



May 16th, 2021

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



Sunday of the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea أحد القديسين آباء المجمع المسكوني الأول

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Office hours :

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

Divine Liturgies :

Tuesday through Friday at 9: 00 A.M.

Saturday at 4:00 P.M.

Sunday at 11:00 A.M.

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

Holy Mysteries:

Reconciliation:

Saturday 2:30 –3:30 P.M.,

Sunday 9:30-10:30 A.M., or by appointment.

Baptisms: Please arrange with the pastor.

Marriages: 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.

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.

Antiphon of the Ascension

Great is the Lord and wholly to be praised in the city of our God, on His holy mountain
O Son of God Who gloriously ascended into heaven, save us who sing to You: Alleluia. Mount Sion, the recesses of the North, is the City of the Great King. God is with her castles: renowned is He as a stronghold.

Troparion of the Resurrection, (Tone 6)

The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and the guards became as dead men, and Mary stood by the Sepulcher seeking Your spotless Body. You despoiled Hades and yet were not tempted by it, 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 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!

Kondakion of the Ascension,

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."

صلاة الأنديفوننة

أيها الربُّ الفائقُ الصَّلاح، نسألك، بشفاعته والدتك الكاملة الطهارة والآباء القديسين الذين التأموا في المجمع المسكوني، أن تثبت الكنيسة وتؤيد الإيمان، وتجعلنا جميعاً شركاء في ملكك السماوي، عندما تأتي ليدين الخليقة بأسرها لأنك أنت هو الحق والحياة واليك نرفع المجد، وإلى أبينا الأزلي وروحك القدوس الصالح والمحيي، الآن وكلّ أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين

الأنديفوننة الثانية (للصعود)

- عظيم الرب ومسيح جداً، في مدينة إلهنا، في جبل المقدس خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من صعد عنا بمجد إلى السماوات، نحن المزمّنين لك هلولياً.
- جبال صهيون، جهات الشمال، مدينة الملك العظيم - الله في أبراجها يُعرف، عندما ينصرها.

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 الأموات، يا رب المجد لك.

نشيد الصعود باللحن الرابع

لقد صعدت بمجد أيها المسيح إلهنا، مُفَرِّحاً تلاميذك بموعد الروح القدس. وقد تيقنوا بالبركة، أنك أنت ابن الله المنقذ العالم.

نشيد للآباء باللحن الثامن

أنت أيها المسيح إلهنا فائق المجد. لأنك أقمت آباءنا كواكب على الأرض، وبهم هديتنا جميعاً إلى الإيمان الحقيقي. فيا جزيل التحني المجد لك

قنداق الصعود باللحن السادس

لما أكملت التدبير الذي من أجلنا، ووجدت ما على الأرض بالسماويات، صعدت بمجد أيها المسيح إلهنا، دون أن تترك مكاناً، بل لايتأ غير منفصل وهايتفا بمحبك: أنا معكم، وليس أحد عليكم.





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>



Epistle Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36, SIXTH SUNDAY SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS PROKIMENON (Tone 7) Daniel 3:26, 27

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.
Stichon: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

READING from the Acts of the Apostles:

In those days Paul decided to sail past Ephesus so as not to waste time in Asia. For he was hurrying as much as he could in order to reach Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost. From Miletus, however, he had sent an invitation to Ephesus for the presbyters of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them, (20:28) "Be careful about yourselves and the whole flock over which the Holy Spirit has placed you as bishops, to herd the Church of God which He has redeemed through His own blood. For I know this, that after I am gone fierce wolves will get in among you and will not spare the flock. And from among you, some men will rise, speaking perverse doctrines, to draw away the disciples after them. "Watch, therefore, and remember that for three years, night and day, I did not cease to warn with tears every one of you. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, Who is able to edify and to grant you an inheritance among all His blessed ones. "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You, yourselves, know these hands of mine have provided for my needs and those of my companions. In all things, I have shown you that by working in this way you should help the weak, and remember that the Lord Jesus said in person, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And after saying this, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

ALLELUIA (Tone 1) Psalm 49:1,5

The God of gods, the Lord has spoken and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Stichon: Gather His faithful ones around Him, those who have made a covenant with Him through sacrifices.

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 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."

