضياع. فامرأة لوط خرجت من سدوم مع عائلتها، ولكن سدوم ظلت في قلبها، وكانت النتيجة وبالأعلى عليها (تك 19: 26). وبنو إسرائيل، الذين خرجوا من أرض مصر بذراع رفيعة، ظل اشتياقهم لا إلى أرض الموعد، وإنما إلى أرض العبودية، فبادوا جميعاً في البرية ولم يدخل منهم كنعان

عندما تكلم الرب عن صعوبة دخول المتكلمين على أموالهم إلى ملكوت الله، وأن أسير منه مرور جمل من تقب إبرة، بُهت التلاميذ جداً قائلين: "إذ مَنْ يستطيع أن يخلص"، فقال لهم يسوع: "هذا عند الناس غير مستطاع، ولكن عند الله كل شيء مستطاع" (مت 19: 23-26، مر 10: 23-27، لو 18: 24-27). فالمسيح مسئول عمّن يتبعه، وهو الذي بنعمته يسند إيمانه وجهاده واحتماله وصبره وتوبته وعبادته وخدمته. وبحسب كلماته فنحن بدوننا لا نقدر أن نفعل شيئاً (يو 15: 5). ومعلمنا بولس يهتف: "استطيع كل شيء في المسيح الذي يقوّيني" (في 4: 13). والقدّيس بطرس حدثنا أن تلقينا رجاءنا بالتمام على النعمة (1بط 1: 13). والذين يُنادون باستحالة حياة القداسة وتبعية الله هم صادقون إذا كان الاعتماد في ذلك على الإرادة وحدها وضبط النفس الذاتي، فهذا بالفعل طريق مسدود نهايته الفشل واليأس؛ ولكن المسيح الذي دعانا لنتبعه، هو الذي يمسك بأيدينا ويقودنا في موكب نصرته، وهو إذ كان يقول: "احملوا نيري عليكم" (مت 11: 29) ويصفه أنه هيّن، فذلك لأنه حالماً نقبل بالنية حمل نيره يأتي هو ليحمل العبء كله عنا.

قال الرب

+ "إن أراد أحد أن يأتي وراني فليترك نفسه ويحمل صليبه كل يوم ويتبعني. فإنَّ مَنْ أراد أن يخلص نفسه يهلكها، ومَنْ يهلك نفسه من أجلي (ومن أجل الإنجيل) يجدها (فهو يخلصها). لأنه ماذا ينتفع الإنسان لو ربح العالم كله وخسر نفسه، أو ماذا يعطي الإنسان فداءً عن نفسه." (مت 16: 24-26، مر 8: 34-38، لو 9: 23-25)

### الالتزام الأول: إنكار الذات:

ولماذا إنكار الذات، أي إزاحتها من المشهد؟ ذلك،

حتى يكون المسيح الكل في الكل، الأول والأخر، محبوباً مُطاعاً أكثر من النفس وأكثر من الأهل والعالم كله. ففي حضور الذات ومن ينتسب إليها لا يوجد مكان لله. وفي إرضاء الذات وإكرامها والإصغاء لمطالبها والركض بها إلى فيض الخلاعة والفساد، وتخليصها من شركة الألم وعبور الباب الضيق، ضياعها وهلاكها؛ بينما مَنْ يرفض شهواتها ويحطم كبرياءها وينفي عنها اكتفاءها وانكفاءها على ما لها ولا مبالاتها بالأخر، هو في الحقيقة يحفظها من الضياع ويستبقها إلى الأبد.

وفي الحياة المسيحية العملية، فإن التوبة والقداسة والخدمة وطاعة الوصية تبدأ وتستمر وتتمو بإنكار الذات. وحضور الذات وتألقها، إما أن يُعطّل كل اتجاه نحو الله، وإما أن يزيّف الحياة كلها. فتبقى الذات نشطة، ولكن تنتكر تحت عباءة رقيقة من التظاهر بالعبادة لإرضاء الناس، أو تنسب لها كل العمل الروحي لا للنعمة. ونتيجة هذا البر الذاتي دائماً صفر. فهو جهاد فاشل لا طائل من ورائه دون اكتشاف مصدر التغيير والقوة وهو الروح القدس.

