



December 24, 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

#### This week

Sunday: 10:00 AM

Sunday: 7:00 PM

### 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 Before the Nativity of our Lord – Genealogy

الأحد الذي قبل الميلاد – المعروف بأحد النسبة

#### ANTIPHONS PRAYER:

O You who have granted us to pray together in harmony, and who promised that when two or three are gathered to call upon Your name, You will give what they ask, do You now fulfill what Your servants ask, so far as it is good, granting us in this world the knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come, eternal life.

#### Troparion of the resurrection (5th tone)

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our Salvation, for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

#### Troparion of the Preparation 4th Tone

Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all; Ephrata, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise wherein the divine Fruit was planted – and if we eat of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is coming forth to bring back to life the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

#### Troparion of the Ancestors of Christ, (2nd Tone)

Faith can accomplish great things. Through it, the Three Holy Children rejoice in the flames as if they had been in refreshing water, and Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls

#### الأنديقونة:

يا من نعم علينا بأن نقيم هذه الصلوات المشتركة المتفقة، ووعده بأنه متى اتفق اثنان او ثلاثة باسمه يمنحهم ما يسألون، أنت تم الآن لعبيدك سؤالهم بحسب ما يوافقهم، واهباً لنا في الدهر الحاضر معرفة حقا، ومنعماً علينا في الآتي بالحياة الأبدية. لأنك إله صالح ومحب للبشر، واليك نرفع المجد، ايها الأب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكل اوان والى دهر الدهرين.

#### نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس

لنشيد نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، الأزلي مع الآب والروح، المولود من العذراء لخلصنا. لأنه ارتضى أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب، ويحتمل الموت، وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

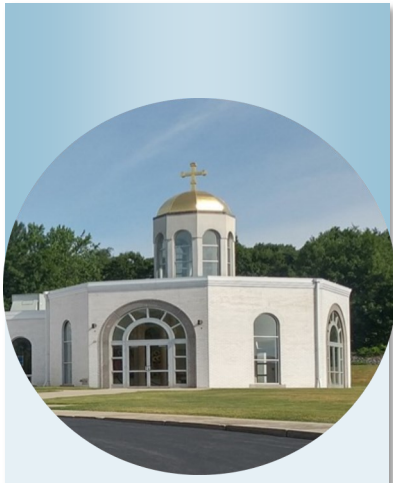
#### النشيد للتقدمة على اللحن الرابع

استعدي يا بيت لحم، فقد انفتحت عدن للجميع. تأهبي يا إفراثا، فان عود الحياة قد نبت في المغارة من البتول، وبطنها ظهر فردوساً عقلياً، فيه الفرساة الإلهية التي إذا اكلنا منها نحيا ولا نموت مثل آدم. المسيح يولد ليقيم الصورة التي سقطت قديماً.

#### نشيد الاباء باللحن الثاني

ما أعظم مفاعيل الايمان الباهرة، فيه كان الثلاثة الفتية القديسون ينتهجون في ينبوع اللهب كأنهم على ماء الراحة. ودانيال النبي بات يرعى الأسود كالغنم. فبتضرعاتهم، أيها المسيح الاله، خلص نفوسنا.



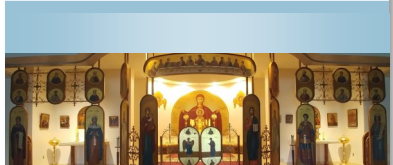


### Our church organizations:

**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.

### Kondakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord (3rd Tone)

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him who shall appear as a new Child, being God from all eternity.

### Epistle Heb 11:9-10; 32-40, Sunday before the Nativity PROKIMENON

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Stichon: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Brethren, by faith, Abraham lived in the Land of the Promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise, for he was looking for the city with fixed foundations, of which city the architect and builder is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barac, Samson, Jephthe, David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead restored to them though resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and blows, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, cut to pieces, put to the question, killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, distressed, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves and holes in the ground.

And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God has something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

Alleluia (Tone 4)

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds You did in their days, in the days of old.

Stichon: The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

### Gospel: Sunday before the Nativity, Matthew 1: 1-25 (Genealogy of Christ)

The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah whose mother was Thamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, Abijah begot Asa. And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus, Who is called Christ. So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations. And from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary His mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;" which is interpreted, "God with us." So, Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called His name Jesus.

### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبِلتُ كلامك، الذي به بُنيتُ العقائدُ بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحتُ طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمتُ أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأبُّ البارُّ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، ائتمل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

### نشيد الختام (فنداق) تقدمه ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح باللحن الثالث

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة، لتلد الكلمة الكائنة قبل الدهور، ولادة يُعجِّزُ بيانها. فأطربني ابنتها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، من شاء أن يظهر طفلاً جديداً. وهو الآلة الذي قبل الدهور.

### رسالة الاحد الذي قبل الميلاد

#### مقدمة الرسالة

مبارك أنت أيها الرب أله آباؤنا، ومسيح وممجّد أسمك إلى الدهور

لأنك عادل فيما صنعت بنا، وأعمالك كلها صدق، وطرقك استقامة

الرسالة (عبرانيين 11: 9-10 و 32-40)

يا أخوة، بالإيمان نزل إبراهيم إلى أرض الميعاد نزوله في بلاد غربة، وسكن في أخبية مع اسحق ويعقوب الوارثين معه الموعد نفسه، لأنه كان ينتظر المدينة ذات الاسس، التي الله صانئها وبارئها. وماذا أقول أيضاً؟ انه يضيق بي الوقت ان اخبرت عن جدعون وبارق وشمشون، وفتاح وداود وصموئيل والانبياء، الذين بالأيمان قهروا الممالك وعملوا البر، ونالوا الموعد وسدوا افواه الاسود. وأطفأوا قوة النار ونجوا من حد السيف، وتقوا من ضعف وصاروا أشداء في القتال، وكسروا معسكرات الاجانب، واسترجعت نساء أمواتهن بالقيامة، وآخرون قد عُذبوا بتوتير الاعضاء والضرب، ولم يقبلوا النجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل. وآخرون قد ذاقوا الهزة والسياس والقيود أيضاً والسجن. رجموا ونشروا، امتحنوا، ماتوا بحد السيف، ساحوا في جلود الغنم والمعز، مُعزّين، مُضايقين، مهجودين. ولم يكن العالم مستحقاً لهم، تائهين في البراري والجبال والمغاور وكهوف الارض. فهؤلاء كلهم المشهود لهم بالإيمان لم يتالوا الموعد، لان الله قد سبق فنظر لنا شيئاً أفضل، لكيلا نكلموا بمعزل عنّا.

هللوا

اللهم بأذاننا قد سمعنا، وآباؤنا أخبروا بالعمل الذي عملته في أيامهم، في الأيام القديمة

الصديقون صرخوا والرب استمع لهم، ومن جميع مضايقتهم نجاهم.

### انجيل الاحد الذي قبل الميلاد

#### الانجيل (متى 1: 1-25)

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن ابراهيم. فإبراهيم ولد اسحق، واسحق ولد يعقوب، ويعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته. ويهوذا ولد فارص وزارخ من تامار، وفارص ولد حصرون، وحصرون ولد آرام. وأرام ولد عميناداب، وعميناداب ولد نحشون، ونحشون ولد سلمون، وسلمون ولد بوعز من راحاب، وبوعز ولد عوبيد من راعوث، وعوبيد ولد يسى، ويسى ولد داود الملك. وداود الملك ولد سليمان الذي كان كائن لاوريا. وسليمان ولد زخعيام، وزخعيام ولد أبيا، وأبيا ولد آسا. وآسا ولد يوشافاط، ويوشافاط ولد يورام، ويورام ولد عزريا. وعزريا ولد يوثام، ويوثام ولد آحاز، وآحاز ولد حزقيا، وحزقيا ولد منسى، ومنسى ولد آمون، وآمون ولد يوشيا، ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل يكنيا ولد شالتيئيل، وشالتيئيل ولد زرتابيل. وزرتابيل ولد أبيهود، وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم، وألياقيم ولد عازور. وعازور ولد صادوق، وصادوق ولد أكيم، وأكيم ولد أليهود. وأليهود ولد ألعازر، وألعازر ولد مئان، ومئان ولد يعقوب. ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم، التي منها ولد يسوع الذي يدعى المسيح. فكل الاجيال من ابراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً. أما مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا: لما حطبت مريم أمه ليوسف ووجدت من قبل أن يسكنها معاً خبلي من الروح القدس. وإذ كان يوسف رجلها صديقاً ولم يُرد أن يشهرها، عزم على تخليتها سراً. وفيما هو يفكر في ذلك إذا بملاك الرب قد تراءى له في الحلم قائلاً: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم، فإن المولود فيها هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابناً فتسميه يسوع، لأنه هو الذي يخلص شعبه من خطايها. وكان هذا كله ليتم ما قال الرب بالنبي القائل: ها إن العذراء تحبل وتلد ابناً وتسمى عقتانيل، الذي ترجمته الله معنا. فلما نهض يوسف من النوم فعل كما أمره ملاك الرب، فأخذ امرأته. ولم يُعرفها حتى ولدت ابنتها البكر، فسماه يسوع.



# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023: SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. GENEALOGY. FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. MARTYR EUGENIA.**

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

- + **ANGELA SABBAGH** by Wayne & Judy Rawan & Family.
- + **YOUSEF GEORGI DEEB** by John Alkhoury & Najat Aleneini.
- + **JULIA, FRED, & ELIAS J. KISHFY** M/M Noman E. Kishfy.
- + **MAGEE MARTINEZ** by Sami & Liliane Khaouam.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Tony & Aida Hanna.
- + **ELLIE, FADIA, & HALA ASHKAR** by Michael Ashkar & Family.
- + **WILLIAM T. ASERMELY** by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family (SC).

**7:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY On Sunday Christmas Eve & 10:00 a.m. On Monday Christmas Day:**

**SPIRITUAL & TEMPORAL WELFARE OF ALL PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS & BENEFAC-TORS OF ST. BASIL’S COMMUNITY.**

## Prayer for the dead

O God of all spirits and of all flesh, who have destroyed death, overcome the devil, and given life to the world: grant, O Lord to the souls of your servants, who have departed from this life, that they may rest in a place of light, in a place of happiness, in a place of peace, where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing. And since You are gracious God and Lover of mankind, forgive them every sin they have committed by thought, or word, or deed, for there is not a man who lives and does not sin: You alone are without sin, your righteousness is everlasting, and your word is true.

For You are the Resurrection and the Life, and the Repose of your departed servants, O Christ our God, and we render glory to You, together with your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.





**SACRIFICIAL GIVING: DECEMBER 10, 2023:** Budgets: \$2,780.00 (Envelopes: \$2,535.00; Loose: \$245.00; Candles: \$119.00; Stole Offerings: \$250.00; Building Fund: \$70.00; Sun. School Reg.: \$40.00; Fuel: \$280.00; Food Fair Activity: \$130.00.

Father Ephrem has now been here three years and is 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.

**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.

Please make this **Christmas first and foremost a Spiritual Feast.** Make your peace with God in the Mystery of Confession. Receive Him in Holy Communion. Begin the New Year reconciled to God and determine to worship Him regularly. May Christmas bring a rebirth of grace to you individually, to your family and to our whole Parish Community. Together may we “grow to the full maturity of Christ” (Ephesians 4:15) during the year.

On Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, and on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special collection taken up for your **CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS.** Envelopes for this purpose may be found in your weekly budgets, or you may obtain one on your way out at either entrance to the church.

#### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

*Once again as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, Christmas Greetings are sent to you, together with sincere gratitude for your loyal and generous cooperation throughout the year. May the true joy of a holy Christmas fill your hearts and the hearts of your loved ones during the coming year of 2024. It is hoped all parishioners and friends will receive Holy Communion on Christmas and thus offer their hearts filled with love to our Infant Savior. In the Spirit of Christmas, the material needs of the parish are recommended to your charity. God bless you for your aid in His work.*

**Father Ephrem, Father Joe, Deacon Edmond, Deacon Gilbert**

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.

**REFLECTION:** To “let go” is not to care for, but to care about.

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 24 – Eve of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Divine Liturgy. (One Combined Divine Liturgy)

**7:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Festal Divine Liturgy with Youth Pageant.

**Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ**

**10:00 a.m.** Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 31**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Divine Liturgy. (One Combined Divine Liturgy)

**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*

*Office of the Bishop*

Bishop François Beyrouti  
Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America  
3 VFW Pkwy  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my first year as your Bishop, I've been edified and inspired by the joyful solidarity and faith of our Melkite community. I have been on the road this year almost every weekend and have visited many of our over 50 communities. My goal for this year is to visit the remaining communities and to assist our communities to flourish in whatever way I can.

