



May 21, 2023

## ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



### Address

15 Skyview Drive  
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

### Parish Website

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

### Facebook

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

### YouTube

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

### Email

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

### Office hours

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

### Divine 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 the Fathers of Nicea I

## أحد القديسين آباء المجمع المسكوني الأول

### Antiphon Prayer

O Lord, Who are Good beyond description, we ask You through the intercession of Your All-pure Mother and the Holy Fathers who participated in the Ecumenical Councils, to support the Church, uphold the faith and make us all partake of Your heavenly Kingdom, when You come to judge the whole creation. For You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, O Christ God and we render glory, to You and to Your Eternal Father and Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

### Troparion of the Resurrection (6th Tone)

The angelic powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead; and Mary stood at the tomb, seeking Your spotless body. Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it and You met the Virgin, O Bestower of life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You!

### Troparion of the Ascension (4th Tone)

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through Your blessing they were confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world

### Troparion of Sts. Constantine and Helen (Tone 8)

O Lord, Your disciple, Emperor Constantine, who saw in the sky the sign of Your Cross, accepted the call that came straight from You, as it happened to Paul, and not from any man. He built his capital and entrusted it to Your care. Preserve our country in everlasting peace, through the intercession of the Mother of God, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind

### Troparion of the Fathers, (8th Tone)

O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth: You led us to the true faith though them. O Most Merciful One, glory to You!

### صلاة الأنديفونة

أيها الربُّ الفائقُ الصَّلاح، نسألك، بشفاعته  
والدتك الكاملة الطهارة والآباء القديسين الذين  
التأموا في المجامع المسكونية، أن تُثبِّت  
الكنيسة وتؤيِّد الإيمان، وتجعلنا جميعاً شركاء في  
ملكِكَ السَّماويِّ، عندما تأتي ليدِين الخليفة  
بأسرها. لأنك أنت هو الحقُّ والحياة وإليك نرفعُ  
المجد، وإلى أبوك الأزلِّيِّ وروحك القدوس  
الصالح والمحيي، الآن وكلَّ اوان وإلى دهر  
الداهرين.

### نشيد القيامة باللحن السادس

إن القوات الملائكة ظهرت على قبرك، والحراس  
صاروا كالأموات، ومريم وقفت عند القبر، طالبة  
جسدك الطاهر. فسلبت الجحيم ولم تنلك  
بأذى، ولاقيت البتول واهباً الحياة. فيا من قام  
من بين الاموات، يا رب المجد لك.

### نشيد الصعود باللحن الرابع

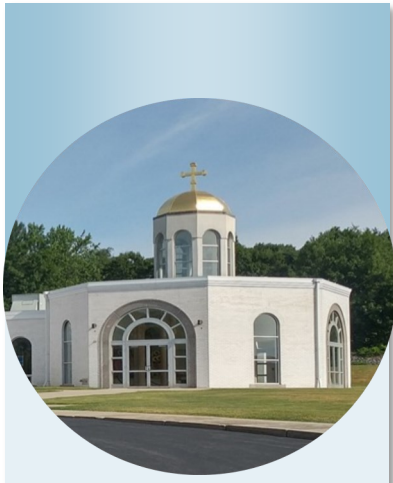
لقد سعدت بمجدٍ أيَّها المسيحُ إلهنا، مُفْرِحاً  
تلاميذك بموعدِ الرُّوحِ القُدس. وقد تيقنوا  
بالبركة، أنك أنت ابنُ الله المنقذ العالم.

### النشيد لتذكار القديسين المجيدين قسطنطين وهيلانه

يا رب، إن رسولك بين الملوك، الذي شاهد رسم  
صليبك في السماء، وقبل الدعوة مثل بولس  
من غير البشر، قد اودع في يديك المدينة  
المالكة. فاحفظها دوماً في سلامٍ بشفاعته والدة  
الاله، أيها المحب البشر وحدك.

### نشيد للآباء باللحن الثامن

أنت أيها المسيحُ إلهنا فائقُ المجد. لأنك أقمت  
آباءنا كواكب على الارض، وبهم هديتنا جميعاً  
إلى الإيمان الحقيقي. فيا جزيل التحنُّن المجد لك

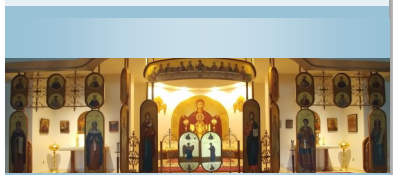


### Our church organizations:

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

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

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



### Troparion of St Basil The Great

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

### Kondakion of the Ascension, (Tone 6)

After fulfilling for us Your plan of redemption and joining the things of earth with those of heaven, O Christ our God, You gloriously ascended without abandoning us, but remained with us forever and reassured all who love You by telling them: "Behold, I am with you: no one has power against you."

### Epistle Acts of the Apostles 26:1 :12-20 –

The Great and Holy Sovereigns, the Equals of the Apostles Constantine and Helena.

### Prokimenon

Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world their message.

Stichon: The heavens declare God's glory and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

### Reading from the Acts of the Apostles;

In those days, when Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself," Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense. "While I was traveling on this business to Damascus with authority and permission from the chief priests, and midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven brighter than the sunshine around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goad.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet: for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to be a minister and a witness to what you have seen, and of the visions you shall have of me; delivering you from the people and from the nations, to whom I am now sending you, to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light, and from dominion of Satan to God; that thou may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in me.' Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision; but first to the people of Damascus and Jerusalem, and then all over Judea and to the Gentiles, I set about declaring that they should repent and turn to God, doing work befitting their repentance."

