



March 27, 2022

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

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Sunday

English 9:00 AM
Arabic 11:15 AM

Religious Education

Sunday 10:00 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 our father John Climacus Fourth Sunday of Lent

الاحد الرابع من الصوم العظيم -
تذكّر ابينا البار يوحنا السلمى

Antiphon Prayer

O Lord, Lover of mankind, You saved the people of Niniva as they repented, fasting and weeping. Have mercy on us, for we fall short of any defense. And since You are compassionate, strengthen in our hearts our faith in your name and steady our footsteps in the way of your Commandments.

For You are good and forbearing, O our God, and to You we render glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the resurrection (3rd tone)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm! He has crushed Death by his death becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of St. John Climacus, (8th Tone)

Your abundant tears made the wilderness to sprout and bloom, and your deep sighs of love made your labors fruitful a hundredfold; you became a shining star showering miracles upon the world. Holy Father John, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

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.

صلاة الأنديفون

أيها الربّ المحبّ البشر، لقد خلّصت أهل نينوى لما تابوا بالصوم والدموع. فأرأفت بنا نحن العاجزين عن كلّ جواب. فبما أنك حنون، وظد في قلوبنا الايمان باسمك، وثبتت خطواتنا في سبيل وصاياك لأنك إله صالح وطوبى الاناة، واليك نرفع المجد أيها الأب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلّ أوان وإلى دهر الدهرين.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات، وتبتهج الارضيات. لأن الرب صنع عزاً بساعده، ووطى الموت بالموت، وصار بكر الاموات، وأنقذنا من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم عظيم الرحمة.

نشيد للبار يوحنا السلمى مؤلف كتاب "سلم الفضائل" (على اللحن الثامن)

بسيول دموعك أخصب القفر العقيم. وبزفرائك العميقة أثمرت أتعابك مئة ضعف. فصرت للمسكونة كوكباً متلألئاً بالعجائب يا أبانا البار يوحنا. فاشفع الى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بيئت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا 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

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 4th Sunday of Lent, Hebrews 6: 13- 20 Prokimenon (Tone 7) Psalm 28:11, 1

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

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

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Brethren, when God made his promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you, and will surely multiply you Gn.22: 14)." And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath given as a guarantee is the final settlement of all their disagreements. Hence God, meaning to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the firmness of his will interposed an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to deceive, we may have the strongest comfort — we who have sought refuge in holding fast the hope set before us. This hope we have as a sure and firm anchor of the soul, reaching even behind the veil where our forerunner Jesus has entered for us, as he became a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia (Tone 7), Psalm 91:1,2

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

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

Gospel of the 4th Sunday of Lent, Mark 9: 17-31 (Healing of a possessed boy)

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to him saying: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." And he, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought him to him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy in convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth. So he asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes, it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if you can do anything have compassion on us and help us." But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up. And when he had come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and he did not wish anyone to know it. For he was teaching his disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and having been killed, he will rise again on the third day."

قنداق الختام بالحن الثامن

نحن عبيدك يا والدة الاله، نكتب لك آيات الغلبة يا قائدة قاهره. ونقدم الشكر لك وقد أنقذتنا من الشدايد. لكن بما أن لك العزة التي لا تحارب، أعتقينا من اصناف المخاطر لكي نصرخ إليك: إفرجي يا عروسة لا عروس لها.

مقدمة رسالة الأحد الرابع من الصوم

الرب يؤتي شعبه قوة، الرب يبارك شعبه بالسلام

قدّموا للرب يا أبناء الله، قدّموا للرب أبناء الكباش

الرسالة (عبرانيين 6: 13 – 20)

يا إخوة، ان الله عند وعده لإبراهيم، إذ لم يكن له أن يُقسم بما هو أعظم منه، أقسم بنفسه قائلاً: لأباركك بركة وأكثرك تكثرًا. وهكذا إذ تألّى نال الموعد. وإنما الناس يُقسمون بما هو أعظم منهم، وتُفْقَض. كلُّ مُشَاخَرَةٍ بينهم بالقسم للتثبيت. لذلك لما شاء الله أن يزيّد وَرَثَةَ الموعد بياناً لعدم تحول عزمه، تَوَسَّطَ بِقَسَمٍ، حتى نحصلَ بأمرين لا يتحولان ولا يُمكنُ أن يَحْلِفَ اللهُ فيهما، على تعزية قوية، نحن الذين التجأنا إلى التمسك بالرجاء الموضوع أمامنا. الذي هو لنا كمرساة للنفس أمانة وراسخة. وهو يُدْخِلُ إلى داخل الحجاب، حيث دخل يسوع كسابق لأجلنا، صائراً رئيس كهنه إلى الأبد على رتبة ملكيصادق.

هللوا

صالح الاعتراف للرب، والترنيم لاسمك أيها العلي ليُخَبَّرَ برحمتك في الغداة، وبجفك كلَّ ليله.

