



July 16, 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 Liturgy
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 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 the First Six Ecumenical Councils

أحد آباء المجامع المسكونية الستة الأولى

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 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!

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.

نشيد القيامة باللحن السادس

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

نشيد للآباء باللحن الثامن:

أنت أيها المسيح إلهنا فائق المجد. لأنك أقمت آباءنا كواكب على الأرض، وبهم هديتنا جميعاً إلى الإيمان

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

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



Our church organizations:

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

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

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



Kondakion:

O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you

Epistle Titus 3:8-15, PROKIMENON (Tone 8)

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.
Stichon: Happy are those whose faults are taken away, and whose sins are covered.

READING from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus

My son Titus, this saying is true, and in this matter, I want to insist that those who believe in God be careful to excel in good works; these are good and useful to people. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and quarrels, and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and futile. Avoid a factious man after warning him one or twice, knowing that such a man is perverted and sins, since he is condemning himself.

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, taking care that they lack nothing. And let our people also learn to excel in good works, in order to help cases of urgent need so that they may not be unfruitful. All my companions greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. The grace of God be with all of you. Amen.
ALLELUIA (Tone 4)

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds you did in their days, in the days of old. Stichon: For you saved us from those who afflicted us and have put to shame those who hated us

Gospel Matthew 5:14-19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but upon the lamp-stand, so as to give light to all in the house. Even so let your light shine before men, in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one letter or one stroke shall be lost from the Law till all things have been accomplished. Therefore, whoever does away with one of these least commandments, and so teaches men, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever carries them out and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

نشيد الختام (القنداق)

يا نصيرةً المسيحيين التي لا تُخزي، ووسيطتهم الدائمة لدى الخالق، لا تعرضي عن أصوات الخطاة الطالبين إليك. بل بما أنكِ صالحة، بادري إلى معونتنا، نحن الصارخين إليك بأيمان: هلمي إلى الشفاعة، وأسري إلى الابتهاال، يا والدة الإله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.

رسالة الاحد آباء المجامع المسكونية الستة الاولى

إفرحوا بالربِّ وابتهجوا أيها الصديقون، وافتخروا بإجمع المستقبلي القلوب—طوبى للذين عُفرت ذنوبهم، والذين سُترت خطاياهم

الرسالة (تيطس 3: 8-15)

يا ولدي تيطس، صادق القول، وأريد ان تُقرَّر هذه الامور، حتى يكون الذين آمنوا بالله ذوي اهتمام في القيام بالأعمال الصالحة. فهذه هي الحسنه والنافعة للناس. أما المباحثات السخيفة والانساب، والخصومات والمماحكات على الناموس فأجتنبها، فإنها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورجل البدعة، بعد الانذار أولاً وثانياً، أعرض عنه، عالماً ان مثل هذا قد زاع، وهو في الخطيئة يقضي. هو نفسه على نفسه. متى ارسلت إليك أرتماس او تيخيس بادر ان تأتيني إلى نيكوبولس. لأني عولت ان أشق هناك. اما زيناس معلم الناموس وأبلس، فجهزهما باعتناء لئلا يُعوزهما شيء. وليتعلم ذونا ايضاً ان يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضرورية، حتى لا يكونوا بدون ثمر. يُسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلم على الذين يُحبوننا في الايمان. النعمة معكم اجمعين. آمين

هللوا

اللهم بآذاننا قد سمعنا، وآباؤنا أخبرونا بالعمل الذي عملته في أيامهم، في الايام القديمة خلصتنا من مضايقيننا، وأخرت مبعضينا.