رسالة (الاحد السابع) المعروف بأحد الآباء مقدمة الرسالة

مبارك أنت يا رب إله آبائنا، ومسيح وممجد أسمك الى الدهور لأنك عاديك في كل ما صنعت بنا. وأعمالك كلها حقيقية وطريقك مستقيمة

الرسالة (أعمال الرسل 20: 17-18 و 27-36)

في تلك الأيام، كان بولس قد عزم أن يتجاوز أفسس في البحر، لئلا يعرض له أن يبطئ في أسية. لأنه كان يعجل حتى يكون في اورشليم يوم الغنصرة إن أمكنه. فممن ملبس بعث إلى أفسس فاستدعى كهنة الكنيسة. فلما وصلوا إليه قال لهم: أحذروا لأنفسكم ولجميع القطيع الذي أقامكم فيه الروح القدس أساقفة. لترعوا كنيسة الله التي افتناها بدمه الخاص. فإني أعلم هذا إنه بعد فراق سيدخل بينكم ذئاب لا تشفق على القطيع، ومنكم أنفسكم. سيقوم رجال يتكلمون بأقوال فاسدة. ليجتذبوا التلاميذ وراءهم، فاسهروا إذن وتذكروا أنني مدة ثلاث سنين لم أكف ليلاً ونهاراً عن أن أنصح كل واحد بالذم. والآن يا إخوة. أستودعكم الله وكلمة نعمته القادرة أن تبنيكم وتوثقكم ميراثاً مع جميع المقدسين. إني لم أشته من أحد فضة أو ذهباً أو ثوباً، بل أنتم تعلمون أن هاتين اليدين كانتا تخدمان حاجاتي وحاجات الذين كانوا معي، في كل شيء يثبت لكم كيف ينبغي أن نتعب لنساعد الضعفاء. وأن نذكر كلام الرب يسوع حيث قال: إن العطاء أعظم غبطة من الأخذ. ولما قال هذا جثا على ركبتيه وصلى مع جميعهم.

هللوا إله الالهة الرب قد تكلم. ودعا الأرض من مشارق الشمس الى مغاربها
اجمعوا له أبراراً. الذين بنوا عهداً على الذبائح.

انجيل أحد الآباء القديسين – يوحنا 17: 1-13

في ذلك الزمان، رفع يسوع عينيه الى السماء وقال: أيها الأب، قد أتت الساعة. مجد أبناك للمجدك أبناك أيضاً. كما أعطيتك السلطان على كل بشر، ليُعطيهم كل ما أعطيتك له: الحياة الابدية. وهذه هي الحياة الابدية، أن يعرفوك أنت الاله الحقيقي وحدك، والذي أرسلته يسوع المسيح. أنا قد مجدتك على الأرض، وأتممت العمل الذي أعطيتني لأعمله. والآن مجدني أنت أيها الأب عندك، بالمجد الذي كان لي عندك من قبل كون العالم. قد أعلنت أسمك للناس الذين أعطيتهم لي من العالم، هم كانوا لك، وأنت أعطيتهم لي، وقد حفظوا كلامك. والآن غلّموا أن كل ما أعطيتك لي هو منك. لأن الكلام الذي أعطيتك لي قد أعطيتك لهم، وهم قبلوا وعلموا حقاً أنني منك خرجت، وآمنوا أنك أنت أرسلتني. أنا أسأل من أجلهم، لا أسأل من أجل العالم، بل من أجل الذين أعطيتهم لي لأنهم لك. وكل ما هو لي هو لك، وما لك هو لي، وأنا قد تمجدت فيهم. ولست أنا بعد في العالم، وهؤلاء هم في العالم، وأنا آتي إليك. أيها الأب القدوس، احفظ باسمك الذين أعطيتهم لي. ليكنوا واحداً كما نحن. حين كنت معهم في العالم، كنت أحفظهم باسمك. إن الذين أعطيتهم لي قد حفظتهم، ولم يهلك منهم أحد إلا ابن الهلاك، ليتّم الكتاب. والآن إني آتي إليك، وأنا أتكلم بهذا في العالم، ليكون لهم فرح كامل فيهم.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: May 9, 2021: Budgets: \$1,991.00: Envelopes: \$1,921.00; Loose: \$70.00; Stipends: \$380.00; Candles: \$96.00; Addit'l Melkite Support: \$5.00.; Addit'l Cemetery: \$35.00; Building Fund: \$125.00.

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.