I'm deeply grateful for the hard work of the clergy and lay people in our communities. Christ calls each of us to serve. I have been inspired by the men and women, young and old, who serve with their whole heart. I see your dedication and share in your passion and commitment.

Soon you will receive a letter from me for this year's annual appeal. In this letter, I outline some of the steps I've heard from you that are necessary to foster vocations, strengthen the faith life of our communities, and make use of the many resources available to help us organize our communities.

**I ask you to read this letter carefully, and prayerfully consider how God may call you to contribute to the many needs of our Church so our communities can be strong in the years to come.**

We face many challenges today, but challenges are nothing new for our Church. Your generosity, service, and love can help strengthen our Melkite Catholic Church in the U.S. for years to come. In addition to the usual means, you can also give to this year's appeal by using the QR Code below or visit us at [melkite.org/donate](http://melkite.org/donate).

I thank you for your prayers, your consideration of this appeal, and for all you are already doing to serve God in your daily life and in the faith life of our communities. May God bless and reward you and your family for your generosity and dedication.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

+ François



**Most Reverend Bishop François Beyrouti**

Eparchial Bishop of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America



## MELKITE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF NEWTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my first year as your Bishop, I've been edified and inspired by the joyful solidarity and faith of our Melkite Catholic faithful throughout the US. I'm deeply grateful for the hard work of the clergy and lay people in our communities.

**Christ calls each of us to serve.** I have been inspired by the men and women, young and old, who serve with their whole heart. I see your dedication and share in your passion and commitment.

That's why I'm writing to you today. I've just sent out this year's annual appeal, which should be reaching you quite soon. **I'm asking you to consider how you might serve this year by giving to the appeal.**

During the last year, I've heard from you all about the steps that are necessary to foster vocations, strengthen the faith life of our communities, and make use of the many resources available to help us organize our communities. In the appeal letter this year, I share how I think we can take those steps together – **with your help.**

**I ask you to read this letter carefully, and prayerfully consider how God may call you to contribute to the many needs of our Church so our communities can be strong in the years to come.**

We face many challenges today, but challenges are nothing new for our Church. **Would you be willing to make a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford to help strengthen our Melkite Catholic Church in the US for years to come.**

In addition to the usual means, you can also give to this year's by visiting us at <https://melkite.org/donate>

I thank you for your prayers, your consideration of this appeal, and for all you are already doing to serve God in your daily life and in the faith life of our communities. May God bless and reward you and your family for your generosity and dedication.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "François".

Most Reverend Bishop François Beyrouti

Eparchial Bishop of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of

# Following Jesus

## Kids bulletin



More than  thousand years ago, Heavenly Father sent the  Gabriel  , a young woman in the  of Nazareth. Gabriel told  that she  give birth  a  who was the Son of God. The 's name   Jesus.  married , a carpenter. He, , had been told by an  that 's    the Savior. Later, the emperor of Rome commanded everyone  pay a tax.   journeyed  , the city of their ancestor, ,  pay the tax. It was time    have her , but all the   s were full.   had  live in a . There  gave birth  Jesus  laid Him in a  used  feeding . That night an  appeared  nearby . The  told the  that the Savior, Jesus Christ, was born in  that they  find Him in a . Many heavenly beings joined the , praising God  declaring peace on . The  went   the , then told others about Him. Later, the  were led by a   the place where Jesus was. They worshiped Him  gave Him precious . A time long  told by  s had finally come.



# تأمل في معاني المغارة

الملائكة، ولو أنهم كانوا ينظرون إلى أغنامهم، لما رأوا علامة السماء. وهذا مهم جداً بالنسبة لرعاة الكنيسة ولكل مسيحي ولكل صاحب قرار أن ينظروا إلى السماء وإلى شريعته الإلهية، وإلى المحبة المتجلية في عمل الله وكل الخلائق ورحمته اللامتناهية لضعفنا وخطايانا، قبل أن يصدرنا أحكامهم على من هم مسؤولون عنهم.