Alleluia

I have exalted one chosen out of my people. I have found David my servant, and anointed him with holy chrism.

Stichon: For my hand shall support him, and my arm shall make him strong.

### Gospel: John 17:1-13,

### SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER KNOWN AS THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE COUNCIL OF NICEA

At that time Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come! Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You, even as You have given Him power over all flesh, in order that to all You have given Him, He may give everlasting life. Now this is everlasting life, that they may know You, the only true God, and the

### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقتك في كل الأرض. فإنها قد قبلتْ كلامك، الذي به بيّنت العقائدَ بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأبُّ الباهرُ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

### قنداق الصعود باللحن السادس

لما أكملت التدبير الذي من أجلنا، ووحدتْ ما على الأرض بالسموات، صعدتْ بمجدٍ أيتها المسيحُ إلهنا، دون أن تترج مكاناً، بل لايتأ غير منفصلٍ وهاتفاً بمحبّيك: أنا معكم، وليس أحد عليكم.

تذكار القديسين العظيمين في الملوك قسطنطين وهيلانة المعادلي الرسل

### مقدمة الرسالة

في كل الأرض ذاع منطقتهم والى اقاصي المسكونة كلامهم السماوات تُذيع مجد الله، والفلك يُخبر بأعمال يديه

### فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين

في تلك الأيام. قال الملكُ أغريبا لبولس: ماذا لك أن تُدافع عن نفسك. حينئذٍ بسط بولس يده وطفق يحتج: بينما أنا منطلقٌ إلى دمشق، وأنا على ذلك بسططانٍ وتوكيلٍ من رؤساء الكهنة. رأيتُ في نصف النهار على الطريق، أيتها الملك، نوراً من السماء يفوق لمعان الشمس، قد أشرق حولي وحول السائرين معي. فسقطنا جميعاً على الأرض. وسمعتُ صوتاً يكلمني ويقول باللغة العبرانية: شاول، شاول، لم تضطهدي؟ إنه لصعبٌ عليك أن ترفس المناخس! فقلتُ: من أنت يا رب؟ فقال: أنا يسوعُ الذي أنت تضطهده. ولكن كم وقف على قدميك. فإني لهذا تراءيتُ لك لأنتخبك خادماً وشاهداً بما رأيتُ وبما سأترأى لك فيه. وأنا أنجيك من الشعب ومن الأمم الذين أنا مرسلك الآن إليهم. لتفتح عُيونهم فيرجعوا من الظلمة إلى النور، من سلطان الشيطان إلى الله، حتى ينالوا مغفرة الخطايا وحنفاً بين المقدسين، بالإيمان الذي بي. فمن ثم، أيتها الملكُ أغريبا، لم أصرُ معاصياً للزُّبيا المساوية، بل جعلتُ أكرزُ للذين في دمشق وأورشليم أولاً، حتى بقعة اليهودية كلها، ثم للأمم، بأن يتوبوا ويرجعوا إلى الله عاملين أعمالاً تليق بالتوبة.

هللوا

رفعتُ مختاراً من شعبي. ووجدتُ داودَ عبدي.

بزيتٍ مقدسٍ مسحته

لأن يدي تعضده، وساعدي يقوي

### انجيل أحد الآباء القديسين – يوحنا 17: 1-13

في ذلك الزمان، رفع يسوعُ عينيه إلى السماء وقال: أيتها الأب، قد أتت الساعة. مجد أبنتك ليُمددك أبنتك أيضاً. كما أعطيتُ السُلطانَ على كل بشرٍ، ليعطيهم كل ما أعطيتُ له: الحياة الأبدية. وهذه هي الحياة الأبدية، أن تعرفوك أنت الإله الحقيقي وحده، والذي أرسلتُ يسوع المسيح. أنا قد مجدتك على الأرض،



**Our church organizations:**

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One You have sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified You on earth; I have accomplished the work You have given Me to do. And now do You, Father, glorify Me with Yourself, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed. I have manifested Your name to the men You have given me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have learned that whatever You have given Me is from You; because the words that You have given Me, I have given to them. And they have received them, and have known as a fact that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You did send Me. I pray for them; not for the world do I pray, but for those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep in Your name those You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those You have given Me, I guarded; and not one of them perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You and these things I speak in the world, in order that they may have My joy made full in themselves."

وَأَتَمَّمْتُ الْعَمَلَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَنِي لِأَعْمَلِهِ. وَالآنَ مَجِدُنِي أَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الْآبُ عِنْدَكَ، بِالْمَجْدِ الَّذِي كَانَ لِي عِنْدَكَ مِنْ قَبْلُ كَوْنِ الْعَالَمِ. قَدْ أَعْلَنْتُ اسْمَكَ لِلنَّاسِ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي مِنَ الْعَالَمِ، هُمْ كَانُوا لَكَ، وَأَنْتَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي، وَقَدْ حَفَظُوا كَلَامَكَ. وَالآنَ عَلِمُوا أَنَّ كُلَّ مَا أَعْطَيْتَهُ لِي هُوَ مِنْكَ. لِأَنَّ الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي أَعْطَيْتَهُ لِي قَدْ أَعْطَيْتُهُ لَهُمْ، وَهُمْ قَبِلُوا وَعَلِمُوا حَقًّا أَنِّي مِنْكَ خَرَجْتُ، وَأَمَنُوا أَنَّكَ أَنْتَ أَرْسَلْتَنِي. أَنَا أَسْأَلُ مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ، لَا أَسْأَلُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْعَالَمِ، بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي لِأَنَّهُمْ لَكَ. وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ، وَمَا لَكَ هُوَ لِي، وَأَنَا قَدْ تَمَجَّدْتُ فِيهِمْ. وَلَسْتُ أَنَا بَعْدُ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَهؤلاءِ هُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، وَأَنَا آتِي إِلَيْكَ. أَيُّهَا الْآبُ الْقُدُّوسُ، احْفَظْ بِاسْمِكَ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي. لِيَكُونُوا وَاحِدًا كَمَا نَحْنُ. حِينَ كُنْتُ مَعَهُمْ فِي الْعَالَمِ، كُنْتُ أَحْفَظُهُمْ بِاسْمِكَ. إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أَعْطَيْتَهُمْ لِي قَدْ حَفَظْتُهُمْ، وَلَمْ يَهْلِكْ مِنْهُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا ابْنُ الْهَلَاكِ، لِئَتِمَّ الْكِتَابُ. وَالآنَ فَإِنِّي آتِي إِلَيْكَ، وَأَنَا أَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ فَرْحِي كَامِلًا فِيهِمْ.





# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**TODAY, SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICAEA 325 A.D. THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION. THE EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES CONSTANTINE & HELEN.**

**9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:**

- + **MARY SACKAL (40 Day)** by her children & their Families.
- + **JAN CHARCHAFLIAH** by Janet, Andree & Tony Charchafliah.
- + **MARJORIE & WALTER MONSOUR** by Barbara & Joseph Monsour.
- + **HELEN & IDA DIOHEP** by Barbara & Joseph Monsour.
- + **ALICE & ALAN DALY** by Barbara & Joseph Monsour.
- + **ANNETTE NAJJAR** by Alberta Mardo & Family.
- + **M/M LOUIS & MATHILDE SARKAS & son ELIAS** by the Family of the late Louis E. Azar.

**11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:**

- + **ELIAS J. KISHFY (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.)** by M/M Norman E. Kishfy.
- + **ROSE & HOUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **AMANDA ROWEY (6<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)** by her parents, Anthony & Fadia Rowey, and Family.
- + **VIOLETTE (HAGGAR) SAGGAL (Australia)** by Joseph Saggal, Patrick Saggal & Pamela Pacheco.
- + **GLORIA (RAWAN) RAZOOK** by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.

## 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:** May 14, 2023: Budgets: \$1,893.00: Envelopes: \$1,840.00, Loose: \$53.00; Candles: \$73.00; Building Fund: \$250.00; Addit'l Cemetery: \$65.00; Stole Offerings: \$200.00.

**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](mailto:office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com) and leave him your message. **PLEASE! NO GRATUITIES!** A cup of coffee or tea is just fine. He looks forward to in-person contact.

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

***Do you feel the nudging of your reminder angel, assigned to help you understand your new responsibility?***

To be a real member of the parish goes beyond having one's name on the mailing list. It consists of real love, involvement and commitment in living the Faith within your parish. The giving of oneself is a sacrifice to which we are all called. The areas of regular and consistent TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE are all evidence of one's real and active membership in the Church. Won't you be an angel too by moving up to the next level of support, making up your donations and support missed while you were away? I will continue to watch over you, your loved ones and our beloved Melkite Church of St. Basil. By the actions of you and your entire family, each of you demonstrates how much you care for your parish. Please love it and bless it as your Lord loves and blesses it!

**GRAPE LEAVES:** The Food Fair Committee is appealing to all parishioners and friends to donate sufficient grape leaves to accommodate the needs of this popular cuisine. Anyone willing to donate some leaves can bring them to the kitchen and they will be stored in the freezer. If Christine Durnin or Jane Hanna are not there, arrangements will be made to freeze them.

**MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023,** will be observed in honor of our comrades who died in defense of their country. Memorial services will be held at St. Basil's Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. Let us, on this day, give our thoughts rest from daily cares and strifes of a confused world, and turn them to wholesome thoughts of prayer for these dear ones who have fallen asleep with godliness and great grace, and at the same time, to join in prayer and remember all our loved ones who have preceded us to eternity. **MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**SCHEDULE CHANGE:** We will begin our Summer Liturgy Schedule on the weekend of Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Beginning on these dates, there will be one Saturday evening Liturgy at 5:00 p.m.. and only **one** Sunday morning Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Please pass on this notice to all family members, relatives, and friends who regularly attend services at St. Basil's.

**GENERAL FESTIVAL MEETING:** This Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Cultural Center. This year's event will be held the weekend of Saturday & Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to your presence at this meeting for your assistance and planning this once-a-year major fund raiser. Come one! Come all!

