



March 20, 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](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

### Facebook

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

### YouTube

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

### Email

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

### Office hours

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

### Divine Liturgies

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

### Sunday

English 9:00 AM  
Arabic 11:15 AM

### Religious Education

Sunday 10:00 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 Holy and Life Giving Cross Third Sunday of Lent

### أحد الصليب المقدس المحي الأحد الثالث من الصوم المقدس

#### Antiphon Prayer

O Christ God, You chose of your own free will to be raised on the Cross for the sake of mankind. Have mercy on your people called after your name. Grant to the Church, your Mystical Body, to rejoice in your might. Safeguard all the peoples that You reconciled by your crucifixion. As for us, who have been sealed by the sign of your Cross, grant that we may not be proud of anything but of your Cross, bearing at all time in our hearts and our minds, the marks of your Holy Passion.

For You are our Light and our Sanctification, O Christ our God, and to You we render glory, and to your Eternal Father, and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

#### 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 Holy Cross

Troparion of the Holy Cross, as modified by the Holy Synod:  
"O Lord save your people and bless your inheritance, granting peace to the world; and protect your community by the power of your Cross."

#### 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.

#### صلاة الأنديفون

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهَ، يَا مَنْ رُفِعَ عَلَى الصَّليبِ طَوْعاً حُبّاً لِلْبَشَرِ، إِزَأْفْ بِشَغَبِكَ الْمُسَقَى بِاسْمِكَ، وَأَعْطِ الْكَنِيسَةَ، الَّتِي هِيَ جَسَدُكَ، أَنْ تَفْرَحَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ، وَصُنْ جَمِيعَ الشُّعُوبِ الَّتِي سَأَلَتْهَا يَوْمَ صَلْبِكَ، وَاجْعَلْنَا نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ وَصَمْنَا بِشَارَةِ الصَّليبِ أَلَّا نَفْتَخِرَ إِلَّا بِهِ، خَامِلِينَ دَائِماً فِي قُلُوبِنَا وَأَفْكَارِنَا سِمَاتِ أَلَامِكَ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ.

لَأَنَّكَ أَنْتَ نُورُنَا وَتَقْدِيسُنَا، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهَ، وَاللَّيْلِكَ نَرْفَعُ الْمَجْدَ وَالشُّكْرَ وَالسُّجُودَ، وَإِلَى أَبِيكَ الْكَرِيمِ وَرُوحِكَ الْقُدُّوسِ، الْآنَ كُلُّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.  
الشعب: آمين.

#### نشيد القيامة باللحن الثاني

لما نزلت إلى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمت الجحيم بسني لاهوتك. ولما أقمت الأموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماوين: أيها المسيح ألهنا، يا مُعْطِي الحياة، المجد لك.

#### نشيد الصليب باللحن الأول:

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبِّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ، مَا نَحْنَا الْعَالَمَ السَّلَامَ. وَاحْفَظْ بِصَلْبِكَ زَعِيَّتَكَ.

#### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بُيِّنَت العقائدُ 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](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com/myo.html)

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



#### Epistle of the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 1-6 Prokimenon (Tone 6)

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!  
 Stichon: To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

#### Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews:

Brethren, since we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, let us hold fast out profession of faith. For we have not a high priest unable to pity our weaknesses, but one tried as we are in all things, save sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to have compassion on the ignorant and erring, because he himself also is beset with weakness, and therefore must make offerings for sin in his own behalf as in behalf of the people. And no one invests himself with this honor: only one who is called by God takes it, as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself with the high priesthood, but glorified the One who had spoken to him, "You are my son, I this day have begotten you (Ps. 2:7). "As he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 109:4)."

Alleluia (Tone 6)

Remember your congregation which you have acquired from the beginning: you redeemed the scepter of your inheritance. Stichon: God is our King forever: he brought about salvation in the midst of the earth.

#### Gospel of the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Mark 8: 34-9:1 (Taking up the daily cross)

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father." And he said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power.



#### رسالة الاحد الثالث من الصوم

##### مقدمة الرسالة

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبِّ شَعْبَكَ، وَتَبَارِكْ مِيراثَكَ.  
 إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبِّ أَصْرُخُ، إِلَهِي لَا تَتَصَامَمْ عَلَيَّ.