الانجيل (متى 5: 14-20)

قال الربُّ، أنتم نورُ العالم، لا يُمكن أن تخفي مدينة قائمة على جبل، ولا يوقد سراج ويوضع تحت المكيال، بل على المنارة فيضيء لكل من في البيت. وهكذا فليضيء نوركم قدام الناس، ليروا أعمالكم الصالحة ويوجدوا أباكم الذي في السماوات. لا تظنوا اني أتيت لأنقض الناموس والأنبياء. اني لم آت لأنقض بل لأتكم. ألحق أقول لكم: إنه إلى أن تزول السماء والارض لا تزول ياء واحدة أو نقطة واحدة من الناموس حتى يتم الكل. فكل من يحل واحدة من تلك الوصايا الصغرى ويُعلم الناس هكذا، فإنه يدعى صغيراً في ملكوت السماوات. وأما من يعمل بها ويُعلم، فهذا يدعى عظيماً في ملكوت السماوات.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, SATURDAY, JULY 15 & SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023: SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS.

5:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **RICHARD K. KOUSSA (30th Anniv.)** by Linda A. Koussa.
- + **ALICE AZAR** by Douglas & Jeanne Allam.
- + **WILLIAM T. ASERMELY** by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Gaglione & Family (SC),
- + **DENISE SOLOMON** by the Community of St. Basil's Church.

10:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **VIOLETTE (HAGGAR) SAGGAL (Birthday Remem.)** by Joseph Saggal, Patrick Saggal, & Pamela Pacheco.
- + **MARY SACKAL** by George, Norma & Christopher Kishfy.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Riad & Souhair Khoury..
- + **DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ALTONGY & ESPER FAMILIES** 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; July 8 & 9, 2023: Budgets: \$2,544.00 (Envelopes: \$2,410.00, Loose: \$134.00); Candles: \$75.00; Stole Offerings: \$150.00; Cemetery: \$222.00; Building Fund: \$45.00.

GENERAL HOME VISITATIONS, SICK CALLS, HOSPITAL VISITS: Father Ephrem has now been here three years and is fully available for 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.

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!

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.



**Food Fair
Cooking Schedule**

Grapeleaves – Thursday, August 3, 9:00 a.m.
Sfeeha – Thursday, August 24@ 9:00 a.m.
Sfeeha - Thursday, September 7@ 9:00 a.m.

SUMMER IS RATHER OBVIOUS AT CHURCH: Those who were absent from any Sunday Liturgy or arrived after the First or Second Collections, we kindly remind you that your weekly fair share of support for your church is urgently needed and anticipated. Please make up for absent weekly support. As your home bills are there whether you are at home or not, so is the same for our church. Your church and rectory expenses need to be paid by each of you whether you are here or not.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH; Lord Jesus, your heart was moved with pity for the crowds who followed you. So many of them were poor, sick and had no work. Today you continue to look with pity on the many people who are unemployed. Help them to find work. Help all of us to work for the changes that can lead to a world in which the human dignity of every person is respected. Amen!

ANNUAL FESTIVAL: Saturday and Sunday, August 12th & 13th. Please consider volunteering your services and limiting it to parish members for our protection, safety and security. Many volunteers are needed in all capacities. Please come through and show your support. Kindly see the chairman, Samir Boudjouk, and register your help with him wherever needed.

REFLECTION: “ Never give the devil a ride- he will always want to drive. “

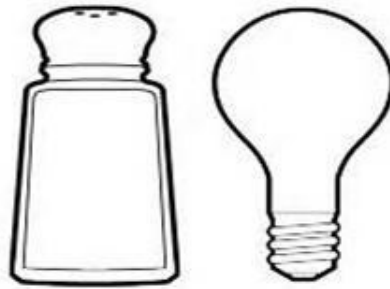
O Jesus, Who has said,
"Ask and you shall
receive, seek and you
shall find, knock and it
shall be opened," through
the intercession of the
Theotokos, Your Most
Holy Mother, I knock, I
seek, I ask that my prayer
be granted.

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



Be these.

