



April 30th, 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 Paralytic Apostle and Evangelist John, the Theologian

أحد المخلع -
تذكار القديس الرسول المجيد يوحنا الانجيلي

Antiphon Prayer

O Christ our God, Who participate with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the dominion over all, You have appeared in the flesh healing infirmities. You have dispelled suffering and restored light to the blind by your divine command. You raised the Paralytic and ordered him to walk at once.

Remember us in your compassion. Shine in our hearts your pure light. Open the eyes of our minds. Set in us the fear of your commandments, so that we May live according to the spirit, doing what pleases You.

For You are our Light, our Life and our Resurrection, 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 (Tone 3)

Let all in heaven rejoice and all on earth be glad, for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: by death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted to the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Apostle James (Tone 3)

O holy Apstle James, intercede with God all-merciful that He may grant us the remission of our sins.

Troparion of St Basil

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

Kondakion of Pascha

Though You went down in the tomb, O immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades and rose victorious, O Christ

صلاه الأنديفونة

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، الْمَشْتَرِكُ مَعَ الْآبِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُّوسِ فِي السِّيَادَةِ عَلَى الْجَمِيعِ، لَقَدْ ظَهَرْتَ بِالْجَسْمِ شَافِيًا الْأَمْرَاضَ. وَأَزَلْتَ الْأَلَامَ وَأَنْرْتَ الْعُمَيَانَ. وَبِكَلِمَتِكَ الْإِلَهِيَّةِ أَقَمْتَ الْمَخْلَعَ الْمَقْعَدَ وَأَمَرْتَهُ بِأَنْ يَمْشِيَ. فَوْرًا. فَلذَلِكَ اذْكُرْنَا بِكَثْرَةِ رَحْمَتِكَ، وَأَضِيءْ قُلُوبَنَا بِصَافِي نُورِكَ، وَافْتَحْ عَيْونَ أَذْهَانِنَا، وَضَعْ فِيْنَا حَسْبِيَّةً وَصَيَاكَ، لِكَيْ نَسِيرَ سِيرَةً رُوحِيَّةً، عَامِلِينَ بِكُلِّ مَا يُرْضِيكَ

لَأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ نُورُنَا، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ، وَبِالْيَدِ نَرْفَعُ الْمَجْدَ، وَإِلَى أَبِيكَ الْأَزْلِي وَرُوحِكَ الْقُدُّوسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثالث

لِتَفْرَحِ السَّمَاوِيَّاتُ. وَتَبتهجِ الْأَرْضِيَّاتُ. لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ صَنَعَ عِزًّا بِسَاعِدِهِ. وَوَطِئَ الْمَوْتَ. وَصَارَ بِكَرِّ الْأَمْوَاتِ. وَأَنْقَذَنَا مِنْ جَوْفِ الْجَحِيمِ. وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ عَظِيمَ الرَّحْمَةِ

النشيد للرسول على اللحن الثالث

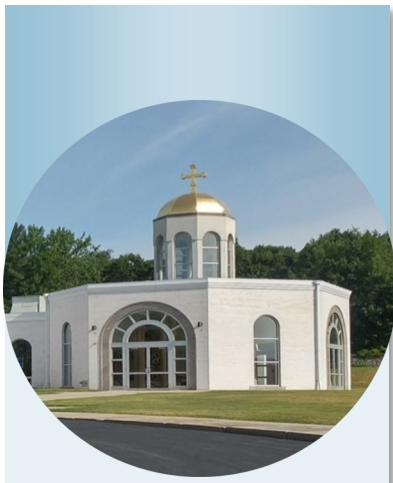
أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ الْقُدِّيسُ يَعْقُوبَ، إِشْفَعْ إِلَى اللَّهِ الرَّحِيمِ، أَنْ يَهَبَ غُفْرَانَ الزَّلَّاتِ لِنَفُوسِنَا.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لَقَدْ ذَاعَ مَنْطِقُكَ فِي كُلِّ الْأَرْضِ. فَانْهَارَ قَدِ قَبِلَتْ كَلَامَكَ، الَّذِي بِهِ بَيَّنْتَ الْعَقَائِدَ بَيَانًا إِلَهِيًّا، وَأَوْضَحْتَ طَبِيعَةَ الْكَائِنَاتِ، وَنَظَّمْتَ أَخْلَاقَ الْبَشَرِ. فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْآبُ الْبَارُّ ذُو الْكَهْنُوتِ الْمَلُوكِيِّ، إِتَهَلْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ إِلَهُ فِي خِلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.

القنداق باللحن الثاني

وَإِنْ نَزَلْتَ إِلَى الْقَبْرِ يَا مَنْ لَا يَمُوتُ، فَقَدْ نَقَضْتَ قُدْرَةَ



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>



God. You greeted the ointment bearing women, saying "Rejoice!" You gave peace to Your apostles, and to those who had Fallen resurrection.

Epistle Acts 9:32-42 - PROKIMENON (Tone 3)

Sing praise to our God, sing praise!
 Sing praise to our King, sing praise!
 Stichon: All you peoples, clap your hands!
 Shout to God with cries of gladness!