**يقول الإنجيل عن هؤلاء الرعاة: "طوبى لأنقياء القلب، فإنهم يعاينون الله" ( متى 5: 8 ).**

لأن محبتهم للمسيح المولود، تخطت فقرهم، والكثير من هموم الحياة التي كانت تثقل كاهلهم، وجعلتهم يتبعون كلام الملائكة، ويهرعون إلى المغارة، "ليجدوا مريم ويوسف، والطفل مضجعا في المذود" ( لو 2: 16 )، فأصبحوا أغنياء بالله الذي افتقر لأجلهم. فبلغوا مع المجوس إلى الذي لا يبلغ إليه: أي إلى الله. فهم إذن العيون الشاخصة نحو السماء، والتأمل في أمورها.

يرمز الرعاة أيضاً إلى المسيح، الراعي الصالح ( يو 10: 11 )، وإلى الرسل، الذين هم رعاة العالم. وكل واحد منا هو راع لإخوته البشر العائشين معه. فهم إذن، يطرحون علينا السؤال التالي: "إلى أين تتجه أنظارك؟ إلى السماء أم إلى الأرض؟ إلى الخدمة أم إلى التسلسل؟ إلى الذي يدوم أم على الذي يزول؟

ونحن بدورنا، إن لم نتخل عن ذواتنا، وننتقل مثل الرعاة، متخلين عن راحتنا وأنايتنا الشخصية، لنفتش عن الطفل الجديد، فلن يتم الميلاد في حياتنا، ولن نرى شيئاً من عجائبه

**يرمز القديس يوسف إلى الطاعة الواعية والصامتة.** ويرمز إلى تميم إرادة الله بصمت. فهو لم يتمرد لم يتذمر. واستطاع أن يحمي الله المتجسد بيسوع المسيح، بصمته المصلي. وتصرف كما أمره الملاك بدون جدال. وهو يرمز إلى الإنسان المترقب لعلامات الله في حياته، دون أن يرفضها أو يتهزّب منها، حتى لو يفهمها.

كذلك حين شك يوسف في قلبه وخاف، لم يتردد أن يأخذ مريم، كما أمره الملاك، مخضعاً منطقه لنعمة الله وعمله. فهل من إيمان أكبر؟ إنه بنى بيته على صخر الإيمان، فلم تحطمه سيول الشك " فكل من سمع أقوالي هذه وعمل بها يشبه رجلاً عاقلاً بنى بيته على الصخر: فهطل المطر، وجاءت السيول، وعصفت الرياح، وانقضت على ذلك البيت فلم يسقط لأن أساسه ثابت على الصخر" ( متى 7: 24-25 )

**ربي يسوع، في زمن الحب والعتاء، زمن التجسد، حيث يصبح الله إنساناً ليصبح الإنسان إلهاً. تُرسل السماء خالقها، وتستقبل الأرض من يقدّسها؛ ويتأله الإنسان، لأن الله يصبح ابن الإنسان، وترتل الملائكة بالمجد، ويبلغ المجوس ملاء الحقيقة بلقائهم طفل المذود، ويجد الرعاة الراعي الصالح. "وتلد العذراء الكلمة الكائن قبل الدهور، ولادة تفوق كل وصف، وتقدم الأرض المغارة لمن لا يدني منه. فافرحي أيتها المسكونة، ومجدي من شاء أن يظهر طفلاً جديداً، إلهنا الذي قبل الدهور". شكراً يا يسوع، لأنك أصبحت صغيراً، لكي نصبح نحن الصغار، قريين إلى الله بك، وجعلت روحك يصلي فينا: "أباً أيها الأب". لك المجد يا متجسداً في حبك. آمين.**



هي مكوّنة من حجر، محفورة في الصخر. والبيت الصامد والقوي الذي تحدّث عنه المسيح، هو البيت "المبني على الصخر". وقد سمى المسيح بطرس صخراً: "وأنا أقول لك: أنت صخرٌ وعلى هذا الصخر سأبني كنيسة، وأبواب الجحيم لن تقوى عليها" ( متى 16: 18 ).

**ترمز المغارة إذن إلى قلب الإنسان الثابت في الله أمام كل الصعوبات والتجارب.**

ونتأمل في نصّ للقديس غريغوريوس اللاهوتي، يتكلّم فيه عن بيت لحم: "كرموا بيت لحم، هذه القرية المتواضعة، التي رفعت حفاتكم إلى مجد السماء. مجدوا من ولدوا في المغارة، لأن المغارة أصبحت باب "عدن" ( أي باب الجنة).