Matthew 5:13-16



T	L	U	N	D	E	R	D	O	S
B	O	A	E	I	C	E	I	S	E
U	L	O	M	T	L	Y	E	E	I
T	H	E	F	P	H	L	T	N	G
E	L	I	M	R	E	G	O	I	H
A	S	A	L	T	E	T	I	H	C
R	R	I	S	L	H	D	O	S	T
T	Y	A	A	I	T	G	N	O	U
H	T	I	N	R	O	O	I	U	F
B	U	G	C	U	P	I	P	L	E

SALT
EARTH
TASTELESS
NOTHING
TRAMPLED
CITY
LIGHT
UNDERFOOT
HILLTOP
LAMP
TUB
SHINES
SIGHT
MEN
PRAISE



الملح والنور



حين يدعو يسوع المسيحيين الملح والنور، يدل على دوره الضروري في المجتمع، شرط ان يظلوا ملحاً حقيقياً لم يفقد طعمه، ونوراً على المنارة يضيء للناس في الظلام.

1. أتم ملح الأرض (متى 5: 13)

الملح هو مركب كيميائي من الصوديوم وهو عنصر معدني فريد، والكحول وهو غاز سام. يتحد هذان العنصران ليشكلا تركيباً مفيداً، وهو تدبير رائع من الخالق لخير الجنس البشري كما يترجم صاحب المزامير "ما أعظم أعمالك يا رب لقد صنعت جميعها بالحكمة فأمتلأت الأرض من خيراتها" (مزمو 104: 24). والملح في اللغة اللاتينية Sal. وفي أيام روما الامبراطورية كان الجنود يتلقون جزءاً من راتبهم (salarium). وعندما كان يسوع المسيح على الأرض كان الملح متوافراً إلى حد بعيد. مثلاً، زودت مياه البحر الميت مصدرًا جيدًا للملح (التكوين 19: 26). والجمل ان عصر الملح لا يخدم ذاته، الملح وحده لا يؤكل فهو غير صالح بمفرده، إنه وجد لخدمة الأرض وما عليها.

والإنسان لا يقدر ان يستغني عن الملح؛ فهو يُستعمله لحفظ الطعام ولإعطائه نكهة، وقد استخدم الله الملح في الكتاب المقدس بصورة متعددة مما يُبين هوية المسيحيين ودورهم ملح الأرض. الملح هو من أكثر المواد الغذائية ضرورة للإنسان كما جاء في تعليمات سفر يشوع بن سيراخ "رأس ما نحتاج إليه حياة الإنسان الماء والتأز والحديد والملح" (سيراخ 39: 26)، وفي موضع آخر يقول أيوب: "أؤكل القثّة بغير ملح (أيوب 6: 6). كذلك العالم بحاجة إلى المسيحيين كحاجة الطعام إلى ملح، وذلك للأموه التالي:

- كما ان "الملح هو رمز عهد الله مع البشر" (أخبار 2: 13) وبحسب طقوس الأضاحي القديمة ينبغي أن تكون كل التقدّمات مُمِلحة لتثبيت العهد" (الأخبار 2: 13)، كذلك المسيحيون يذكرون عهد الله مع شعبه لتثبيته والحفاظة على الأمانة تجاهه سبحانه تعالى.
- كما ان الملح يُوضع على المحرقة المقربة لله كما ورد في سفر حزقيال "قربها أمام الرب، وتُبلق الكهنة عليها ملحاً وتُصعدونها محرقة لربّ" (حزقيال 43: 24)، وذلك لإعطاء مذاق وطعم "الحبز الإله" (الأخبار 21: 6)، لان الملح يُعطي الأطعمة نكهة وطعمًا (أيوب 6: 6)، كذلك على المسيحيين ان يؤثروا في الشعب وبأعمال المحبة والرحمة والخدمة (متى 13: 5).
- كما ان للملح خاصية حفظ الطعام من الفساد (باروك 6: 27) ويشير إلى دوام تعاقد في "عهد الملح" (عدد 18: 19) ميثاق دائم، كالذي تم بين الله وداود النبي (2 أيام 13: 5)، كذلك على المسيحيين ان يحيا حياة فاضلة حياة الوداعة والرحمة وطهارة القلب والسلام فيحفظ حياته وحياة شركائه في المجتمع من فساد الخطيئة بالصوم والصلاة ومختلف الامانات.