READING From the Acts of the Apostles

In those days it came to pass that Peter, while visiting all of them, came to the saints living at Lydda. And he found there a certain man named Aeneas who had been lying in bed for eight years, since he was a paralytic. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ is healing you: get up and make your bed." And he got up immediately. And all the inhabitants of Lydda and the plain of Sharon saw him, and they were converted to the Lord. Now in Joppa there was a certain woman disciple named Tabitha, which translated means Dorcas, and she devoted herself to good works and almsgiving. But it happened at that time that she fell ill and died: and they washed her and laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda is close to Joppa, the disciples, hearing Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Come to us without delay." "And Peter got up and went with them, and on his arrival, they led him to the upper room, and all the widows stood around him weeping, showing him the gowns and cloaks Dorcas used to make for them. But Peter, putting them all out, knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" And she opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. Then Peter gave her his hand and raised her up, and calling the saints and the widows, he gave her back to them alive. And it became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ALLELUIA (Tone 3) Ps.30: 2, 3

In you, O Lord, I have hoped: let me never be put to shame. In your justice, save me and deliver me, lend me your ear and hasten my deliverance.

Stichon: Be for me a protecting God, a sheltering house to save me.

John 5: 1-15 (Healing of the Paralytic) The Holy Gospel according to St. John the Evangelist

At that time Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem, by the pool of the sheep, a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. In these were lying a great multitude of the sick, blind, lame, and those with shriveled limbs, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord used to come down at certain times into the pool and the water was stirred. And the first to go down into the pool after the stirring of the water was cured of whatever infirmity he had. Now a certain man was there who had been thirty-eight years under his infirmity. When Jesus "saw him lying there, and knew that he had been in this state a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred; for while I am coming another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet and walk." And at once the man was cured. And he took up his pallet and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; you are not allowed to take up the pallet." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your pallet and walk' "They asked him then, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet and walk?" "But the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd in the place. Afterwards Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "Behold, you are cured. Sin no more, lest something worse happen to you. The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

الجحيم وقمت كظافر، أيها المسيح الإله. وللنسوة حاملات الطيب قُلت افرحن. ولرسلك وهبت السّلام، يا مانح الواقعين القيام.

رَنّموا لإلهنا رَنّموا، رَنّموا لملكنا رَنّموا
 يا جميع الأمم صَقّقوا بالأبدي، هَلّولوا لله بصوت
 الابتهاج

الرسالة (اعمال الرسل 9: 32 - 42)

في تلك الايام، اتفق أنّ بطرس، اذ كان يطوفُ في جميع الاطراف. نزل أيضاً الى القديسين الساكنين في لُدّة. فصادفَ هناك رجلاً اسمه اينياس مضطجعاً على سريرٍ منذُ ثماني سنين، وكان مُخلّعاً فقال له بطرس: يا اينياس شفاك يسوع المسيح، قم أفرش نفسك. فقام للوقت. ورآه جميع الساكنين في لُدّة والشارون، فرجعوا الى الرب. وكانت في يافا تلميذة اسمها طابيتا، الذي تفسيره طيبة، وكانت غنيّة بالأعمال الصالحة والصدقات التي كانت تصنعها. فحدثت في تلك الايام أنها مرضت وماتت، فغسلوها ووضعوها في العُلّة. ولما كانت لُدّة بقرب يافا، وسمع التلاميذ ان بطرس فيها، أرسلوا اليه رجلين يسألانه ان لا يبطئ عن الذهاب اليهم، فقام بطرس وأتى معهم، فلما وصل صعدوا الى العُلّة، فوقف لديه جميع الارامل، يبكين ويريدن أقمصة وثياباً كانت تصنعها طيبته وهي معهن. فأخرج بطرس الجميع وجثا على ركبتيه وصلّى، ثم التفت الى الجثّة وقال: يا طابيتا قومي، ففتحت عينيها، ولما أبصرت بطرس جلست. فناولها يدَه وأنهضها. ثم دعا القديسين والارامل وأقامها لديهم حيّة. فذاع الخبر في يافا كلها، فأمن كثيرون بالرب.

هَلّولوا
 عليك يا ربُّ توكلتُ فلا أخزى الى الابد، بعدلك نجني
 وانتشلي
 كن لي إلهاً محامياً، وبيت ملجأ لخلاصي

انجيل أحد المخلع

الأنجيل (يوحنا 5: 1-15)

في ذلك الزمان صعد يسوع إلى أورشليم. وكان في أورشليم عند باب النعم بركة تُسمى بالعبرانية بيت جسد لها خمسة أروقة. وكان مُضجعا فيها جمهورٌ من المرضى، من عميان وعرج وياسي. الأعضاء ينتظرون تحريك الماء. لأن ملاكاً كان ينزل أحياناً في البركة ويحرك الماء. والذي كان ينزل أولاً من بعد تحريك الماء كان يُبرأ من كل مرضٍ اعتراه. وكان هناك رجلٌ به مرضٌ منذُ ثمان وثلاثين سنة. هذا إذ رآه يسوع ملقاً، وعلم ان له زماناً طويلاً، قال له أتريد أن تُبرأ؟ فأجابته المريض: يا سيّد، ليس لي إنسانٌ إذا تحرك الماء يُلقيني في البركة. بل بينما أكون آتياً ينزل قدامي آخر. فقال له يسوع فم. احمل سريرك وأمشي. فللوقت برى الرجل وحملَ سريرَه ومشي. وكان ذلك اليوم سبتاً. فقال اليهود للذي سُفي: أنه سبتٌ فلا يحلُّ لك ان تحمل السرير. فأجابهم: إن الذي أبرأني هو قال لي: إحمال سريرك وأمشي. فسأله من هو الرجل الذي قال لك أحمل سريرك وأمشي. فأما الذي سُفي فلم يكن يعلم من هو. لأن يسوع كان قد توارى بين الجمع المزدهم في ذلك الموضوع. وبعد ذلك وجدّه يسوع في الهيكل فقال له: ها قد عُوفيت فلا تُعدّ تخطأً لئلا يُصيبك أعظم. فذهب ذلك الرجل وأخبر اليهود أن يسوع هو الذي أبرأه.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