FATHER DANIEL NASSANEY UPDATE: Blessings to all! Thanks for all your help and support. It has been a week now that I was operated on. It seems that the operation was a success. The surgeon had to remove my medial gastrocnemius muscle. He was able to remove the total tumor and has good hope that nothing has spread. I have had no pain. I came back to our house in Tewksbury Monday night. I shall be having physical therapy and the healing process will be extended. What is next is in God's hand. I thank you all for your prayers, warm wishes, rides, cards and notes. Easter is indeed the time of healing.

REFLECTION: It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

MEMORY ETERNAL: It is with the deepest sadness to announce to you the passing into eternal life of the servant of God,

- **GEORGE LOZY** of Valencia, Venezuela. He was the nephew of Hanaa Boudjouk of this Parish.
- **ELIAS NAJMY** of New York, maternal uncle of Carol Banna Assaf of New Bedford, MA, and Barbara Banna Soucar of Seekonk, MA.
- **ANTOINETTE SENNO** sister of the late Michael, George Senno and Mary Aissis and who returned home from CA passed to her eternal life in the Mansion Nursing Center, Central Falls, RI. Under the protection of her niece Charlotte Senno.
- **ANN NAJJAR TETREAU** of Pawtucket, RI, wife of Roland Tetreault, and mother of John, Mary Ann, David & Diane, and brother of Joseph Najjar of this Parish.

Please remember the repose of their souls in your prayers as well as all the souls of the faithful departed, and may their memories be eternal!

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.





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.



TODAY, SATURDAY, MAY 15, AND SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. MEMORY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAIA, 325 A.D. SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION.

4:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **JOSEPH HARRAKA** by Norman & Diane Kishfy.
- + **TODD HARRAKA** by George & Jeanne Harraka.
- + **RICK SQUIRES** by Abe, Michele Domaney & Family.
- + **GEORGE KAHLA** by Douglas & Jeanne Becklin.
- + **WILLIAM T. ASERMELY** by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family. (SC)
- + **ANTHONY NAJJAR** by Joan Y. Ray.
- + **REV. ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY & ANGELA MAZZONE** by Charles, Francine & Julie Robat.
- + **MARY TAHAN** by Samir & Hanaa Boudjouk.
- + **JAMES N. ALLAM** by Pat-Luc St. Germain.
- + **VICTORIA PROCHNIAK** by Steve & Maryjoan Walsh.
- + **YVONNE HAGGAR COLABELLA** by Rev. Kenneth Michael. (FL)
- + **JOSEPH P. AZAR, JR.** by Josephine Nassaney.

11:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **ELIAS J. KISFHY (1st Anniv.)** by the Family.
- + **CLAUDINE RABBAT** by George & Sherine Mussalli & Family.
- + **AMANDA ROWEY (4th Anniv.)** by her parents, Anthony & Fadia Rowey.
- + **GEORGE BOUDJOUK** by Victorine Boudjouk.
- + **YUSEF AGHIA** by James & Mary Briden.
- + **MICHAEL ALAM** by George Madour & Family.
- + **MARIE CLAIRE CHOUHA** by Nelly Kishfy.
- + **GEORGE DECKEY** by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + **GEORGEANNA DECKEY** by Samir & Hanaa Boudjouk.
- + **JULIA & FRED KISFHY** by the Family.
- + **FRANCIS A. SAGGAL** by M/M Tony Charchafiah.
- + **LOUIS P. KISFHY** by the Aleppian Aid Society & Ladies' Auxiliary.
- + **ALBERT J. KISFHY** by Dr. Jason B. Boudjouk.
- + **GEORGETTE A. SAGGAL** by Tony, Jiselle & Frank Haddad.
- + **YUSUF & BLANCHE MUSSALLI** by Bob & Lydia Gaboriault.



LITURGY OR MASS INTENTIONS



Mass 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.

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



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

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

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؟

القدس. وهذا مما يؤكد
القدس بولس الرسول في
صلاته الى اهل افسس: "ان
يقم المسيح في قلوبكم
بالإيمان" بفعل الروح
القدس (افسس 3: 17).