الانجيل - الأحد الرابع من الصوم

(مرقس 9: 17 – 31)

في ذلك الزمان، دنا إلى يسوع انسانٌ وسجد له قائلاً: يا معلم، قد أتيتك بابني به روحٌ أَيْكَم. وحينما اعتراه يصْرَعُه فيزیدُ ويصرِفُ بأسنانه ويبسّس. وقد قلتُ لتلاميذك أن يُخرِجوه فلم يقدرُوا. فأجابهُ قائلاً: أيها الجيلُ الغير المؤمن، إلى متى أكون عندكم وحتى متى أحتملكم؟ هلُمَّ به إليّ. فأتوا به. فلمّا رآه للوقت صرعه الروح، فسقط على الارض يترمّغ ويَزِيدُ. فسأل أباه: منذ كم من الزمان أصابه هذا؟ فقال منذ صباه. وكثيراً ما ألقاه في النار وفي المياه ليُهْلِكهُ، لكن إن استطعت شيئاً فحُتْ عَلَيْنَا وَأَعْثْنَا. فقال له يسوع: إن استطعت أن تؤمن فكل شيء ممكنٌ للمؤمن. فصاح أبو الصبي لساعته بدموع وقال: إني أومن يا رب، فأعن قلّة إيماني. فلما رأى يسوع أن الجمع يتبادرون إليه، انتهز الروح النجس قائلاً له: أيها الروح الأَصَمُّ الأَيْكَم، أنا أمرُكَ أن أخرجَ منه ولا تُغْذِ اليه من بعد. فصرخ وخبطه كثيراً وخرج منه، فصارت كالميت حتى قال كثيرون إنه قد مات. فأخذ يسوع بيده وأنهضهُ فقام. ولما دخل البيت سأله تلاميذه على انفراد: لماذا لم نستطيع نحن أن نُخرِجَهُ؟ فقال لهم: إن هذا الجنس لا يمكن أن يخرج بشيءٍ إلا بالصلاة والصوم. ولما خرجوا من هناك، اجتازوا في الجليل، ولم يكن يريد أن يدري أحد. وكان يعلم تلاميذه ويقول لهم: إن ابن الانسان سيُسَلَّمُ إلى أيدي الناس فيقتلونه، وبعد أن يُقْتَلْ يقوم في اليوم الثالث.



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

TODAY, MARCH 27, 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT. SUNDAY OF OUR FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **FRED NASHAWATY, JR.** by Pamela Desmarais.
- + **ROSE AISSIS AUDETTE** by Christopher & Timothy Audette.
- + **STEVEN KANAKRY** by George Mardo.
- + **FREDERICK KOUSSA** by Louis & Karen Campisani.
- + **MARGARET SABBAGH** by Thomas Asermely.
- + **LILLIAN NASSANEY** by Dennis Dakake.
- + **JOSEPH & ANGELA KAYATA** by Michael & Barbara O'Rourke & Family.
- + **CHARLES & ANNE O'ROURKE** by Michael & Barbara O'Rourke & Family.
- + **LAYLA ANGELA CHARETTE** by Uncle Michael, Auntie B., Greg & Katie.

11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **REV. ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY & ANGELA MAZZONE** by M/M Abraham Domaney & Family.
- + **JULIA KISHFY (20th Anniv.)** by M/M Norman E. Kishfy.
- + **FAWZIA ALAM** by the Family.
- + **MICHAEL ALAM** by the Family.
- + **GEORGETTE S. SAGGAL** by Afaf & Michael Ashkar & Mom.
- + **YVONNE HAGGAR COLABELLA** by George & Sherine Mussalli.
- + **GEORGETTE A. SAGGAL** by Joe & Yolanda Saggal.
- + **VICTORIA PROCHNIK** by M/M Norman E. Kishfy.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: March 20, 2022: Budgets: \$3,105.00; Envelopes: \$3,040.00; Loose: \$65.00; Candles: \$141.00; Stipends: \$665.00: Building Fund: \$130.00: Addit'l Fuel: \$10.00; Addit'l Cemetery: \$55.00.

TODAY, MARCH 27, 2022, there will be a special collection taken up for **MELKITE DIOCESAN SUPPORT**. Please help subsidize our monthly payment for the operation of our Diocese by giving generously.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS**. Help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory. Due to the rough winter this year, prices have escalated tremendously for both facilities. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

Please be advised that the weekly bulletin has not been printed due to the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, but presently, information is available online, church Facebook page and on YouTube.

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.

Canon Law prohibits accepting stipends or offerings for Liturgies more than one year in advance (rolling calendar) Canon 953. The time within which Liturgies must be celebrated (1 year) begins the day the intention is received. (Canon 955 #2). Formerly under the jurisdiction of the local Latin Ordinaries before the Exarchate was established under the leadership of the late Bishop Justin Najmy of this Parish, all Melkites have been subject to the latter since its erection in 1966. The Constitution of the Melkite Eparchy which is now a sole Diocese since 1976 still acknowledges this definitive protocol. Our parishes follow local discipline in the various customs e.g. every day clergy attire, stipends (Liturgy Offerings), etc. except in Liturgy and Ritual. Our relationship with the local Latin Dioceses and Latin pastors must be permeated with a spirit of love and friendship and cooperation.

PLEASE NOTE: Presently effective, the schedule of offerings in the parishes is now: Liturgies: \$25.00; Funerals: \$300.00; Weddings: \$300.00; Baptisms: \$100.00.

Thus far, all Liturgy Offerings received from Funerals, which exceeded more than one year or even more, have had the maximum and minimum celebrations. Surplus ones have been deposited in the Building Fund, and placed on the altar and remembered collectively, similar to the customs of Spiritual Bouquets, Perpetual Mass Enrollments & Memorial Cards, as in Chapels, Shrines, & Monasteries.

