



December 17, 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

Winter Schedule Begins This week

Saturday: 9:00 AM

Sunday: 11:15 AM

Pastoral Emergencies and anointing of the sick

(401)722-1345

Holy Mysteries

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before and after 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 (4th tone)

The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the angel the joyful announcement of the resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral sentence, proudly told the apostles: Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, bestowing to the world great mercy."

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 مجدداً 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 الرابع

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك بشرى القيامة البهيجة. ونبذن القضاء على الجدين، وقلن للرسل مفتخرات: لقد سلب الموت، ونهض المسيح الاله، واهباً للعالم عظيم الرحمة.

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. فبتصرعاتهم، ايها المسيح الاله خلص نفوسنا.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبّلت كلامك، الذي به بيئت 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 (3rd Tone)

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him who shall appear as a new Child, being God from 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)

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 Great Feast)

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) مقدمة ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح باللحن الثالث

اليوم العذراء تأتي الى المغارة، لتلد الكلمة الكائن قبل الدهور، ولادة يُعجَبُ بيأُنها. فأطربى ابنتها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، مَنْ شاء ان يظهر طفلاً جديداً. وهو الاله الذي قبل الدهور.

أحد الاجداد القديسين—مقدمة الرسالة

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

الرسالة (كولوسي 3: 11-4)

يا أخوة، متى أظهر المسيح حياتنا، تظهرون أنتم أيضاً معه بمجد. فأميتوا اذن أعضاءكم التي على الارض، الزنى والنجاسة والهوى والشهوة الرديئة، والطمع الذي هو عبادة وثن. فإنه لأجل هذه يحل غضب الله على أبناء المعصية. وفي هذه أنتم سلكتم حيناً اذ كنتم عائشين فيها. أما الآن فأنتم أيضاً اطرحوا الكل، الغضب والسخط والخبث، والتجديف والكلام القبيح من أفواهكم. ولا يُكذِبُ بعضكم بعضاً. إخلعوا الانسان العتيق مع أعماله. وألبسوا الانسان الجديد الذي يتجدد للمعرفة على صورة خالقه، حيث ليس يوناني ولا يهودي، ولا ختان ولا قلف، ولا أعجمي ولا أسكوتي، ولا عبد ولا حر، بل المسيح هو كل شيء وفي الجميع.

هللوا

موسى وهرون بين كهنته، وصموئيل بين الداعين باسمه
الصديقون 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 صنع عشاءً عظيماً ودعا كثرين، وأرسل عبده في ساعة العشاء يقول للمدعوين: هلموا فإن كل شيء قد أُعدَّ. فظفقا كلهم واحداً فواحد يعتذرون. فقال له الأول: قد اشتريت حقلاً، ولا بد لي أن أخرج وأنظره، فأسألك أن تعذرنى. وقال الآخر: قد اشتريت خمسة فدادين بقر، وأنا ماضٍ لأجرتها، فأسألك أن تعذرنى. وقال الآخر: قد تزوجت امرأة، ولذلك لا أستطيع أن أجيء. فرجع ذلك العبد وأخبر سيده بذلك. حينئذ غضب رب البيت وقال لعبده: أخرج سريعاً الى شوارع المدينة وأرجعها، وأدخل المساكين والجدع والعميان والعمى الى ههنا. فقال العبد: يا سيده، قد فُضي ما أمرت به وبقى أيضاً محل. فقال السيد للعبد أخرج الى الطرقي والأسبجة واضطرهم الى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيتي. فإني أقول لكم: إنه لا يدوق عشاءي أحد من أولئك الرجال المدعوين. فإن المدعوين كثرين والمختارين قليلون.



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

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023: SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS. THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT. PROPHET DANIEL AND ANANIAS, AZARIUS AND MIZAEAL.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **BARBARA (AZRAK) COLICCHIO (40 Day)** by her Nieces and Nephews.
- + **ALBERT & JOSEPHINE HARRAKA** by George & Jeanne Harraka.
- + **ELIZABETH NOURY (24th Anniv.)** by her daughters & their Families.
- + **FRED KOUSSA (31st Annv.)** by Linda A. Koussa.
- + **WALTER J. ("BILL") LEMAY (8th Anniv.)** by his wife, Shirley.
- + **SIPPIE DENTY** by Charles Denty.
- + **JOSEPH R., THECLA, and JOSEPH E. MARDO** by Barbara Mardo.
- + **DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HAJJAR FAMILY** by Jean Vitali & Family.

