



December 11, 2022

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



Address

15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website

www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook

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

YouTube

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

Email

office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Office hours

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

Divine Liturgies

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 Forefathers

أحد الاجداد القديسين

ANTIPHONS PRAYER:

O Lord our God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, safeguard the fullness of Your Church in peace, sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; in return, raise them to glory by Your divine power and do not forsake us who put our hope in You.

Troparion of the resurrection (2nd tone)

When you descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of your Divinity, and when you raised the dead from under the ground, all the Powers of heaven cried out: O Christ our God, the giver of life, glory to you.

Troparion of the Forefathers, (2nd Tone)

Through faith, You have justified Your Ancestors, O Christ our God, and through them You have espoused in advance the Church set apart from the Gentiles. The saints rejoice in glory because, from the seed of these Ancestors, has come forth the glorious fruit, who gave You birth without seed. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of St Basil

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

الأنديفوننة: أيها الرب الهنا، خلص شعبك وبارك ميراثك، احفظ كمال كنيستك، قدس المحبين بهاء بيتك، انت عوضهم عن ذلك مجداً بقدرتك الالهية ولا تهملنا نحن المتوكلين عليك. لأن لك العزة، ولك الملك والقدرة والمجد، ايها الأب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكل اوان الى دهر الداهرين. آمين.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثاني

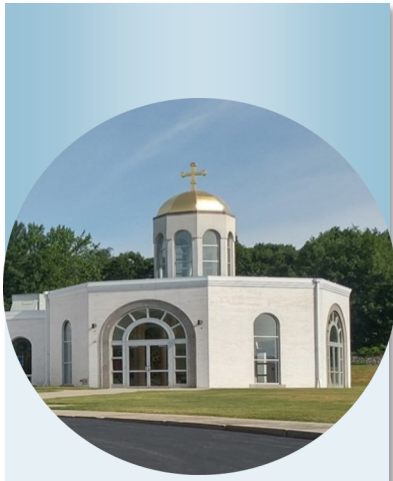
لما نزلت الى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمتّ الجحيم بسنى لاهوتك. ولما أقمت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوا السماوين: أيها المسيح ألهنا، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

نشيد الاجداد باللحن الثاني

بالأيمان بررت الاجداد، وبهم خطبت الكنيسة التي من الامم. فالقديسون يفتخرون بالمجد، لأن من زرعهم الثمرة المجيدة التي ولدتك بلا زرع. فبتضرعاتهم، ايها المسيح الاله خلص نفوسنا.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

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



Our church organizations:

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

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

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



Kondakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word who is, in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded: with the angles and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new-born Babe, while remaining God in all eternity.

Epistle: Sunday of the Forefathers, Colossians 3: 4-11 PROKIMENON

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy 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 Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians

Brethren, when Christ, our life, appears, then you too shall appear in glory. Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once walked in them when they were your (way of) life. But now, you too put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one that is being renewed toward perfect knowledge according to his creator's image (Cf. Gn. 1:26). Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Scythian, no slave and freeman, but Christ is all things, and in all.

Alleluia (Tone 4) Ps. 98:6, 33:18

Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel among those who called upon His name.

Stichon: The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

Gospel: Sunday of Forefathers (11th of Holy Cross) Luke 14: 16-24

The Lord told this parable, "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a farm, and I must go out and see it; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yokes of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant. 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the crippled, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper.' For many are called but few are chosen."

نشيد الختام (قنداق)

تقدمة ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح باللحن الثالث
 اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة، لتلد الكلمة الكائن قبل الدهور، ولادة يُعجّزُ بيائها. فأطربي أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعتي، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، مَنْ شاء أن يظهر طفلاً جديداً. وهو الاله الذي قبل الدهور.

أحد الاجداد القديسين

مقدمة الرسالة

مبارك انت أيها الرب إله آبائنا، ومُسَبِّحٌ وممَجَّدٌ اسمك إلى الدهور
 لأنك عادلٌ في جميع ما صنعت بنا، وأعمالك كلها صدقٌ، وظرفك استقامة

الرسالة (كولوسي 3: 11-4)