**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



## *Jesus Ascends into Heaven!*

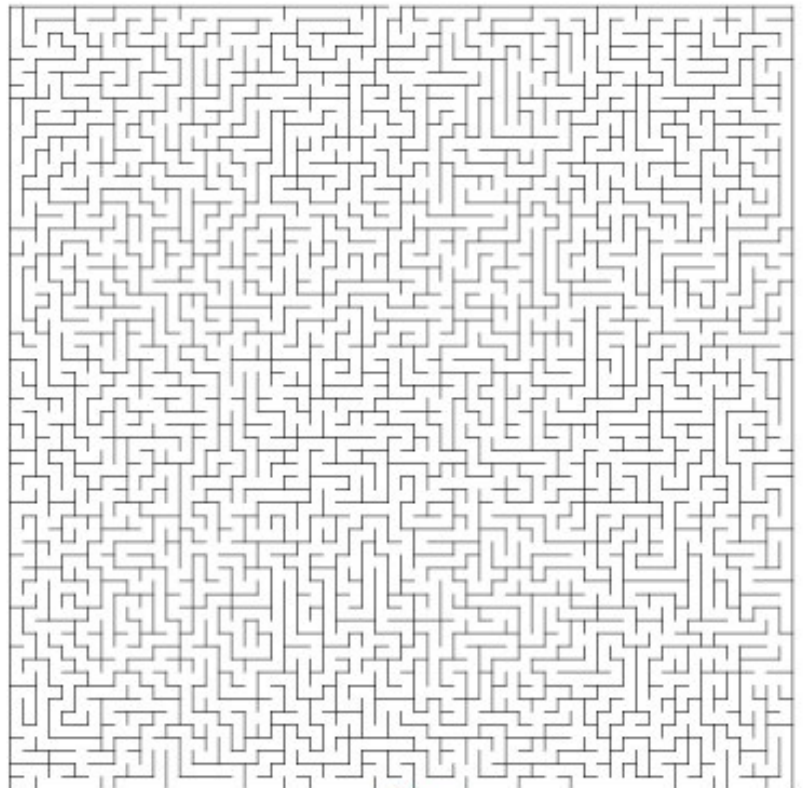


Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension- when Jesus went up, body and soul, into Heaven. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He took his disciples up to a big hill and told them that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to them soon. Then He went up into the sky and disappeared behind the clouds.

At first it seems kind of sad that Jesus left His friends, doesn't it? But how could they be sad when Jesus was returning with joy to His Father in Heaven?

Sometimes we are sad when somebody we love dies or moves away, and that's okay. We can't stay with our friends forever in this world, but we will in Heaven. Jesus is there waiting for us to come and live forever with Him and all our friends.

So today we should celebrate Jesus' going into Heaven, and remember that He has gone ahead of us to make a place ready for us when we die.



After his resurrection Jesus ascended to heaven.



Can you help him on his way?

# Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Each Sunday we profess through the Creed, "He ascended into Heaven." Christ's Ascension was the culmination of God's Divine plan for Christ Jesus – his return to his Father with his "Mission Accomplished." Ascension is the grand finale of all Jesus' words and works done for us and for our salvation. It is a culmination, but not the conclusion. As Jesus is now with God in glory, so



Jesus is with us now in Spirit: "Lo, I am with you always." The feast of the Ascension celebrates one aspect of the Resurrection, namely Jesus' exaltation. Jesus did not wait 40 days to be glorified at God's right hand. That had already happened at his Resurrection. The focus of this feast is the Heavenly reign of Christ. The Lord is now "seated at the right hand of the Father" as we profess in the Nicene Creed, meaning He alone is in control of the continuing plan of salvation through the Holy Spirit, unrestricted by time, space or culture. Thus, in the Paschal Mystery, Jesus' passion, death, Resurrection, Ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit form one unbroken reality which is to be understood by Faith. The Ascension means that Jesus, His salvific suffering for our Salvation completed, is with his Father in glory. Being seated at the right hand of the Father is the fulfillment of "the prophet Daniel's vision concerning the Son of Man: 'To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed'"

Life messages:

1) We need to be proclaimers and evangelizers: In today's Gospel, Jesus gives this mission to all the believers: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives." As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in Heaven – His Ascension -- we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, "living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received."

2) We need to live a life of Christian joy in the presence of the ascended Lord. According to Luke, the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy." Apparently Jesus' exaltation and final blessing gave them, as it gives us, the assurance that, though

absent, Jesus is still present, present even in the pain and sorrow we undergo. That is why St. Augustine assures us, "Christ is now exalted above the Heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his Body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' and when he said: 'I was hungry and you gave me food.' While in Heaven he is also with us; and while on earth we are with him. He is

here with us by his Divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in Heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love."

3) We have a teaching mission: Jesus taught us lessons of Faith, Hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and Love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, Jesus is present in his words., and we must make these words real in our lives as well as in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a Faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower the Church with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

4) The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement: Perhaps some of the nagging doubts which inevitably accompany the journey of Faith could be lessened by our meditating on the Ascension and its implications. When we are too far from Faith to pray on our own, let us remember that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous, praying for us. When the trials of life feel too heavy to bear, we must remember that Christ will come again in glory, the same glory in which Jesus arose from the tomb, the same glory to which Jesus ascended, and the same glory in which Jesus currently abides. Though our limited perception might find him absent, Jesus is fully present, participating in every moment of our lives. By His Ascension, Christ has not deserted us but has made it possible for the Holy Spirit to enter all times and places. In this way it is possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Spirit into agents or instruments of Christ. We become enlivened, and our actions become animated in a new way by the Spirit of the God we love and serve. We have become other Christs in the world

# ما معنى عيد الصعود وكيف نعيشه؟



في خميس الصُّعود نُعيدُ لصعود ربنا وإلهنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح إلى السماء، وذلك بعد أربعين يوماً من قيامته وظهوره للتلاميذ. "يسوع هذا الذي رُفِعَ عنكم إلى السماء سيأتي كما رأيتموه ذاهباً إلى السماء" (أعمال 1: 11). صعد يسوع إلى السماء وعاد إلى ملكوته (يوحنا 18: 36) بعد أن أتمَّ عمل الفداء وأكمل خطة الخلاص. فالصُّعود خاتمة عيد قيامة المسيح وحياته على الأرض. وهذا ما نعبّر عنه في قانون الإيمان: لقد صُلب عَنَّا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي، تألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث، كما في الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب، وأيضاً سيأتي بمجد عظيم. ومن هنا نسال ما هي إبعاد عيد الصُّعود وكيف نعيشه؟ يمكننا أن نميّز ثلاثة أبعاد للصُّعود على صعود المسيح والكنيسة وصعيدنا.