11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **ANGELA SABBAGH (28th Anniv.)** by her parents, Thomas & Joanne, her brothers Michael, his wife Vanessa & Geoffrey.
- + **ROSE & HUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **HALA ASHKAR KARRAZ** by Neil, Yolanda Karraz & Family.
- + **YOUSSEF GEORGI DEEB** by Najat Khoury Madour.
- + **MAGGIE MARTINEZ** by Bob & Margie Mardo.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Mrs. Sarah Peters.
- + **ALL DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SAGGAL & CHARCHAFLIAH FAMILY** by Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: DECEMBER 10, 2023: Budgets: \$2,780.00 (Envelopes: \$2,535.00; Loose: \$245.00; Candles: \$119.00; Stole Offerings: \$250.00; Building Fund: \$70.00; Sun. School Reg.: \$40.00; Fuel: \$280.00; Food Fair Activity: \$130.00.

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.

FLOWERS: Many parishioners have followed the long tradition of donating poinsettias to the Church for the Christmas Season. If you would like to participate in this tradition, please sign your name on the bulletin board located outside the kitchen and give \$10.00 donation to Barbara O'Rourke or call 401-636-1802. Since we have a larger sanctuary area to cover, we would appreciate your generosity in this regard to enhance the church at this most blessed season.

The **CHRISTMAS FAST** for the Melkite Church began **Sunday, December 10, 2023**. The time of this Fast previously began on November 15th). Our Diocesan policy at present recommends that we fast from all food and drink from midnight until Noon each day and abstain from meat and meat products on Wednesdays and Fridays and on Christmas Eve. Let the Holy Spirit lead you in personal preparation for this Holy Season.

Please make this **Christmas first and foremost a Spiritual Feast**. Make your peace with God in the Mystery of Confession. Receive Him in Holy Communion. Begin the New Year reconciled to God and determine to worship Him regularly. May Christmas bring a rebirth of grace to you individually, to your family and to our whole Parish Community. Together may we "grow to the full maturity of Christ". (Ephesians 4:15) during the year.



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.





A CHANGING WORLD: To evangelize, we need to understand the culture which people live. Times are changing and so is the way people think and view things. What used to be called profiteering is now called inflation. What used to be called Christian discipline is now called unhealthy repression. What used to be called living in sin is now called a meaningful relationship. What used to be called perversion is now called an alternative lifestyle. We neglect the needy and call it self-preservation. This is only a taste of what is to come. We are living in a time where there is a major shift in values. The Western world is slowly becoming de-Christianized. We need not only the power of the Holy Spirit, but to have our minds formed with solid Christian teaching and moral behavior.

THE TWO SUNDAYS BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST are known as THE SUNDAYS OF THE FATHERS AND THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST.

The Church prescribes these commemorations to draw our attention to those who prepared the way for the birth of the Messiah.

STARLIGHT: 'Try not to rush towards Christmas. Open the gift that God offers in this season of Advent. Dim the lights of the world and open your eyes and your heart to the starry night. Let the Word of God whisper its truth to your heart.

TODAY, there will be a special collection taken up for **MELKITE DIOCESAN SUPPORT.** Please help subsidize our monthly payment for the operation and maintenance of our Diocese. Please give generously. On Christmas Eve, December 24th, and on Christmas Day, December 25th, there will be a special collection taken up for your **CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS.** Envelopes for this purpose may be found in your weekly budgets, or you may obtain one on your way out at either entrance of the church

REFLECTION: To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another; it's to make the most of yourself.

O Jesus, Who has said,
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DIOCESE OF NEWTON
for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America

Office of the Bishop

Bishop François Beyrouti
Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America
3 VFW Pkwy
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my first year as your Bishop, I've been edified and inspired by the joyful solidarity and faith of our Melkite community. I have been on the road this year almost every weekend and have visited many of our over 50 communities. My goal for this year is to visit the remaining communities and to assist our communities to flourish in whatever way I can.

I'm deeply grateful for the hard work of the clergy and lay people in our communities. Christ calls each of us to serve. I have been inspired by the men and women, young and old, who serve with their whole heart. I see your dedication and share in your passion and commitment.

Soon you will receive a letter from me for this year's annual appeal. In this letter, I outline some of the steps I've heard from you that are necessary to foster vocations, strengthen the faith life of our communities, and make use of the many resources available to help us organize our communities.

I ask you to read this letter carefully, and prayerfully consider how God may call you to contribute to the many needs of our Church so our communities can be strong in the years to come.