(عبرانيين 4: 14 إلى 5: 6)

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقِدِّسِ بُولْسَن الرُّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِذْ لَنَا رَئِيسٌ كَهَنَةٍ عَظِيمٌ قَدْ أَجْتَازَ السَّمَاوَاتِ، يَسُوعُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، فَلْنَتَقَرَّبْ بِالْإِعْتِرَافِ. فَإِنَّ رَئِيسَ الْكَهَنَةِ الَّذِي لَنَا لَيْسَ غَيْرَ قَادِرٍ أَنْ يَزِيَّيَ لَأَمْرَاضِنَا، بَلْ هُوَ مُجَرَّبٌ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مِثْلُنَا مَا خَلَا الْخَطِيئَةَ. فَلْنَقْبَلْ إِذْنًا بِدَالَةٍ إِلَى عَرْشِ النِّعْمَةِ، لِنَتَنَاوَلَ رَحْمَةً وَنَجِدَ نِعْمَةً لِلْإِعَاثَةِ فِي أَوَانِهَا. فَإِنَّ كُلَّ رَئِيسٍ كَهَنَةٍ مُتَّخِذٍ مِنَ النَّاسِ، يُقَامُ لِلْأَجْلِ النَّاسِ فِي مَا إِلَهُ، لِيُقَرَّبَ قَرَابِينَ وَدَبَائِحَ عَنِ الْخَطَايَا، قَادِرًا أَنْ يَرِقَّ لِلَّذِينَ يَجْهَلُونَ وَيَضِلُّونَ، لِكُونِهِ هُوَ أَيْضًا مُتَلَبِّسًا بِالضَّعْفِ. وَلِهَذَا يَجِبُ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يُقَرَّبَ عَنِ الْخَطَايَا لِأَجْلِ نَفْسِهِ، كَمَا يُقَرَّبُ لِلْأَجْلِ الشَّعْبِ. وَلَيْسَ أَحَدٌ يَأْخُذُ لِنَفْسِهِ هَذِهِ الْكَرَامَةَ، إِلَّا مَنْ دَعَاهُ اللَّهُ كَمَا دَعَا هَرُونَ. كَذَلِكَ الْمَسِيحُ أَيْضًا لَمْ يَمَجِّدْ نَفْسَهُ حَتَّى يَصِيرَ رَئِيسَ كَهَنَةٍ، بَلِ الَّذِي قَالَ لَهُ: أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ. كَمَا يَقُولُ أَيْضًا فِي مَوْضِعٍ آخَرَ: أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مَلِكِيصَادَقُ.

هَلُوبَا

أَذْكُرُ جَمَاعَتِكَ الَّتِي اقْتَنِيتَهَا مِنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ، لَقَدْ افْتَدَيْتَ صَوْلَجَانِ مِيراثَكَ.  
 أَمَّا اللَّهُ فَهُوَ مَلِكُنَا قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ، أَجْرَى الْخَلَاصِ فِي وَسْطِ الْأَرْضِ.

#### الانجيل (مرقس 8: 34 إلى 9: 1)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ: مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَتَّبِعَنِي فَلْيُنْكِرْ نَفْسَهُ وَيَتَّخِذْ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَّبِعْنِي. لِأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَخْلُصَ نَفْسَهُ يُهْلِكُهَا، وَمَنْ أَهْلَكَ نَفْسَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِي وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِنْجِيلِ فَذَلِكَ يَخْلُصُهَا. فَإِنَّهُ مَاذَا يَنْفَعُ الْإِنْسَانَ لَوْ رَجَحَ الْعَالَمَ كُلَّهُ وَخَسِرَ نَفْسَهُ؟ أَمْ مَاذَا يُعْطِي الْإِنْسَانَ فِدَاءً عَنْ نَفْسِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَسْتَخِي بِِي وَبِكُلَّيْ فِي هَذَا الْجِيلِ الْفَاسِقِ الْخَاطِي، يَسْتَخِي بِِي بِهِ أَبْنَى الْبَشَرِ أَيْضًا مَتَى آتَى فِي مَجْدٍ أَبِيهِ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ بَعْضَ الْقَائِمِينَ هَهُنَا لَا يَذُوقُونَ الْمَوْتَ حَتَّى يَرَوْا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ آتِيًا بِقُوَّةٍ. حَقًّا.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, Procession of the Holy Cross





