



February 26, 2023

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Address

15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website

www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook

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

YouTube

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

Email

office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Office hours

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

Divine Liturgies

Sunday Divine Liturgy
9:00 AM - 11:15 AM

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

Holy Mysteries

Reconciliation

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

Baptism

Please arrange with the pastor

Marriage

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



Sunday of Orthodoxy

الاحد الاول من الصوم -
أحد الارثوذكسية

ANTIPHONS PRAYER:

O Christ God, You condescended to be incarnate, taking the form of a slave. You became like one of us by the body to make us participants in your glorious Likeness. Wherefore we paint your image on icons and we honor it by mouth and heart asking for the grace to be healed by its power. For it belongs to You to have mercy on us and to heal us, O Christ God, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving and worship, and to your Eternal Father, and your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

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 Holy Icons (Tone 2)

Before Your most pure image, we bow in worship, O Good One, begging forgiveness of our stumbling, Christ God: because You chose of Your own free will to ascend upon the cross in the flesh in order to deliver from the enemy's yoke those You had created. For this reason, we cry out to You in thanksgiving: "You our Savior have filled all things with joy when You came to save the world."

Troparion of St Basil The Great

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.

صلاة الأنديفونة

أيتها المسيح الإله، إنك قد تنازلت وتجسدت آخذاً صورة عبيد، ضابطاً بالجسد شريكاً لنا لتجعلنا شركاءك في صورة مجديك. فلذلك نرسم شكل صورتك على الأيقونات، ونصافحها بالقلم والقلب، ملتمسين منها نعمة الشفاء. لأن لك أن نخضع ونشفيها، أيها المسيح الإله، وإليك نرفع المجد، وإلى أبينا الأزلّي وروحك القدوس، الآن وكلّ أوانٍ..

نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس

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

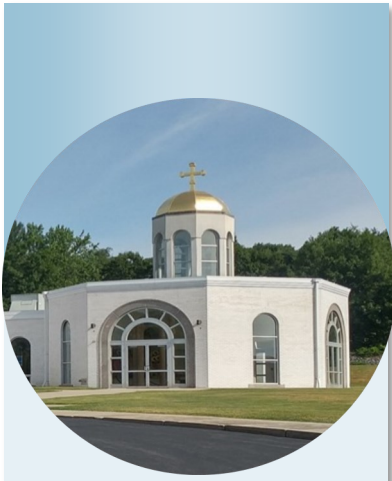
طروبارية الأيقونات المقدسة باللحن الثاني

لصورتك الطاهرة نسجد، أيها الصالح، ملتمسين الصفح عن زلاتنا، أيها المسيح الإله. فإنك رضيت باختيارك أن تصعد بالجسد على الصليب، لتنيق الذين جبلتهم من عبودية العدو. فلذلك نهتف إليك شاكرين: لقد ملأت الكل فرحاً يا مخلصنا، لما أتيت لتخلص العالم.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطلقك في كل الأرض. فإنها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بنيت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فبها أيها الأب البار ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.



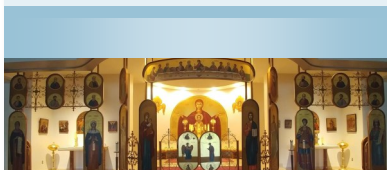


Our church organizations:

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

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



Kondakion of the Annunciation, 8th Tone

Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you our thanks. We are your people O Mother of God! So, as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you: Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

Epistle of the 1st Sunday of Lent, Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2 Prokimenon (Tone 4)

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 Moses, when he was grown up, denied he was a son of Pharaoh's daughter (Cf. Ex. 2: 11) — choosing to be afflicted with God's people rather than to have the enjoyment of sin for a time, estimating the indignities suffered by Christ to be of greater value than the Egyptians' treasures (Cf. Ex. 2:32): for he was considering the reward. By faith he left Egypt not fearing the king's wrath: for he persevered as if he were seeing the One who cannot be seen. By faith, he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the one who destroyed the first-born might not touch these. By faith, they passed through the Red Sea, as through dry land — whereas the Egyptians attempting it were swallowed up. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after people had gone around them for seven days. By faith, Rahab the prostitute who had received the spies in peace did not perish with the unbelievers.

And what more shall I say? For time will be too short to speak of Gideon, of Barac, of Samson, of Jephthah, of David and of 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 the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle routed foreign armies. Women had their dead restored to them through 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 jailing. 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 had something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

Alleluia (Tone 4)

Moses and Aaron were among his priests and Samuel among those who called upon his name.

Stichon: They called upon the Lord, and he answered them; from the pillar of cloud, he spoke to them.

Gospel of the 1st Sunday of Lent, John 1:43-51 (Call of Nathanael)

At that time Jesus was about to leave for Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the son of Joseph of Nazareth." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him and said of him, "Look, a true Israelite in whom there is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "Where do you know me from?" Jesus answered him and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him and said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are King of Israel." Answering, Jesus said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, you believe. Greater things than these shall you see." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."



فنداك الختام بالحن الثامن
 نَحْنُ عِبِيدُكَ يَا وَالِدَةُ الْإِلَهِ، نَكْتُبُ لَكَ آيَاتِ الْغَلَبَةِ يَا
 فَائِزَةً قَاهِرَةً. وَنُقَدِّمُ الشُّكْرَ لَكَ وَقَدْ أَنْقَذْتَنَا مِنْ
 الْبُذَائِلِ. لَكِنْ بِمَا أَنْ لَكَ الْعِزَّةَ الَّتِي لَا تَحَارِبُ، أَغْتَبِقِنَا
 مِنْ أَصْنَافِ الْمَخَاطِرِ لِيَكُنْ نَصْرُجٌ إِلَيْكَ: أَفْرَاسِي يَا
 غُرُوسَةً لَا غُرُوسَ لَهَا.