May the memories of our beloved deceased rest in peace & be eternal. Many thanks for your understanding and undivided attention in regard to these canonical guidelines and restrictions.

FATHER DAN UPDATE: On March 2nd, Ash Wednesday, the Roman Church joined with us in entering Lent. It is for all of us a time of prayer, conversion, fasting and penance. The Holy Father has asked that we pray and fast that day for peace in Ukraine. Their unjust suffering touches our loving heart. As an Eastern Church, we have known in our own flesh and blood, the pain of war and persecution – even though our Western media no longer considers the suffering of the Middle East and Africa worthy of news reports. And yet the planned papal visit to Lebanon will likely be cancelled because of the political unrest! May our love overcome the hatred of war and un-rest. May our prayers and sacrifices help bring about the peace that can come from God alone.

O Jesus, Who has said,
"Ask and you shall
receive, seek and you
shall find, knock and it
shall be opened," through
the intercession of the
Theotokos, Your Most
Holy Mother, I knock, I
seek, I ask that my prayer
be granted.

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

O Jesus, Who has said,
"Heaven and earth shall
pass away but My word
shall not pass away,"
through the intercession
of the Theotokos Your
Most Holy Mother, I feel
confident that my prayer
will be granted.





As to my health, it is slowly healing. In a month it will be a year that my cancer was removed surgically. The incision went from just below the knee to above the ankle. As of this morning the remaining open wound is roughly 2 and ½" long and about an inch wide, measured by the visiting wound nurse. Even that is showing closure. I hope it will be healed for Easter! Thank You, Lord.

May this Lent be a time of peace and hope from God. Blessings to all! - **Father Dan**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: All the faithful who have recently changed their address or who are planning to do so, please 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.**

2022 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available – free for the taking – at the entrance 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.

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD, please remember to remove any chewing gum before entering the church building. Also, please place your pagers and cell phones on silent.

2021 BUDGET STATEMENT AVAILABLE: It is that time of year to start thinking about the preparation of your 2021 Federal Income Tax Returns. Statements of your offerings to the Church for 2021 will only be issued upon request. If you would like a statement, please contact Father Joe at the rectory at 401-722-1345. To those who have been using envelopes, we extend our thanks and a reminder to please mark the amount enclosed which facilitates the recording of your contributions and allows for more accuracy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD!!!

REFLECTION: If you want to feel Jesus, begin to talk lovingly about Him. Feelings will follow.

Rule of Fasting in the Eparchy of Newton

So as not to burden anyone's conscience, the Holy Synod of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church permits each eparchial 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 minimum rule that Melkites in the Eparchy of Newton must observe are: *Fasting* from all food and drink from midnight until noon on the first day of Great Lent (Monday, March 6th), 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.

Tuesday, March 29th: GREAT COMPLINE

Friday, APRIL 1st: AKATHIST HYMN

We encourage and urge you to join us in the scheduled services this week at 6:30 p.m.

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.



أقوال مختارة من كتاب (السلم إلى الله) للقديس يوحنا السلمي

في الأحد الرابع من الصوم الأربعيني المقدس، وهو معروف أيضاً بأحد القديس يوحنا السلمي (نسبة إلى كتاب شهير كتبه بعنوان سلم الفضائل). يأتي هذا الاحتفال بتذكّر هذا القديس العظيم وهو مأخوذ من الترتيب والعادة السائدين في الأديرة المقدسة، إذ كان يُقرأ فيها كتاب القديس يوحنا السلمي كقراءة مُحدّدة للزهبان في فترة الصوم الأربعيني.

يصف القديس يوحنا في كتابه (سلم الفضائل)، وغير ثلاثين درجة (أو تعلية)، كيفية ارتقاء الروح نحو الله كصعود سلم الفضائل الإلهية، وهو يُعلم أولئك الذين يسعون إلى الخلاص في كيفية إرساء أساس متين للجهد الروحي. وكيفية تحديد الأهواء ومحاربتها، وسبل تجنّب الفخاخ الشيطانية، وكيفية النهوض من الفضائل الأولية إلى كمال المحبة والتواضع الإلهيين.

تطل كنيستنا اليوم على وجه القديس يوحنا السينائي المسمى السلمي. ولد في القرن السادس في سوريا. في سن السادسة عشرة أصبح راهباً تحت الاختبار في دير سيناء المقدس. مارس الطاعة والتواضع بالقرب من أبا الشهيد، بعد أن اكتسب سابقاً الحكمة العلمانية.

في سن العشرين، وبعد أربع سنوات من الجهد المستمر، أصبح راهباً وأطلق عليه اسم يوحنا. ثم نال الدرجتين الأوليين من الكهنوت، شماساً وكاهناً، لخدمة احتياجات الدير حيث مكث في دير سيناء تسعة عشر عاماً متتالية. ثم في سن الخامسة والثلاثين، تقاعد في مكان مهجور في سيناء حيث مارس بهدوء ودرس كتابات الأب. في سن الخامسة والسبعين تولى رئاسة دير سيناء حيث مكث في هذا المنصب لمدة أربع سنوات. ثم اعتزل في الصحراء ورقد في الثمانين من عمره في 30 آذار.