يا أخوة، متى أظهر المسيح حياتنا، تظهرون أنتم أيضاً معه بمجد. فأميتوا أذن أعضاءكم التي على الأرض، الزنى والنجاسة والهوى والشهوة الرديئة، والطمع الذي هو عبادة وثن. فإنه لأجل هذه يحل غضبُ الله على أبناء المعصية. وفي هذه أنتم سلكتُم حيناً إذ كنتم عائشين فيها. أما الآن فأنتم أيضاً اطرحو الكَلْبَ، الغضبَ والسخطَ والخبثَ، والتجديفَ والكلامَ القبيحَ من أفواهكم. ولا يُكذِّبُ بعضكم بعضاً. إخلعوا الإنسانَ العتيقَ مع أعماله. وألبسوا الإنسانَ الجديدَ الذي يتجدد للمعرفة على صورة خالقه، حيث ليس يوناني ولا يهودي، ولا ختان ولا قلف، ولا أعجمي ولا أسكوتي، ولا عبد ولا حرّ، بل المسيح هو كل شيء وفي الجميع.

هللوا

موسى وهرون بين كهنته، وضموئيل بين الدّاعين باسمه

الصدّيقون صرخوا والرب استمع لهم، ومن جميع مضايقتهم نجاههم

انجيل أحد الاجداد القديسين

الاحد الحادي عشر بعد الصليب

(لوقا 14: 16-24)

قال الرب هذا المثل: أنسان صنعَ عشاءً عظيماً ودعا كثيرين، وأرسلَ عبده في ساعة العشاء يقول للمدعوين: هلموا فإن كل شيء قد أُعدّ. فظفّقوا كلهم واحداً فواحداً يعتذرون. فقال له الأول: قد اشتريت حقلاً، ولا بد لي أن أخرج وأنظُرهُ، فأسألك أن تُعذّرني. وقال الآخر: قد اشتريت خمسة قِدادين بقر، وأنا ماضٍ لأجرّتها، فأسألك أن تُعذّرني. وقال الآخر: قد تزوّجت امرأة، ولذلك لا أستطيع أن أجيء. فرجع ذلك العبد وأخبر سيده بذلك. حينئذ غضب رب البيت وقال لعبده: أخرج سريعاً إلى شوارع المدينة وأزفّتها، وأدخل المساكين والجُدْعَ والعُمَيَّانَ والعُرجَ إلى ههنا. فقال العبد: يا سيّد، قد فُضي ما أُمّرت به وتبقى أيضاً محلّ. فقال السيّد للعبد أخرج إلى الطرقي والأسبجة واضطرّهم إلى الدخول حتّى يمتلئ بيّتي. فإني أقول لكم: إنّه لا يدوق عشاءي أحد من أولئك الرجال المدعوّين. فإنّ المدعوّين كثيرين والمُختارين قليلين.



Prayer for the dead

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

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



Divine Liturgy Intentions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022: SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **REV. ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY (2nd Anniv.)** by his wife Violet & Family & **ANGELA (YANY) MAZZONE (2nd Anniv.)** by the Family.
- + **LILY & GABRIEL NASSANEY & ALBERT NAHABIT** by the Family.
- + **MICHAEL MARDO (37th Anniv.)** by wife Alberta & Family.
- + **WALTER J. LEMAY (7th Anniv.)** by his wife, Shirley.
- + **DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE FAYAN FAMILY** by the Family.
- + **JOSEPH R., THECLA, & JOSEPH E. MARDO** by Barbara Mardo.
- + **MARIE SAURIOL** by Deacon & Mrs. Edmond B. Raheb.
- + **CHARLES & RENE DEMTY** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **JOSEPH & CHRISTINE DEMTY** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **SIPPIE DEMTY** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **SAM & BERNADETTE DEMTY** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **OLGA & GEORGE ASERMEY** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **SADIE & LOUIS JARJOURA** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **MARY & JERRY KOUSSA** by Mr. Charles Demty.
- + **ANTOINETTE & VINCENT KEOUGH** by Mr. Charles Demty.

11:15 DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **CHARLES "PETE" MARCOTTE** by M/M Michael & Lina Raheb.
- + **HUSNI & LINDA HADDAD (Anniv.)** by daughter Yola Haddad, Neil Karraz & Family.
- + **MARIE CLAIRE CHOUHA (2nd Anniv.)** by Samir & Dolly Chouha.
- + **JEANNETTE AYOUB DAIKH (Aleppo, Syria)** by Laila Raheb.
- + **RAYMOND & VIOLETTE SAGGAL** by Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki & Family.
- + **GEORGE A, & GEORGETTE A. SAGGAL** by Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki & Family.
- + **FRANCIS & GEORGETTE S. SAGGAL** by Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki & Family.
- + **ABOUD A., JAMILA A., & ELIAS A. SAGGAL** by Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki & Family.
- + **MICHAEL GEORGE BOUDJOUK (NJ)** by M/M Albert & Lina Kishfy.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: December 4, 2022: Budgets: \$1,844.00: Envelopes: \$1,750.00, Loose: \$94.00; Candles: \$112.00; Stole Offerings: \$350.00; Building Fund: \$745.00 Addit'l Fuel: \$15.00; Relig. Ed: \$212.00: Addit'l Melkite Support: \$20.00.