مقدمة الرسالة

مُبَارَكُ أَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ آبَائِنَا، وَمُسَبِّحٌ وَمُمَجِّدٌ
 لَأَسْمُكَ إِلَى الدَّهْرِ

لَأَنَّكَ عَادِلٌ فِي جَمِيعِ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا، وَأَعْمَالُكَ كُلُّهَا
 صِدْقٌ، وَطَرَفُكَ أَسْخِيَامَةٌ

الرسالة (عبرانيين 11: 24 – 32، 32 – 40)

يَا إِخْوَتِي، بِالْإِيمَانِ مُوسَى لَمَّا كَبُرَ أَبِي أَنْ يُدْعَى ابْنًا لِابْنَةِ
 فِرْعَوْنَ. وَاخْتَارَ الْمَشَقَّةَ مَعَ شَعْبِ اللَّهِ عَلَى التَّمَتُّعِ
 الْوَقْفِيِّ بِالْخَطِيئَةِ. وَاعْتَبَرَ غَارَ الْمَسِيحِ غَيًّا أَكْثَرَ مِنْ
 كُنُوزِ مِصْرَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى الثَّوَابِ. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ
 أَيْضًا؟ إِنَّهُ يُضَيِّقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ
 وَبَارَاقَ وَشَمُشُونَ، وَتِيفَتَاحَ وَدَاوُدَ وَصُمُوثِيلَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ،
 الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكَ وَعَمِلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَنَالُوا
 الْمَوَاعِدَ وَسَدَّوْا أَفْوَاهَ الْأُسُودِ، وَأَطْفَأُوا قُوَّةَ النَّارِ،
 وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَدِّ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا
 أَشِدَاءَ فِي الْقِتَالِ وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَاتِ الْأَجَانِبِ.
 وَاسْتَرْجَعَتْ نِسَاءُ أَمْوَاتَهُنَّ بِالْقِيَامَةِ. وَآخَرُونَ قَدْ عُدُّوا
 بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَتَحَبَّلُوا النَّجَاةَ لِيَحْضُلُوا
 عَلَى قِيَامَةِ أَفْضَلِ. وَآخَرُونَ قَدْ ذَاقُوا الْهَزْءَ وَالسِّيَاطَ
 وَالْعُيُوبَ أَيْضًا وَالسَّجْنَ. رُجِمُوا، نُشِرُوا، أَتَجَنَّبُوا، مَاتُوا
 بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ، سَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ الْغَنَمِ وَالْمَغْرَى، مُؤَوَّزِينَ،
 مُضَابِقِينَ، مُجْهُودِينَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحَقًّا لَهُمْ،
 تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ وَالْجِبَالِ وَالْمَغَاوِرِ وَكُهُوفِ الْأَرْضِ.
 فَهَلْ لَدَيْهِمْ الْمَشْهُودُ لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوْعِدَ،
 لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ سَبَقَ فَتَنْظُرُ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، لِيَكُنْ لَا يُكْمَلُوا
 بِمَغْزِلٍ عَنَّا.

هَلُوبَا—مُوسَى وَهَرُونَ بَيْنَ كَهَنَتِهِ، وَصُمُوثِيلَ بَيْنَ
 الدَّاعِينَ بِاسْمِهِ—كُنَّا يَدْعُونَ الرَّبَّ فَيَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُمْ،
 فِي عَمُودِ الْغَمَامِ يَكْلُمُهُمْ.

الانجيل (يوحنا 1: 43-51)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَرَادَ يَسُوعُ الْخُرُوجَ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ، فَوَجَدَ
 فِيلِبُّسَ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: اتَّبِعْنِي. وَكَانَ فِيلِبُّسُ مِنْ بَيْتِ صَبْدَا
 مِنْ مَدِينَةِ أَنْدَرَاوَسَ وَطَرُوسَ. فَصَادَفَ فِيلِبُّسَ نَتَّانَائِيلَ
 فَقَالَ لَهُ: إِنَّ الَّذِي كَتَبَ عَنْهُ مُوسَى فِي النَّامُوسِ
 وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ قَدْ وَجَدْنَاهُ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ بْنُ يَوْسُفَ مِنَ
 النَّاصِرَةِ. فَقَالَ لَهُ نَتَّانَائِيلُ: أَمِنْ مِنَ النَّاصِرَةِ يُمْكِنُ أَنْ
 يَكُونَ شَيْءٌ صَالِحٌ؟ قَالَ لَهُ فِيلِبُّسُ: نَعَالِ وَانْظُرْ. فَلَمَّا
 رَأَى يَسُوعُ نَتَّانَائِيلَ مُقْبِلًا إِلَيْهِ، فَقَالَ عَنْهُ: هَذَا فِي
 الْحَقِيقَةِ إِسْرَائِيلِيُّ لَا غِشٍّ فِيهِ. فَقَالَ لَهُ نَتَّانَائِيلُ: مِنْ
 أَيْنَ تَعْرِفُنِي؟ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: قَبْلَ أَنْ يَدْعُوكَ
 فِيلِبُّسَ، وَأَنْتَ تَحْتَ التِّبْنَةِ، رَأَيْتُكَ. أَجَابَ نَتَّانَائِيلُ
 وَقَالَ لَهُ: يَا مُعَلِّمُ، أَنْتَ هُوَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، أَنْتَ هُوَ مَلِكُ
 إِسْرَائِيلِ. أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: لِأَنِّي قُلْتُ لَكَ إِنِّي
 رَأَيْتُكَ تَحْتَ التِّبْنَةِ أَمَنْتَ. إِنَّكَ سَتَعَايِنُ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ
 هَذَا. وَقَالَ لَهُ: الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّكُمْ مِنَ الْآنَ
 تَرَوْنَ السَّمَاءَ مَفْتُوحَةً، وَمَلَائِكَةُ اللَّهِ يَصْعَدُونَ وَيَنْزِلُونَ
 عَلَى ابْنِ الْبَشَرِ.