كان القديس المُكرّم اليوم عالماً عظيماً وعالم تشريح للروح البشريّة. رجل صلاة، واعتدال، ومحبة دائمة لله، ورجل بحب إلهي شديد، ومتألق دائماً بنار الحب الإلهي، كما يخبرنا (السنكسار) والذي يورد سير القديسين. لقد كان رجلاً قاد روحه إلى شوارع المسيح، الذي قاده من الجحيم إلى الجنة، من الشيطان إلى الله. ليس من قبيل المصادفة أن كنيستنا المقدسة قد عينت هذا اليوم لتكريم القديس يوحنا. ففي مسيرتنا الروحية التي نعبها خلال الصوم الكبير، يعتبر القديس يوحنا السينائي نموذجاً للتوبة والفضيلة لكل منا.

يعود سبب تسمية القديس بهذا الاسم إلى تأليفه كتاباً مهماً يعتبر من روائع تراثنا الكنسي، "السلم" المعروف، وهو كتاب روحي ونسكي. يتكون من ثلاثين سبباً للفضيلة، يتضمن كل منها فضيلة كتبها بنفسه.

يصف القديس يوحنا السلم، أي السلم الذي هو الطريق إلى التأله بأنه صعود مثل الصعود إلى سلم يؤدي إلى الفردوس. كل خطوة فيها فضيلة يجب على المؤمن المجاهد أن ينتصر عليها لتحقيق هدفه. يبدأ هذا الكتاب بالفضائل الأكثر عملية، وهي الفضائل التي يمكن اكتسابها بسهولة والتي لها طابع عملي بشكل أساسي، مثل فضيلة التوبة والطاعة، وينتهي بالفضائل العالية نظرياً مثل التواضع والتميز. يتم تصنيف كل فضيلة من أجل الافتراض المسبق للفضيلة السابقة وهذا شرط للفضيلة التالية.

تشير الأسباب الثلاثة الأولى، التي تشكل مقدمة هذا الكتاب، إلى إنكار الذات لدى الإنسان الذي يعيش في الدنيا وتهم الرهبان. الأسباب الأربعة التالية والتي تسلط الضوء على عدد متساوٍ من الفضائل الأساسية، هي الطاعة، والتوبة، وذكر الموت، والحداد المفرح، التي تُقدّم على أنها جذور الشجرة، والتي تقدم للمؤمنين المجاهدين ثمارها. من الخطاب الثامن إلى الخامس والعشرين، تم وصف المشاعر الصعبة التي يجب على كل مسيحي محاربتها والفضائل المقابلة التي يجب أن يستردها. يذكر الخطاب السادس والعشرون عمومًا اهتماماتهم وفضائلهم وأفكارهم وتمييزهم البسيط. الأسباب الأخيرة هي ثمار الكد، وهي الصعود الرمزي إلى قمة سلم الفضائل.

يقول مؤلف الكتاب، لكي تبدأ الحياة في المسيح، يجب على المرء أن يتخلى عن باطل العالم الحاضر. وكلمة "عالم" في الكتاب المقدس ليس لها المعنى الذي ندركه للعالم اليوم. إنه يعني العقل الدنيوي والحياة الدنيوية وليس إخواننا من البشر. الذين هم من حولنا. لا يمكن للمرء أن يقترب من الله دون أن يقول لا للخطية وخاصة رغباته الأنانية. لأن هذه الوصايا تجعلنا أسرى في العالم الخاطئ.

فإن الابتعاد عن العالم يعني تغيير عقل المرء الدنيوي، والطريقة الدنيوية في التفكير في الحياة، واكتساب عقل المسيح، أي الطريقة الروحية التي يرى بها المرء الأشياء من حوله. نلاحظ كيف أن القديس يوحنا يضعها كأساس للحياة في المسيح. وهذا يشير أيضًا إلى كلمة الرب "من أراد أن يأتي ورائي فليترك نفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني". كلمة الرب مفهومة. إنه نفس ما يقوله القديس، لإنقاذ حياة المرء



The Ladder of Divine Ascent

An important part of understanding our spiritual lives as an ascent, is the possibility of falling down a few rungs, or even completely off the ladder, which is the reality that we constantly face. In fact, the classic icon of St. John and his ladder clearly depicts the successful ascent of those truly holy and spiritually advanced monks, versus those who have succumb to various passions, causing them to fall into the pit of hell.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, I would like to share a few thoughts and reflections on this holiest period of the liturgical year, as well as Holy and Great Week.

During the remaining period of Great Lent, there are two particular Sundays on which I would like to focus. The first of these Sundays, which is the fourth Sunday of the Fast, is dedicated to the memory of St. John Climacus, or St. John of the Ladder.

St. John is commemorated during Lent because of his great spiritual work called The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Although this work was written specifically for the monastic world, the author being a monk himself, St. John's "Ladder" is a classic work of Orthodox spirituality that speaks to all members of the Church, in all places and in all times. His book presents us with a spiritual ladder ascending to heaven, with each rung representing a particular vice or passion to be conquered in order to proceed upward. The approach is very straightforward and logical, being that going that next step in our spiritual growth necessitates overcoming the sinful obstacles, which have kept us in the state where we presently find ourselves.

An important part of understanding our spiritual lives as an ascent, is the possibility of falling down a few rungs, or even completely off the ladder, which is the reality that we constantly face. In fact, the classic icon of St. John and his ladder clearly depicts the successful ascent of those truly holy and spiritually advanced monks, versus those who have succumb to various passions, causing them to fall into the pit of hell.

