



January 7, 2024

## ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Address

15 Skyview Drive  
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

### Parish Website

[www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

### Facebook

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

### YouTube

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

### Email

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

### Office hours

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

### Divine Liturgy

Winter Schedule Begins This week

Saturday: 9:00 AM

Sunday: 11:15 AM

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

### Holy Mysteries

### Reconciliation

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

### Baptism

Please arrange with the pastor

### Marriage

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



### Sunday After Theophany - 2nd Day of Celebration of the Theophany - Holy Synaxis in honor of the Prophet and Glorious Forerunner John the Baptist

#### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7)

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

#### Troparion of Theophany (Tone 1)

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

#### Troparion of St. John, the Forerunner (Tone 2)

The memory of the just is mentioned with praise. As for you, O Forerunner, the Lord's witness is enough: indeed, you were greater than the prophets since you were found worthy to baptize in the waters the One they could but announce. You have fought for the sake of truth and proclaimed to those in Hades that God who appeared in the flesh has taken away the sins of the world and bestowed His great mercy upon us.

#### نشيد القيامة باللحن السابع

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

#### نشيد عيد الظهور باللحن الاول

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

#### نشيد للسابق باللحن الثاني

تذكر الصديق بالمدح. أما أنت أيها السابق فحسبك  
شهادة الرب. فقد ظهرت حقاً أشرف من الانبياء أنفسهم  
إذ أهملت أن تعمد في المجاري من بشرتوا به. لذلك  
ناضلت عن الحق، وبشرت مسروراً للذين في الجحيم أيضاً  
بالاله الذي ظهر بالجسد، ورفع خطيئة العالم، ومنحننا  
عظيم الرحمة





### Our church organizations:

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

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

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



### Troparion of St Basil

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

### Kondakion of the Theophany (Tone 3)

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

### EPISTLE: Feast of John the Baptist, Acts 19:1-8

### PROKIMENON: Ps. 63: 11 & 2 (Tone 7)

The just shall rejoice in the Lord and place his hope in Him. All those with an upright heart shall be praised. Stichon: O God, hear my voice when I pray to You; save my life from the dreadful enemy.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days it came to pass, while Apollos was in Corinth, that Paul crossed the upper districts and went to Ephesus. He found some of the disciples and asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you became believers?" But they answered him, "We have not ever heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "How then were you baptized?" They replied, "With John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus Christ." Hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and to speak for God. They were about twelve men in all. Then for three months he went into the synagogue, speaking confidently, arguing with them and convincing them about God's kingdom.

ALLELUIA: Ps. 91:13 & 14 (Tone 4)

The just shall bloom like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Stichon: Those who are planted in the Lord's house shall flourish in the courts of our God

GOSPEL: Jn. 1:29-34, Sunday After Theophany

At that time John saw Jesus coming to him, and he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one of whom I said, 'After me there comes one who has been set above me, because He was before me.' And I did not know Him. But that He may be known to Israel, for this reason have I come baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove from heaven, and it hovered over Him. And I did not know Him. But the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The man upon whom you will see the Spirit descending and hovering, He it is who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

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

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

اليوم ظهرت للمسكونة يا رب، ونورك قد ارتسم علينا، نحن مُسبحيك عن معرفة. لقد أتيت وظهرت أيها النور الذي لا يُدنى منه.

### رسالة المعمدان / مقدمة الرسالة

البروكيمن والليلوبا تؤخذ من كتاب الرسائل في السابع من كانون الثاني – تذكار جامع للنبي الكريم السابق المجيد يوحنا المعمدان- والرسالة ليوم الجمعة من الاسبوع السادس للصح.

يفرح الصديق بالرب، ويتوكل عليه  
استمع يا الله صوتي عند تضري اليك

### الرسالة أعمال الرسل 19: 1-8

في تلك الأيام، اتفق إذ كان اُبس في كورنثس، أن بولس اجتاز في النواحي العالية وبلغ أفسس، وصادف بعضاً من التلاميذ. فقال لهم: هل نلتهم الروح القدس لما آمنتم؟ فقالوا له: لا، بل سمعنا أنه يوجد روحٌ قدسٌ. قال فباي معمودية اعتمدتم؟ قالوا بمعمودية يوحنا. فقال بولس: ان يوحنا قد عمّد بمعمودية التوبة، قائلاً للشعب ليؤمنوا بالذي يأتي بعده أي بالمسيح يسوع. فلما سمعوا اعتمدوا باسم الرب يسوع. ووضع بولس يديه عليهم فحلّ الروح القدس عليهم، فطفقوا يتكلمون بلغاتٍ ويتنبأون. وكان الرجال كلهم نحو اثني عشر. ثم دخل المجمع، وجعل يتكلم بجرأة مدة ثلاثة أشهر يُفاوضهم ويُقنعهم بما يخص ملكوت الله.