Bring your icons this Sun-
 day to get them blessed !



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **JOSEPH HARRAKA (Birthday Remem.)** by George & Jeanne Harraka.
- + **ALBERT (69th Anniv.) & JOSEPHINE (24th Anniv.)** by George & Jeanne Harraka.
- + **TODD HARRAKA (Birthday Remem.)** by George & Jeanne Harraka,
- + **EDDIE & MARY GEORGE (28th & 31st Anniv.)** by their Daughters & Family.
- + **LOORESE & FRED ISSA** by their children and grandchildren.
- + **MALAKA & ELIAS MEKESY** by their children and grandchildren.
- + **ANTHONY S. LAZIEH (46th Anniv.)** by the Lazieh & Ghazal Families.
- + **THE FAMILY OF JOHN & NASEMA AZAR** by the Family of the late Louis E. Azar.
- + **ANNA LEFRANCOIS** by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + **JOSEPH & ANGELA KAYATA** by Michael & Barbara O'Rourke.
- + **CHARLES & ANNE O'ROURKE** by Michael & Barbara O'Rourke.
- + **LAYLA ANGELA CHARETTE** by Uncle Michael, Auntie B., Greg, & Katie.

11:15 DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **ROSE & HOUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **MICHAEL GEORGE BOUDJOUK (NJ)** by Mr. Albert & Lina Kishfy.
- + **VIOLETTE (HAGGAR) SAGGAL (Australia)** by Wayne & Judy Rawan.
- + **ELIE & SOPHIE ASHKAR** by the Family.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: February 26, 2023: Budgets: \$2,938.00; Envelopes: \$2,817.00, Loose: \$121.00; Candles: \$93.00; Building Fund: \$160.00; Stole Offerings: \$755.00; Addit'l Fuel: \$5.00; Religious Education: \$250.00; Hall Rental: \$350.00.

TODAY, FEB. 19, there will be a special collection taken up for the **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.** Please be generous in your support to help defray the cost of books, paper stock, visual aids, and all that is involved to perfect our program and meet present day standards in this field of education.

PLEASE NOTE: Before making any **ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS,** please contact the Church in advance. We would rather not have you disappointed if you've already made commitments without checking our schedule

GENERAL HOME VISITATIONS, SICK CALLS, HOSPITAL VISITS: Father Ephrem has been fully vaccinated and is now available for these parish services. Just email him at office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com and leave him your message. **PLEASE! NO GRATUITIES!** A cup of coffee or tea is just fine. He looks forward to in-person contact.

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: All the faithful who have recently changed their address or who are planning to do so, remember to inform the church office at (401) 722-1345. Please also be sure to update new telephone numbers because there is a cost that the Church has to absorb which adds up slowly but surely.

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.





RULE OF FASTING IN THE DIOCESE OF NEWTON

So as not to burden anyone's conscience, the Holy Synod of the Melkite Church permits each diocesan Bishop to ease the canonical obligations of fasting, while, at the same time, exhorts all the faithful to fast according to the ancient tradition. The minimal rule that Melkites in the Diocese of Newton must observe: *Fasting* from all food and drink from midnight until noon, must be observed on the first day of Great Lent (Monday, February 20th), and on the last three days of Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). *Abstinence*, at least from meat, must be observed on every Friday of Great Lent. These requirements are the minimum. The faithful are encouraged to do more, such as also abstaining from meat every Wednesday or throughout the whole of Great Lent.

THE GREAT AND HOLY TIME OF LENT

Great Lent involves deepening of our prayer life. This includes private prayer as well as the services mentioned below. An important facet of Lent is Almsgiving. The "Shepherd's Care" mandated in our Melkite parishes and missions throughout the United States is one good way to put the Almsgiving into practice. Various Services will be conducted during the weekdays of Lent, thereby making it convenient for more people.

This week, services will be held on Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

Monday, February 27, 2023:	7:00 p.m..	Presanctified Liturgy
Tuesday, February 28, 2023:	6:30 p.m.	Great Compline
Friday, March 3, 2023:	6:30 p.m.	Akathist Hymn

REFLECTION: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
-- Aristotle, *Metaphysics*

CONGRATULATIONS: Our own parishioner and Parish Advisory Council Chairman, Thomas Lazieh was recently honored and invited to Washington, DC by the Arab America Foundation and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts this past weekend.

In addition to this honor, the Arab America Foundation was proud to honor Tom Lazieh and eight other exceptional Arab Americans nationally as "Trailblazers" for their dedication to blazing new paths and making a significant impact on the mission and objectives of the organization and in always promoting and honoring their Arab Heritage and its culture.

These individuals set an example for others to follow and made significant contributions to their communities and as a whole nationally.

On behalf of our entire parish community, we all would like to congratulate Tom Lazieh for the honor he brought to himself and his family and to our community and our Arabic Heritage. *Mabrouk Ya Tom!!!*

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.