• كما ان للملح وظيفة التطهير لئى رشفه في الماء، كما حدث مع ألبشاع النبي الذي "شفي الماء الرديء" (2 ملوك 2: 19-22)، ووظيفة الملح أيضا طرد الشرير (حزقيال 16: 4)، كذلك على المسيحيين ان يشفوا المرضى ويطردوا الشياطين كما أوصى يسوع تلاميذه "اشفوا المرضى واطردوا الشياطين" (متى 10: 8).

• كما ان الملح يرمز في الشرق الأوسط إلى الضيافة والمشاركة في الحبز والملح، كذلك على المسيحيين ان يشاركوا الآخرين في الخدمة فيذبون فهم كالمح في الطعام ويعطون الطعم الطيب للعلاقات بين الناس بالصدق والأمانة والطيبة والثقة والمحبة.

• كما ان الملح الذي يوضع في الطعام يذوب ويتلاشى ويختفي، ولكنه يؤثر تأثيراً قوياً في هذا الطعام كذلك المسيحيون يفقدون حياتهم في سبيل المسيح كما جاء في تعليم يسوع "من حفظ حياته يَفْقدها، ومن فقد حياته في سبيلِي يُحفظها" (متى 10: 39).

أتم نور العالم (متى 5: 14)

النور أو الضوء هو طاقة مضئبة، في الغالب، يتصف على أنه شعاع كهرومغناطيسي تستطيع العين البشرية تلقيه والإحساس به، وهو المسؤول عن حاسة الإبصار. لأنه بدون لا يستطيع الإنسان أن يرى الأشياء حوله. فالنور وجد لا يخدم ذاته إنما يُستخدم لرؤية الأشياء التي يقع عليها؛ وبدون نور لا لون ولا بهاء ولا حياة في العالم. فالعالم بحاجة إلى نور الله، ونور المسيح ونور المسيحيين.

النور علامة تُظهر بطريقة ملموسة شيئاً من صفات الله. إنه أشبه بانعكاس لجلده كما يترجم صاحب المزامير "أنت المُلشَحَف بالنور كإداء الباسطُ الشَّاء كالتستارة" (مزمو 104: 2). ويعكس النور أيضا حكمة الله، التي هي فيض مجده تعالى "لأنّ الحكمة إنعكاسٌ للنور الأزلي ومرآة صافية لقلب الله وصورة لصلاحه" (حكمة 7: 26)، فالنور هو من الجوهر الإلهي.

وأما النور في العهد الجديد فيعتبر أفضل رمز لطبيعة الله كما جاء في تعليم يوحنا الرسول "إليك البلاغ الذي سمعناه منه ونخبرك به: إن الله نورٌ لا ظلام فيه" (1 يوحنا 1: 5). وبناء عليه يتضمّن النور حضور الله الذي صار قريباً (خروج 24: 11-10)، ويعطي إحساساً بالاطمئنان كما جاء في صلاة المزامير "أبُز يوحنا على عبدك وخَلصني بِرَحمتِكَ" (مزمو 31: 17). ويحمل حضور الله طابع الحماية فيضيء خطي الإنسان "كلمتك مضياع لقدمي ونور لسبيلي" (مزمو 119: 104)، وينير عينيه بإفاده من الخطر "أنظر وأستجب لي أيها الرب إلهي وأبُز عيني لئلا أنام نومة الموت" (مزمو 13: 4). ويقود الله الإنسان البار إلى فرح يوم مضيء "الأب يُنبوع الحياة عندك وتُعاني النور بورك" (مزمو 36: 10)، وعلى هذا النحو يُمثل النور السعادة، وهو مصير الذي ينتظره الإنسان المؤمن كما يترجم صاحب المزامير "الرب نورٍ وخالصي" (مزمو 27: 1).