هللوا

الصديق كالنخلة يُزهر، وكأرز لبنانَ ينمو  
المغروس في بيت الرب، يزهر في ديار إلهنا

### الانجيل (للمعمدان) يوحنا 1: 29-34

في ذلك الزمان، رأى يوحنا يسوع مُقبلاً اليه فقال: هوذا حملُ الله الذي رفع خطيئة العالم! هذا هو الذي قلتُ عنه إنه يأتي بعدي رجلاً قد تقدم عليّ، لانه كان قبلي، وأنا لم أكن أعرفه، لكن لكي يُظهِر لإسرائيل جنّتُ أنا أعمدُ بالماء. وشهد يوحنا قائلاً: إني رأيتُ الروح مثل حمامة نازلاً من السماء وقد استقر عليه. وأنا لم أكن أعرفه، لكن الذي أرسلني لأعمدُ بالماء هو قال لي: إن الذي ترى الروح ينزل ويستقر عليه هو الذي يُعمدُ بالروح القدس. وأنا قد عاينتُ وشهدتُ أن هذا هو ابنُ الله





## 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.



# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**THIS WEEK SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024: SYNAXIS OF THE FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST & SOLEMNITY OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & BLESSING OF THE WATER.**

**9:00 a.m: THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & BLESSING OF THE WATER**

- + **JOHN SPINDOLINI & RICHARD LAMOTHE** by Eric Bashour.
- + **JIM CANTISANO** by Joe Sackal & Letendre Families (NY).
- + **WILLIAM T. ASERMELY** by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family (SC).
- + **EMILY NOURY (Birthday Remem.)** by her nieces & nephews.

**11:15 a.m: THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & BLESSING OF THE WATER**

- + **ROSE & HUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **YOUSEF GEORGI DEEB** by Wael Chahin & Diala Alam.
- + **JULIA, FRED, ELIAS J. KISHFY** by M/M Norman Kishfy.
- + **MAGEE MARTINEZ** by Sarah Peters.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Khalil & Wafaa Hilo.





**SACRIFICIAL GIVING:** DECEMBER 31, 2023: Budgets: \$3,313.00 (Envelopes: \$3,310.00; Loose: \$3.00; Stole Offerings: \$100.00; Building Fund: \$15.00; Addit'l Christmas Offerings: \$85.00.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone who is planning an ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS is kindly requested to notify a member of the clergy BEFORE reception/party plans are made. The Clergy may be already scheduled for something else on the day that you have rented a hall/restaurant. Following this policy will help avoid any later misunderstandings.

Our thoughts and prayers are directed to our elderly and sick parishioners in this joyous season. We ask the Emmanuel to strengthen your faith so that you may accept His will, and may He bring you peace, joy, and health for the coming year.

**2024 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS** are available-free for the taking-at both entrances of the Church. 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.

**TODAY**, there will be a special collection taken up for your **INITIAL OFFERINGS**. Your offering will help us defray the cost of the envelope system which is so vital in our parish support. **MAKE A GOOD BEGINNING**. Often the strength of our first effort indicates the way we maintain our responsibilities.

**TODAY**, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS**. Help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory, as prices are escalating rapidly. We must remember that utilities are more than doubled in our new complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreci

**As a reminder there is an open meeting of the PAC scheduled for Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Cultural Center.**

**Also, the fellowship meeting will be on January 17th at 6:30 p.m.**

**REFLECTION: "Economy is the wealth of the poor and the wisdom of the rich."**

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.





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

**THANK YOU!** *THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS* were magnificent! Besides the many that worshipped with us, much work of many hands was necessary. Many thanks to those who decorated the narthex and church with the trees, creches and poinsettias, and the Cultural Center which added to the beauty of the celebrations; to the choirs who beautifully raised their voices for the glory of God; to the children who performed in the pageant under the Religious Education Staff; to the Overseers of the Complex; the illustrious committee who organized the Sunday School Christmas Party; those responsible for arranging the chair & table set ups in the Cultural Center; the ushers who helped in keeping order at the services; to the altar servers, readers, and youth who minister regularly; to those who offered poinsettias; to the kitchen help and clean up crew, and the selfless assistance of every one in all facets of the Feast. **TO ONE AND ALL, OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

We wish to thank all our good parishioners and friends for their beautiful Christmas Cards, wishes, gifts, and offerings to the Church. We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the loyal and generous cooperation you have shown us throughout the WHOLE YEAR. May our Divine Savior, the Prince of Peace, bring you all the joys of this holy season, and bless you with health and prosperity in the coming New Year 2024. And may this New Year 2024 be the best you have ever known ---- your joy deeper, your spiritual awareness keener, and your satisfaction more abundantly.