The following Sunday, the fifth Sunday of the Fast, we commemorate our Venerable Mother, Mary the Egyptian. This former prostitute who sought tearful reconciliation with Christ and became a desert wanderer in order to live out her repentance, is the example par excellence, of the repentant sinner. Her story is quite moving, and very motivating to anyone who is unrepentant and continues to carry the burden of sin.

The Church, in Her Spirit-filled great wisdom, places the memory of St. Mary of Egypt on the last Sunday of Great Lent, as a spiritual "wake-up" call to us to finish the race and accomplish the goal of sincere repentance. If we have truly made some serious efforts during Great Lent, then we hopefully have reached the point of repentance which will lead us to the holy mystery of confession, prior to the celebration



of the Lord's passion and resurrection. We must remember that repentance and confession are key components of the spiritual life, because without them there is no true spiritual life, but only a meager attempt, at best.

So thus, Great Lent comes to a close during the week after the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt. Specifically, Lent ends on the following Friday at the reading of the 9th hour, immediately preceding the vespers of St. Lazarus, included in the service of the Presanctified Gifts. Many of our faithful do not realize that the forty day fast ends on this particular Friday, and that Holy Week is separate from Great Lent, standing on its own as a solemn week of strict fasting in commemoration of the last days of our Lord on earth. This is important to know, because the focus of Great Lent and Holy Week are different.

Great Lent is a time for deep, personal reflection. The entire spirit of the forty day fast, is that of an intense spiritual journey that brings us back to God through our spiritual efforts, in order to be properly prepared for Holy Pascha, the greatest of all feasts. In contrast, Holy and Great Week is totally focused on the Lord and His passion and burial, hence the strict fast. In Holy Week, we follow the Lord during His last days, and hear his final teachings and warnings about the Kingdom of Heaven and His second glorious coming to earth for the final judgment. As we all know and have experienced each year, the darkness of Holy Week gradually gives way to the brightness and joy of the Resurrection. This is most profoundly exemplified in the Orthros of Holy Saturday, popularly known as the Epitaphios Lamentation, celebrated on Holy Friday evening.

Beloved in Christ, our Orthodox Church is at its absolute best, so to speak, during Great Lent and especially Holy Week. This is not to say that there is anything inferior about the remainder of the liturgical year, which in reality, is actually a reflection of Holy Pascha, which gives light and life to everything we do in the Church. It is precisely because of the magnitude of the feast of Pascha, that such liturgical beauty experienced through hymnography and ritual is presented to the faithful for their spiritual edification.

May we all take advantage of what remains of Great Lent, and thus, be prepared to enter Holy and Great Week with eager anticipation and love for the Bridegroom Christ. This should be the highlight of the year for each and every Orthodox Christian who truly loves the Church.

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!

Following Jesus Kids bulletin



_____ is the only way to get to heaven!

Find the correct path to heaven, picking up letters as you go to find the answer to how a person can get to heaven.



Heaven



1













2

3

4

ANSWER: J. JESUS

Our Journey to Pascha 2022

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 6th		<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 13th		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 20th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgment 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 27th 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.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 6th		<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.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 13th		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.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 20th		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.
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 27th		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!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 3rd		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.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY APRIL 10th 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 15th		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 17th 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 good night.

Our Journey to Pascha 2022



Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



HOLY WEEK

Focus on Christ's Passion

NURTURE SILENCE

Spend the week in silence, thought and prayer

Attend Holy Week Services

Wednesday: Holy Unction

Thursday: Mystical Supper & Washing of feet

(Reading of 12 Passion Gospels)

Friday: Crucifixion and burial of Christ

(Vespers)

Saturday: Harrowing of Hades

THIRD WEEK

The Cross is presented to us

Focus on Sacrifice and Charity

DONATE

Each day this week set aside tasty food and feed the hungry

Each day take one item from your closet and donate it to those in need

Turn off the television all week - sacrifices are not meant to be easy

Put aside a tenth of this week's paycheck, and donate it

Offer your services at church

Offer to help a neighbor

Donate books

Donate a pair of nice shoes

GO ONE DAY WITHOUT COMPLAINING

TRY AGAIN - to go all day without negative comment

Sacrifices are not meant to be easy

SECOND WEEK

Focus on Prayer

Be disciplined with your Prayer Routine

Memorize the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

PRAY

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

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

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

While it is good to avoid places of temptation, it is better to **seek places of inspiration**. While it is good to avoid individuals, who may lead you to sin, it is better to **seek out individuals who will lead you to virtue**. While it is good to shun those things which tend to control us, it is better to **seek self-control over things which have no power over us unless we give them that power**.

ROAD TO PASCHA

Journeying together through

GREAT LENT

2022



FIFTH WEEK

Focus on God

SPEND TIME GETTING TO KNOW GOD

Attend Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday

Read the prescribed readings:

Monday: Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday: Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday: Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday: Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday: Proverbs 17:17-18:5



5

LAZARUS SATURDAY

ST. MARY OF EGYPT
(CONTEMPLATE AND FIX YOUR OWN SINS)

April 10
PALM SUNDAY

"Humility is the only virtue that no devil can imitate. If pride made demons out of angels, there is no doubt that humility could make angels out of demons."
- St. John Climacus

FOURTH WEEK

Focus on Family

SPEND TIME FOCUSING ON YOUR FAMILY

Pray Evening Prayers with your family

Share stories from your day, and listen to each other

During dinner tell each person something you love about them

Tell each of your children what makes them unique

Tell your parents why you appreciate them

Find a family recipe and prepare it together

Ask, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go?"