يسلك المسيحيون سلوك النور، ويتبرون العالم بقدر ما يعكسون نور المسيح، ويقدر ما يخترقهم نور المسيح. ويقدر ما يقون مرتبطين بمصدر النور ليقدّموا للناس نظرة جديدة إزاء الأمور والحياة والتاريخ. لذلك يوصيه بولس الرسول "تكونوا بلا لوم ولا شائبة وأبناء الله بلا غيب في جبل ضالّ فابعد تضيئون ضياء الثورات في الكون" (فيلبي 2: 15). وعندما يصير المسيحيون نور العالم، يراهم جميع الناس فيصبحوا كالمدينة على جبل، "مُغروضين لِنظر العالم والملائكة والناس" (1 قورنثس 4: 9). فهم نور على جبل، يكشفون عن الاتجاه نحو الله، ويتبرون الطريق "للذين في الظلمات" (أشعيا 60: 2). ويُعلق القديس ابراهيموس "ما يستحق الملح ليس أنك في أورشليم، إنما تمارس الحياة المقدسة (كمدينة مقدسة)، المدينة التي نبجلها ونطلبها، هذه التي لم تدخ الأنبياء (متى 23: 37)، ولا سفكت دم المسيح، وإنما تفرح بجاري النهر، وهذه القائمة على الجبل فلا تخفي (متى 5: 14)، يتحدث عنها الرسول كأم للقديسين (غلاطية 4: 26)، وينبج الرسول أن تكون له المواطنة فيها مع البرّ (فيلبي 3: 20)". فن تطبق عليه التطويات يكون حقاً نوراً للعالم وملحاً للأرض ومواطناً لأورشليم السبائية. لذلك لا تقول لبيست في كنيستي حياة. لنألهأ نحن بحياتنا. لا تقول كنيستي تحتاج إلى نبضة روحية وإلى إنعاش، لنبضها نحن سوياً ولننعشها كل على قدر استطاعته. لكن ملحاً للأرض ونوراً للعالم.

الخلاصة

أوكل السيد المسيح تلاميذه رسالة كبيرة وهي: "أتم ملح الأرض، أتم نور العالم". الملح والنور، يحدّدان هوية تلاميذ المسيح ورسالتهم في المجتمع. أن روح المسيح وحده بإمكانه أن يجعلهم فعلاً ملحاً يعطي طعمًا ويحفظ من الفساد ونورًا ينير العالم، إذ يحملون نور الله الحي إلى الذين يجهلون أو يرفضونه.

حياة الملح والنور هي حياة يسوع المسيح، هي حياة التطويات. ومن هنا يشير متى الإنجيلي إلى دور التلاميذ الضروري في المجتمع بأن يكونوا شهوداً لحضور الله في حياتهم بأن يكونوا ملح الأرض ونور العالم. فإن لم نعش حياة التطويات فلسنا نحن ملح، ولا نحن نور. فلنحذر للملحنا من الفساد، نورنا من الإطفاء.

ويؤكد المجمع الفاتيكاني الثاني دور المسيحيين العلمانيين "هم مدعوون بصورة خاصة إلى أن يجعلوا الكنيسة حاضرة وفعالة في تلك الأماكن والظروف التي لا يمكنها إلا بواسطتهم أن تكون "ملح الأرض" (متى 5: 13). وهكذا، فإن كل علماني، بقوة التعم التي أعطها، شاهد وفي الوقت عينه أداة حياة لرسالة الكنيسة بالذات "على مقدار موهبة المسيح" (أفسس 4: 7) (دستور عقائدي في الكنيسة، نور الام، العدد 33). ولذلك نحن مدعوون أن نكون كالتعم عندما يعكس عليه ضوء الشمس يصبح متألّقا في السماء فيمزج حجاب الظلام. وهنا يذكّرنا بولس الرسول "لأنكم جميعاً أبناء النور وأبناء الثّبار. لنسنا نحن من البليل ولا من الظلمات" (1 تسالونيقي 5: 5). ونورنا قوي لأنه مستمد من نور القيامة المنبثق من قبر مسيحنا الذي فيه كان انتصار النور والحياة ونهاية الموت والظلام.