(1) صعود يسوع ليشفع
فيما في حضرة الله
(عبرانيين 9: 24) تصور الرسالة إلى
العبرانيين صعود المسيح
في ضوء نظرتها لعالم
سمائي 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 السماوات
(عبرانيين 4: 14) يشفع
فيما في حضرة الله
(عبرانيين 9: 24) على أنه



في خميس الصُّعُود نُعَيِّدُ لصعود
ربنا وإلهنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح
إلى السماء، وذلك بعد أربعين يوماً
من قيامته وظهوره للتلاميذ.
"فيسوع هذا الذي رُفِعَ عَنْكُمْ إلى
السماء سيأتي كما رأيتموه ذاهباً إلى
السماء" (أعمال 1: 11). صعد
يسوع إلى السماء وعاد إلى ملكوته
(يوحنا 18: 36) بعد أن أتم عمل
الفداء وأكمل خطة الخلاص.
فالصُّعُود خاتمة عيد قيامة المسيح
وحياته على الأرض. وهذا ما نعبّر
عنه في قانون الإيمان: لقد صُلب
عنا 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 ابعاد عيد الصُّعُود وكيف
نعيشه؟ يمكننا أن نميّز ثلاثة أبعاد
للسعود على صعود المسيح
والكنيسة وصعدنا.

الوسيط الذي يضمن لنا فيض الروح القدس (ت ك 667)، ويُعلّق القديس أوغسطينوس "صعد
يسوع إلى السماء، لذلك علينا ألا نقلق على الأرض. لكن أفكارنا هناك وسوف يكون هناك سلام.
إن أردنا أن نصعد ونكون بصحبته فيجب علينا أن تكف عن الخطية وعن الشر".

2) الصُّعُود لإعداد مكان لنا في السماء

يعودُ الربُّ بالمجد إلى أبيه لِيُعَدَّ لنا مكاناً (يوحنا 14: 3-1). فقد دخل يسوع أولاً تلك الحياة، لِيُعَدَّ
لمختاربه مكاناً، ثم يأتي ويأخذهم إلى هناك ليكونوا على الدوام معه (يوحنا 14: 22). فيسوع
المسيح، رأس الكنيسة، سبقنا إلى ملكوت الأب المجد حتى نحيا نحن، أعضاء جسده، في رجا أن
نكون يوماً معه إلى الأبد (ت ك 666). إذا فحين لدينا ضمانات في السماء حيث سنصعد مع الرب
يسوع المسيح. وقد وعد يسوع جميع المؤمنين العاملين بوصاياه خاصة وصية المحبة بالوطن
السمائي "تعالوا، يا من بازكهم أبي، فترثوا الملكوت المُعَدَّ لَكُمْ منذُ إنشاء العالم" (متى 25:
34). وهذا الأمر يدعونا أن نترنم مع صلاة قداس الصُّعُود: "ليُعَدَّ السرورُ قلوبنا، لأنَّ 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 قلقاً عديم الراحة على الدوام
حتى يستريح بك".

رابعاً: كيف نعيش روحانية عيد الصُّعُود؟

من ابعاد عيد الصُّعُود تتبع روحانية الصُّعُود متكاملة، مؤسسة على الرجاء، لأنها تجعل المسيحي
يحيا 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 المُمَجَّد. فعليهم أن يسعوا "إلى
الأمر التي في الغلى حيثُ المسيح قد جلس عن يمين الله"، لأن "حياتهم مُحتجبة مع
المسيح" (قولسي 3: 1-3)، ومدينهم كائنة في السماوات (فيلبي 3: 20). والبيت السماوي
ينتظرهم (2 كورنثس 5: 31) هو المسيح المُجَدَّد نفسه (فيلبي 3: 21)، "الإنسان السماوي" (1
كورنثس 15: 49-45). على أن المسيحي ليس لذلك أن يكون منسلخاً عن العالم، بل له رسالة
على أن يحيا فيه بطريقة جديدة، تحرك العالم نحو المجد الذي يدعوه الله إليه. وهذا الأمر يذكرنا
بقصيدة "إرادة الحياة" للشاعر أبو القاسم الشابي "من يتهيب صعود الجبال يعيش أبَدَ الدهر بين
الحفر". في هذا العصر تزايد اضطهاد المسيحيين أكثر من أي عصر مضى. لكن العداء
والخطية والخوف والرعب والأوبئة والمعاناة على الأرض ليس لها الكلمة الأخيرة. يسعد يسوع
بالمجد والبهاء ويضفي سيطرة على ممالك هذا العالم.