PLEASE NOTE: Before making any **ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS**, please contact the Church in advance. We would rather not have you disappointed if you've already made commitments without checking our schedule first.

GENERAL HOME VISITATIONS, SICK CALLS, HOSPITAL VISITS: Father Ephrem has been fully vaccinated and is now available for these parish services. Just email him at office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com and leave him your message. **PLEASE! NO GRATUITIES!** A cup of coffee or tea is just fine. He looks forward to in-person contact

TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS**. Help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory as prices escalate rapidly. We must remember that utilities are more than doubled in our new complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

The **CHRISTMAS FAST** for the Melkite Church began Saturday, December 10, 2022. (The time of this Fast previously was begun on November 15th). Let the Holy Spirit lead you in personal preparation for this Holy Season.

The **MYO** will be making blankets and donating them to **AMOS HOUSE** this year. We will be seeking monetary or fabric donations for this worthy cause.

If you would like to donate, kindly see any **MYO** member or contact: Joe Massud at 1-508-802-7585 or Christine Barrett at 1-401-265-0386. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Much appreciated!

ENVELOPE USERS: It would be helpful to us if you could please check off the amount on the outside of the budget envelope. This will allow for more efficiency and accuracy in the recording of your budgets. Thank you kindly!

Also, it has been observed that some people have forgotten to fill their budget envelopes with their offering (some sealed, others unsealed), and it is awkward to put us in this kind of position. We humbly ask you to be more careful in this regard.

ST. BASIL'S PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL will hold an open Parish Meeting this Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. You will be kept abreast of all the activities and operations of the Church. This is the opportune time if you wish to raise any needs, thoughts, concerns, questions, misunderstandings, suggestions, etc. Let us remain the united and caring community that we are! Everyone is welcomed!

ADVENT SEASON: Behold, the time of our salvation draws near: let the cave be ready, for the Virgin is about to give birth; and you, Bethlehem of Juda, rejoice and be glad, for the Lord will soon shine forth from your midst. Listen all of you, mountains and hills, and country of Juda: Christ is coming to save men, his creatures, for He is the Lover of Mankind.

REFLECTION: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
Aristotle, Metaphysics

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



Invitation to the Wedding Feast



Imagine that you live in a great kingdom with a king and queen and many other great people. You hear that the king's son is going to get married and there will be a great wedding feast. All the lords and ladies and rich land owners are invited. On the day of the wedding the servants go out to call the guests to the wedding, but all those important people refuse to go! They say they are too busy with other things, and can't be bothered to go!

Now imagine that you are one of the children in a poor family that lives down a back street. Suddenly you hear people calling out that the king has invited your family to the feast! What excitement! Everybody puts on their best clothes and goes to the castle. In a little while the king comes in and you see him pointing to a man who isn't dressed neatly, and hasn't washed his face or brushed his hair. He sends the man out of the hall.



This is the story that Jesus told about the kingdom of Heaven. Many important people have been invited, but they have decided that they were too busy with other things. But the King has invited us too! We should rejoice and "dress" our souls by being the best we can be! Don't be a half-hearted Christian!



www.thekidsbulletin.com



The king sent his servants to call all the people in the street to his son's wedding. Follow the road on the map from the castle's courtyard all the way to the farmland. The people in the houses next to the road you pass are invited to the wedding.

You can colour in the houses if you like.
Who was invited to the feast?

Excuses.. Excuses



As I meditate on the Parable of the Great Banquet I am impressed with a number of themes:

1. Rejection and Insult

We feel badly when we are rejected, but what about the Father? Think of his grief and broken heart. Think of his anger and mercy. I recall the verses at the beginning of John's Gospel that express this:

"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." (John 1:11-13)

Jesus told us,

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me." (John 15:18-21)

This parable is a bittersweet reminder of rejection, but also of mercy.