We face many challenges today, but challenges are nothing new for our Church. Your generosity, service, and love can help strengthen our Melkite Catholic Church in the U.S. for years to come. In addition to the usual means, you can also give to this year's appeal by using the QR Code below or visit us at melkite.org/donate.

I thank you for your prayers, your consideration of this appeal, and for all you are already doing to serve God in your daily life and in the faith life of our communities. May God bless and reward you and your family for your generosity and dedication.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

+ François



Most Reverend Bishop François Beyrouti

Eparchial Bishop of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America

NEW YEAR – THEOPHANY DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE



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

10:00 a.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy. (One Combined Divine Liturgy)

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

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

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 31

10:00 a.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy. (One Combined Divine Liturgy)

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)

Monday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy **Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord – St Basil's Feast - New Years' Day**
(at St. Elias's Chapel)

Saturday, January 6 – Feast of the Theophany

7:00 p.m. Festive Vespers Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water.

Sunday, January 7– Solemnity of the Theophany

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

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

Following Jesus Kids bulletin



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 تحترف 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 هنا". لقد سبق الرب يسوع وأعلن للمتكئين معه قائلاً: إذا صنعت ضيافة فادع المساكين والجدع والعميان". لقد اختار الله جهال 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 واضطرم 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 أو الحائط الذي يفصلنا عن الله" (القديس باسيليوس الكبير).

يقول السيد للعبد: " اضطرم إلى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيتي" بالطبع لا يحمل الطلب هنا معنى الإيجاب بالإكراه، ولكنه يحمل معنى الإصرار والعزم الثابت للسيد بإكمال الدعوة إلى العشاء وإن رفض المدعوين الدعوة فإن هذا لا يثنى عزيمة السيد من أن يرسل دعوته إلى آخرين، لمن هم من الخارج. يقول السيد في سفر الرؤيا: " هانذا 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 طرقاً مختلفة ووسائل متعددة من أجل دعوة البشرية إلى الخلاص لأنه " يُريد الجميع أن يخلصوا وإلى معرفة الحق أن يُقبلوا" (تيموثاوس 2: 4).

إن الآيات الأخيرة في إنجيل اليوم " ولأن المدعوين كثيرين والمختارين قليلين" 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 صدقاً 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. تمنعوا 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 والمُؤَرَّع"، والذي أعطانا جسده الطاهر ودمه الكريمين المهراق من أجل حياة العالم، فاليوم " إن سمعتم صوته فلا تقشروا 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 حضروا وتنبأوا بمجيء المسيح (المسيح) 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" (1: 14) وكان الفريسيون " يُراقبونه". 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 رداً 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 ومستمعاً غير مبالي للأمر التي سلمها المسيح، ولم يتمكن من فهم ما تكلم به المسيح بشكل صحيح، لقد ظن 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 القديسين (كيرللس الإسكندري) في هذا الإنسان صورة عن الله " الأب" الذي أرسل ابنه الوحيد، الرب يسوع المسيح، والذي بحسب الرسول بولس "أخلى نفسه أخذاً صورة عبء 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 أُعدّ" 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 اعتذر 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 بقر يُريد أن يجرّيها، أما الأخير فيقول أنه تزوج من امرأة وهو لا يستطيع أن يأتي. هذه النماذج الثلاثة تُلخّص في جوهرها كافة الأعدار 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 وخلصهم.

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 للشهوى.