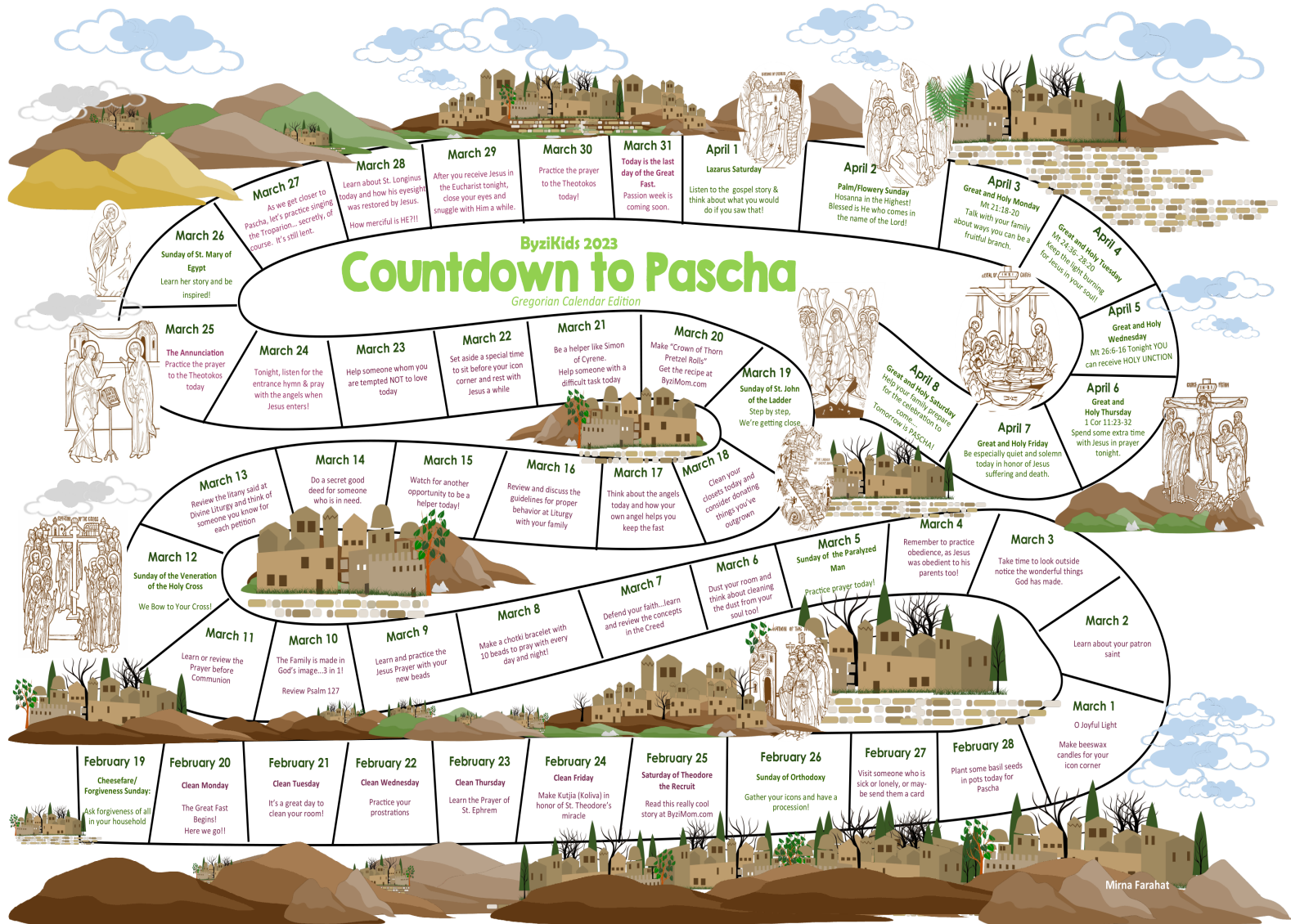
O Jesus, Who has said,
"All that you ask of the
Father in My Name, He
will grant you," through
the intercession of the
Theotokos Your Most
Holy Mother, I humbly
and urgently ask your
Father in your name that
my prayer will be granted.

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




Mirna Farahat

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

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

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

الأيقونة ورؤية الله- أحد الأرثوذكسية



المقدسة هي نافذتنا على الملكوت السماوي، وأن الإكرام الواجب هو لمن تمثلهم وليس للمادة التي تتكون منها.

كُنِب الكثير عن الأيقونة ولاهوتها ومعانيها. إن إكرام الأيقونة الحية، التي مادتها هي اللحم والدم، أيقونة المسيح على الأرض. وأعني بذلك أولئك الذين صاروا كواكب تلمع بمجده وتسير الطريق لكل مقبل إليه ومجاهد نحوه. أولئك الذين ماتوا عن ذواتهم وتحولوا إلى مسحاء، الذين اعتمدوا للمسيح فماتوا عن خطاياهم ولبسوا المسيح، الذين نقصوا وتضاءلوا من جهة ذواتهم ليزيد فيهم المسيح ويصلوا إلى ملء قامته. الأيقونات الحية التي ماتت من جهة العالم وتحيا الملكوت على الأرض تحقيقاً لقوله له المجد "ملكوت الله في داخلكم".

نرفع الأيقونات المقدسة اليوم في وسط الكنيسة ونطوف بها في زياح مهيب تخليداً لذكرى قيامة الكنيسة من إحدى أهم البدع التي حاولت أن تدمرها. ولكننا في الحقيقة نزيح نفوسنا ونطوف بأجسادنا التي هي الأيقونة الحقيقية التي يريد الرب صورة له ومسكناً. "أما تعلمون انكم هيكل الله وروح الله يسكن فيكم؟ إن كان أحد يفسد هيكل الله فسيفسده الله لأن هيكل الله مقدس الذي انتم هو... أم لستم تعلمون أن جسديكم هو هيكل للروح القدس الذي فيكم الذي لكم من الله وانكم لستم لانفسكم" (كورنثوس الأولى 3: 16-17، 6: 19). هذه الأيقونة الحية هي جديرة بكل إكرام واحترام.