قلوبكم بالإيمان" بفعل الروح القدس (أفسس 3: 17).

**(1) صعود يسوع ليشفع فينا في حضرة الله (عبرانيين 9: 24)** تصور الرسالة إلى العبرانيين صعود المسيح في ضوء نظرتها لعالم سماوي تقوم فيه حقائق الخلاص، ونحوه تتجه مسيرة البشر. إن الكاهن الأعظم، لكي يجلس هناك عن يمين الله (عبرانيين 1: 3) فوق الملائكة (عبرانيين 1: 4-9) صعد أول الجميع، مجتازاً السموات (عبرانيين 4: 14) يشفع فينا في حضرة الله (عبرانيين 9: 24) على أنه الوسيط الذي يضمن لنا فيض الروح القدس (ت ك

667)، ويُعلّق القديس أوغسطينوس "صعد يسوع إلى السماء، لذلك علينا ألا نقلق على الأرض. لتكن أفكارنا هناك وسوف يكون هناك سلام. إن أردنا أن نصعد ونكون بصحبته فيجب علينا أن نكف عن الخطية وعن الشر".

## 2) الصُّعود لإعداد مكان لنا في السماء

بعوّد الرب بالمجد إلى أبيه ليُعدّ لنا مكاناً (يوحنا 14: 1-3). فقد دخل يسوع أولاً تلك الحياة، ليُعدّ لمختاربه مكاناً، ثم يأتي ويأخذهم إلى هناك ليكونوا على الدوام معه (يوحنا 14: 22). فيصعد المسيح، رأس الكنيسة، سبقنا إلى ملكوت الأب المجيد حتى نحيا نحن، أعضاء جسده، في رجاء أن نكون يوماً معه إلى الأبد (ت ك 666). إذا فحن لدينا ضمانه في السماء حيث سنصعد مع الرب يسوع المسيح. وقد وعد يسوع جميع المؤمنين العاملين بوصاياه خاصة وصية المحبة بالوطن السماوي "تعالوا، يا من باركهم أبي، فرتوا الملكوت المُعدّ لكم منذ إنشاء العالم" (متى 25: 34). وهذا الأمر يدعونا أن نترنم مع صلاة قداص الصُّعود: "ليغمّ السرور قلوبنا، لأن صعود ابنك إلى السماء، هو عنوان رفعتنا، إذ مسكنه الآن سيكون مسكننا الحقيقي الأخير" ويُعلّق القديس أوغسطينوس: "إلهي، إنك صنعتنا لأجلك. لذلك يبقى قلبنا مضطرباً قليلاً قديماً الراحة على الدوام حتى يستريح بك".

## رابعاً: كيف نعيش روحانية عيد الصُّعود؟

من إبعاد عيد الصُّعود تنبع روحانية الصُّعود متكاملة، مؤسسة على الرجاء، لأنها تجعل المسيحي بجيا منذ الآن في حقيقة العالم الجديد الذي يملك المسيح فيه. إن على المسيحيين وهم في انتظار تلك الساعة، أن يظلوا متحدين بفضل الإيمان وأسرار الكنيسة، بسيدهم المُجدد. فليعلم أن يسوعوا "إلى الأمور التي في العُلَى حيثُ المسيح قد جلسَ عن يمين الله"، لأن "حياتهم مُحتجبة مع المسيح" (قولسلي 3: 1-3)، ومدينتهم كائنة في السموات (فيلبي 3: 20). والبيت السماوي ينتظرهم (2 قورنثس 5: 31) هو المسيح المُجدد نفسه (فيلبي 3: 21)، "الإنسان السماوي" (1 قورنثس 15: 49-45). على أن المسيحي ليس لذلك أن يكون منسلخاً عن العالم، بل له رسالة على أن يجيا فيه بطريقة جديدة، تحرك العالم نحو المجد الذي يدعو الله إليه. وهذا الأمر يذكرنا بقصيدة "إرادة الحياة" للشاعر أبو القاسم الشابي "من يتهبّب صعود الجبال يعيش أبداً الدهر بين الحُفُز". في هذا العصر تزايد اضطهاد المسيحيين أكثر من أي عصر مضى. لكن العداة والخطيئة والخوف والرعب والأوبئة والمعاناة على الأرض ليس لها الكلمة الأخيرة. سيعود يسوع بالمجد والبهاء ويضفي سيطرة على ممالك هذا العالم.

الصُّعود عيد يسوع نتعرف به مسيحاً، نتعرف به رباً ارتفع ليجذب الجميع ويصل كلمته إلى العالم كله. ومن هنا علينا أن نتابع كرازه الانجيل كما اوصانا الرب "إني أوليت كل سلطان في السماء والأرض، فاذهبوا وتلمذوا جميع الأمم، وعبدوهم باسم الأب والابن والروح القدس، وعلموهم أن يحفظوا كل ما أوصيتكم به، وهاتنذا معكم طوال الأيام إلى نهاية العالم" (متى 28: 18-20). للتلاميذ لم يعيشوا كل الأيام في حين الكنيسة تنوم إلى الأبد (أعمال 1: 9-4).