2. Mercy and grace

The second theme I see is one of grace and mercy. Those who are not worthy to come to the host's table -- the poor, lame, crippled, blind -- are now invited. That is you and that is me. We are unworthy to eat at our Host's table, but we have been invited and cleansed. How true it is: "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God" (14:15b).

As I read the servant's invitation, "Come, for everything is now ready," my mind begins singing the gospel hymn by Charlotte G. Homer and W.A. Ogden:

"All things are ready," come to the feast! Come, for the table now is spread;

Ye famishing, ye weary, come and thou shalt be richly fed.

Hear the invitation, come, 'whosoever will.'

Praise God for full salvation for 'whosoever will.'

This is God's mercy, pure and simple.

3. Evangelism

A third, and closely related theme is evangelism. The poor, lame, crippled, and blind are now sought out. They are not just invited, but they are sought out and urged, compelled, to accept the invitation. The poor and oppressed among the Jewish people are in view, but also the Gentiles. We are the servants, and bring a marvelous message of invitation and acceptance and forgiveness. We must take our role seriously and urge the invitation wherever we are. This is not a take-it-or-leave-it task. It is a mission, the mission of the Host, and we must fulfill it.

4. Judgment

But those who reject the invitation -- for whatever reason -- will not taste of the Master's banquet. We bear good news, but with humility and sadness, realizing that contained within the very message are the seeds of judgment. However, it's not like we are damning people by telling them the Good News. Actually, the Good News is their only hope -- they are already under God's judgment for their sins. It's only that deliberately rejecting the invitation invites greater judgment, and that saddens us.

5. Lame Excuses

I am sorry to say that, in the lame excuses of the original guests, I hear some of my own shallow excuses for not doing God's will. We may be able to convince ourselves that what we are doing is noble, but I am afraid that way too often our excuses are an insult to God. He is the Host and he is the Master of the house. It is God's mercy that we are not consumed!

6. God's Plan

The final theme that I see here is one of God's plan. The host has prepared food for a large number of guests, and he won't be satisfied until his house is completely full.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

I get the feeling -- though this is not inherent in the parable before us -- that as soon as the last place is taken at the banquet, the door will be shut and the feast will begin. The Father is lingering, waiting for each and every seat to be taken, and the End will not come until that has occurred. We catch a hint of this in Second Peter:

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and *speed its coming*." (2 Peter 3:11-12)

I believe we can "speed" the coming of the Day of the Lord by evangelism. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

As we do throughout the Bible, we see the themes of free will and predestination intertwined -- God's established purpose, our obedience to serve him, and the acceptance of the invitation by those we speak to. How it all fits together God only knows.

This parable is shocking socially. It is also sobering and urgent. May God use it to urge you to thankfulness and obedience, too.

Prayer

Father, in this parable I sense your hurt and your urgency. Please help me to share your heart. Your sorrow, you love for the poor, and the urgency of your invitation. Shake complacency out of me. Help me to be a worthy and obedient bearer of your invitation. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

الوليمة السماوية



من العالم". يمكن أن نرى هنا الرابط بين اهتمامات المدعوين وهذه الأنواع الثلاثة من الشهوات التي يذكرها الإنجيلي يوحنا. فالأول يمثل شهوة تعظم المعيشة، أي حبّ اقتناء الممتلكات الدنيوية أما الثاني فيمثل شهوة العين، عندما تنحرف الحواس عن هدفها الأصلي والثالث يمثل شهوة الجسد وإشباع رغباتها.

عندما رفض المدعوون هذه الدعوة، أرسل السيد عبده قائلاً: " اخرج سريعاً إلى شوارع المدينة وأزقيها وأدخل المساكين والجدع والعميان والعرج إلى ههنا". لقد سبق الرب يسوع وأعان للمتكئين معه قائلاً: إذا صنعت ضيافة فادع المساكين والجدع والعميان". لقد اختار الله جهل العالم ليخزي الحكماء واختار الضعفاء ليخزي الأقوياء" (1 كور 1: 27-28). لقد رفض المدعوون من نخبة الشعب ومن الفريسيين، والكتبة العارفين بالكتب المقدسة ورؤساء الكهنة دعوة الرب يسوع فأصبحت الدعوة موجهة إلى العشارين والزناة والخطاة، "إذ إن العشارين والزواني يسبقونكم إلى ملكوت الله" (متى 21: 31) وأيضاً "كثيرون أولون يكونون آخرين وآخرين أولين" (متى 19-30) وبرغم ذلك عاد العبد ليقول لسيدّه: " قد قضي ما أمرت به ويبقى أيضاً محلّ ". فقال السيد للعبد: "اخرج إلى الطرق والأسبجة واضطرمهم للدخول حتى يمتلئ البيت".