TODAY, APRIL30, 2023: fourth SUNDAY OF EASTER. SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC. APOSTLE JAMES, BROTHER OF JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

9:00 a.m DIVINE LITURGY:

- +CATHERINE KANDO (1st Anniv.) by her loving Family.
- +MARILYN ORTMANN (1st Anniv.) by Joanne & Thomas Sabbagh.
- +ANNETTE NAJJAR by Alberta Mardo & Family.
- +DIANE ROBAT by Charles & Francine Robat & Family.
- +WALTER AZAR, son of Robert & Judy Azar, by the Family of the late Louis E. Azar.

:1115 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- +JOHN ROWEY (40 Day) by M/M Anthony Rowey & Family
- +GEORGEANNA DECKEY (4th Anniv.) by her nieces and nephews.
- +ROSE & HOUNEIN KHOURY by Micheline Ghanem.
- +MICHAEL & MARY KOUSSA by Abe, Michele Domaney & Family.
- +MARYLYNN POMMENVILLE by Abe, Michele Domaney & Family.



Prayer for the dead



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

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





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: April 23, 2023: Budgets: \$2341.00: Envelopes: \$2281.00, Loose: \$60.00; Candles: \$115.00: Stole Offerings: \$310.00; Building Fund: \$140; Addit'l Easter Offerings: \$30.00; Melkite Diocesan Support: \$290.00; Cemetery Donation: \$1,000.00.

ADDITIONAL DEPOSIT APRIL 23, 2023: Fidelity Donation: \$1,000.00; Honorariums: \$900.00; Over payment on Excellent Coffee: \$693.06.

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.

ARABIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIP: Application, eligibility information and check list is available at aef-ri.org. All scholarships and transcripts must be postmarked by April 15, 2023. Question(s) contact: aef1966@cox.net

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

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE: We are all links of a chain. A chain is as strong as its weakest link! What kind of link are you? Let us make this year 2023 the year that we give more of ourselves on the strengthening of the chain of St. Basil the Great Community. Hopefully, many more will step up in their real understanding of parish membership.

TODAY, SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION will take place Pre-K through 8th Grade following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy.

8th Grade Graduation will take place at the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy with the homily given by Deacon Gilbert, and then he and the teacher James Procter will preside in giving the respective certificates.

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023, there will be only one Divine Liturgy to celebrated at 10:00 a.m. in honor of the 2nd Grade Students who will make their **FIRST RECONCILIATION**. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy a formal brunch will be held in the Cultural Center for the entire Parish All are cordially invited.

REFLECTION: "The young man knows the rules, but the old man knows the exceptions." - *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

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.



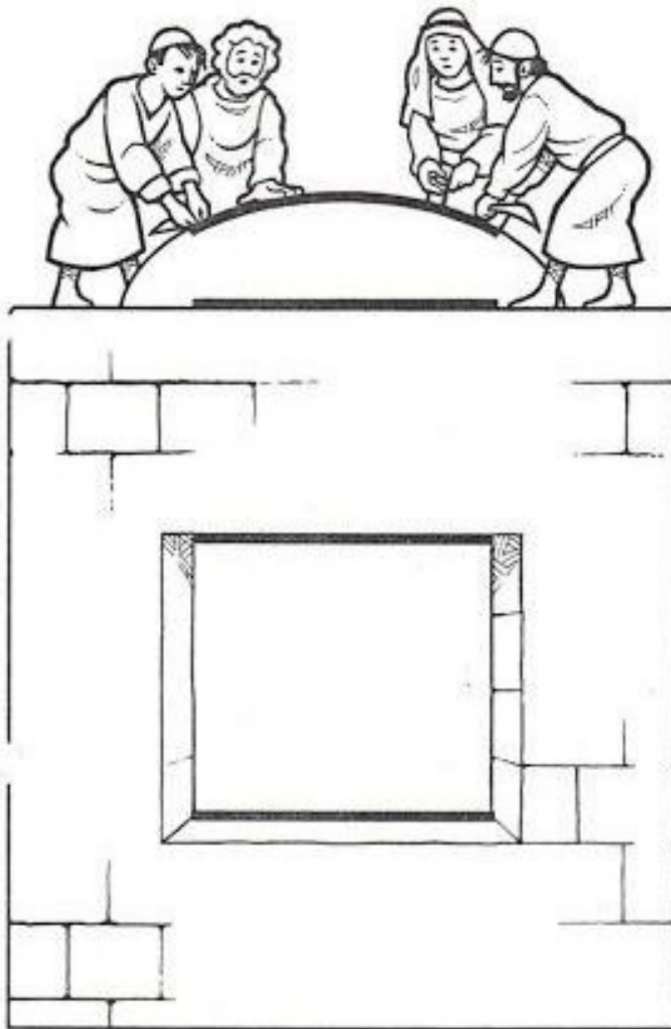
Following Jesus Kids bulletin



Through the Roof Picture Craft

Print out this page and cut out the strip at the side of the house picture and colour both in. Then cut a slit along the two bold lines on the roof of the house and feed the strip through the holes in the roof of the house. You could attach string or thread to the strip to make it look more like the friends are lowering the man down.

Mark 2:3-5 Some men came, bringing to [Jesus] a paralyzed man... Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof... and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."



Are You Waiting for God at the Pool of Bethesda?