## 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

**TODAY, MARCH 20, 2022: THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT. SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS.**

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

- + **FRED KANAKRY & STEVEN KANAKRY** by the Kanakry Family.
- + **FRANCIS GRYBOWSKI** by Mrs. Alberta Mardo & Family.
- + **WEEDA NASHAWATY** by Pamela Desmarais.
- + **NANCY AISSIS** by M/M V. Edward Fayan.
- + **LATIF KUFFREY (59<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)** by the Family.
- + **MARY KUFFREY BALDO** by Bill & Diane Coyle.
- + **FRED SHARKEY** by Deborah & David Schnetzler & Family.
- + **JEAN SHARKEY** by Deborah & David Schnetzler & Family.
- + **FREDERICK KOUSSA** by M/M R. Joseph & Gail Hooks.
- + **ROSE AISSIS AUDETTE** by Debra Fernandes.
- + **LILLIAN NASSANEY** by Elias & Barbara Deeb.

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

- + **ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY & ANGELA MAZZONE** by Samir & Hanaa Boudjouk.
- + **SAMUEL SABBAGH (8<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)** by the Sabbagh Family.
- + **MARGARET SABBAGH** by Tony & Andree Charchafliah.
- + **ODETTE BAROODY** by David & Zeina Baroody.
- + **CATHERINE BAROODY** by David & Zeina Baroody.
- + **VICTORIA PROCHNIAK** by Jalal & Souad Dekki.
- + **GEORGETTE S. SAGGAL** by Bishara & Wafaa Tahhan.
- + **YVONNE HAGGAR COLABELLA** by Mrs. Kawsar Boudjouk.
- + **GEORGETTE A. SAGGAL** by Abdallah Saggal & Family.
- + **JULIA & FRED KISHFY, ELIAS J. KISHFY** by M/M Norman E. Kishfy.





**SACRIFICIAL GIVING:** March 13, 2022: Budgets: \$2,622.00; Envelopes: \$2,570.00; Loose: \$52.00; Candles: \$108.00; Stipends: \$650.00; Building Fund: \$450.00; Addit'l Fuel: \$105.00; Cemetery: \$145.00.

**NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022,** there will be a special collection taken up for **MELKITE DIOCESAN SUPPORT**. Please help subsidize our monthly payment for the operation of our Diocese by giving generously.

Please be advised that the weekly bulletin has not been printed due to the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, but presently, information is available online, church Facebook page and on YouTube.

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

Canon Law prohibits accepting stipends or offerings for Liturgies more than one year in advance (rolling calendar) Canon 953. The time within which Liturgies must be celebrated (1 year) begins the day the intention is received. (Canon 955 #2). Formerly under the jurisdiction of the local Latin Ordinaries before the Exarchate was established under the leadership of the late Bishop Justin Najmy of this Parish, all Melkites have been subject to the latter since its erection in 1966. The Constitution of the Melkite Eparchy which is now a sole Diocese since 1976 still acknowledges this definitive protocol. Our parishes follow local discipline in the various customs e.g. every day clergy attire, stipends (Liturgy Offerings), etc. except in Liturgy and Ritual. Our relationship with the local Latin Dioceses and Latin pastors must be permeated with a spirit of love and friendship and cooperation.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Presently effective, the schedule of offerings in the parishes is now: Liturgies: \$25.00; Funerals: \$300.00; Weddings: \$300.00; Baptisms: \$100.00.

Thus far, all Liturgy Offerings received from Funerals, which exceeded more than one year or even more, have had the maximum and minimum celebrations. Surplus ones have been deposited in the Building Fund, and placed on the altar and remembered collectively, similar to the customs of Spiritual Bouquets, Perpetual Mass Enrollments & Memorial Cards, as in Chapels, Shrines, & Monasteries.

May the memories of our beloved deceased rest in peace & be eternal. Many thanks for your understanding and undivided attention in regard to these canonical guidelines and restrictions.

**FATHER DAN UPDATE:** On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday, the Roman Church joined with us in entering Lent. It is for all of us a time of prayer, conversion, fasting and penance. The Holy Father has asked that we pray and fast that day for peace in Ukraine. Their unjust suffering touches our loving heart. As an Eastern Church, we have known in our own flesh and blood, the pain of war and persecution – even though our Western media no longer considers the suffering of the Middle East and Africa worthy of news reports. And yet the planned papal visit to Lebanon will likely be cancelled because of the political unrest! May our love overcome the hatred of war and un-rest. May our prayers and sacrifices help bring about the peace that can come from God alone.