#### **GREETINGS PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS**

As 2023 comes to an end, we would like to say "thank you" for all your support this past year; helping our church succeed both spiritually and financially. It was a strong year, with a fantastic and a culturally rich SUMMER FESTIVAL, ANNUAL FOOD FAIR AND BAZAAR, and a spiritual ST. BARBARA'S CELEBRATION to name a few. With 2024 rapidly approaching, we are looking for new fund-raising ideas, leadership in the newly elected PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL, and continued fellowship to continue this momentum. We understand that everyone has responsibilities, but sincerely hope you can share your talents with us. There are many ways to be involved and at varying leadership and commitment levels. Please consider lending us your skillsets in any way you can. Your Church needs your support and involvement to continue to thrive.

We welcome your ideas. Please feel free to approach any standing committee of the Council in this regard. Many thanks!

Fr. Ephrem, Fr. Joe, Deacon Edmond, Deacon Gilbert

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.





# NEW YEAR – THEOPHANY DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE



**Sunday, December 31**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Divine Liturgy. (One Combined Divine Liturgy)  
(at St. Elias's Chapel)

**5:00 p.m.** Vigil Divine Liturgy **Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord – St Basil's Feast - New Years' Day**  
(at St. Elias's Chapel)

**Monday, January 1**

**10:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy **Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord – St Basil's Feast - New Years' Day**  
(at St. Elias's Chapel)

**Saturday, January 6 – Feast of the Theophany**

**7:00 p.m.** Festive Vespers Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

**Sunday, January 7– Solemnity of the Theophany**

**9:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

**11:15 a.m.** Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.



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

**BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI**

December 18, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

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

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

**1) For Young People**

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

**2) For All Parishioners**

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

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

With my prayers and appreciation,

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





MELKITE CATHOLIC  EPARCHY OF NEWTON

# CALLED BY NAME

## Announcement for January 6-7

*Please read aloud at all Divine Liturgies*

Next weekend throughout the diocese is **Called By Name Sunday**: an initiative of our Vocation Team to identify faithful men who could be called to serve as readers, subdeacons, deacons, or priests.

Bishop François has written a letter to us about this campaign, which we encourage you to read in our bulletin or social media pages. Next weekend, at every parish in the diocese, our clergy will share their vocation stories: how they listened and responded to God's call. As part of this special weekend, the bishop is asking you to participate in two ways:

**First – Be open to God's call.** For those who are able – open your heart to the possibility of service. Serving in a leadership role is a beautiful gift to the Church, so be open and courageous if you hear the call.

**Second – Think of someone who could be called.** Spend time this week thinking about men in our parish who could make good priests, deacons, subdeacons, or readers.

Next weekend at all the Divine Liturgies, we will provide response cards for you to **submit that man's name and contact information**. Bishop François will then send them a letter of encouragement and support, and our Vocations Team will follow up with them.

God is the one who calls, but He often uses our voice of encouragement to do so. With your help, we can make this Called By Name Sunday a great success that will bear fruit in our diocese for generations to come. Thank you for your openness and generous participation.



# Following Jesus Kids bulletin



## Jesus Christ Is Baptized



John the Baptist

lived in the



desert

for many years. He wore

clothing made of the



hair

of a



camel

, and he ate



honey

and



locusts



People

came from the city of Jerusalem to hear



teach about Jesus.