What Was the Meaning of Bethesda in John 5?

Do you want to be healed? John 5:6b

How long do we live with trouble before we're on our knees, asking God for healing of any sort—physical, emotional, or spiritual? Jesus walked over to a man who couldn't walk and healed him on one of the porches of the Pool of Bethesda. There was a crowd of people at the Pool of Bethesda, but this lame man was the only person healed by Jesus that day, according to the Gospel of John. Maybe this man's healing was an example. Maybe more people were healed that day by their own faith in God. The Gospel of John doesn't tell us what happened next.

Perhaps many of us who need healing sit at the side of the pool, but don't jump in. We remain high and dry to the side of the healing waters of our spiritual journey. We come up with reasons for not seeking healing with our whole hearts. The healed, lame man in this story told his arsenal of excuses to Jesus. The miracle of this story is that even though the lame man thought and behaved in a typical, self-defeating way, Jesus noticed him and healed him.

What Was the Purpose of the Pool of Bethesda?

The Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem was where sick people gathered with hopes of being cured of their illnesses. The Aramaic word Bethesda means "house of mercy" or "house of grace" in English. Lounging at one of the five porticos or porches adjacent to the pool, the ill people waited and watched for an angel to stir the water. The hopeful, diseased people at the poolside believed that the first person to step into the water after it was stirred by an angel was healed (John 5:1-4).

The pool is believed to have been used throughout history for ritualistic baths as well as a place where invalids waited to step into the pool for healing. The Bethesda Pool where Jesus healed the paralytic man believed to have been a mikveh, or ritual bath, in the time of Christ. Roman citizens in Jerusalem a century or two later had medicinal baths constructed at the Bethesda Pool. To commemorate Jesus healing the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda, Christians controlling Jerusalem in the later Byzantine and Crusader periods added a chapel and churches that now cover the Bethesda Pool complex.

What Lessons Can We Learn from the Paralytic at Bethesda?

Excuses, excuses—work around them.

Jesus brushes off the excuses of the lame man in John 5: 7-9. It's written, The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus doesn't put much stock in the lame man's excuse for not more actively seeking healing for 38 years. Jesus tells the lame man to get up, walk, and carry his bed—and the lame man does. Action replaces thoughts and words of self-pity, which have a hold on the lame man's reality for far too long.

We wait too long to ask for healing.

As illustrated in John 5: Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:5-6).

I wonder how long this lame man was waiting for an opportunity to be healed at the Pool of Bethesda. Was he at the Pool of Bethesda for many years of his illness? Jesus heals him in an instant.

Jesus asks the lame man if he wants to be healed for a reason. Maybe the lame man was not committed to, did not believe in, his own healing. Matthew's Gospel says Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). Seize the moment! Ask God for your heart's desire.

We can work around conventional methods.

Jesus approached the lame man, whereas people in the crowds seeking healing usually approached Jesus. Jesus barely spoke to the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda before curing him. There was no ritualistic process in the man's healing. The man did not have to step into the pool to be healed. Jesus healed him with a few words at the side of the pool.

Is There a Danger in Waiting for Jesus at Bethesda?

Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that . . . those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Waiting patiently is a fruit of the spirit, but there comes a time we need to do something. That is, after hoping and praying for improvement in our health, we need to act upon our renewed strength. We can listen to God's voice and follow his lead when moving forward with our health plan.

ليس لي إنسان ...

فسألوه من هو الإنسان الذي قال لك احمل سريرك وامش:

آه، كم غلظت قلوب الكتبة والفريسيين. ينظرون ولا يرون، يسمعون ولا يصغون. أليست هذه صورة لحالتنا؟ كم من مرّة ومرّة ننال لبركات والعطايا وتتنكر؟ من هو ذلك؟ ويحمل هذا السؤال السخرية! فليس أعظم من ناموسنا الحجري الذي خلقناه نحن لنعبد أنفسنا من خلاله!!!

لماذا صنع المسيح المعجزة في يوم السبت؟

ليس هذه المعجزة الوحيدة، بل المسيح غالبًا ما كان يشفي يوم السبت، والله منع شعبه من العمل يوم السبت حتى يتفرغوا للعبادة ويذكروا انتماءهم إليه، فهو نفسه قد ارتاح يوم السبت.

ولكن ما معنى راحة الله هنا؟ وهل الله يتعب؟! الله لا يتعب حتى يستريح. ولكن راحة الله هي في خلاص الإنسان. فحينما يقول استراح الله في اليوم السابع فهذا معناه أن الله استراح حينما تمّ خلاص البشر. فراحة الله في كمال عمله، والراحة هي راحة الله في الإنسان، وراحة الإنسان في الله. " الله يستريح في قديسيه والقديسون يستريحون في الله"، من هنا الإنسان المخلوق على صورة الله أهم من حرفية السبت وجموده. فكيف إذاً يكون الشفاء في السبت ممنوعاً؟ أليست الشريعة وضعت من أجل الإنسان؟ في سفر الخروج (الإصحاح ٢٠) نجد الله يقول إله أعطى شعبه الشريعة والسبت ليدل على محبته له. أعطاهم الشريعة ليحيوا سعداء على الأرض، كما أعطاهم السبت ليذكروا انتماءهم إلى السماء فيكون لهم نصيب في ملكوت الله.

ونصّ وصية السبت كان "أذكر يوم السبت لتقدّسه" (خر٢٠:٨) أي لتخصّصه، لتفرغه للرب، فيكون للصلاة والتسبيح.