Salt and light. This is what Jesus tells his disciples they are. This is what Jesus is telling us that we are, namely, salt and light. “You are the salt of the earth.” “You are the light of the world.” Yes, you. That’s who you are. Let’s find out how and why and what difference this makes in our lives and what difference this makes in the world around us.

It all starts with Jesus. Who He is and what He comes to do –that is at the base of everything. Jesus is God with us, born to save us from our sins. Jesus is the beloved Son of God, anointed with the Holy Spirit—the Messiah, come to fulfill God’s righteous plan of redeeming sinful mankind. He will do this by identifying with us sinners and taking our sins to the cross, bearing our shame and our guilt and our punishment in our place, suffering death under God’s judgment, so we don’t have to.

We were dwelling in darkness and in the shadow of death. We didn’t what we were doing, with respect to God or ourselves or what life is all about. Our head wasn’t screwed on straight. But on us a light has dawned. Jesus comes among us, and he calls us to repent: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” We acknowledge our sins and turn from them. We look to Jesus for this kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, to be manifested. Then we hear his authoritative, inviting voice, calling to each one of us and saying, “Follow me.” We leave our nets and our fishing boats, and we follow him. There is something compelling about this man.

This is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is to follow him in faith, to learn from him, to hear his voice and heed it. Only in this light can we understand his teaching properly. If you don’t have Jesus, none of this applies. But with Christ—joined to Jesus in baptism and following him in faith—now our life takes on new meaning.

What is it about salt that Jesus is comparing us to here? Apparently, it has something to do with salt having a distinctive taste. For if it loses that distinctive taste, it is no longer good or useful as salt. What is it about us Christians that makes us distinctive in the world, that gives us our particular “taste”? It is that we are followers of Jesus. Faith in Christ sets us apart and makes us who we are. Lose that, and you are no longer special. But live in that distinctiveness, and you and I have something to offer the world and the people around us. They should be able to “taste” how we are different. Jesus says: “Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” Being at peace with one another—that is part of our saltiness. The world is full of conflict and strife. People bear grudges against one another and don’t let go. But Christians are all about forgiveness and peace. God has forgiven us for Christ’s sake. So we forgive one another. God has made peace with us by the cross of Christ. So we seek peace with others. “Blessed are the peacemakers,” Jesus says, “for they shall be called sons of God.” We reflect the character of our heavenly Father when we seek and make peace with one another. That is in our DNA as salty Christians.

Another aspect I think we find is in Colossians where St. Paul writes: “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let

your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Here our saltiness has to do with how we speak. We let wisdom season our speech, so that graciousness marks how we talk to others. Harsh words, angry unwise words—these we guard against. Instead, our Christian faith informs our speech, the fruit of the Spirit tempers our tongue.

We speak differently. Our manner of speech has a Jesus accent. Again, this is what gives us our salty distinctiveness as disciples of Jesus.

“You are the salt of the earth.” “You are the light of the world.” This is the other thing that Jesus is saying to us today. “I thought Jesus is the light of the world. It says that in the Bible, I know it. How can Jesus say then that we are the light of the world?” Well, it’s both. Jesus of course is The Light of the world. He is the light who shines in the darkness and gives life to men. We cannot generate any light on our own or give life to anyone, ourselves included. But having received the light of Christ, now we reflect and radiate that light out to others.