ليس في أحد الأرثوذكسية فقط بل وفي كل حياتنا. هذه هي الأيقونة يجب أن نحرص على أن لا نشترك الهراطقة في تدميرها وسجلها في الشوارع وإهانتها ودوسها كما فعلوا بأيقونات السيد والسيدة وسائر القديسين الأبرار. لأنه كما يقول القديس بولس "فانكم انتم هيكل الله الحي كما قال الله اني سأسكن فيهم واسير بينهم وأكون لهم الها وهم يكونون لي شعباً" (كورنثوس الثانية 6: 16).

فهل يمكن لأحد ان يدنس هيكل الله ومسكنه؟ وهل نحرص على الهيكل المصنوع من الحجر والخشب أكثر من حرصنا على الهيكل الذي جبلته وصنعه يدي الإله؟ هل تؤذي هذه الأيقونة الحقيقية من خلال الشهوات الباطلة والرغبات القبيحة، أو الانتحار أو القتل أو إلحاق الضرر والأذى بها؟

هذا الإكرام ليس فقط لأيقونتنا، أي لشخصنا فحسب، بل هو لكل شخص خلقه الرب على صورته ومثاله (أيقونة له ناطقة وحية). لأن الله أراد له أن يكون فمّن نحن حتى نقوم بالغائه أو تهميشه أو أذيته فكرياً أو جسدياً أو حتى نفسياً؟ هكذا نحيا محبة القريب كنموذج لمحبتنا لله، ولمحبة الله لنا. بهذا قد عرفنا المحبة ان ذاك وضع نفسه لاجلنا فنحن ينبغي لنا ان نضع نفوسنا لاجل الاخوة (يوحنا الأولى 3: 16).

هذا ما يقوله التلميذ الذي كان يسوع يحبه (يوحنا اللاهوتي الحبيب) الذي اتكا على صدر يسوع في العشاء الأخير من شدة الحزن على كون الرب مزعم ان يغادرهم إلى الألام. محبته لم تسمح له أن يتصور سيده يتألم، محبة قادته إلى أقدام الصليب ليودع يسوعه ويحتضن الأم الطاهرة المفجوعة بوحدها حتى رقادها طارحاً كل خوف من الموت والعذاب كما يقول بنفسه "لا خوف في المحبة بل المحبة الكاملة تطرح الخوف الى خارج لأن الخوف له عذاب وأما من خاف فلم يتكلم في المحبة" (يوحنا الأولى 4: 18).

هذا الأحد الأول من زمن الصيام الكبير، تضع الكنيسة ذكرى الأيقونات أو انتصار الأرثوذكسية والتعليم الغويم على كل ضلالة، إي الإيمان الذي لا غش فيه. وقد تأسس هذا العيد سنة 842 بعد تثبيت عقائد المجمع المسكوني السابع الذي عقد في نيقية سنة 787.

لكل أحد من آحاد الصوم موضوعان معينان، وكل منهم له هدف معين تعلنه لغة الصوم الروحية خلال التقدم الروحي التاريخي للكنيسة، طور كل واحد من هذه الآحاد موضوعاً خاصاً به: في الأحد الأول تعيد الكنيسة لنصر الأيقونات ويعرف بأحد الأرثوذكسية. إنه نصر ضد الذين حاربوا الأيقونات. وفي المجمع المسكوني السابع نيقية سنة 843 تقرر ارجاعهم واحترامهم وليس عبادتهم، إذ أن العبادة لله فقط.

والنصوص التي قرأت أو رتلّت خلال هذا الأحد تشدد على أساسية التجسد. ان مجيء يسوع المسيح بالجسد هو أساس احترام الأيقونات. وتجسد المسيح هو الأيقونة الأساسية والنموذج لكل الأيقونات.

في المقطع الإنجيلي لهذا اليوم لا يتكلم عن الأيقونات وتكريمها في الكنيسة بل يتكلم عن ارتداد ناثانيل. يترك المسيح جنوب فلسطين متوجهاً الى شرقها (الجليل). هناك وجد ودعى فيليب، وفيليب مثل اندراوس، لم يتمكن من الاحتفاظ بالخبر السار لنفسه ذهب ووجد ناثانيل. قال له: "لقد وجدت المنتظر، يسوع الماسيا، وهو من الناصرة". لم يقتنع ناثانيل بهذا القول لأنه كان يؤمن بأنه لا يمكن أن يأتي الماسيا من تلك المدينة الصغيرة والمهملة، ثم انه لم يذكر في العهد القديم بأنه سيأتي الماسيا من الناصرة. لم يشأ فيليب أن يتنازع معه فقال له "تعال وانظر". لم يرتد يوماً شخص واحد الى الايمان نتيجة الجدل. الوسيلة الوحيدة لاقناع الآخر بسمو تعليم يسوع المسيح هو في مواجهته يسوع المسيح.

لنتأمل سوياً اليوم في هذا الأحد المبارك بكلمات البشير يوحنا: "لا غش فيه".

في العهد القديم، تسأل الله على لسان النبي إرميا، هل يوجد بعد بين المؤمنين شخص لا غش فيه، لكي تُنقذ المدينة المقدسة، بسبب برارته وإيمانه؟ قال: "طوفوا في شوارع أورشليم وانظروا وأغرفوا وقتشوا في ساحاتها. هل تجدون إنساناً أو يوجد عامل بالعَدْل طالب الحق قاصح عَنها؟" (إرميا 5: 1). والنبي حزقيال نقل هو أيضاً عن الله: أين هو هذا الرجل الصالح المميز لكي يقف بينه وبين شعبه لكي لا يخرّب المدينة؟ قال: "وطلبت من بينهم رجلاً يَبني جداراً وَيَقِفُ في الثغر أمامي عن الأرض لكيلاً أخربها، فلم أجِد!" (حزقيال 22: 30). نعم، إلى هذا الحد يندر وجود الرجل الذي لا غش فيه في عيني الله!