One day when



was baptizing



in the



Jordan River

, Jesus came to him. Jesus asked



to baptize Him.



knew that Jesus already obeyed all of the



commandments

. He thought

Jesus didn't need to be baptized. But Heavenly Father had commanded everyone to be baptized, so

Jesus told



to baptize Him. When Jesus came up out of the



water

, the Holy Ghost

came upon Him like a



dove

. Heavenly Father spoke from heaven. He said, "This is my beloved

Son, in whom I am well pleased."



also testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

# The Fruit of repentance (St. Gregory)



*“Repentance is the beginning, middle and end of the Christian way of life (St. Gregory Palamas).”*

It is the beginning of a blessed New Year! There seems to be joy in the hearts of many as the need to embrace a positive new beginning of things is once again given to us. The Church too, sends out a strong and powerful message with the Feast of Theophany, on January 6 (Liturgy 10 AM, Blessing of Waters 10:45 AM), which is echoed loudly in the words of St. Gregory – *repentance is the beginning, middle and end of the Christian Way of life*. The word for repentance in Greek is *metania* which means to have a *change* in one’s thoughts, thinking and way of living in the world. Let us enter once again into the waters of baptism and the great gift of Christ it brings into our lives.

When St. John the Baptist explained the meaning of repentance he was specific and gave instructions according to the occupation of each person. St. Gregory points out that following confession *fruit* would appear in the lives of those repenting.

The Fruit of repentance (St. Gregory)

- **Righteousness** – doing and being right before God. To have Christ dwelling in us so that we treat everyone as if Christ is dwelling in them. To live righteously is to work truthfully with all clients. This requires ceasing to lie and deceive others just to take advantage of them or a situation.
- **Almsgiving** – sharing from the abundant blessings given to us by God. Having made enough money to live on and take care of our basic needs – with an abundance we can now take care of the needs of others with joyful hearts and thankfulness of everything received. Withholding from others deprives us of the joy of being able to give unto others as we have been given.

- **Moderation** – being content with what God has blessed us with. To live not beyond one’s means but within the boundaries of God’s blessings is accomplished by not desiring what others have. Envy is the absence of moderation.
- **Love** – caring for others who have no one to care for them. What does it mean to love in the workplace? It means to seek the benefit of someone else over oneself. It means to give someone our entire attention and listen to their needs and not my need to make a sale. It means to treat each person without labeling them with any other label than *child of God*.
- **Truthfulness** – integrity and honesty dictate our behavior in our professions. When we are true with God; we can begin to be true to ourselves and others. Integrity is being able to speak the truth in love. It means being able to be who we truly are in the presence of others. It means being able to pursue truth above all else even when it means knowing that someone else may be able to help someone better than we can and having the honesty to be able to tell them so. “As I speak these words to you, brethren, I feel no small pain in my soul, that we who were long ago granted Christian baptism have not yet accomplished those very things which John demanded of those approaching his own baptism...Christ who takes away the sin of the world enters the water before us to be baptized...He draws the grace of the all-holy Spirit from above to dwell in the water with Him, so that later when those being baptized as He was enter the water, He is there, clothing them ineffably with His Spirit, attaching Himself to them, and filling them with the grace that purifies and illumines reasonable spirits (Gregory Palamas).”



# أنت هو إبنى الحبيب، بك أنا سررت.



**يعلن الخلاص، بنا يصلح العالم مع الله، بنا يشفي القلوب الجريحة، بنا يعيد بناء حياة تحطمت.** بمعموديتنا نعلن أننا صرنا ملك الله ووسيلة قداسة العالم، نضع ذواتنا بتصرف المسيح ليعمل مِن خلالنا، نصبح، كما قال بولس "سُفراء المسيح لدى الأمم كلها". نحن بفقرنا، لا نملك شيئاً، نصبح أغنى الأغنياء، لأننا نحمل المسيح في حياتنا، وفي جسدنا، وفي قلوبنا، ننطلق به نحو إخواننا، ليختبروا هم أيضاً عظم المسيح وغنى محبته.

## هي دعوة الى القداسة

معمودية المسيح هي صورة عن حقيقة كل واحد منّا، نُصغي لدعوة الله في قلبنا، نعود إلى صوت الضمير، نقبل الله في حياتنا، نتكرس له بالمعمودية، نصبح له بكليتنا، نضع ذاتنا بين يديه، نقول له: **أريد أن أكون وسيلة لك، لتقدس الإخوة من خلالي.** حلول الروح على المسيح في الأردن هو صورة عن حلول الله على حياتي.

كما كان روح الرب يرفرف علي العمار في البدء، قيل أن يخلق الله السماوات، وكانت الأرض خربة خالية، فحولها الله بروحه إلى تحفة تمجد الخالق بجمالها، كذلك يحل علي أنا ساعة المعمودية، يحل علي خراب ذاتي، وعلى الحطام الذي سببته خطيئتي، يحل علي قلبي الفارغ كفراغ الوجود قبل الخلق، يحل علي فيجعلني أنا أيضاً تحفة رائعة الجمال، أعلن للكون عن جمال الله من خلال جمال النعمة التي نلتها، نعمة أن أكون ابناً لله.