الصُّعُود عيد يسوع نعرّف به مسيحاً، نعرّف به رباً ارتفع ليَجْتَذِبَ الجميع ويصل كلمته إلى العالم
كله. ومن هنا علينا أن نتابع كرازة الانجيل كما اوصانا الرب "إني أوليتُ كُلَّ سلطان في السماء
والأرض، فاذهبوا وتلمذوا جميع الأمم، وعبدوهم باسم الأب والابن والروح القدس، وعلموهم أن
يُحفظوا كُلُّ ما أوصيتُكم به، وهاءنذا معكم طوال الأيام إلى نهاية العالم" (متى 28: 18-20).
التلاميذ لم يعيشوا كل الأيام في حين الكنيسة تدوم إلى الأبد (أعمال 1: 4-9).

وعلياً ان نعلن انتظارنا لمحبيه الثاني. إنه سيأتي كما صعد، لذلك انتظار مجيء المسيح عقيدة
"ونتنتظر 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،
اغتنطت السماوات. فليبارك صعوده"، والقديس أيبافانوس 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) الصُّعُود تمجيد المسيح السماوي إن المسيح قبل أن يعيش على الأرض يمكن القول إنه كان
لدى الله كائن، و"كلمة"، وحكمة. فصعوده إلى السماء إلى يمين الأب إنما هو عودة إلى العالم
السماوي الذي منه سبق ونزل من السماء، مسكن الألوهيّة (رؤيا 1: 5) رحمة بنا ليفتقد الناس
(مزمر 144: 5). بالصُّعُود والنزول ارتبطت السماء بالأرض (يوحنا 1: 51). وأما جلوس يسوع
عن يمين الله فيعني أنه قد أكمل عمله وأن له سلطاناً وقد توج ملكاً. والتالي ما صعوده لا تعبير عن
مجد المسيح السماوي (أعمال 2: 34).

ومن ناحية أخرى يشير صعود المسيح إلى الدخول النهائي لناسوت 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 السماوات معه (لوقا 15: 4). أتى
وأظهر لنا أنه الله؛ ولبس جسداً وكشف لنا أنه إنسان. نزل إلى الجحيم وبين لنا أنه مات؛ صعد
وتمجّد وأظهر لنا أنه كبير. فليبارك مجده!".

(2) الصُّعُود دلالة على تسامي المسيح يدل صعود يسوع إلى السماء على تساميه على الكون
والقوات السماوية كما جاء في تعليم بولس الرسول "ثُمَّ يَكُونُ الْمُنتَهَى جِبْنَ يُسَبِّحُ الْمَلِكُ إِلَى إله الأب
بعد أن يكون قد أباد كُلَّ رُأْسِيَّةٍ وَسُلْطَانٍ وَفَوْةٍ" (1 كورنثس 15: 24). وكما قال النبي: "أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ
سَيَدُّنَا مَا أَعْظَمَ أَسْمُكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا! لَا عَظِيمُنْ جَلَّالِكَ فَوْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ" (مزمر 8: 2).

ويسوع منذ الآن يجلس على العرش في السماوات ليتقدّم 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 (كولسي 2: 15) ويطاعته (فيلبي 2: 6-11).
ويقول القديس كيريلانوس: "لا من لسان بشر ولا ملائكة يستطيع أن يصف كما يجب عظيم
الاحتفال والاكرام الذي صار للإله المتجسد بصعوده في هذا اليوم".

(3) الصُّعُود تمهيد لعودة المسيح في مجيئه الثاني إن "يسوع هذا الذي رُفِعَ عَنْكُمْ 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: الصُّعُود على صعود الكنيسة:

الصُّعُود 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 وكلّ 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؛ ان كائن معنا محدودة، لكن كائن فينا غير محدودة وذلك نتيجة عمل الروح

Following Jesus Kids bulletin



Jesus Ascends into Heaven!