اليهود خرجوا عن المعنى الروحي، وفهموا الوصية وطبقوها بمعنى حرفي فقط، فمنعوا أن يحمل إنسان حتى إبرة خياطة يوم السبت. والمسيح أتى ليصحح هذه المفاهيم، ليعيد للسبت المعنى الروحي الحقيقي والخالصي. وهو حينما يشفي إثمًا يشفي الإنسان كله، روحًا وجسدًا (يو٧:٢٢). وطالما أنه شفى روحه بأن غفر خطايا، استراح هذا الإنسان في الله، والله استراح فيه، فتحقق مفهوم السبت. فالمسيح هو رب السبت (مر٢٨:٦+ لو٥:٥) وهو جاء ليعطي سبتًا أي راحةً من نوع جديد عوض الراحة الجسدية القديمة (عب٤:١٠).

كما وأتته إذا تصادف، عند اليهود، اليوم الثامن لطفل أن كان يوم السبت، كان يختنون الطفل، إذ الختان في نظرهم عمل مقدّس (يو٧:٢٢-٢٣)، وهذا الختان يجعل الطفل من شعب الله أي ابنًا لله. والختان هو قطع كل رباط للشر، ومريض بيت حسدا هذا كان مختونًا ولكنه أخطأ، والمسيح شفاه وغفر خطايا، فأعاده إلى العهد مع الله، أعاده كابن لله.

بهذا يتحقق فرح الرب كما أشار إليه أشعيا النبي (١٢:٥٨-١٤): "هو لذة الرب".

كيف يشفي المسيح موتى الخطيئة؟

الابن له حياة في ذاته، وهو يحيي من يشاء (يو٢١:٢٦+٢٦)، ومن يسمع له يقوم من موت الخطيئة الآن (آية ٢٥) ويقوم إلى قيامة الحياة في الأبدية (آية ٢٩).

المسيح الذي ظهر أمامنا كإنسان له قوّة الحياة، فيه حياة في ذاته وقد تجسّد ليعطيها لكل واحدٍ فيها. ولكن الذي يحصل على هذه الحياة هو من يسمع للمسيح، ويؤمن به ويعتمد فيتحد به ويطيع وصاياه ويتناول من جسده ودمه، وإن أخطأ يتوب، فيظل عضوًا حيًا في جسده. وفي مجيئه الثاني المجيد يكون اتحاداً بالمسيح بلا انفصال فلا خطيئة في السماء. وفي السماء سيكون لنا أجساد ممجّدة. هذا هو الشفاء الكامل والحقيقي.



مريض بركة بيت حسدا يشير إلى من ليس له أحد وهو في حالة ضعف. والفترة التي قضاها في المرض هي فترة ثمان وثلاثين سنة، الزمان الذي قضاها بنو إسرائيل في برية سيناء قبل أن يستطيعوا الوصول إلى أرض الميعاد. أي أن هذا الإنسان كان يشبه الشعب التائه في البرية قبل أن يدخل إلى أرض الميعاد.

وكأنّ الإنجيلي أراد أن يقول لنا بذلك إنّ الرب يسوع المسيح هو أرض الميعاد، وأن الإنسان يتبعه ويبقى في الحيرة وفي طلبات كثيرة إلى أن يأتيه السيد. فالمسيح قد أتى إلى البشر المتروكين التائهين ليشفيهم كما أتى إلى هذا المريض. هذه المعجزة إذاً إشارة إلى أن هناك تدخلًا سماويًا سيحدث ليشفي أمراض الطبيعة البشرية.

أتريد أن تبرأ؟

نعم، هناك من لا يريد أن يبرأ، فمرضه صار مصدر رزق يكتسب منه. والمسيح يحترم الإرادة الإنسانية، وهو لا يقتحم الإنسان، فجن مخلوقون على صورته في حرية الإرادة. قال المسيح لليهود: "كم مرّة أردت أن أجمع أبناءك... ولم تريدوا" (مت٢٣:٢٧). فالمسيح يريد أن يظهر أن خلاص الإنسان هو بيد الإنسان، والأهم هو شفاء الإنسان من الخطيئة. ويكون سؤال المسيح معناه هل عندك إرادة أن تترك خطيئتك، لذا قال له المسيح لا تعود تخطئ أيضًا (آية ١٤) الخطيئة لها نتائج وخيمة على الإنسان. المسيح أتى ليقدّم للمخلع وللعالم كله الشفاء المجاني، الخليفة كلها مريضة، فقدت بهاءها والرب أتى ليشفيها، ولكن عليها أولاً أن تريد أن تشفى.

ليس لي إنسان:

المسيح يسأل المخلع عمّا إذا كان يريد أن يشفي، فيجيبه بأن ليس له إنسان. هو أسقط الموضوع على الآخرين، كأنه يقول إن المشكلة ليست فيّ بل في الآخرين. الخاطئ دائمًا يبرّر نفسه.

كم مرة ألقينا همنا على الناس وفشلنا؟ ولكن إذا ألقينا همنا على الله فلن نفشل

قم احمل سريرك وامش:

هذه حال كلّ من يصدّق المسيح، فكلمة منه تُحيي العاجز وتنتهر الخطيئة فتلاشيها (يو٥:٥٥-٦:٦٢-). الله يعطي القوّة والحياة لأن يسوع هو الحياة، وله سلطان عجيب: قم/ احمل/ امش. عجيب أن يقوم المخلع دون أن يسنده أحد، وبدون علاج طبيعى بعد كلّ هذه المدة من الشلل. المسيح أعطاه حياة جديدة: قم مع القيامة، واحمل بقوّة الحياة، وامش. كلمات ترمز إلى السلوك في هذه الحياة الجديدة.