هذا هو معنى هذا الأحد الأول من الصيام الكبير: "أحد الأرثوذكسية". الكنيسة تدعونا وسط هذا العالم، رغم كل المحن التي تتعرض لها، أن نكون أشخاصاً محافظين على إيماننا الحقيقي الصحيح، سالكين بالبر والتقوى، فنكون رجالاً ونساء لا غش فينا في عيني الرب. مدعوون إلى قبول ضعفنا وحالتنا. وأن نكون شجعاناً في المصالحة والمسامحة مع أنفسنا أولاً ومع الآخرين ومع الله. وهكذا نكون أشخاصاً لا غش فيهم على مثال نثانيل.

تكريم الأيقونات

في الأحد الأول من الصوم الكبير المقدس تكرم كنيستنا الرومية المقدسة الجامعة الرسولية الأيقونات، وتخصصه الكنيسة للاحتفال بانتصارها على هرطقة مجاربي الأيقونات المقدسة والتي استمرت حوالي مئتي سنة، تم فيها تدمير الكثير من الأيقونات وسجلها في الشوارع ودوسها بالأقدام وإهانتها. الكنيسة الحية بالروح القدس نهضت من جراحها وصرخت في المجمع المسكوني السابع في القرن الثامن الميلادي بأن الأيقونة

When you fast

Jesus said, 'and when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your father who sees in secret will reward you:'

Matthew 6: 16-18 (Gospel of Cheesefare Sunday)



When people think of the word "Lent," the word "fasting" is one of the first things that comes to mind. The cornerstone of Lent is not fasting, but repentance and growing in our faith. Fasting is a tool that is used to assist in spiritual growth. Fasting is also mischaracterized as a form of deprivation, rather than a spiritual discipline. Because fasting is so misunderstood, it is many times done incorrectly.

In the Orthodox world, we use the word "passions" to describe tendencies that each person has that lead us to sin. Each of us has a "passion" for anger, lust, power, greed, ego, etc. We do not get through life without wrestling with each of these, sometimes on a daily basis. The most basic "passion" is hunger. While we can go a day without a lustful thought or an angry thought, we can't go more than a few hours without a hungry thought. So, if we can tame our passion for eating, we can hopefully tame our other passions. If we can discipline ourselves to go without certain kinds of food, we can hopefully discipline ourselves so that we can go without certain kinds of behavior that are spiritually destructive. Thus, fasting is not about giving up something only to get it back. Fasting is about getting control of our passions, maintaining control over them, and ultimately giving control of ourselves to God.

If you've never fasted before, I would not recommend doing a strict fast. Try fasting from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent (and then throughout the year), then next year try fasting Wednesdays and Fridays plus all of the first week of Lent and all of Holy Week. Then work up from that.

Below is a guide of some levels of fasting:

- Level one -- Fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week
- Level two -- Fast from meat and fish on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week
- Level three -- Fast from meat the entirety of Lent and Holy Week
- Level four -- Fast from meat and fish the entirety of Lent and Holy Week
- Level five -- Level four and eliminate dairy products during Holy Week
- Level six -- Level four and eliminate dairy products on Wednesday and Fridays and during Holy Week.
- Level seven -- Level four plus eliminate dairy products during all of Lent and Holy Week
- Level eight -- Level seven plus eliminate oil and wine during Holy Week
- Level nine -- The strict fast - no meat, fish, dairy products, wine or oil during the entirety of Great Lent

*****Fish is allowed on March 25 (Annunciation) and Palm Sunday; oil and wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, except for Holy Saturday.***

After a few years at one level, challenge yourself to go up a level.

More important, however, than fasting from food, is fasting from the behaviors that are spiritually destructive. We need to fast from things that get us in trouble - perhaps the television, alcohol, inappropriate materials on the computer and in movies, foul language, etc. Fasting also does not mean "looking" deprived, complaining about what you can't eat, or making a show of your fasting. In fact, if you are fasting and you are invited to someone's home for dinner and they serve meat, eat the meat, don't make a big deal out of your fasting. Also, do not pass judgment on others who are not fasting to the degree you are. Saint Paul reminds us in Romans 14:3-4: *"Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own Master that he stands or falls."* As Christ tells us, our fasting is seen by our "Father who is in secret," and He will reward us for our efforts.

Again, Lent is not a season of deprivation, nor should we "give up" something only to get it back once Lent is over. Lent is about repentance, and making small and permanent changes to bring us closer to the Lord, changes that will last long after Lent is over. This is the purpose of the Lenten journey. Fasting is an aid to help us in this.

The time has come - the start of our spiritual contests, the victory over demons, the full armor of self-control the angels' dignity, the confidence before God. Thereby did Moses become conversant with the Creator, and heard the invisible voice. Lord, through fasting make us worthy to worship Your Passion and Holy Resurrection, as You love humanity. (Doxastikon of Orthros, Cheesefare Sunday, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)

Give some thought to your fasting plan for Lent today!

Advice for Lent

POPE FRANCIS' Advice for Lent

Fast from **hurting** words and say kind **words**.

Fast from **sadness**
and be filled with **gratitude**.

Fast from **anger** and be filled with **patience**.

Fast from **pessimism** and be filled with **hope**.

Fast from **worries** and **trust in God**.

Fast from **complaints**
and **contemplate** simplicity.

Fast from **pressures** and be **prayerful**.

Fast from **bitterness**
and fill your heart with **joy**.

Fast from **selfishness**
and be **compassionate** to others.

Fast from **grudges** and be **reconciled**.

Fast from **words**
and be silent so you can **listen**.