4

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

- THE CROSS IS PRESENTED TO STRENGTHEN US
ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER
KEEP TRYING TO BE GOOD

Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing...
- St. Gregory of Palamas



BRING YOUR ICONS TO CHURCH



- DEFENSE OF ICONS

FIRST WEEK

Monday - Strict Fast

Try to attend services

Focus on Self-Improvement

You are a living icon of Christ

Do not GOSSIP

Formulate a Prayer Rule, and stick to it all through Lent... and beyond.





LITURGICAL CALENDAR



MARCH	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 	3 	4 	5 
			St Eudocia Romans 8:14-21 Matthew 6:1-13	St Theodotos of Cyrene 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 Mark 11:22-26 Matthew 7:7-8	Sts Eutropios, Cleonikos and Basiliscos Romans 15:30-33 Matthew 7:7-11	1 st Akathist المناجاة الأولى 1 Timothy 2:1-7 John 15:1-7	St Theodore the Martyr (أعجوبة القمح المملوق) Hebrews 1:1-12 Mark 2:23-3:5
	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 
أذار - مارس 2022	Sunday of Orthodoxy أحد الأثوبتكسية Hebrews 11:24-40 John 1:43-51	Martyrs of Cherson Romans 15:1-7 Matthew 18:10-20	St Theophylactos of Nicomedia Galatians 6:2-10 Matthew 4:25-5:12	Forty Martyrs of Sebastia Hebrews 12:1-10 Matthew 20:1-16	St Codratos and his companions 1 Corinthians 10:5-12 Matthew 5:27-32	2 nd Akathist المناجاة الثانية Romans 5:1-10 Matthew 5:33-41	St Theophane of Sorgia Hebrews 3:12-16 Mark 1:35-44
FEBRUARY 2022 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	13  St Gregory Palamas Sunday of Holy Relics أحد الذخائر المقدسة Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Mark 2:1-12	14  St Benedict Ephesians 4:25-32 Matthew 5:42-48	15  St Agapios and his companions Philippians 2:12-16 Matthew 10:32-38; 19:27-30	16  St Sabinos the Egyptian Ephesians 4:1-7 Matthew 7:1-8	17  St Alexis Colossians 3:4-11 Matthew 7:24-8:4	18  3 rd Akathist المناجاة الثالثة Ephesians 5:1-8 Matthew 6:22-33	19  Sts Chrysanthos and Daria Hebrews 10:32-38 Mark 2:14-17
APRIL 2022 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	20  Veneration of Holy Cross أحد المسجود للصليب الكريم Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Mark 8:34-9:1	21  St James of Catania Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 13:10-23,9	22  St Basil of Ancyra 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 Matthew 13:36-43	23  St Nikon and his 200 pupils Galatians 2:16-20 Matthew 9:18-26	24  Preparation of the Annunciation Galatians 5:22-6:2 Matthew 25:14-30	25  Annunciation عيد البشارة Hebrews 2:11-18 Luke 1:24-38	26  Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel Hebrews 6:9-12 Mark 7:31-37
	27  St John Climacos القديس يوحنا السلمسي Hebrews 6:13-20 Mark 9:17-31	28  Sts Stephen and Hilarion Romans 12:1-3 Luke 6:31-36	29  St Cyril and his companions Ephesians 4:14-17 Luke 6:24-30	30  St John Climacos Ephesians 4:17-25 Luke 7:36-50	31  Thursday of Great Canon خميس القانون الكبير Ephesians 4:25-32 Luke 13:1-9		



Church Major Feasts



Abstain from Meat



Fast from midnight until noon



Lenten Season

Prayer for Lent



PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM

+O Lord and Master of my life! Drive from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust for power, and idle chatter. *(prostration)*

+Instead, grant to me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. *(prostration)*

+Yes, O Lord and King! Let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

(prostration) Followed by 12 small prostrations, with the sign of the Cross:

God, be merciful to me a sinner! *(prostration)* God,

cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me! *(prostration)*

I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord! *(prostration)*

O Lord and Master of my life!

Drive from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust for power, and idle chatter.

Instead, grant to me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, O Lord and King! Let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for You are blessed for ever and ever.