And that is our calling. Let’s not shy away from it. We have light that we have received that is powerful and life-giving. It is the light of the gospel. God intends for us to shine it out to the world. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Don’t hide your Christian life. Let it shine. Let the world know what gives you life. The saving gospel, the good news of Christ, isn’t just good for you. It’s good for everybody. All people in the world need what we have. Through individual one-on-one conversations—you talking with the people you know, your friends and family members—you have opportunity to spread the light, like a lamp shining in a room. And through the church’s gospel ministry—through this congregation’s preaching and teaching ministry, and through the church at large and around the world—we are helping to spread the light of Christ in a sin-darkened world. And the darkness has not overcome it. When you love others in this way, the goal is not to get people to praise you. No, the goal is for people to see the distinctive difference in your life that Christ makes. People will see Jesus in and through you. And as a result, people will give praise and thanks and glory to your Father in heaven. I see the many good works that you, my brothers and sisters, are doing—how you love one another and care for one another and are serving in your community—and I thank God for the good work he is doing in you and through you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. That is who you are. Jesus makes it so. Embrace your identity as His disciples. God has created you to be salt and light. So go ahead and be who you are. May your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.



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Eid El Saydeh

Summer Festival

Saturday



Andre Ibrahim
+ his band

Saturday, August 12th

4:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Sunday, August 13th

from noon to 7:00 pm

Rain or Shine (under big tents)

Saturday



DJ Michael Elias

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Sunday



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+ his band

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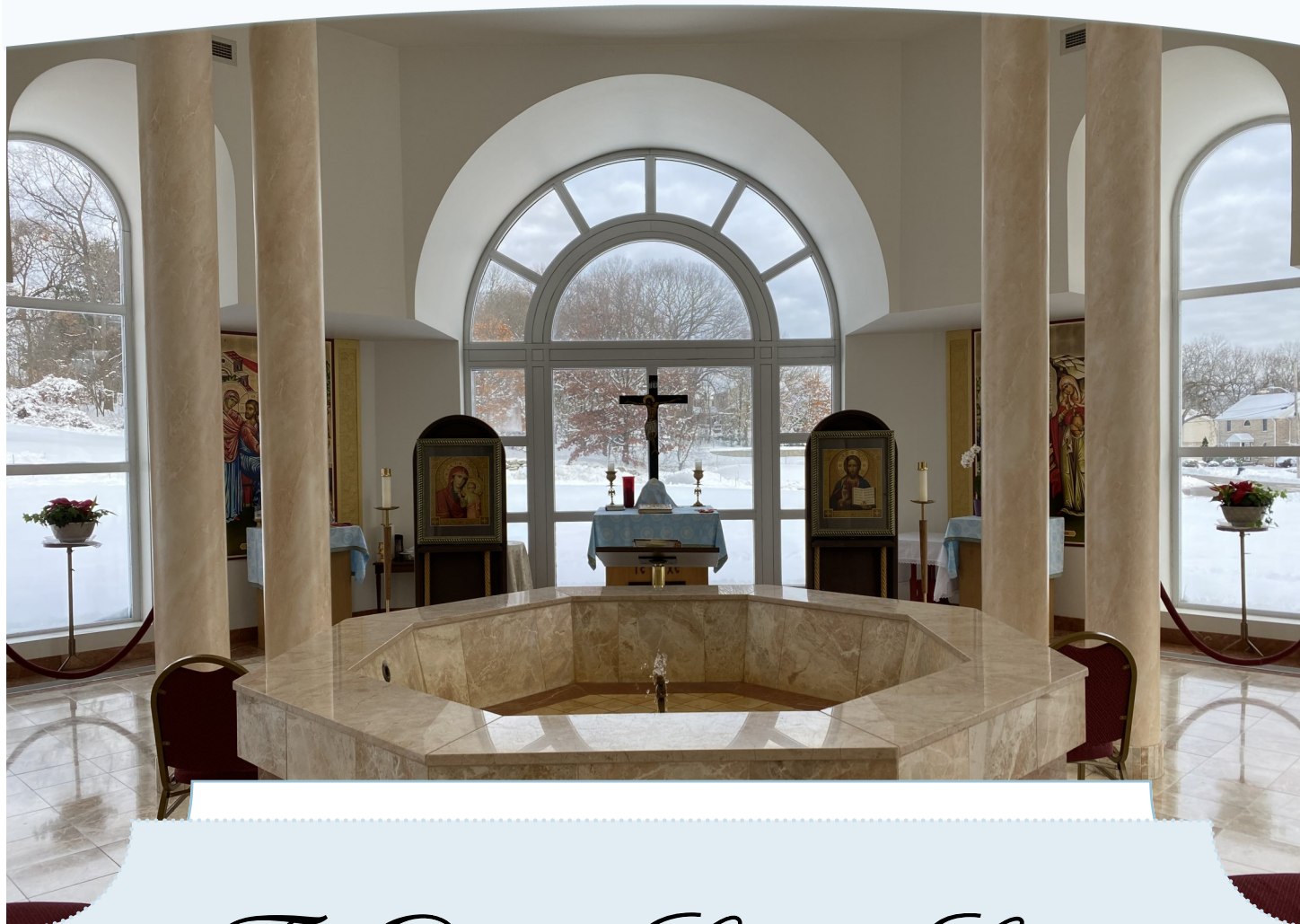