Become a Living Icon



At the end of Liturgy today, we will parade around the church carrying our icons in celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, which commemorates the restoration of icons to the church after the period of iconoclasm many centuries ago. We do so because Icons are not mere works of decorative art to us; they are windows to heaven which remind us that the Son of God really has become one of us, with a visible human body, and that we are called to become like the saints whose images are portrayed in them. For we are all icons of God, created in His image and likeness. Jesus Christ is the new Adam Who has restored and healed every dimension of our fallen humanity, and brought us into the very life of the Holy Trinity. It may help us to think of Lent as a time to make ourselves better icons of the Lord.

When we recall the great saints of the Old Testament mentioned in today's reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews, we are humbled by their faithfulness, obedience, and humility. But even they "did not receive the promise, God provided something better for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us." As hard as it is to believe, we have been blessed beyond them, for God's promises in Jesus Christ were not fulfilled in their lifetimes; they hoped for what they did not receive, but their lives were still icons of faithful anticipation of the Messiah.

We live many generations after the New Testament saints Peter, Andrew, and Nathanael encountered Jesus Christ. And the Lord's promise to Nathanael, "you shall see the heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man," is the fulfillment of all the hopes and dreams of the Old Testament. In Jesus Christ, humanity and God are united; no longer shut out of paradise, we are raised to the life of the Heavenly Kingdom by our Lord. Our destiny is not for the dust and decay of the tomb, but for life everlasting because of His glorious third-day resurrection.

In Lent, we take small, humble, imperfect steps to open ourselves to this new life in Christ, to become better living icons—living images—of what it means for human beings to share in God's salvation. The point of Lent is not to punish ourselves or simply to make us feel guilty, miserable, or deprived. Instead, the purpose of our spiritual exercises is to help us share more fully in the promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want His holiness, love, mercy, and blessing to reshape every dimension of our lives, to be evident in how we go through the day, in how we treat others, in what we say, think, and feel.

And the more we grow in His image and likeness, the more we will become our true selves. Icons portray particular human beings whose lives have shown brightly with the holiness of God. The unbelievable truth is that, in Christ Jesus, we may do the same. No matter our age, health, occupation, family circumstances, personality quirks, or anything else, we too may become living, breathing manifestations of our Lord's salvation when we open ourselves to His healing mercy through prayer, fasting, forgiveness, generosity to the needy, and all the various forms of spiritual nourishment given through the life of the Church.

There could be no greater optimism about us than what we proclaim on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We not only carry icons, we are icons. We not only venerate icons, we are called to become living proof of what happens to a human being who enters into the eternal blessedness of God, even as we walk around Abilene. Let this sink in: What the Old Testament saints hoped for, we possess. This Lent, let's take Jesus Christ as His word, and prepare—with humility, persistence, and mindfulness- to "see the heaven open and angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." For that is the good news of our salvation.

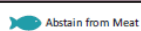
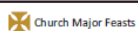