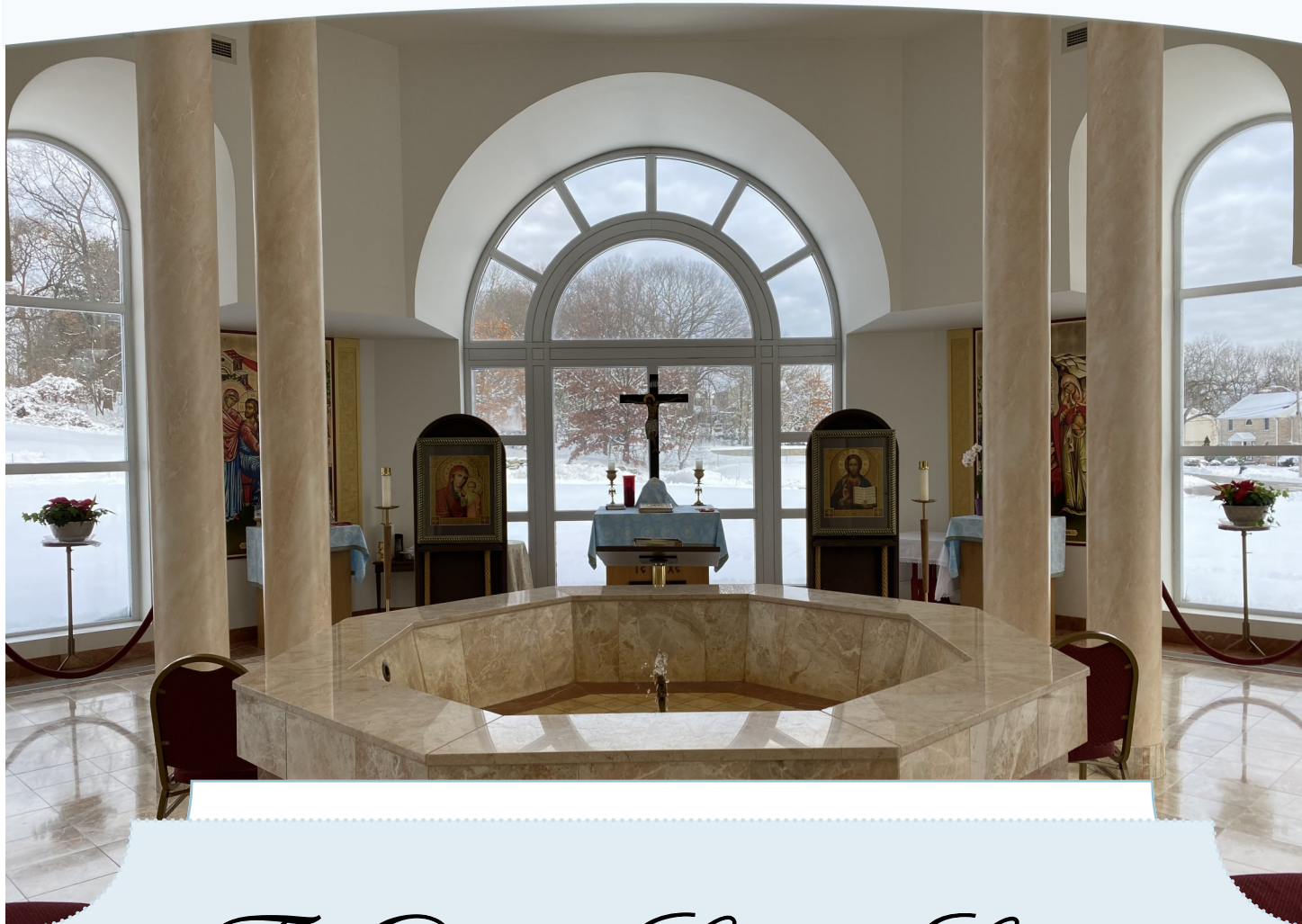


LITURGICAL CALENDAR



| APRIL | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|  نيسان – أبريل 2023 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 MAY 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 | 30 Sunday of the Paralytic أحد المفلج Acts 9:32-42 John 5:1-15 | | | | | | 1 Lazarus Saturday سبت لعازر Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 8:27-31 |
| | 2 Palm Sunday أحد الشعانين Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18 | 3 Great & Holy Monday الاثنين العظيم المقدس Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 24:3-35 | 4 Great & Holy Tuesday الثلاثاء العظيم المقدس Ephesians 1:1-9 Matthew 24:36-26:2 | 5 Great & Holy Wednesday الأربعاء العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 Matthew 26:6-16 | 6 Great & Holy Thursday الخميس العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-27:1-2 John 13:3-17 Luke 22:43-44 | 7 Great & Holy Friday الجمعة العظيمة المقدسة Eothinon: Twelve Gospels | 8 Great & Holy Saturday سبت النور المقدس Romans 6:3-12 Matthew 28:1-20 |
| 9 Easter Sunday أحد الفصح العظيم المقدس Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17 | 10 Monday of New Week الإثنين لتجديدات Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 John 1:18-28 | 11 Tuesday of New Week الثلاثاء لتجديدات Acts 2:14-21 Luke 24:12-35 | 12 Wednesday of New Week الأربعاء لتجديدات Acts 2:22-38 John 1:35-51 | 13 Thursday of New Week الخميس لتجديدات Acts 2:38-43 John 3:1-15 | 14 Friday of New Week الجمعة لتجديدات Acts 3:1-8 John 2:12-22 | 15 Saturday of New Week سبت لتجديدات Acts 3:9-16 John 3:22-33 | |
| 16 St Thomas Sunday أحد الرسول توما Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31 | 17 St Simeon the Persian Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11 | 18 St John, disciple of Gregory Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21 | 19 St John the Hermit Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24 | 20 St Theodore Trichinas Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30 | 21 St Theodore of Pergia Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-6:2 | 22 St Theodore Sykeotes Acts 5:21-32 John 6:14-27 | |
| 23 St George the Triumphant Sunday of Holy Myrrh-bearers أحد حمامات الطيب Acts 12:1-11 Mark 15:43-16:8 | 24 St Elizabeth the Wonderworker Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60 John 4:46-54 | 25 Anzac Day St Mark the Apostle 1 Peter 5:6-14 Luke 10:16-21 | 26 St Basil of Amasia Acts 8:18-25 John 6:35-39 | 27 St Simeon Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44 | 28 Sts Jason and Sosipater Acts 8:40-9:19 John 6:48-54 | 29 St Memnon the Wonderworker Acts 9:19-31 John 15:17-16:2 | |