## هي دعوة الى التوبة

الله لا يختار كمالني، فهو أحبني رغم ضعفي، ورغم خطيئتي، أحبني كما يحب الأب ابنه المريض الضعيف، يحبني رغم سقطاتي ورغم هفواتي، يريدني أن أكون له، ليعمل في حياتي، ويبدل ضعفي بقوة، ويبدل خطيئتي بنعمته. **دعوة الله هي ليست لأني كامل، بل لأني ابن لله، وكما لي يتحقق بطاعتي الكاملة لإرادته التي تقدسني. أتباعي لله لا ينتهي بعد المعمودية، بل هي دعوة مستمرة لتوبة يومية.** في كل لحظة من حياتي أنا مدعو لأن أعود إلى الله، ولأن أعلن له كل لحظة أنني أحبته، فهو دعائي لأنه اختارني، وهو اختارني لأنه أحبني، وهو أحبني لأنه أبي، ولأنه جعل مني ابناً له بالمعمودية.

بالمعمودية تتحقق في حياتنا الشخصية إمكانية الإتحاد بالحب الإلهي، فبالمعمودية نصبح أبناء الله، نسمع صوته يقول لنا: أنت إبنى الحبيب، يفرح قلب الأب بنا، ويُسّر بأن قد وُلد له بالنعمة وبالروح القدس ابن جديد. هذا هو سر المعمودية، هذا سبب دخول المسيح اليوم في مياه الأردن.

فهل نعي في حياتنا هذه الحقيقة؟ هل ندرك عظمة حبّ الله لنا؟ هل نفهم كم أننا نجرح قلب الله الذي أحبنا بإصرارنا علي البقاء في خطيئتنا؟ هي دعوة لنا لأن نتوب، لأن نعود إلى الأب، لأن المسيح قد فتح لنا باب العودة إلى حالة النبوّة. هي دعوة لنا لأن نحافظ على شرف معموديتنا، فلا نرمي جواهر الروح القدس في أحوال خطيئتنا. هي دعوة لنا لأن نعود إلى الأب في حال سقطنا، ونعبنا، ويتسنا، فالله يحبنا وينتظرنا، ينتظرنا ليغفر لنا، ليضمنا إلى قلبه، ويهمس في أذننا من جديد: **أنت هو إبنى الحبيب، بك أنا سررت.**

ثلاثون عاماً من حياة محتجة انقضت، ثلاثون عاماً منذ ليلة ميلاد بيت لحم، منذ انحدار الرب لملاقة واقعنا الإنساني. في بيت لحم اتخذ الرب جسداً مائتاً، وُلد فقيراً ليرينا كم هو قريب منّا ومن حقيقتنا. أراد أن يقول لنا أنه يحبنا، وأنه معنا، لأنه صار واحداً منّا. واليوم، بعد حياة الناصرة الخفية، حيث كان الرب ينمو مثل كل واحد منّا بالقامة والنعمة والحكمة، طائعاً لمريم ويوسف، بدأ المسيح حياته العلنية.

طالما انتظر اليهود يوم الرب هذا: انتظروا وصول المسيح المخلص، يأتي ليرفع الظلم عن شعبه. لقد انتظروا مسيحاً قوياً، مقاتلاً، قائداً جيش إسرائيل. إنتظروا مسيحاً معاقباً يحرق الخطاة بنار غضبه. انتظروه ملكاً يخلق بالقوة ملوك الطغيان ليعيد إحياء عرش داود أبيه، ملك إسرائيل، ويوجد بقوة ذراعه قبائل إسرائيل المشتتة.

لم ينتظروه مسيحاً ضعيفاً، لم ينتظروه مسيحاً ينحني أمام يوحنا، لم يقبلوه مسيحاً يعلن ملكه لا بالسيف بل بالماء، ويغلب الشر لا بالحرب بل بمعمودية التوبة.

هو منطق مسيح بيت لحم، المولود كالفقراء، لم يجد له مكاناً فحلّ في إسطبل. هو منطق مسيح البشارة، لم يجد له موضعاً يقف عليه رأسه، هو منطق مسيح الناصرة، ظن إقاربه أنه قد فقد العقل، هو منطق مسيح اورشليم، ينحني الرأس أمام رعا ع يضرّبونه بقصبة، يهزأون به، يقولون له متهمكمن: "تنبأ من ضربك".