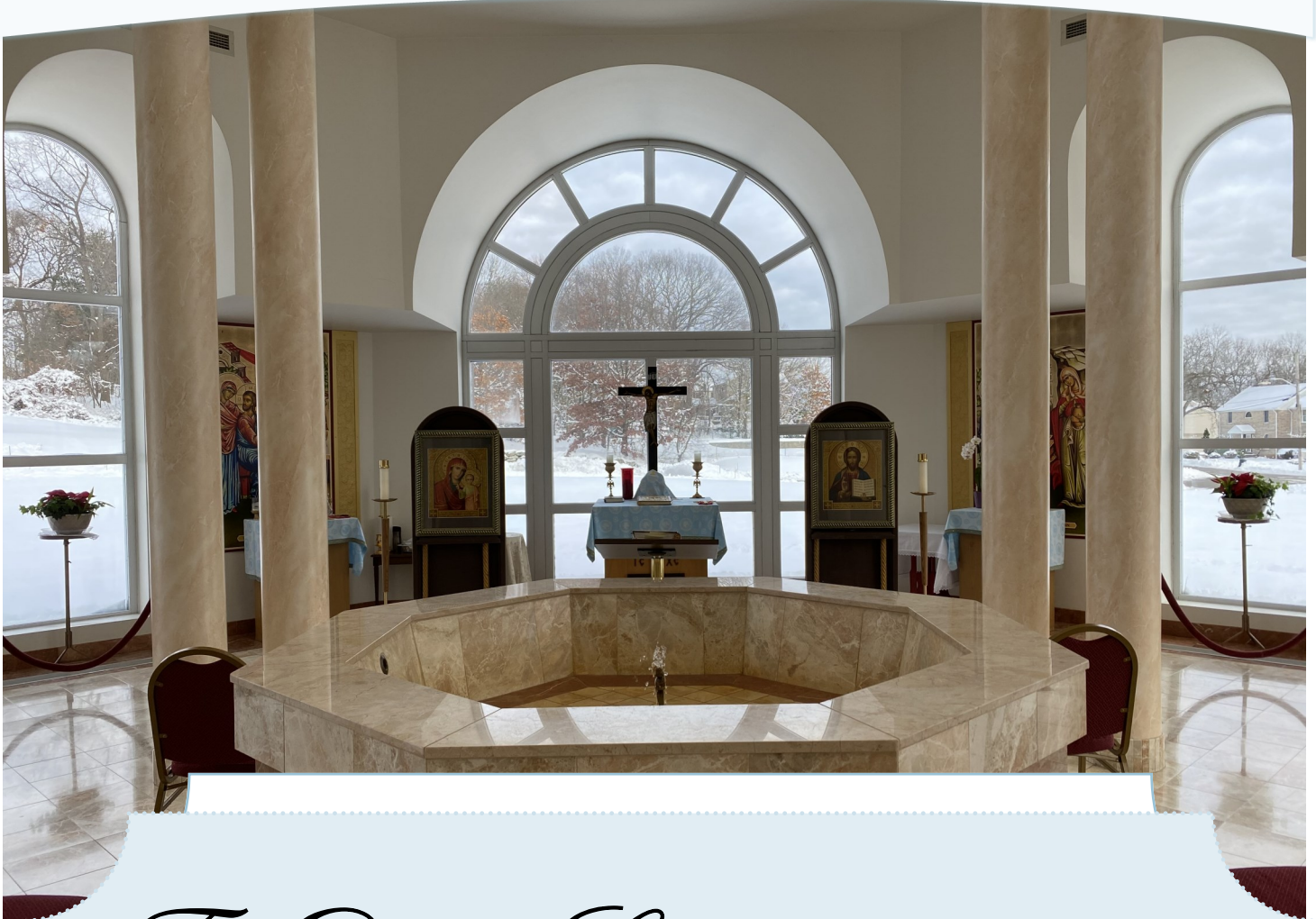
Amen. *(prostration)*

To emphasize the theme of this prayer--changing our lives--we accompany it with **Great Prostration**, kneeling and touching the forehead to the floor, then standing and making the sign of the cross. When we pray "O God, be gracious to me a sinner, and have mercy on me" 12 times, we make **Small Prostration**, bowing very low, touching the floor with the fingertips of the right hand, then standing and making the sign of the cross. The bows represent the twelve hours of the day, and our awareness of the sins and shortcomings we suffer throughout each day of our life.

The Prayer of St Ephrem is one of the main components of Lenten services in the Byzantine Church. It signifies our awareness of our sins and of temptations, it proclaims our faith in the all-merciful God, and it asks for the gifts and graces we need to lead a holy life. During Lent, it is a good practice to recite the prayer of St Ephrem when you get up in the morning and before you go to bed at night.

Both privately and publicly, the Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian is the characteristic prayer of Great Lent. It reminds us that God is the Master of our lives, and asks God to free us from the sins of everyday life, like pride and gossip and laziness and greed. In it we ask God to give us humility and love of our neighbor, awareness of our own sins, and disinterest in the sins of others. We then pray "O God, be gracious to me a sinner, and have mercy on me" twelve times.

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy is celebrated

At St. Elias Chapel

|(St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church)

Tuesday to Friday at 9:00 am

Sunday Divine Liturgy :

English at 9:00 am—Arabic at 11:15 am

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

LITURGY OR MASS INTENTIONS



Divine Liturgy intentions can be scheduled for those who have died, and on the occasion of a birthday, wedding anniversary, for healing for the conversion of sinners, for the grace to face the challenges in life, for the success in a new job, for those serving in the church and country in different levels, for good weather, bountiful harvest, for world peace, in thanksgiving for the blessings received, etc. You can find so many reasons to think about a Mass offering. We offer the Mass for a specific intention because we believe in the immense spiritual value of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The custom of giving offering to have Liturgies said for specific intentions is a laudable one and should be maintained as much as possible. Church teaching and Canon Law (nos. 942-958) provide important guidelines on how to preserve the dignity and appreciation of this practice. Overall, it should be well noted that Liturgy offerings are never to be viewed as a means of parish fundraising.

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE DEAD: The Apostolic Constitutions refer to the repetition of the Mass on the third, ninth and fortieth days: "Let the third day be observed in remembrance of the dead with psalms, lessons, and prayers, because Christ rose from the dead on the third day. Let the ninth day be observed in remembrance both of the living and the dead, and also the fortieth day, in accordance with mourning customs of the Israelites at the time of Moses' death. Finally, let the anniversary day be observed in memory of the dead."