لم تعد بيت لحم قرية حقيرة في مدن يهوذا، بل أصبحت قلب كل إنسان يولد في فيه الله.

لم تعد مجهولة في الزمان والمكان، بل أصبحت في كل مكان وزمان، وفي حياة كل إنسان قبل الله. " نعم لقد أصبحت بيت لحم كبيرة، واتسعت المغارة للكون كله، إذ وسعت ربّ الكون، فصارت تشبه قلب كل محب. واكتملت بذلك النبوءة، إذ أعطت بيت لحم ( أي بيت الخبز ) المسيح خبزاً حياً لكل الناس، من يأكل منه يحيا إلى الأبد.

**تأمل في النجم:**

يرمز النجم إلى النور: "أنتم نور العالم" ( متى 5: 14 ). والمسيح نور. وقد جاء النور إلى العالم ليضيء الظلمة: "ما دمت في العالم، فأنا نور العالم" ( يو 9: 5 )

**ويرمز النجم أيضاً إلى يسوع الذي يقودنا إلى الآب. وإلى المسيحيين الذين يقودوننا إلى الله. لذلك نحن أبناء النور وأبناء النهار.** ويرمز أيضاً إلى المبشرين الذين يبشرون بالنور في عالم الظلمة. ويرمز إلى الكاهن الواقف أمام الهيكل. فهو نجم يضيء الكنيسة كلها، ويوجهنا نحو الله الموجود في الهيكل. لذلك على المؤمنين أن يتمسكوا بالمسيح "كما بمصباح يضيء في مكان مظلم، إلى أن ينفجر النهار ويشرق كوكب الصباح في قلوبكم" ( 2 بط 1: 19 ). **فالنجم إذن، دعوة لنا لتكون النور على المنارة، وليس تحت المكياج (متى 5: 14-16).**

**الذهب والبخور والمز:**

قدّم المجوس للمسيح الذهب دلالة على أنّه ملك، وملكه أبدي وسلطانه لا يبلى؛ ودلالة على أن مجد البشر لا يدوم بدون مجد الله. وقدّموا له البخور، دلالة على أنّه إله أزلي، وأن كل من لا يرتبط به لا يثبت. وقدّموا له المزّ دلالة على أنه كإنسان، سيتحمّل آلام الإنسانية، الذي بطل مفهومها كعقاب. وطالما أن هناك إنساناً يتألم فالله لا يزال يتألم. **فالمغارة إذن، هي مكان التقاء الإنسان مع الله بالتواضع، المرشد إلى الآب. تجسد الله في عالم الإنسان، وسلطان الله على الأرض.**

يرمز الرعاة إلى الله الآب الراعي الرعاة (حزقيال 34: 1-16) ويرمز الرعاة أيضاً إلى الفقراء، الناظرين إلى السماء، الذين كانوا ينظرون إلى

# Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



The glorious feast of Christmas is finally here, and what a mysterious blessing it is. For the Eternal Word of God becomes a human being—as helpless a babe as was ever born—with a manger for His crib. Angels sing in His honor. The lowly shepherds and the foreign wise men worship Him. A young virgin becomes a mother, not simply of a Son, but of the Son of God. And kings tremble, for this baby brings to earth a Kingdom not of this world.

The good news of Christmas is that Jesus Christ is born this day, not to judge or to destroy us, but to save and bless us. He is the Second Adam in Whom the diseased decay of the first Adam is healed. By becoming one of us, He brings us into the life of God. We are made holy, we are fulfilled, we are raised to life eternal in Him.

Our Lord brings His great joy to the world humbly and peaceably. He does not arrive in the earthly splendor of a king, with the military power of a conquering general, or in the material comfort of the rich. Instead, He takes the lowest, most vulnerable place for Himself: born in a cave used as a barn to a family that lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and the cruelty of Herod. Soon Joseph would take the Virgin Mary and the young Jesus to Egypt by night, fleeing for their lives from a wicked, murderous king. What a difficult, lowly way to come into a dark and dangerous world, not unlike how refugee children are born in parts of the Middle East, Africa, and other war-torn regions to this very day.