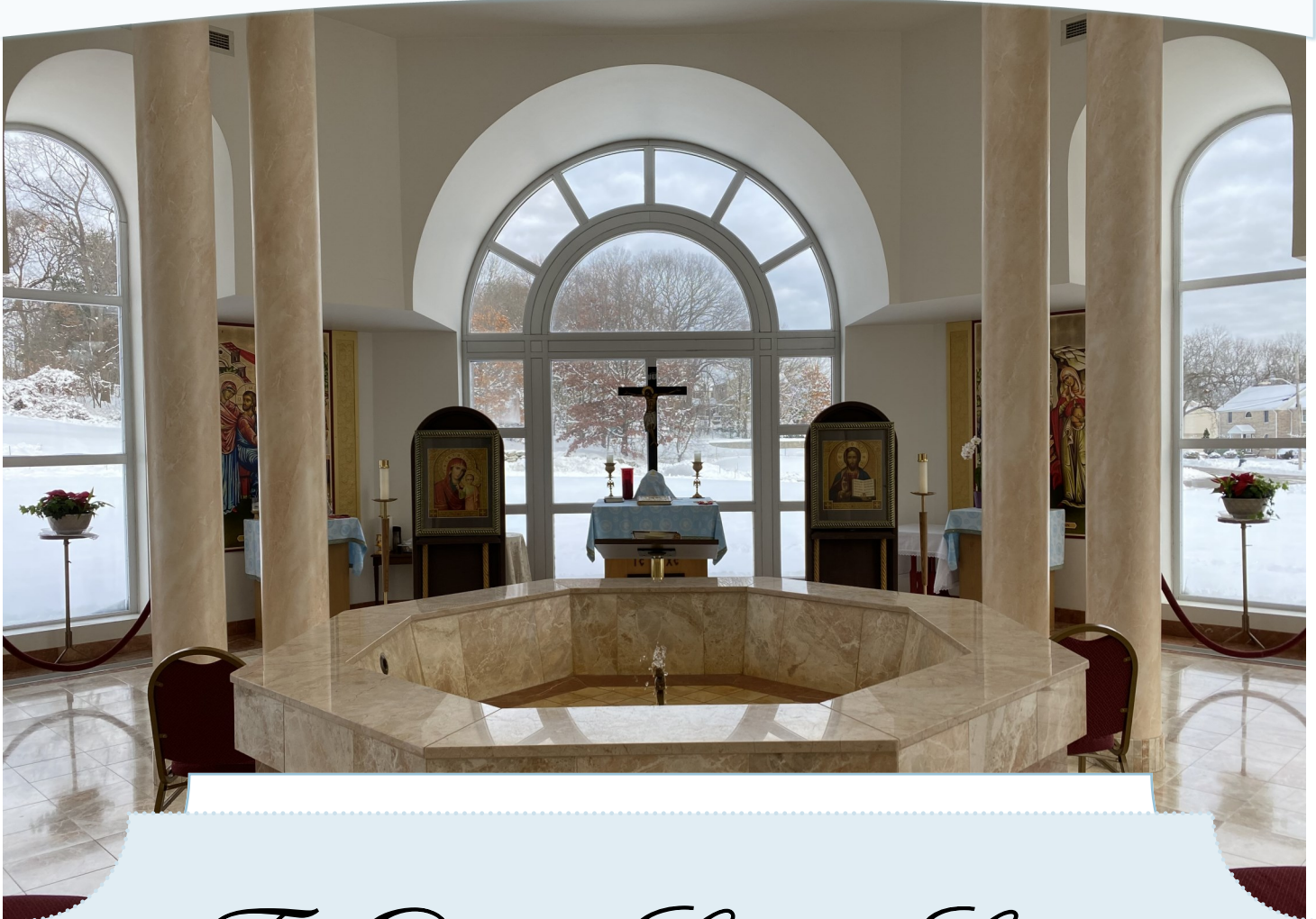
LITURGICAL CALENDAR



FEBRUARY	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Preparation of Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple 2 Peter 3:1-18 Mark 13:24-31	2 ✠ Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple دخول السيد إلى الهيكل Hebrews 7:7-17 Luke 2:22-41	3 Sts Simeon & Anna 1 John 2:7-17 Mark 14:3-9	4 St Isidore of Pelusium 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 20:45-21:4
شباط - فبراير 2023 JANUARY 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	5 Sunday of the Prodigal Son أحد الابن الضالير 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Luke 15:11-32	6 St Elean 1 John 2:18-3:8 Mark 11:1-11	7 St Luke the Greek 1 John 3:9-22 Mark 14:10-42	8 🐟 Holy Prophet Zechariah 1 John 3:21-4:11 Mark 14:43-15:1	9 Leave-taking of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord 1 John 4:20-5:21 Mark 15:1-15	10 🐟 St Charalampos 2 John 1-13 Mark 15:22-25, 33-41	11 First Saturday of the dead السبت الاول للمرايقين 1 Corinthians 10:23-29 Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
MARCH 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	12 Meat-fare Sunday أحد مرفع اللحم 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Matthew 25:31-46	13 🐟 St Martinian 3 John 1:1-15 Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39	14 🐟 St Maron the Hermit Jude 1:1-10 Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1	15 🐟 St Onesimos Romans 14:6-9 Mt 26:57-75	16 🐟 St Pamphilos and his companions Jude 1:11-25 Luke 23:2-34, 44-56	17 🐟 St Theodore Ephesus 5:8-19 John 19:25-37	18 🐟 St Leo Pope of Rome Saturday of Ascetics سبت جميع الآباء النساك Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27 Matthew 6:1-13
	19 🐟 Cheese-fare Sunday أحد مرفع الجبن Romans 13:11-14:4 Matthew 6:14-21	20 🐟 Beginning of Holy and Great Fast بدء الصوم المقدس الكبير 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Luke 21:8-36	21 🐟 Holy Father Timothy Romans 8:14-21 Matthew 6:1-13	22 🐟 Relics of Martyrs at Eugenios 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 Mark 11:22-26 & Matthew 7:7-8	23 🐟 St Polycarp of Smyrna Romans 15:30-33 Matthew 7:7-11	24 🐟 1 st Akathist المدايح الأولى 1 Timothy 2:1-7 John 15:1-7	25 🐟 St Tarasios عجوبة القمح المسلوق Hebrews 1:1-12 Mark 2:23-3:5
	26 🐟 Sunday of Orthodoxy أحد الأرثوذكسية Hebrews 11:24-40 John 1:43-51	27 🐟 St Procopios Romans 15:1-7 Matthew 18:10-20	28 🐟 St Basil the Confessor Galatians 6:2-10 Matthew 4:23-5:13				



Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Divine Liturgy

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

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

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

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

Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER"

2 COR 9:7

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



SHEPHERD'S CARE

Associated Charities

Great Lent 2023

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

St. John Chrysostom

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

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

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

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

Shepherd's Care Associated Charities 2023. To help those in need, the Shepherd's Care Associated Charities of the Diocese of Newton is sponsoring this Lenten giving program to provide for the less fortunate. This year's proceeds will be given to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

Shepherd's Care Associated Charities

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

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

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

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



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



SHEPHERD'S CARE Associated Charities Great Lent

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

St. John Chrysostom

The Widow's Mite

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

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



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



Lenten Gift Box

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Basil the Great

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

Sharing our Faith
SECURING OUR FUTURE



Campaign Facts:



Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000



Outstanding Goal: \$340,000



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

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 51%

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

-Mother Teresa

Current & Future Projects:



Church Roof Repair: Project completed, estimated cost of \$400,000...final cost \$321,000.



Rectory Roof Repair: Proposals received, estimated cost \$18,000, pending review.



Church Window Repairs: Proposals received, estimated cost \$9,000, pending review.



HVAC & Boiler Replacement: Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000.



Flooring Upgrades: Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), pending review.



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



Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & Vent Cleaning: Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning estimated cost \$9,000.



Exterior/Masonry /Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals.



Security Cameras/Door Upgrades: Camera system complete, final cost \$10,500. Door proposal received, pending review.

Important Highlights

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



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

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737

Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190

Kyle Mardo: 401-578-5369

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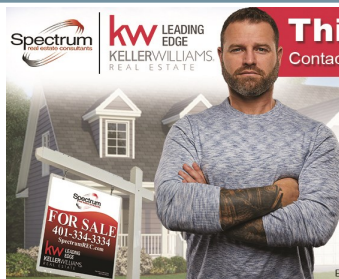
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