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>

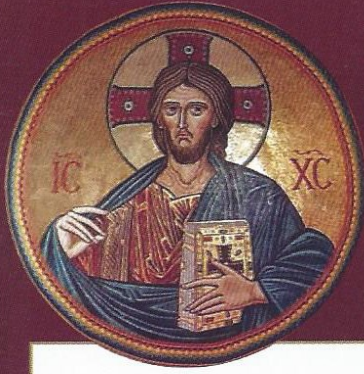
Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



THE LORD SAID: "TRULY I TELL YOU THIS
POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL
OF THEM, FOR THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED
OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT SHE GAVE
OF HER POVERTY PUT IN ALL THE LIVING
THAT SHE HAD." *MARK 12:41-42*

"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.



VOCATION PLAN

Christ Calls All to Serve

FEBRUARY 2023

Bishop François forms New Vocation Team

The goal is to create a “Culture of Service & Vocations” within the Melkite Catholic Church

As Bishop François Beyrouti begins his episcopal ministry, he is emphasizing the Lord’s invitation to “serve one another humbly in love” (Gal 5:13). In this spirit, one of his key priorities is to strengthen our focus on vocations throughout the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton.

Thanks be to God, over the past few years, the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States has been blessed with many new vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Looking toward the future, we can also see that many parishes have aging clergy who have been faithfully serving for so many years. Thus, there is a serious need to ensure uninterrupted pastoral care for our 50 churches and communities and to respond to the needs of our faithful who are asking us to establish new parishes.

Thus Bishop François has convened a new Vocation Team, headed by Fr. John Mefrige and composed of four other priests from each region of the eparchy. The challenge for the team is threefold.

The first task is to re-organize our efforts, both by standardizing the formation of priests and deacons, as well as establishing a clear process for men to discern God’s call.

Secondly, Bishop François’ vision is that new vocations will flow organically from active ministry in local parishes. Put simply, the men who will one day serve as priests and deacons must now be serving generously in other capacities. A campaign is planned to identify these men—both single and married—and invite them to discern a potential role as reader, subdeacon, deacon, or priest.



Finally, the Vocation Team aims to dramatically improve communications about vocations within the eparchy. For example, the Melkite Catholic community in the United States needs to see the joys of married clergy with families, as well as the blessing of men who serve celibately or enter monastic life. We have a number of digital and print projects planned for 2023 and beyond.

In summary, the Vocation Team is preparing to enter a multi-year process of organizing, inviting, and communicating a “pro-vocations” message throughout the eparchy. The overall vision is to build upon the core message that *Christ calls all to serve*—in all sorts of capacities—to make us a true *ecclesia*, a living Church. Every vocation is vital, including marriage and family, nuns, monks, and the clergy who lead our liturgical worship. ✨

INSIDE

Three Key Areas of the New Vocation Plan

1. Organization
2. Invitation
3. Communication



Organization



BEGAN NOVEMBER 2022

Vocation Team Roles

Fr. John Mefrige in San Antonio, Texas, is the director of our new Vocation Team. He is joined by representatives from various regions:

- Fr. Dimitri Saliba - Western Region
- Fr. Elias Dorham - MidAtlantic Region
- Fr. Philip Raczka - New England
- Fr. Bryan McNeil - Deacon Formation

In addition to representing a region of the eparchy, each member will also take on specific roles, including:

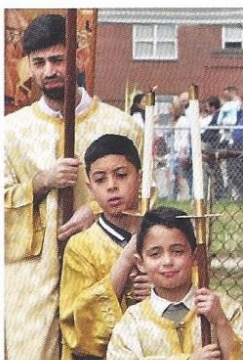
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