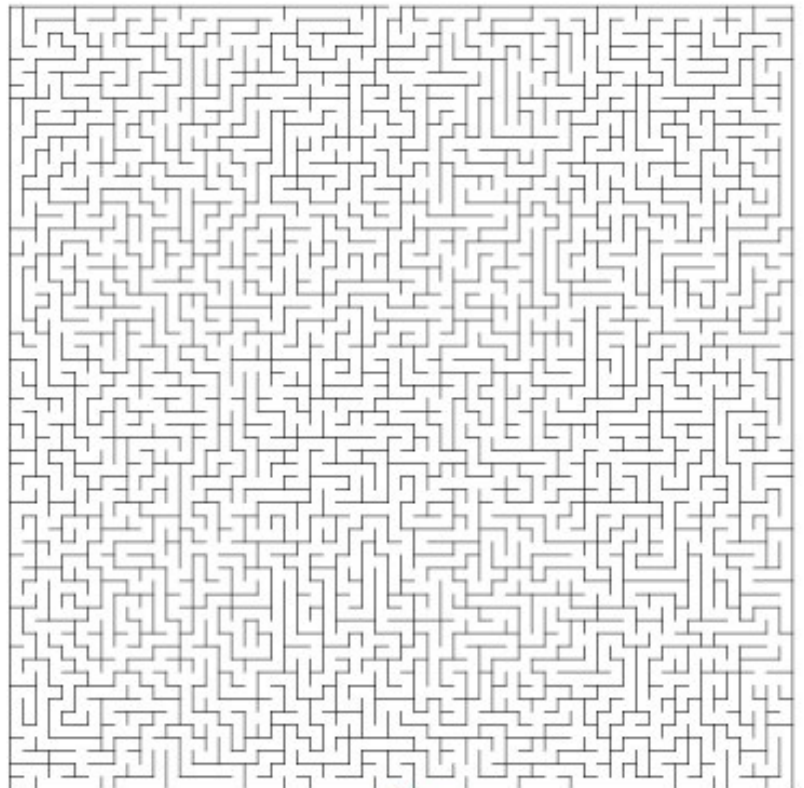


Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension- when Jesus went up, body and soul, into Heaven. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He took his disciples up to a big hill and told them that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to them soon. Then He went up into the sky and disappeared behind the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



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MAY



أيار - مايو
2021

April 2021

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	

June 2021

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			

Liturgical Symbols:

- Abstain from meat
- Church Major Feasts
- Fast from midnight until noon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 All Saints Sunday أحد جميع القديسين Hebrews 11:33-12:1 Matthew 10:32-38, 19:27-30	31 St Hermias Romans 2:28-3:18 Matthew 6:31-34, 7:9-11					1 Holy Prophet Jeremiah Acts 12:1-11 John 8:31-42
2 Sunday of Samaritan Woman أحد السامريّة Acts 11:19-30 John 4:5-42	3 Sts Timothy and Maura Acts 12:12-17 John 8:42-51	4 St Pelagia Acts 12:25-13:12 John 8:51-59	5 Leave-taking Mid-Paschaltide وداع منتصف الخمسين Acts 13:13-24 John 6:5-14	6 Holy Prophet Job Acts 14:20-28, 15:1-4 John 9:39-10:9	7 Holy Cross over Jerusalem Acts 15:5-12 John 10:17-28	8 St John the Apostle 1 John 1:1-7 John 19:25-27, 21:24-25
9 Sunday of Man born Blind أحد الأعمى Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38	10 St Simon the Apostle Acts 17:1-9 John 11:47-54	11 Foundation of Constantinople Sts Cyril and Methodios Acts 17:19-28 John 12:19-36	12 Leave-taking of Easter وداع الفصح Acts 18:22-28 John 12:36-47	13 Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ صعود ربنا يسوع المسيح Acts 1:1-12 Luke 24:36-53	14 St Isidore Acts 19:1-8 John 14:1-11	15 St Achillios of Larissa Acts 20:7-12 John 14:10-21
16 Fathers of 1st Council of Nicaea أحد الآباء المجتمعين في نيقية Acts 20:16-18, 27-36 John 17:1-13	17 St Andronicos Acts 21:8-14 John 14:27-15:7	18 Sts Peter, Denis and companions Acts 21:26-32 John 16:2-13	19 St Patrick of Prussa Acts 23:1-11 John 16:15-23	20 St Thalleleos Acts 25:13-19 John 16:23-33	21 Sts Constantine and Helena Leave-taking of Ascension وداع الصعود Acts 26:1, 12-20 John 10:1-9	22 St Rita القديسة ريتا 2nd Saturday of Dead السبت الثاني للراقدين Acts 28:1-31 John 21:14-25
23 Pentecost أحد العنصرة العظيم المقدس Acts 2:1-11 John 7:37-52, 8:12	24 Monday of the Holy Spirit أثنين العنصرة Ephesians 5:8-19 Matthew 18:10-20	25 Third Finding of the Head of St John the forerunner 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Matthew 11:2-15	26 St Carpus Romans 1:18-27 Matthew 5:20-26	27 St Helladios Romans 1:28-2:10 Matthew 5:27-32	28 St Eutyches Romans 2:14-28 Matthew 5:33-41	29 Leave-taking of Pentecost وداع العنصرة Romans 1:7-12 Matthew 5:42-48

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness."