### الالتزام الثاني: حَمَلَ الصليب:

هذا الالتزام يرتبط ارتباطاً وثيقاً بالالتزام السابق: فمن يحب نفسه لن يقبل حَمَلَ الصليب أو يحتمله، ولن يقتنع بضرورته وسيجهد أن يتفاداه بكل وسيلة.

- والمعنى المباشر لحمل الصليب هو قبول الألم والعار والاضطهاد والظلم بأنواعه من أجل المسيح والكنيسة حتى إلى بذل الحياة ككل شهيد. وكان المحكوم عليه بالصليب يحمل صليبه إلى مكان تنفيذ العقوبة، وهو ما جازه الرب نفسه: "فخرج وهو حاملاً صليبه" (يو 19: 17). والمؤمن وهو يحمل صليبه يُشارك الرب الذي تألم مظلوماً ولم يفتح فاه (إش 53: 7)، "وأكمل نقائص شدائد المسيح في جسمي لأجل جسده، الذي هو الكنيسة" (كو 1: 24)، "الأعراف وقوة قيامته وشركة الآمة مُتنتبهاً بموته لعلّي أبلغ إلى قيامة الأموات" (في 3: 10 و11). فالذين يتفادون الاضطهاد من أجل المسيح ويهربون منه طالبين الجوّ إلى حيث الراحة، ينكرون الإيمان وينسحبون من تبعيتهم للمسيح مهما قالت أوراقيهم غير ذلك.

- والقدّيس بطرس هو أيضاً عاش مُقاتلاً شجاعاً لم تهزمه أسوار السجن ولا جلدات الجلادين، وقاد الكنيسة الوليدة في أورشليم وإليهودية والسامرة، وبشر الأمم أيضاً، وكتب للمؤمنين مُشجعاً على احتمال الآلام تمثلاً بالرب (1بط 2: 19 و21)، وانتظاراً لمجيئه لتجديد قديسيه، وحَمَلَ الصليب حتى روما حيث سلّم أنفاسه الأخيرة مصلوباً منكس الرأس. فهو نفذ الوصية بقبول الألم والجهاد ضد الخطية وضد محبة العالم الحاضر حتى الموت.

- وحَمَلَ الصليب يعني أيضاً التخلّي عن رفاهية الحياة ومحبة المال وتعظيم المعيشة، وبذَل المغالة في التمتع يكون السعي لسد حاجة المعوزين اقتساماً للخيرات، ومشاركة المرضى (1) ومنكروبي اضطرابات الطبيعة والمجاعات وغيرها، بالخدمة والتبرُّع السخي برهاناً لصدّق الإيمان. لقد صار الصليب بالفعل رمزاً لشركة الألم مع المسيح ومع الآخرين (2).

- كما يعني حَمَلَ الصليب أيضاً احتمال المرض الطويل وألم الجسد وضعفه والتجارب الثقيلة كشركة مع المسيح في آلامه بشكر وصبر دون تذمُّر أو دمدمة وكتدبير إلهي يقصد نمو الإيمان والتوبة وضهور الميول الجسدية: "فإن مَنْ تألم في الجسد كُفِّ عن الخطية" (1بط 4: 1). وأيوب الصديق في محنته الهائلة وصبره واحتماله يُقدّم نموذجاً من العهد القديم لحمل الصليب بتسليم كامل لمشينة الله، حتى صار مثلاً في العهد الجديد: "ها نحن نُطوب الصابرين. قد سمعتم بصبر أيوب، ورأيتم عاقبة الرب" (يع 5:

# Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



## *The Divine Liturgy Schedule*

**One Divine Liturgy This Sunday September 17**

- 10:00 AM







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





# LITURGICAL CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>
أيلول – سبتمبر 2023	<b>3</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الرابع عشر بعد العنصرة 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 Matthew 22:2-14	<b>4</b> Holy Prophet Moses Galatians 2:11-16 Mark 5:24-34	<b>5</b> Holy Prophet Zechariah Galatians 2:21-3:7 Mark 6:1-7	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b>
AUGUST 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	<b>10</b> Sunday before Holy Cross الأحد قبل الصليب Galatians 6:11-18 John 12:19-17	<b>11</b> St Theodora Galatians 4:28-5:10 John 12:19-36	<b>12</b> Leave-taking of the Nativity of the Theotokos Galatians 5:11-21 John 11:47-54	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b>  	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>
OCTOBER 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	<b>17</b> Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد بعد الصليب Galatians 2:16-20 Mark 8:34-9:1	<b>18</b> St Eumenios of Gortyna Ephesians 1:22-2:3 Luke 3:19-22	<b>19</b> Sts Trophimos, Sabbatios and Dorymedes Ephesians 2:19-3:7 Luke 3:23-4:1	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>
	<b>24</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد الاول بعد عيد الصليب 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Luke 5:1-11	<b>25</b> St Euphrosyne Ephesians 4:25-32 Luke 4:38-44	<b>26</b> Passing of St John the Apostle 1 John 4:12-19 John 19:25-27, 21:24-25	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>

 Church Major Feasts  Abstain from Meat  Fast from midnight until noon  Lenten Season

“And God has raised up the Lord, and he will also raise up us by his own power.” (1 Corinthians 6:14)

وَاللَّهُ قَدْ أَقَامَ الرَّبَّ وَسَيَقِيمُنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً بِقُوَّتِهِ. (١ كورنثوس ٦ : ١٤)

# Saint Basil The Great

Melkite Greek Catholic Church



*Welcome*  
*Bishop Francois*

**Bishop Francois' Formal visitation  
and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Saint Basil complex in Lincoln, R.I.**

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:00 pm to 12:30 am**

Formal Dinner (Appropriate Attire)  
Classical Music  
Hafila with Andre Keedy and Ensemble  
Mazza & Dinner will be served

Tickets \$60 adult - \$45 MYO & children 5 years and up  
Deadline for tickets Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

One Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
Following the Divine Liturgy a complimentary barbeque luncheon

Phone : (401) 722-1345 | Fax : (401) 722-2436  
Address : 15 Skyview Drive, Lincoln, RI 02865 | Website : [www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

# SUNDAY SCHOOL



In the spirit of prayerfulness and in oneness of thought, Fr. Joe and I would like to express our very sincere thanks and deep appreciation for making the Sunday School Program successful over the years, and shining the light of Christ through you to show each child God loves them just as they are.

We have been deeply touched and impressed by the teachers and parents' generosity and willingness to do whatever it takes to make the past year a success for our children despite the difficulties that we faced because of Covid-19.

We are very grateful to all of you for taking the time and making the effort to make the Sunday School Program possible.

Together we are building the foundation upon which we will build St. Basil's future, 100 years on. What a wonderful blessing you all are to our community.

Kindly, fill out the new Registration Form for this Sunday School Year according to the grade of your child.

- Pre-K <https://bit.ly/3z1RNk8>
- Kindergarten <https://bit.ly/3suJv1U>
- 1<sup>St</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3syyqNh>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3mem8sq>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3mfh9Yn>
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3swVGuV>
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/2W8Vlqu>
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3AUdPG6>
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3mhcrJr>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade <https://bit.ly/3z5YjX2>

Join us (MYO) as we start a  
new year.