In contemporary Byzantine practice, the dead are commemorated on the ninth and fortieth days and on the anniversary of their departure from this world.

Formerly under the jurisdiction of the local Latin Ordinaries before the Exarchate was established under the leadership of the late Bishop Justin Najmy of this Parish, all Melkites have been subject to the latter since its erection in 1966. The Constitution of the Melkite Eparchy which is now a sole Diocese since 1976 still acknowledges this definitive protocol. Our parishes follow local discipline in the various customs e.g., clergy attire, stipends (Mass Offerings), etc. except in Liturgy and Ritual. Our relationship with the local Latin Dioceses and Latin pastors must be permeated with a spirit of love and friendship and cooperation.

Effective January 1, 2008, which by-passed us, the schedule of offerings for Masses in parishes is now \$25.00; Funerals: \$300.00; Weddings: \$300.00.

Canon Law prohibits accepting stipends or offerings for Masses more than one year in advance (rolling calendar) Canon 953. The time within which Masses must be celebrated (1 year) begins the day the intention is received (Canon 955 #2.)

May the memories of our beloved deceased be eternal and many thanks for your understanding and undivided attention in regard to these guidelines and restrictions.

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

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Thank you and God bless you and yours.

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if Purchased Separately from Package

Individual Events	Price per ticket	Quantity	Total Cost
Thursday July 7 BAR-B-Q Buffet	\$60.00		
Friday July 8 Hawaiian Sunset Dinner	\$80.00		
Saturday July 9 Grand Banquet Hafli	\$110.00		
Sunday July 10 Farewell Brunch	\$40.00		

COMPLETE PACKAGES

(Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evenings only – Sunday Brunch not included)

Evening Social Events	Price per package	Quantity	Total Cost
Purchased before 5/31/22	\$225.00		
Purchased after 5/31/22	\$250.00		
GRAND TOTAL			

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802 Rifle Camp Rd. PO BOX 630
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Registration material to be picked up at convention registration desk

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

Please complete entire registration form and mail with your payment.

For further information, contact Rosemary Shabouk

718.748.1235 or 52melkiteconvention@gmail.com

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52melkiteconvention@gmail.com

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, the 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 Eparchy 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 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'"



recognized that the widow's "mite" was far greater than the large offerings other people were contributing. They could afford to give more. The poor widow, however, 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 the 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



**St. Basil the Great
Melkite Greek Catholic Church**

15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, RI 02865

On behalf of the Clergy, you are invited to a Divine Liturgy and
Collation to celebrate Archdeacon George Yany and those
members of our parish who entered eternal life during the
Covid-19 lockdown.

When: Sunday, May 22, 2022
Time: 10:30 a.m. liturgy
Where: St. Basil the Great Church
RSVP: April 24, 2022

Please complete the form below and mail it to the rectory or
place it in the collection basket.

Name(s): _____

Number of attendees: _____

List any food allergies: _____

As of 3/17/2022



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: **\$416,000**



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

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 40%

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

Current & Future Projects:



Roof Repair: Contract Signed- March 2022



Mold Remediation: Proposals received & In Review



Doors & Windows: Part 1 of Proposals received & In Review



HVAC & Boiler: Proposals received & In Review



Flooring Upgrades: Acquiring Proposals



Parking Lot & Walkway Resurfacing



Interior Décor Enhancements



Walk In Cooler & Kitchen Equipment Repair



Masonry Repairs



TBD

Important Highlights

- We are extremely grateful to all of those who have contributed and supported this campaign thus far.
- Our first priority of this campaign was the roof -But there are several other projects/repairs being reviewed and considered that are listed above
- 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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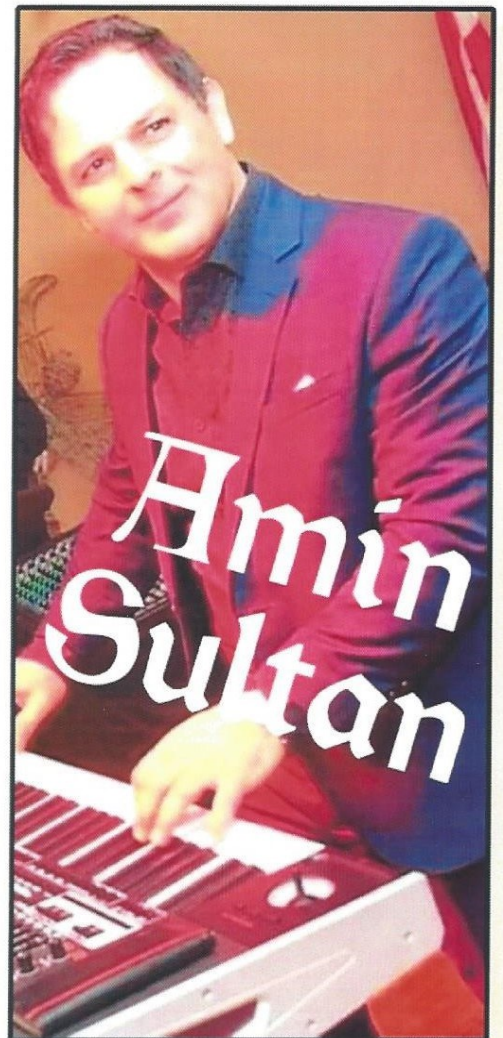
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