وعلينا أن نعلن انتظاراتنا لمجيئه الثاني. إنه سيأتي كما صعد، لذلك انتظر مجيء المسيح عقيدة "ونتتظر قيامة الأموات وحياء الدهر الآتي أمين" ومع الليتورجيا السريانية نردد "يوم ولادته، فرحت مريم؛ يوم مماته، تزلزلت الأرض. يوم قيامته، تزعزت ظلمات الجحيم؛ يوم صعوده، اغتبطت السموات. فليبارك صعوده"، والقديس أبقيناوس يقول: أن هذا اليوم هو مجد بقية الأعياد وشرفها لأنه يتضح أن الرب أكمل في هذا العيد عمل الراعي العظيم (لوقا 15: 7-4).

**(1) الصُّعود تمجيد المسيح السماوي** إن المسيح قبل أن يعيش على الأرض يمكن القول إنه كان لدى الله كائن، و"كلمة"، وحكمة. فصعد إلى السماء إلى يمين الأب إنما هو عودة إلى العالم السماوي الذي منه سبق ونزل من السماء، مسكن الألهية (رؤيا 1: 5) رحمة بنا ليفتقد الناس (مزمو 5: 144). بالصُّعود والنزول ارتبطت السماء بالأرض (يوحنا 1: 51). واما جلوس يسوع عن يمين الله فيعني أنه قد أكمل عمله وأن له سلطاناً وقد توج ملكاً. والتالي ما صعوده الا تعبير عن مجد المسيح السماوي (أعمال 2: 34).

ومن ناحية أخرى يشير صعود المسيح إلى الدخول النهائي لناصوت يسوع إلى مقر الله السماوي من حيث صعوده، ويخفيه هذا المقر في هذا الوقت عن عيون البشر. (ت ك 665). وفي الليتورجيا السريانية نجد هذه الصلاة التي تعبر عن تمجيد المسيح بصعود إلى السماء: "نزل ربنا بحثاً عن آدم وبعد أن وجد من كان ضائعاً، حمله على كتفيه وبالمجد أدخله السموات معه (لوقا 15: 4). أتى وأظهر لنا أنه الله؛ وليس جسداً وكشف لنا أنه إنسان. نزل إلى الجحيم وبيّن لنا أنه مات؛ صعد وتمجد وأظهر لنا أنه كبير. فليبارك مجده!".

**(2) الصُّعود دلالة على تسامي المسيح** يدل صعود يسوع إلى السماء على تساميه على الكون والقرات السماوية كما جاء في تعليم بولس الرسول "ثم يكون المُنتهي حين يسلم الملك إلى الله الأب بعد أن يكون قد أباد كل رئاسة وسلطان وقوة" (1 قورنثس 15: 24). وكما قال النبي: "إيها الرّب سبّنا ما أعظم اسمك في الأرض كلها! لأعظم جلالك فوق السموات" (مزمو 8: 2).

ويسوع منذ الآن يجلس على العرش في السموات ليتقلد السيادة على الكون (أفسس 1: 20-21). ويكشف لنا انجيل متى سلطان يسوع الذي يتمتع به في السماء وعلى الأرض (متى 28: 18)، وأكد لنا بولس الرسول هذا النصر الذي اكتسبه بالصلب (كولسلي 2: 15) وبطاعته (فيلبي 2: 6-11). ويقول القديس كبريانوس: "لا من لسان بشر ولا ملائكي يستطيع أن يصف كما يجب عظيم الاحتفال والاکرام الذي صار لئله المتجسد بصعوده في هذا اليوم".

**(3) الصُّعود تمهيد لعودة المسيح في مجيئه الثاني** إن "يسوع هذا الذي رُفِعَ عنكم إلى السماء سيأتي كما رأيتموه ذاهباً إلى السماء" (أعمال 1: 11). هذه العبارة تقيم ارتباطاً عميقاً بين ارتفاع المسيح إلى السماء وبين عودته ثانية في آخر الأزمنة، عند التجديد الكلي الشامل (أعمال 3: 21) حينذاك سيأتي كما انطلق (أعمال 1: 11)، نازلاً من السماء (1 تسالونيقي 4: 16) على الغمام (رؤيا 14: 14-16)، بينما يصعد مختاروه لملاقاته، هم أيضاً على غمام (1 تسالونيقي 4: 17). فالتاريخ يتحرك نحو نقطة محددة هي مجيء يسوع المسيح ثانية ليدين العالم، ويملك على كل المسكونة. وينبغي علينا، أن نكون مستعدين لمجيئه المفاجئ (1 تسالونيقي 5: 2).

## ثانياً: الصُّعود على صعود الكنيسة:

الصُّعود على مستوى الكنيسة هو تمجيدها بحلول الروح القدس: تمجيد المسيح في صعوده كان لا بد أن يسبق تمجيد الكنيسة بحلول الروح القدس. صعد يسوع إلى السماء ليرسل الروح القدس ليحل محله لدى التلاميذ كما وعد تلاميذه "الروح القدس ينزل عليكم فتتألون قدرة وتكونون لي شهوداً في أورشليم وكل اليهودية والسامرة، حتى أقاصي الأرض" (أعمال 1: 8).