هو منطق الإنسان المسالم، يرفض قبول منطق العنف، لأن "من يأخذ بالسيف، فيالسيف يؤخذ"، ولأن العالم لا يمكن للعنف أن يشفيه، وحده السلام، وحده الحب، وحدها المصالحة، يمكنها أن تشفي جراح قلبنا العنيف فتعطيه السلام.

المسيح الداخل مياه الأردن هو نفسه المسيح الذي يدخل عالماً، يدخل واقعنا ويتبني حقيقتنا ليعبّرها من الداخل، يعبّرها بصمت، يلقي في حقيقتنا حقيقته، فتنمو فينا بصمت كما تنمو السنبل، دون ضجيج، دون هتاف الانتصار، ودون قسوة السيف وعنف الحرب. **حقيقة المسيح تنمو في حياتنا وفي عالمنا بهدوء، وبسلامها تبدل واقعنا.**

لقد دخل المسيح مياه الأردن، هو غير المحتاج إلى التوبة، لأنه لم يقترف معصية، هو البرارة المتجسّدة، جاء يعلمنا، يقول لنا أن الدخول في علاقة مع الأب لا يمكنها أن تتم إن لم نخبر معنى التوبة، معنى العودة إلى الأب. بخطيئتنا فقدنا صداقتنا مع الله، وحدها التوبة تعيدنا إلى حالة النبوّة.

**المسيح في نهر الأردن هو صورة كل واحد منّا، إنسانيته التي دخلت مياه معمودية يوحنا هي صورة إنسانيتنا المدعوة إلى التوبة وإلى العودة إلى الله.**

## معمودية المسيح هي دعوة لنا

دعوة إلى المعمودية، فبالمعمودية نعلن أننا ملك الله، نرفض الشيطان وكل تعاليمه، نعلن أن خيرنا الأوحده هو الله وحده. بالمعمودية نلبس المسيح، نصبح أعضاء في جسد المسيح السري، أي أبناء الكنيسة وأعضاءها. بواسطتنا نعلن الكنيسة حبّ الله للعالم، بواسطتنا تقدس الكنيسة العالم، بواسطتنا نعلن الكنيسة إنجيل الخلاص.

بواسطتنا نحن الأعضاء، يمكن للمسيح أن يعمل اليوم في عالمنا: بنا

# Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



## *The Divine Liturgy Schedule*

### **Divine Liturgy**

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

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Welcome to*

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

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

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

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



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

# "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.





# OPEN HOUSE

JAN. 13 @ 9:00 AM

## SHADOW DAYS

Call to schedule!



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# *Crowned in Glory & Honor*

## **Couples' Retreat Day**

Married and Engaged Couples

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

Saturday, January 27, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*Childcare Provided*

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

**Please Register by January 20, 2024**

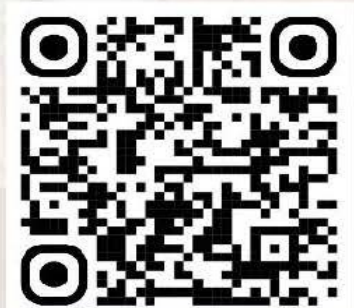
Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/gUwyuBn95a6KEx6r6>

Suggested Donation: \$50 per Couple

Payment to: Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral

Memo: "Couples' Retreat"

Questions email: lhoms@icloud.com





**SAVE**  
*The*  
**DATE**

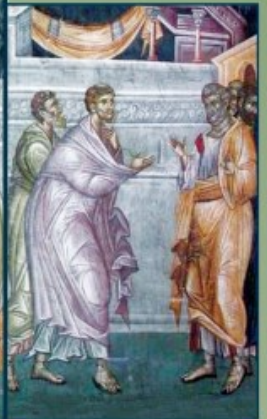
**JULY**  
**4-7 2024**



*Becoming Disciples.*



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



*Making Disciples.*

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**Ticketing information to follow!**



# 53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

## JULY 4-7 2024

*hosted by*

**OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL**

*at the*

**MARRIOTT BOSTON QUINCY**



*Becoming Disciples.*

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

*Making Disciples.*

# PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM

## INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

*if Purchased Separately from Package*

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

## COMPLETE PACKAGES

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

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

*Make Checks Payable to:*

**ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHEDRAL**  
*Memo: Convention Package*

*Mail Payment and Form to:*

**Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral**  
7 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
**DO NOT SEND CASH**

**GRAND TOTAL \$**

Registration material will be picked up at the convention registration desk

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

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

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

## REGISTRATION

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

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

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

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 09/15/2023



## St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

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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