لقد سكب الله رحمته أيضاً على الوثنيين وهذا ما يشير إليه "الذين في الطرق والأسبجة" الطريق يشير هنا إلى طريق حياة الأمم الوثنية الذي ضلوا عن طريق التعليم القويم وقادهم ذلك إلى تعاليم خاطئة. أما الأسبجة فتشير هنا إلى حياة الخطيئة التي كانوا يعيشونها لأن الخطيئة بمثابة السباح أوالحائط الذي يفصلنا عن الله" (القديس باسيليوس الكبير).

يقول السيد للعبد: " اضطرمهم إلى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيتي" بالطبع لا يحمل الطلب هنا معنى الإكراه بالإكراه، ولكنه يحمل معنى الإصرار والعزم الثابت للسيد بإكمال الدعوة إلى العشاء وإن رفض المدعوين الدعوة فإن هذا لا يثنى عزيمة السيد من أن يُرسل دعوته إلى آخرين، لمن هم من الخارج. يقول السيد في سفر الرؤيا: " هاأنذا واقف على الباب وأقرع، إن سمع أحد وفتح الباب أدخل إليه وأتعشى معه وهو معي (رؤيا 3: 20).

إن الرب الإله منذ العهد القديم ومروراً بالعهد الجديد إلى يومنا هذا يستخدم طُرُقاً مختلفة ووسائل متعددة من أجل دعوة البشرية إلى الخلاص لأنه " يُريد الجميع أن يخلصوا وإلى معرفة الحق أن يُقبلوا" (تيموثاوس 2: 4).

إن الآية الأخيرة في إنجيل اليوم " ولأن المدعوين كثيرون والمختارين قليلون" هي آية مُضافة إلى المقطع الإنجيلي وهي مأخوذة من (متى 12: 14) وقد أضيفت إلى المقطع الإنجيلي حتى يكتمل معنى النص.

لقد رأت الكنيسة المقدسة في مثل هذا العشاء صورة عن الوليمة السماوية المذكورة في سفر الرؤيا، إذ يقول الملاك للإنجيلي يوحنا: " اكتب طوبى للمدعوين إلى عشاء عرس الخروف" (رؤ 9: 9) هذه الدعوة السماوية ليست إلا سرّ الأفخارستيا المقدسة، المشاركة في جسد الرب الطاهر ودمه الكريمين.

هذه الدعوة إلى " وليمة الإيمان" نجد لها صدئاً في عظة القديس يوحنا الذهبي الفم في الفصح المقدس، يكتب: " ادخلوا إذا جميعكم إلى فرح ربكم، أيها الأولون والآخرين. أكرموا هذا النهار، المائدة ملأته فتنعموا جميعكم. العجل سمين فلا يخرج أحد جائعاً. تمتعوا جميعكم بوليمة الإيمان"

لقد أرسل الله ابنه الوحيد، كلمة الله المتجسّد، الذي بذل حياته على الصليب من أجل خلاص العالم فكان هو " المُقَرَّب والمُقَرَّب، القابل والمُؤَزَّع"، والذي أعطانا جسده الطاهر ودمه الكريمين المهرق من أجل حياة العالم، فاليوم " إن سمعتم صوته فلا تقسّوا قلوبكم" (عبرانيين 3: 15) بل فلنبادر إلى الذي دعانا إلى هذه الوليمة السماوية حتى نصير مشاركين الحياة الأبدية والملكوت. آمين.

+

هذا الأحد هو الأحد الحادي عشر من لوقا ويُعرف أيضاً " بأحد الأجداد " وهو يأتي قبل ميلاد ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح بالجسد وفيه نُقيم تذكّار جميع الآباء الأبرار من العهد القديم، من إبراهيم مروراً بجميع الأبرار وأنبياء العهد القديم الذين حضّروا وتبأوا بمجيء المسيح (المسيا) المُخلص.

القراءة الإنجيلية من لوقا الإصحاح (14: 16- 24) وهي عن مثل يُعرف ب"مثل المدعوين إلى العشاء" أو مثل"العشاء العظيم" وهذا المثل قاله يسوع بينما كان مدعواً إلى بيت أحد رؤساء الفريسيين في السبت ليأكل خبزاً " (14: 1) وكان الفريسيون " يُزافونه ". لقد لقي يسوع هذا المثل في بيت الفريسي بعد أن حذّره من "الجلوس في أول المتكآت" ثم أعطاهم تعليماً عن الحب والعطاء قائلاً لهم: " إذا صنعت غذاء أو عشاء فلا تدع أصدقائك ولا إخوانك لنلا يدعوك هم أيضاً فتكون لك مكافأة، بل ادع المساكين والجدع والعرج والعميان" (14: 13).