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



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



DECEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 كانون الأول - ديسمبر 2023	31 Sunday before Theophany الأحد قبل الظهور 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8					1 Holy Prophet Nahum 2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18 Luke 20:19-26	2 Holy Prophet Habakkuk Galatians 5:22-6:2 Luke 12:32-40
	3 14th Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد الرابع عشر بعد عيد الصليب Ephesians 6:10-17 Luke 18:35-43	4 St John the Damascene Galatians 3:23-4:5 Mark 5:24-34	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 Titus 1:5-14 Luke 21:28-33	8 Prep of Maternity of Anne, grandmother of our Lord Titus 1:15-2:10 Mark 2:23-28	9 Maternity of Anne Galatians 4:22-27 Luke 8:16-21
NOVEMBER 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	10 10th Sunday after Holy Cross الأحد العاشر بعد عيد الصليب Colossians 1:12-18 Luke 13:10-17	11 St Daniel the Stylite Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19 Mark 8:11-21	12 St Spyridon of Trimythus Ephesians 5:8-19 John 10:9-16	13 St Eustrates and his companions Hebrews 5:11-6:8 Mark 8:30-34	14 St Thyrces and his companions Hebrews 7:1-6 Mark 9:10-15	15 St Eleutherios 2 Timothy 1:8-18 Mark 2:23-3:5	16 Holy Prophet Haggai Ephesians 2:11-13 Luke 14:1-11
JANUARY 2024 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	17 Holy Ancestors of Christ الأحد الأجداد القديسين Colossians 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-25	18 St Boniface Hebrews 8:7-13 Mark 9:42-10:1	19 St Boniface Hebrews 9:8-23 Mark 10:2-12	20 Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord Hebrews 10:1-18 Mark 10:11-16	21 St Juliana of Nicomedia Hebrews 10:35-11:7 Mark 10:17-27	22 Paramony Fast صوم البارامون Hebrews 11:8-16 Mark 10:24-32	23 Saturday before the Nativity السبت الذي قبل الميلاد Galatians 3:8-12 Luke 13:19-29
 24 Paramony of Christmas الأحد نَسب السيد المسيح Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 Matthew 1:1-25	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 Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23	28 Holy Martyrs of Nicomedia James 1:19-27 Mark 11:27-33	29 Holy Innocents of Bethlehem James 2:1-13 Mark 12:1-12	30 Saturday after the Nativity السبت بعد الميلاد 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Matthew 12:15-21	

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Divine Liturgy

- Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:15 am

The Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation is available before and after the Divine Liturgy or by appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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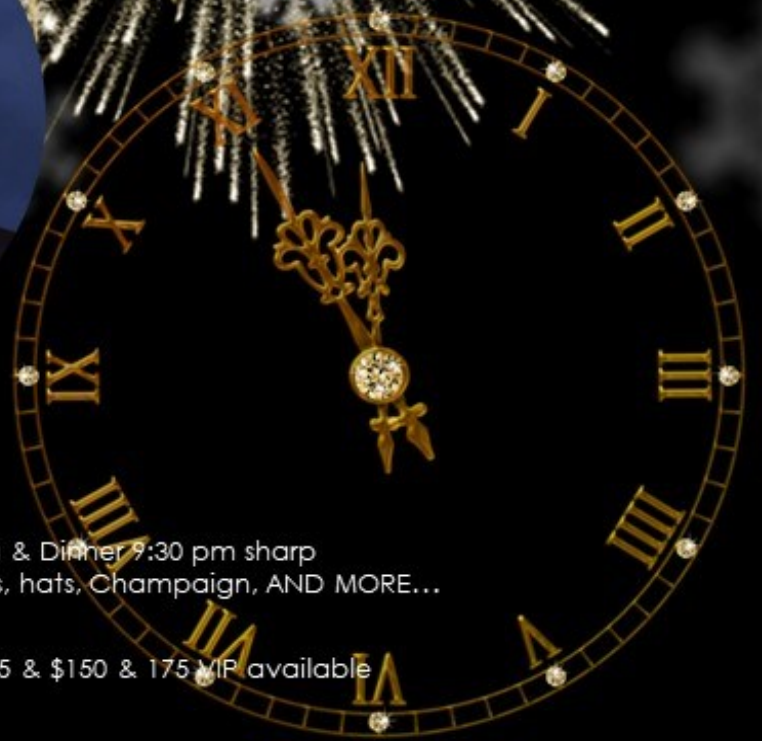
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 09/15/2023



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: \$329,240



Contribution Ranges: \$20 to \$50,100

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 410



Active Families: 200



% of Active Families Participation: 55%

"It's not about how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"
-Mother Teresa

Current & Future Projects:



Church Roof Replacement: Project completed, final cost \$321,000.



Rectory Roof Replacement: Project completed, final cost \$18,850.



Church Window Repairs: Project completed, final cost \$9,000. Additional window was found to need repair, awaiting additional estimate.



HVAC & Boiler Replacement: Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000. Boiler does need immediate replacing, awaiting timeframe. HVAC system is okay for now.



Flooring Upgrades: Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), awaiting samples and timeframe.



Parking Lot Sealing: Project completed at both Rectory & Church, final cost \$14,000.



Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & HVAC Vent Cleaning: Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning completed, final cost \$9,020



Exterior/Masonry/Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals. Maintenance to mosaic of The Blessed Mother completed, cost \$8,000.



Security Cameras/Door Upgrades: Camera system complete, final cost \$10,500. Electrification of doorway proposal received, pending completion.



Central Air Conditioning and HVAC improvements to Rectory: Project completed, final cost \$56,665.

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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