صعد يسوع إلى السماء كي يرسل روحه ليحل محله لدى التلاميذ. وبحلول الروح يتحوّل الرب من كائن معنا إلى كائن فينا؛ إن كائن معنا محدودة، لكن كائن فينا غير محدودة وذلك نتيجة عمل الروح القدس. وهذا مما يؤكد القديس بولس الرسول في صلاته إلى اهل أفسس: "إن يُقيم المسيح في





# LITURGICAL CALENDAR



MAY	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>أيار - مايو 2023</p> <p>APRIL 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>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</p> <p>JUNE 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>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</p>		<b>1</b> Holy Prophet Jeremiah  Acts 10:1-16 John 6:56-69	<b>2</b> Relics of St Athanasios  Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19	<b>3</b> Mid-Paschaltide متنصف الخمسين  Acts 14:6-18 John 7:14-30	<b>4</b> St Pelagia  Acts 10:34-43 John 8:12-20	<b>5</b> St Irene  Acts 10:44-11:10 John 8:21-30	<b>6</b> Holy Prophet Job  Acts 12:1-11 John 8:31-42
	<b>7</b> Holy Cross over Jerusalem Sunday of Samaritan Woman أحد السامرية  Acts 11:19-30 John 4:5-42	<b>8</b> St John the Apostle  1 John 1:1-7 John 19:25-27, 21:24-25	<b>9</b> Holy Prophet Isaiah  Acts 12:25-13:12 John 8:51-59	<b>10</b> St Simon the Apostle Leave-taking Mid-Paschaltide وداع متنصف الخمسين  Acts 13:13-24 John 6:5-14	<b>11</b> Foundation of Constantinople Sts Cyril and Methodios  Acts 14:20-28, 15:1-4 John 9:39-10:9	<b>12</b> St Germanos the Hymnographer  Acts 15:5-12 John 10:17-28	<b>13</b> St Glyceria  Acts 15:35-41 John 10:27-38
	<b>14</b> Sunday of Man born Blind أحد الأعمى  Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38	<b>15</b> St Achilles of Larissa  Acts 17:1-9 John 11:47-54	<b>16</b> St Theodore the Sanctified  Acts 17:19-28 John 12:19-36	<b>17</b> Leave-taking of Easter وداع الفصح  Acts 18:22-28 John 12:36-47	<b>18</b> ✠ Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ صعود ربنا يسوع المسيح  Acts 1:1-12 Luke 24:36-53	<b>19</b> 🐟 St Patrick of Prusa  Acts 19:1-8 John 14:1-11	<b>20</b> St Thalleleos  Acts 20:7-12 John 14:10-21
	<b>21</b> Sts Constantine and Helena Fathers of 1 <sup>st</sup> council of Nicaea أحد الآباء المجتمعين في نيقية  Acts 26:1, 12-20 John 17:1-13	<b>22</b> St Rita القديسة ريتا  Acts 21:8-14 John 14:27-15:7	<b>23</b> St Michael the Confessor  Acts 21:26-32 John 16:2-13	<b>24</b> 🐟 St Simeon the Younger  Acts 23:1-11 John 16:15-23	<b>25</b> Third Finding of the Head of St John the forerunner  Acts 25:13-19 John 16:23-33	<b>26</b> 🐟 Leave-taking of Ascension وداع عيد الصعود  Acts 27:1-44, 28:1 John 17:18-26	<b>27</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Dead السبت الثاني للراقيين  Acts 28:1-31 John 21:14-25
	<b>28</b> ✠ Pentecost أحد العنصرة العظيم المقدس  Acts 2:1-11 John 7:37-52, 8:12	<b>29</b> Monday of the Holy Spirit أثنين العنصرة  Ephesians 5:8-19 Matthew 18:10-20	<b>30</b> St Isaac of Dalmatia  Romans 1:1-7, 13-17 Matthew 4:25-5:12	<b>31</b> St Hermias  Romans 1:18-27 Matthew 5:20-26			