But when we pause to consider the glory of our Lord's Incarnation, we should not be surprised at all. For what does it mean for the Immortal One to put on mortality? What does it mean for the One Who spoke the world into existence to become part of that creation? What does it mean for the King of the universe to become subject to the kings of the world? It means humility and selfless, suffering love beyond our understanding. For our Lord, God, and Savior is not a rational concept to be defined, but a Person Who shares His life with

us. So that we could enter into His life, He entered into ours, sanctifying every bit of what it means to be a human being, literally from the womb to the tomb that could not contain Him.

The wise men show us how to respond to the unbelievably good news that God has become a human being: they worship Him. Let us follow their example this Christmas season by worshipping Him as we open ourselves to the glorious transformation that the Incarnate Son of God brings. For Christ is born, and the peace and joy of God's kingdom are ours even as we live and breathe in the world as we know it. Christ is born, and we encounter Him in every human being, especially the poor, needy, and outcast. Christ is born, and we participate in the eternal life for which we were created in God's image and likeness.

Yes, this wonderful news really is true. And the only limits on the blessing of Christmas are those that we place on ourselves. For the One Who comes as a humble, meek, peaceable baby in a manger never forces us or anyone else. He is the Mystery of Love made flesh for our salvation. If we accept Him, we must become participants in the deified humanity that the God-Man Jesus Christ has brought to the world. We must live in this world in ways that reflect the deep truth of the Incarnation. We must become living icons of the good news of this season.

So this Christmas, let us be like Mary the Theotokos who received Him with joy, like the elder Joseph His steadfast protector, and like that strange combination of lowly shepherds and Persian astrologers who first worshipped Him. Let us welcome Him into our life and live accordingly, for now nothing but our own refusal can separate us from His love. That, my brothers and sisters, is the good news of Christmas.

## Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



# LITURGICAL CALENDAR



DECEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 كانون الأول - ديسمبر <b>2023</b>	<b>31</b> Sunday before Theophany الأحد قبل الظهور 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8					<b>1</b> Holy Prophet Nahum 2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18 Luke 20:19-26	<b>2</b> Holy Prophet Habakkuk Galatians 5:22-6:2 Luke 12:32-40
	<b>3</b> 14th Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد الرابع عشر بعد عيد الصليب Ephesians 6:10-17 Luke 18:35-43	<b>4</b> St John the Damascene Galatians 3:23-4:5 Mark 5:24-34	<b>5</b> St Sabbas the Sanctified Galatians 5:22-6:2 Matthew 11:27-30	<b>6</b> St Nicholas of Myra Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23	<b>7</b> St Ambrose of Milan Titus 1:5-14 Mark 21:28-33	<b>8</b> Prep of Maternity of Anne, grandmother of our Lord Titus 1:15-2:10 Mark 2:23-28	<b>9</b> Maternity of Anne Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21
NOVEMBER 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	<b>10</b> 10th Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد العاشر بعد عيد الصليب Colossians 1:12-18 Luke 13:10-17	<b>11</b> St Daniel the Stylite Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19 Mark 8:11-21	<b>12</b> St Spyridon of Trimythus Ephesians 5:8-19 John 10:9-16	<b>13</b> St Eustrates and his companions Hebrews 5:11-6:8 Mark 8:30-34	<b>14</b> St Thyrces and his companions Hebrews 7:1-6 Mark 9:10-15	<b>15</b> St Eleutherios 2 Timothy 1:8-18 Mark 2:23-3:5	<b>16</b> Holy Prophet Haggai Ephesians 2:11-13 Luke 14:1-11
JANUARY 2024 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> Holy Ancestors of Christ أحد الأجداد القديسين Colossians 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-25	<b>18</b> St Boniface Hebrews 8:7-13 Mark 9:42-10:1	<b>19</b> St Boniface Hebrews 9:8-23 Mark 10:2-12	<b>20</b> Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord Hebrews 10:1-18 Mark 10:11-16	<b>21</b> St Juliana of Nicomedia Hebrews 10:35-11:7 Mark 10:17-27	<b>22</b> Paramony Fast صوم البارامون Hebrews 11:8-16 Mark 10:24-32	<b>23</b> Saturday before the Nativity السبت الذي قبل الميلاد Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 13:19-29
 <b>24</b> Paramony of Christmas Genealogy of Christ أحد نسب السيد المسيح Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25	<b>25</b> Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ ميلاد سيدنا يسوع المسيح Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12	<b>26</b> St Joseph the Betrothed Synaxis of the Theotokos Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23	<b>27</b> St Stephen Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23	<b>28</b> Holy Martyrs of Nicomedia James 1:19-27 Mark 11:27-33	<b>29</b> Holy Innocents of Bethlehem James 2:1-13 Mark 12:1-12	<b>30</b> Saturday after the Nativity السبت بعد الميلاد 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Matthew 12:15-21	

# Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



## *The Divine Liturgy Schedule*

### **Divine Liturgy**

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

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Welcome to*

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

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

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

**YouTube**  
<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.

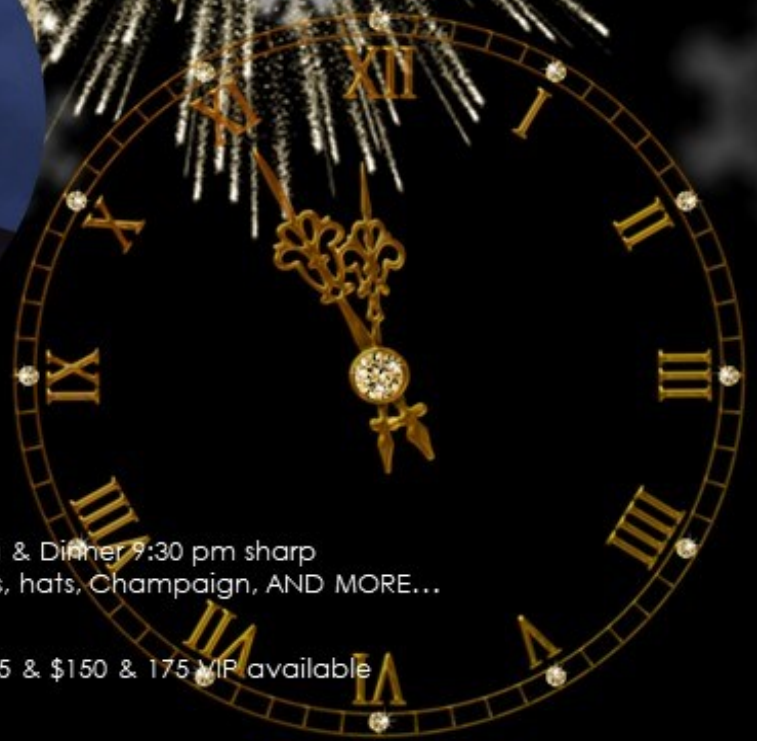
St Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church  
15 Skyview Drive, Lincoln, RI 02865  
Sunday, December 31, 2023, at 8:30 p.m-2:00 a.m.

# New Year's Eve 2024



Featuring

*Salah El Kurdi*  
& his Live Band



Deluxe Mazza & Dinner 9:30 pm sharp  
Cash bar, Noise makers, hats, Champaign, AND MORE...

Tickets start at \$125 & \$150 & \$175 VIP available

Souhair Batal Khoury 781-603-4424  
Bill Haddad 401-258-6133  
George Mardo 401-744-7657  
Camille Albatat 401- 365-3126

Samir Boudjouk 401-744-1141  
Faiz AlBatal 401-692-1808  
Ranim Nassar 401-489-4482  
Kyle Mardo 401-578-5369

All Tickets must be pre-paid (Cash, checks, credit) - Deadline December 25, 2023

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

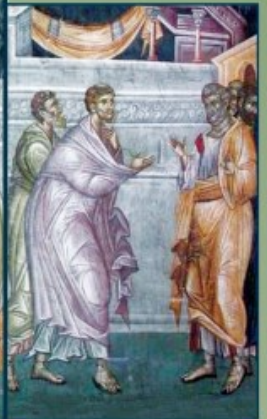
**JULY**  
**4-7 2024**



*Becoming Disciples.*



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



*Making Disciples.*

# 53rd National Melkite Convention

*hosted by*

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

*at the*

**MARRIOTT BOSTON QUINCY**

**PRAY**  
Divine Services

**LEARN**  
Spiritual Workshops

**CELEBRATE**  
Evening Socials

**OUR LADY OF THE  
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL**  
7 VFW Parkway | West Roxbury, MA 02132  
**617.323.5242**

Room Reservations  
**MARRIOTT BOSTON QUINCY**  
1000 Marriott Drive | Quincy, MA 02169  
**617.472.1000 | Marriott.com**  
*Mention 53rd National Melkite Convention for discounted rate*

**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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