Clergy & Candidate Databases

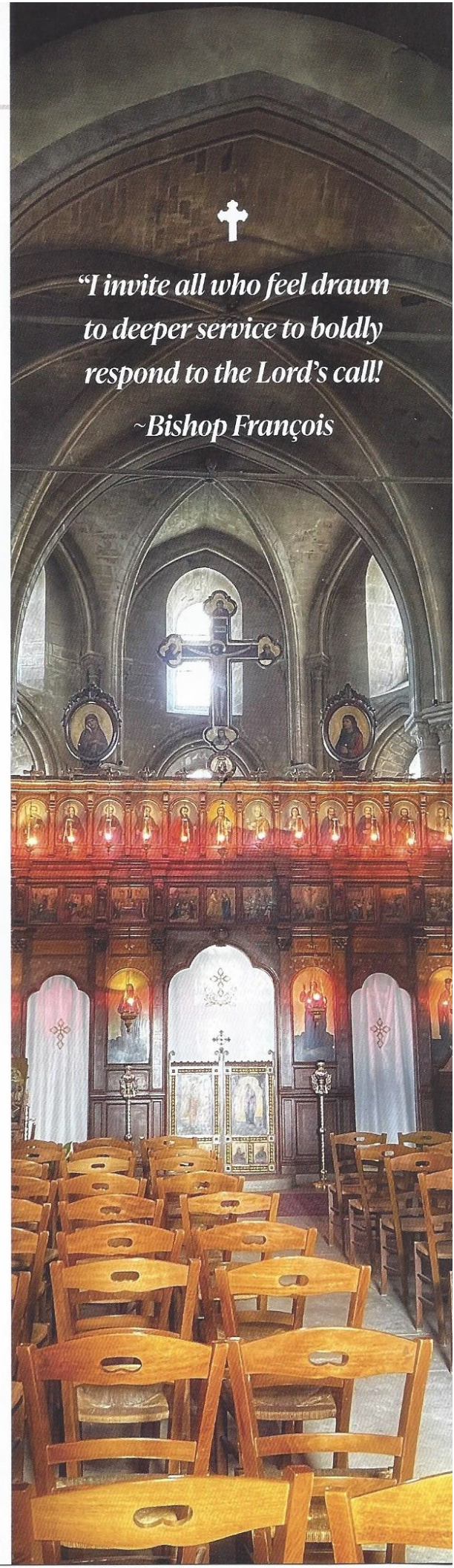
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement dates and estimate how many new men we need in formation to serve our growing communities. Similarly, our Vocation Team is streamlining the way we keep track of prospects with a new database of candidates.



2023-2024

Standardizing the Application & Formation Process

We have had a wealth of excellent candidates, but their paths to ordination have been widely varied. Our plan is to standardize the entire process, for both priests and deacons, beginning with a new, more rigorous application process, and continuing with well-defined tracks for both married and celibate seminarians.



*“I invite all who feel drawn
to deeper service to boldly
respond to the Lord’s call!”*

~Bishop François

Invitation

Becoming Fishers of Men

A call to deeper service is always a call from Christ himself. Experience shows, however, that the call is most often mediated by parish priests. Over the next three years, the role of priests as “inviters” will be a recurring theme in our regular Clergy meetings and annual Clergy Conference. We will also be sending resources to equip priests to be mentors to men in their parishes. The goal is to encourage priests to be true “fishers of men.”



FALL 2023

Called by Name ✠

Will You Help Identify Future Clergy?

Perhaps the most exciting part of our Vocation Plan is a campaign to identify candidates for readers, subdeacons, deacons, and priests. “Called by Name” will be an eparchy-wide process in which clergy and laity can submit the names of men in our parishes who may

be called to these ministries. Importantly, candidates should be longstanding, faithful members who have demonstrated stability of life and a heart for service. As Jesus told us: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15).

WINTER 2023-2024

Online Discernment Meetings

Men who are submitted in the Called by Name campaign will be invited to begin the discernment process through a series of online meetings with Bishop François and the Vocation Team. The purpose is to open dialogue and offer guidance for listening to God’s call.

SPRING 2024

Discernment Retreat

Those who have faithfully participated in the online meetings will be invited to an in-person Discernment Retreat. This is an opportunity for talks, personal prayer, and Liturgical Prayer. The goal is that after the retreat, we will have a good sense of the next cohort of men who will advance into formation, either toward diaconate or priesthood.



Communication



SPRING AND FALL, 2023-2024

Vocations Bulletin

In the coming months, keep your eyes open for our Vocations Bulletin! It will be similar in format to this Vocation Plan and will include articles and photos highlighting our new seminarians, readers, subdeacons, deacons, priests, monks, and nuns. We will also focus on their families who nourish them and also highlight couples who are in ministry together. The overall goal is to show that living out one's baptism is the path to holiness—and that responding to God's call begins with faithful service and an open heart.

APRIL AND NOVEMBER, 2023-2024

Bi-annual Vocation Days

Twice a year, in Spring and Fall, the Vocations Team will prepare resources for parishes to place special emphasis on vocations, by preaching as well as in children's catechesis and youth ministry. This will align with the readings and Feast days in our Melkite Catholic liturgical calendar.

New Online Presence for Vocations

We will include robust vocation pages on the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's website, Melkite.org. This will refresh our online presence, and provide a platform for our Called by Name program and other Vocation resources.

Other Communication Efforts

In Year Two of our Vocation Plan, we would like to re-energize our social media presence, specifically with a series of videos on priests, deacons, and seminarians. We will also work on an e-newsletter with tips and encouragement for young people to live out their baptism and discern their vocations.



All Have a Role to Play

The Vocation Plan is not just the work of the Vocation Team. It requires the enthusiastic support of clergy, educators, and those who work with youth. Above all, it requires families who make their home a true domestic church. All are encouraged to find some role to play. Keep in mind that our Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Vocation Plan is open to your feedback and creativity. Feel free to be creative in your parish and to share with us your ideas and most importantly begin to develop a culture of ministry that encourages Vocations in your family and parish. It is never too early to reply personally or to keep your eyes open to send us names of those you feel should be encouraged to serve in this way. 🌟

MELKITE CATHOLIC  EPARCHY OF NEWTON

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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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