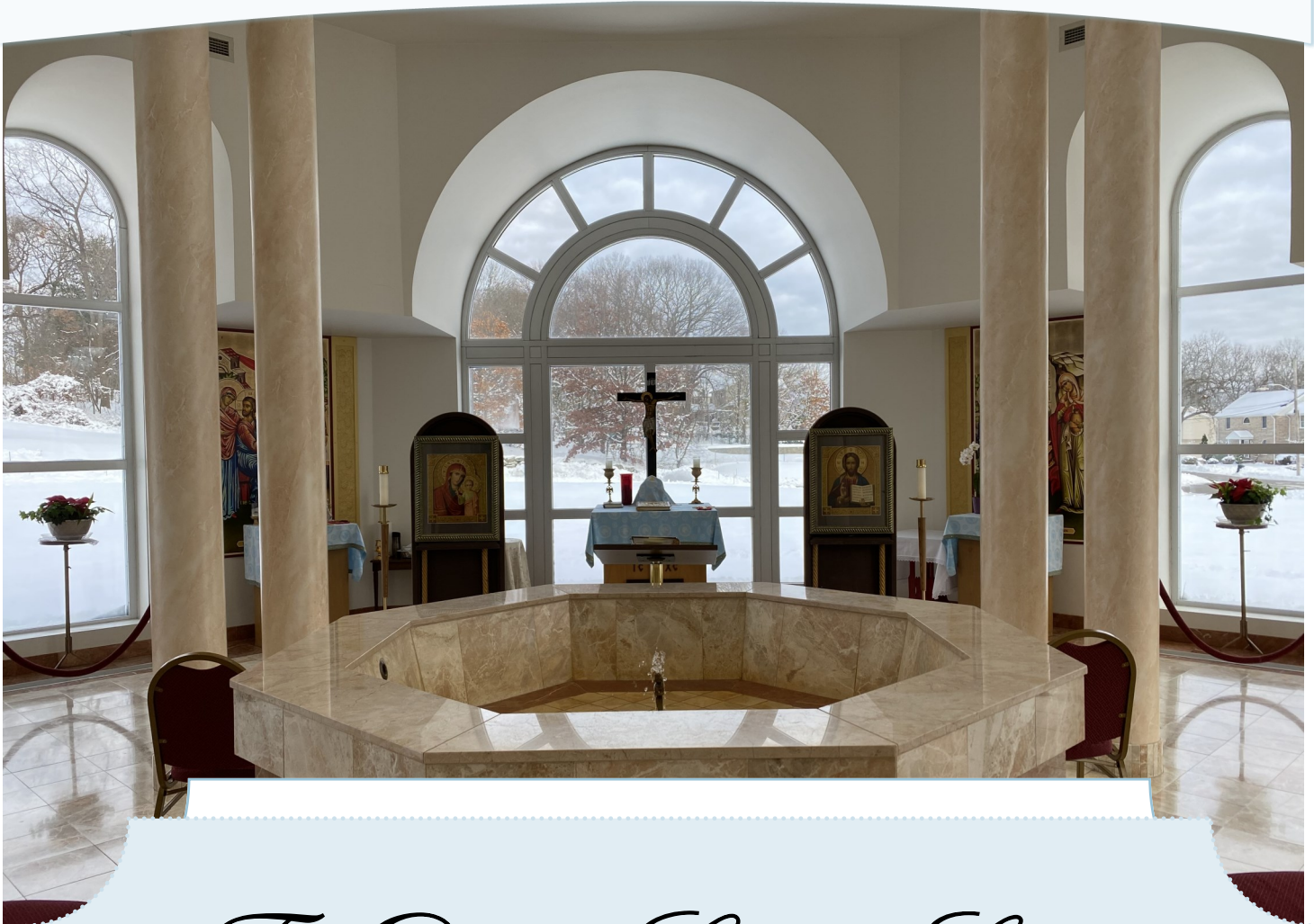
✠ Church Major Feasts

🐟 Abstain from Meat

🕒 Fast from midnight until noon

🌸 Lenten Season

# 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**

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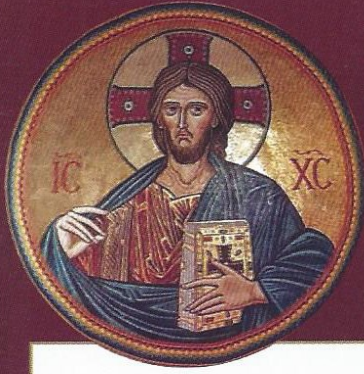
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THE LORD SAID, "TRULY I TELL YOU THIS  
POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL  
OF THEM, FOR THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED  
OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT SHE GAVE  
OF HER POVERTY PUT IN ALL THE LIVING  
THAT SHE HAD." *MARK 12:41-42*

# "GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER" 2 COR 9:7

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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:

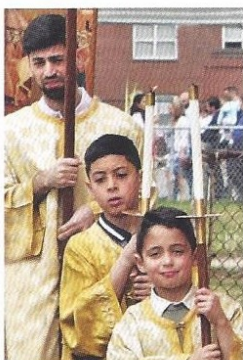
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

## *Clergy & Candidate Databases*

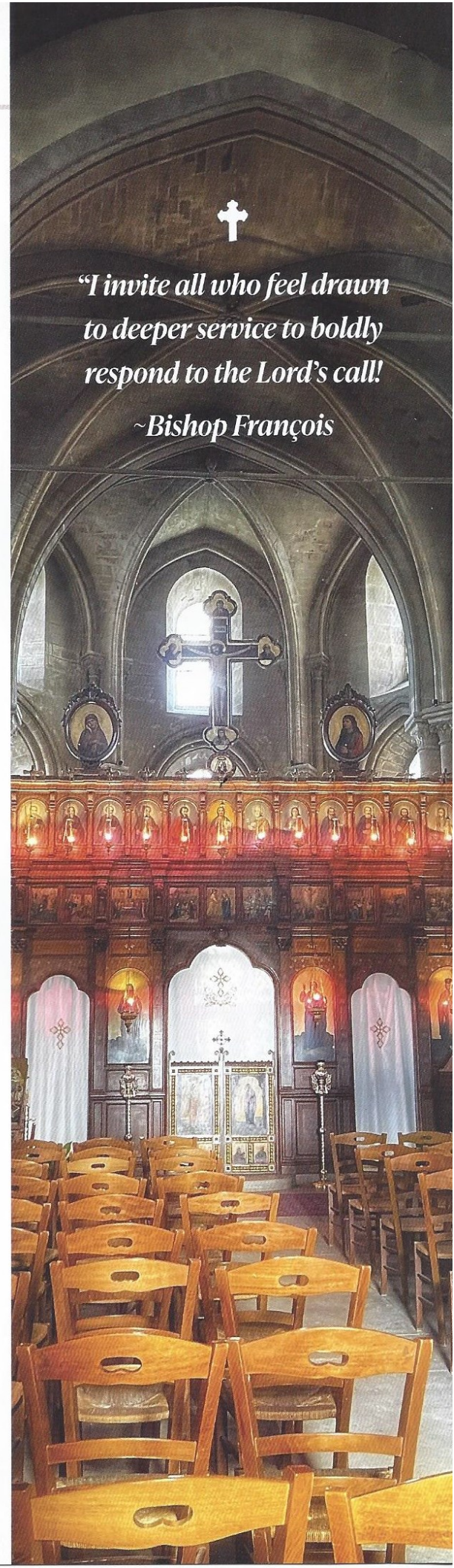
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement 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](http://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. 🌟

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### 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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