يأتي هذا المثل ردّاً على قول أحد المتكئين: " طوبى لمن يأكل خبزاً في ملكوت الله". في تعليقه على هذا القول يقول القديس غريغوريوس اللاهوتي: " يبدو أن هذا الرجل كان جسدياً ومُسْتَعْمِلاً غير مبالٍ للأمور التي سلمها المسيح، ولم يتمكن من فهم ما تكلم به المسيح بشكل صحيح، لقد ظنّ أن المكافأة للقديسين هي مكافأة جسدية وليست روحية".

يبدأ المثل بقول الرب: " إنسانٌ صنع عشاءً عظيماً ودعى كثيرين فأرسل عبده في ساعة العشاء يقول للمدعوين". يرى بعض الآباء القديسون (كبرللس الإسكندري) في هذا الإنسان صورة عن الله " الأب " الذي أرسل ابنه الوحيد، الرب يسوع المسيح، والذي بحسب الرسول بولس " أخلّى نفسه أخذاً صورة عبد صائراً في شبه الناس" (فيلبي 12: 7). تبدو الصورة أوضح في هذا المثل بحسب الإنجيلي متى (28: 1- 14) إذ يجعل من هذا الإنسان " ملكاً صنع غرساً لابنه " (متى 28: 1). لقد أرسل الله ابنه الوحيد ليدعو شعبه إلى الخلاص.

هذا الإنسان النبيل قد جهّز العشاء وأرسل عبده ليقول للمدعوين: " تعالوا فإن كل شيء قد أُعِدّ كل شيء جاهز ولا ينقص إلا حضوركم. قد يتوقع الإنسان أنه من الصعب رفض مثل هكذا دعوة ولكن الأمر الغريب أن المدعوين " طُفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ واحداً فواحد يستغفون ". لقد اعترض الجميع عن الحضور متعللين بأسباب وحجج مختلفة، لكنها من حيث جوهرها هي واحدة، يقول القديس باسيليوس الكبير: " لم يستطيعوا المجيء وذلك لأن الذهن البشري عندما يكون منشغلاً بالاهتمامات العالمية يُصبح ضعيفاً في الإهتمام في الأمور التي لله".

لقد اختصر الرب يسوع هذه الإهتمامات البشرية بما يلي: الأول، اشترى حقلاً، والثاني لديه خمسة أزواج يقرّ يريد أن يجرّيها، أما الأخير فيقول أنه تزوج من امرأة وهو لا يستطيع أن يأتي. هذه النماذج الثلاثة تُلخّص في جوهرها كافة الأعذار والإهتمامات البشرية.

يُفسر القديس غريغوريوس اللاهوتي هذه الإهتمامات بالنحو التالي: أولاً، الذي اشترى الحقل هو الإنسان الذي لديه هوى الاقتناء، لقد كان الفريسيون والكتبة متعلقين بحقولهم، أي ممتلكاتهم الدنيوية، لم يكن لديهم لا الوقت ولا الرغبة في التفكير في نفوسهم وخلاصها.

أما الثاني الذي اشترى خمسة أزواج من البقر، فهي تُشير إلى حواس الإنسان الخمسة والتي بحق يجب أن تُسمى "بالنير كونها مزدوجة في كلا الجنسين". (العظة 35 من لوقا). هذه الحواس هي عطية مهمة من الله وهي تعطينا إمكانية أن نتواصل مع العالم الخارجي ولكن هذه الحواس عندما تخضع للشهوة تحيد عن هدفها الطبيعي وتُصبح خادمة للشرير.

أما الثالث الذي قد تزوج، فمن الواضح أن الهدف ليس إهانة الزواج والذي هو سرّ مُقدس ولكن ماذا الذي يجب أن يفهم من الزوجة هنا "هو إشباع الشهوات الجسدية" (غريغوريوس اللاهوتي).