LITURGICAL CALENDAR



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JULY	30 9 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد التاسع بعد العنصرة 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 Matthew 14:22-34	31 St Eudocimos 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Matthew 21:18-22					1 Sts Cosmas & Damian Romans 8:14-21 Matthew 9:9-13
 تموز – يوليو 2023	2 5 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الخامس بعد العنصرة Romans 10:1-10 Matthew 8:28-9:1	3 St Hyacinth Romans 16:17-24 Matthew 13:10-23	4 St Andrew of Crete 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Matthew 13:24-30	5 St Athanasios of Athos 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:8 Matthew 13:31-36	6 St Sisois the Great 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Matthew 13:36-43	7 St Thomas of Maleum 1 Corinthians 4:5-8 Matthew 13:44-54	8 St Procopios Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 9:18-26
JUNE 2023 S M T W T F S 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	9 6 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد السادس بعد العنصرة Romans 12:6-14 Matthew 9:1-8	10 The 45 Martyrs of Nicopolis 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:11 Matthew 13:54-58	11 St Euphemia 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Luke 7:36-50	12 Sts Proclus and Hilarion 1 Corinthians 7:12-24 Matthew 14:35-15:11	13 Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 1 Corinthians 7:24-35 Matthew 15:12-21	14 St Joseph the Confessor 1 Corinthians 7:35-8:7 Matthew 15:29-31	15 Sts Cyricos and Julitta Romans 12:1-3 Matthew 10:37-11:1
AUGUST 2023 S M T W T F S 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	16 Fathers of the first 6 Ecumenical Councils آباء المجامع لمسكونية السنة الأولى Titus 3:8-15 Matthew 5:14-19	17 St Marina Galatians 3:23-4:5 Mark 5:24-34	18 St Emilian 1 Corinthians 10:5-12 Matthew 16:6-12	19 St Macrina 1 Corinthians 10:12-22 Matthew 16:20-24	20 The prophet Elijah (Elias) النبي إيليا التشبيبي James 5:10-20 Luke 4:22-30	21 Sts Simeon Salos and John 1 Corinthians 11:8-23 Matthew 17:10-18	22 St Mary Magdalene 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 Luke 8:1-13
	23 6 th Sunday after Pentecost الأحد الثامن بعد العنصرة 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Matthew 14:14-22	24 St Christina 1 Corinthians 11:31-12:6 Matthew 18:1-11	25 Dormition of St Anne رقاد القديسة حنة أم وادة الإله Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21	26 St Hermolaos and his companions 1 Corinthians 13:4-14:5 Matthew 20:1-16	27 St Panteleimon 2 Timothy 2:1-10 Luke 21:12-20	28 Sts Prochor, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 Matthew 21:12-14, 17-20	29 Sts Callinicos and Theodota Romans 14:6-9 Matthew 15:32-39

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Divine Liturgy

- **Saturday at 5:00 pm**
- **Sunday at 10:00 am**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

**Check our website
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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.

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!

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