At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus.

May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected

and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with our priests and spiritual care givers. May they know that they are loved and cared for.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few,

Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



We are pleased to announce

The Daily Divine Liturgy

At St. Elias Chapel (St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church)

Tuesday through Friday at 9 A.M.

Saturday at 4 P.M.

Sunday at 11 A.M.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” *John 11:25*

Remember me in your Kingdom

You are invited to the Divine Liturgy for the departed
in the Lord in the Hope of Resurrection
On the last Wednesday of the Month at 6:30 pm

أَنَا هُوَ الْقِيَامَةُ وَالْحَيَاةُ. مَنْ آمَنَ بِي وَلَوْ مَاتَ فَسَيَحْيَا. (يو 11: 25)

اذكرني في ملكوتك

أدعوكم إلى القداس الإلهي

من أجل الراقيدين على رجاء القيامة

في الأربعاء الأخير من كل شهر الساعة 6:30 مساءً

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

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Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER"

2 COR 9:7

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Apply for the Arabic Educational Foundation of RI

**Arabic Educational Foundation of RI
is now accepting college scholarship applications**

**Scholarship Applicants must meet the following
requirements:**

**High school seniors and current undergraduates of Arabic descent
who are or will be enrolled as full-time students at an accredited
college for the 2021-2022 academic year**

Eligibility information and applications can be found on the AEF website or
Facebook. For more information, Please contact
AEF board member: Theresa McMichael at tmc michael@cox.net

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2021

VISIT www.aef-ri.org

FACEBOOK <https://bit.ly/37wNCBj>

Reopening: Stay the course on safety

What you can safely do if you're vaccinated – if you're partially vaccinated or not vaccinated, you're more likely to get and spread COVID-19 doing these activities.

Fully vaccinated means you have all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and more than 14 days have passed since your final dose

CATEGORY	BEGINNING May 7 th	BEGINNING May 28 th
MASK WEARING	Required indoors and if less than 3ft spacing outdoors	Required indoors and if less than 3ft spacing outdoors
INDOOR DINING	80% indoors, 100% outdoors, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
BAR AREAS	For indoors: seated-only and plexiglass required	Indoor standing service, no plexiglass required
CATERED EVENTS	80% up to 200 indoors, 500 outdoors, recommended/required testing*, outdoor only; standing bar service and cocktail hours	100% capacity with no cap, indoor standing bar service and cocktail hours, open dance floors
HOUSES OF WORSHIP	80% capacity, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
RETAIL	80% capacity, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
GYMS, SPORTS & REC	80% capacity, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
PERSONAL SERVICES	80% capacity, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
VENUES OF ASSEMBLY	80% up to 500 indoors, no cap outdoors, 3 ft spacing DBR/municipal approval for 2,500+ events	100% capacity with no cap, 3 ft spacing indoors DBR/municipal approval for 2,500+ indoor events
FUNERAL HOMES	80% capacity, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
OFFICES	80% capacity, 3 ft spacing	100% capacity, 3 ft spacing indoors
SOCIAL GATHERINGS	Up to 25 people indoors, 75 people outdoors	No limit
SPORTS	Apr. 26: Expanded Youth Sports attendance; high-risk indoor sports permitted to have competitions	Out-of-state teams can attend in-state tournaments

*Required for student catered events; strongly recommended for other catered events

1

RHODE ISLAND

REOPENING RI

Wear a mask that protects you and others

Wearing a face covering in public places helps protect you and anyone near you from COVID-19. **Your mask should fit snugly but comfortably over your nose, mouth, and chin without any gaps.**



RECOMMENDED

- Face mask worn the right way and at least two layers thick
- * N-95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare providers and other first responders



NOT RECOMMENDED

- Face shield alone
- Loose-fitting bandana
- Face mask with valve
- Face mask worn the wrong way
- Neck gaiter only one layer thick

Always wash your hands after handling or touching a used mask. Wash and dry cloth face coverings after use each day. Learn more about how to handle and care for your mask at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html

Masks should not be worn by children younger than age two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without help.

Last updated: 08/25/2020

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