يكتب القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي في رسالته الأولى: " لا تُحِنُوا العالم ولا الأشياء التي في العالم، لأن كل ما في العالم شهوة الجسد وشهوة العين وتعظم المعيشة ليس من الأب بل



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



DECEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 كانون الأول – ديسمبر 2022					1 Holy Prophet Nahum 1 Timothy 3:1-13 Luke 20:9-18	2  Holy Prophet Habakkuk 1 Timothy 4:4-8,16 Luke 20:19-26	3 Holy Prophet Zephaniah Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 12:32-40
	4 St John the Damascene 10 th Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد العاشر بعد عيد الصليب Galatians 3:23-4:5 Luke 13:10-17	5 St Sabbas the Sanctified Galatians 5:22-6:2 Matthew 11:27-30	6 St Nicholas of Myra Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23	7  St Ambrose of Milan 1 Timothy 5:22-6:11 Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24	8 Prep of Maternity of Anne, grandmother of our Lord 1 Timothy 6:17-21 Luke 21:28-33	9  Maternity of Anne Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21	10  Beginning of the Nativity Fast بدء صوم الميلاد Galatians 5:22-6:2 Luke 13:19-29
	11  Holy Ancestors of Christ أحد الأجداد القديسين Colossians 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-25	12  St Spyridon of Trimythus Ephesians 5:8-19 John 10:9-16	13  St Eustrates and his companions 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 Mark 8:22-26	14  St Thyrces and his companions 2 Timothy 4:9-22 Mark 8:30-34	15  St Eleutherios 1 Titus: 5-14 Mark 9:9-15	16  Holy Prophet Haggai Titus 1:15-2:10 Mark 9:33-41	17  Holy Prophet Daniel Ephesians 1:16-23 Luke 14:1-11
NOVEMBER 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	18  Genealogy of Christ أحد نسب السيد المسيح Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25	19  St Boniface Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19 Mark 9:42-10:1	20  Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord Hebrews 4:1-13 Mark 10:2-12	21  St Juliana of Nicomedia Hebrews 5:11-6:8 Mark 10:11-16	22  St Anastasia Hebrews 7:1-6 Mark 10:17-27	23   Paramony of Christmas بارمون الميلاد Hebrews 1:1-12 Luke 2:1-20	24  Saturday before the Nativity السبت الذي قبل الميلاد Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 13:19-29
JANUARY 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	25  Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ ميلاد سيدنا يسوع المسيح Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12	26 St Joseph the Betrothed Synaxis of the Theotokos Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23	27 St Stephen Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 Matthew 21:33-42	28 Holy Martyrs of Nicomedia Hebrews 10:1-18 Mark 11:22-26	29 Holy Innocents in Bethlehem Hebrews 10:35-11:7 Mark 11:27-33	30 St Anysia Hebrews 11:8-16 Mark 12:1-12	31 Leave-taking of the Nativity وداع الميلاد 1 Timothy 3:13-4:5 Matthew 3:1-6



Church Major Feasts



Abstain from Meat



Fast from midnight until noon



Lenten Season

NEW YEAR – THEOPHANY

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festal Divine Liturgy.

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festal Divine Liturgy with Youth Pageant.

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy **Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord – St Basil's Feast - New Years' Day**
(at St. Elias's Chapel)

Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (at St. Elias's Chapel)