Welcome all teenagers  
(13-17)

Be a part of the St. Basils  
youth and Have FUN! 😊

We will have our first meeting  
this Sunday (September 10th)

@ 11:00 am

Classroom 4

If you can't make it, call or  
text us

Joe Massud 1-508-802-7585

Or

Chris Barrett 1-401-265-0386

# *Wine and Paint*



**St. Basil's Fellowship Presents...**  
**Paint & Wine & Cheese Night**  
Learn to create your own painting!  
Sip on Glasses of Wine or Coffee &  
Enjoy some Cheese & Crackers or Pastry  
**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

**6:30 p.m.**

**St. Basil's Cultural Center**

**\$20 per person**

(includes supplies & refreshments)

**Instructor is our own Jerry Aissis**

Limited class size is 50 people.

Must be 21 years or older.



To reserve your seat, sign the sign-up sheet  
See Joyce Perry or Samir Boudjouk for tickets.

**ST. BASIL**  
**LINCOLN, RI**



15 Skyview Drive, Lincoln, RI

# *Food Fair*

*Saturday, October 28, 10 am - 6 pm*

*Sunday, October 29, 10 am - 4 pm*

**Holiday Wreaths • Penny Social • Raffles**

## **Syrian Food**

**Syrian food sold in bulk  
and individual dinners**

**Syrian String Cheese • Syrian Pastry  
Candy • Meatball Sandwiches**

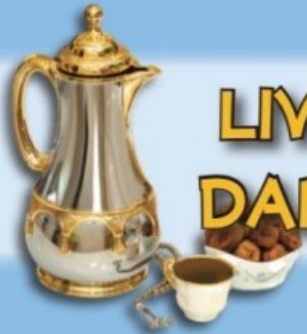
**Come and Enjoy our delicious food and  
sweets with family and friends**

We accept credit cards (\$5 min)  
We are following CDC covid guidelines

**Annual**

**Rain or Shine!**

# Lebanese Festival



**LIVE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD,  
DANCE, RAFFLE & HOOKAH**



**GAMES FOR CHILDREN!**

**"Fun for All!"**



**Middle Eastern Cuisine**



**Friday &  
Saturday**



**Friday,  
Saturday  
& Sunday**

**Live Entertainment**

**St. George Maronite Catholic Church  
1493 Cranston Street, Cranston RI**

**Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>: 3PM-12AM**

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>: 12PM-12AM**

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>: 11:30AM-7PM**

**FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING**



SAINT ANTHONY  
OF THE DESERT CHURCH

*Cordially invites you to a lovely*

# Annual Hafla

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 07, 2023

ST. SHARBEL PARISH CENTER  
300 N. EASTERN AVENUE  
FALL RIVER, MA 02723



**RAMI BADR**

WITH BACHIR KHOURY ON  
KEYBOARD AND BAND

COCKTAIL HOUR @ 7:00PM

DINNER SERVED @ 8:00PM

VIP \$85

GENERAL TICKETS \$65

YOUTH 11YR ~ 18YR - \$40

CHILDREN 4YR ~ 10YR - \$25

INCLUDES MEZZA, DINNER  
AND DESSERT

CASH BAR

**NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR**

**For information or ticket purchase:**

**Rectory Office:**

**P: 508-672-7653 or [saotd@verizon.net](mailto:saotd@verizon.net)**

**Proceeds to benefit St. Anthony of  
the Desert Church**





# 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**  
<https://bit.ly/2VJgvnS>

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



THE LORD SAID: "TRULY I TELL YOU THIS  
POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL  
OF THEM, FOR THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED  
OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT SHE GAVE  
OF HER POVERTY PUT IN ALL THE LIVING  
THAT SHE HAD." *MARK 12:41-43*

# "GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER" 2 COR 9:7

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 09/15/2023



## 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:** \$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

Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190

Kyle Mardo: 401-578-5369

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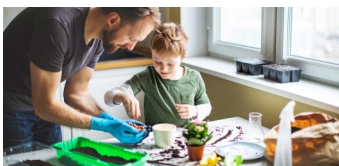


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