Friday, January 6 – Feast of the Theophany

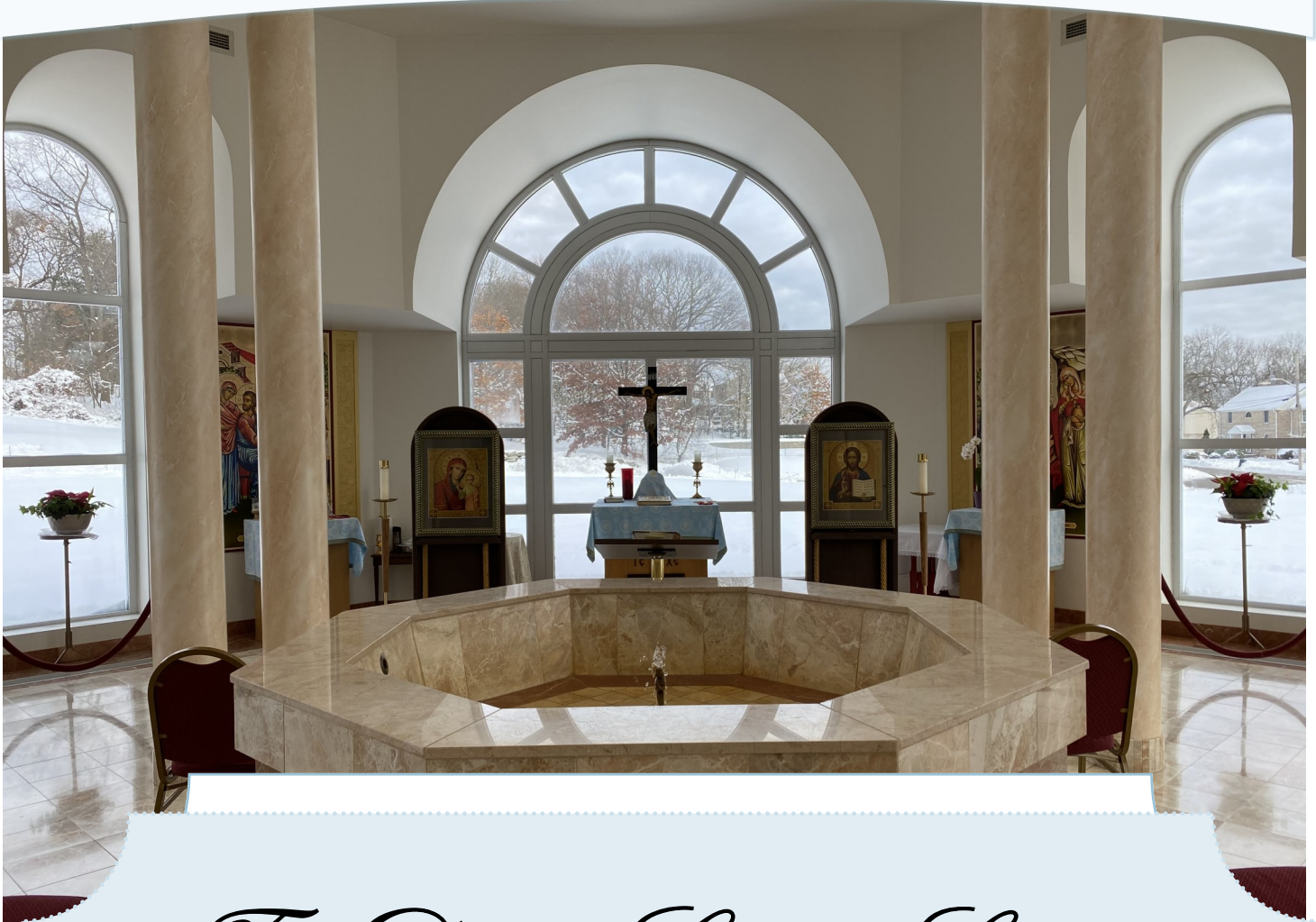
6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

Sunday, January 8 – Solemnity of the Theophany

9:00 a.m. English Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

11:15 a.m. Arabic Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Divine Liturgy

- **9:00 am**
- **11:15 am**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

**Check our website
for Church news and updates at**
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

On Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/StBasilMelkiteChurchRI/>

YouTube
<https://bit.ly/2VJgvnS>

Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"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.



St. Basil's Fellowship Christmas Party

Monday, December 12, at 6 p.m.

St. Basil's Cultural Center

4-Course Dinner prepared by Chef Ben Perry

Entertainment by Tom Sabbagh

Everyone is Welcome!

\$30/pp

*See Joyce Perry or
Judy Rawan for tickets.*





Sunday, December 18
after 11:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Nicholas will be passing out the Christmas gifts to all the children
Food and entertainment will be provided



St. Basil the Great – Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Dr., Lincoln RI



The Festival of Lights!

You are invited to a memorable celebration
for the **Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
On Friday, December 23rd, 2022, at 6:30 pm
Chanted by **St. Basil's Choir**

Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be served

St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church
15 Skyview Drive – Lincoln RI 02865

New Year's Eve 2023

Saturday, December 31st, 8:30 pm – 2:00 am

Featuring

Salah El Kurdi
& his Live Band



Cash bar
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AND MORE...

Deluxe Mazza & Dinner 9:30 pm sharp
Tickets start at \$125 + VIP \$150 available

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George Mardo 401-744-7657
Camille Albatal 401-365-3126

Samir Boudjouk 401-7441-141
Faiz AlBatal 401-692-1808
Ranim Nassar 401-489-4482
Kyle Mardo 401-578-5369

All Tickets must be pre-paid (Cash, checks, credit) - Deadline December 26, 2022

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 11/4/2022



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: \$363,000



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.



Walk In Cooler & Kitchen Repairs: Reviewing needs and potential options.



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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