As to my health, it is slowly healing. In a month it will be a year that my cancer was removed surgically. The incision went from just below the knee to above the ankle. As of this morning the remaining open wound is roughly 2 and ½" long and about an inch wide, measured by the visiting wound nurse. Even that is showing closure. I hope it will be healed for Easter! Thank You, Lord.

May this Lent be a time of peace and hope from God. Blessings to all! - **Father Dan**

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.







**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** All the faithful who have recently changed their address or who are planning to do so, please remember to inform the church office at (401) 722-1345. Please also be sure to update new telephone numbers because **there is a cost that the Church has to absorb which adds up slowly but surely.**

**2022 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS** are available – free for the taking – at the entrance of the Church. By following the liturgical cycle of the church year and remembering the Saints each day, is an excellent way to attach yourself more closely to the worshipping community, that is the church.

**OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD,** please remember to remove any chewing gum before entering the church building. Also, please place your pagers and cell phones on silent.

**2021 BUDGET STATEMENT AVAILABLE:** It is that time of year to start thinking about the preparation of your 2021 Federal Income Tax Returns. Statements of your offerings to the Church for 2021 will only be issued upon request. If you would like a statement, please contact Father Joe at the rectory at 401-722-1345. To those who have been using envelopes, we extend our thanks and a reminder to please mark the amount enclosed which facilitates the recording of your contributions and allows for more accuracy. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD!!!**

**ALL DAY CONFESSIONS:** In one way or another, we have all neglected God. None of us have lived a perfect life. **No matter what we have done,** we can always return home. An opportunity to do just that is the Sacrament of Confession.

You are invited to **All Day Confessions, Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** at St. Joseph's Parish, 1200 Mendon Road, Woonsocket, RI.

Never doubt God's readiness to forgive you!

**REFLECTION: Christianity's not a theory taught by theological talks – it's Christ living in you!**

#### *Rule of Fasting in the Eparchy of Newton*

So as not to burden anyone's conscience, the Holy Synod of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church permits each eparchial bishop to ease the canonical obligations of fasting, while, at the same time, exhorts all the faithful to fast according to the ancient tradition. The minimum rule that Melkites in the Eparchy of Newton must observe are: *Fasting* from all food and drink from midnight until noon on the first day of Great Lent (Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>), and on the last three days of Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). *Abstinence* at least from meat, must be observed on every Friday of Great Lent. These requirements are the minimum. The faithful are encouraged to do more, such as also abstaining from meat every Wednesday or throughout the whole of Great Lent.

#### **THE GREAT AND HOLY TIME OF LENT**

Great Lent involves deepening of our prayer life. This includes private prayer as well as the services mentioned below. An important facet of Lent is Almsgiving. "The Shepherd's Care" mandated in our Melkite Parishes and Missions throughout the United States is one good way to put the Almsgiving into practice.

**Tuesday, March 22nd: GREAT COMPLINE  
AKATHIST**

**Friday, March 25th: FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION &**

**HYMN followed by AGAPE LENTEN DINNER**

We encourage and urge you to join us in the scheduled services this week at 6:30 p.m.

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.



# السُّجود للصليب المقدس



قال الرب لتلاميذه داعياً  
إياهم من بعده: " من أراد  
أن يتبعني فليكرف بنفسه  
ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني "  
كما سمعنا في نصنا الإنجيلي  
اليوم.

أيها الإخوة الأحباء! نحن  
أيضاً تلاميذ ربنا يسوع

المسيح لأننا مسيحيون. نحن أيضاً مدعوون أمام حضرة الرب في هذا الهيكل المقدس كي  
ننصب إلى تعليمه. نحن الآن واقفون أمام حضرة الرب وأنظاره موجهة إلينا. إن نفوسنا  
معزاة أمامه وأفكارنا السرية وشعورنا الباطني مكشوفة لديه. إنه يرى جميع نوايانا، إنه  
يرى الأعمال الصالحة والخطايا التي عملناها منذ حدثنا ويرى كل حياتنا الماضية  
والمستقبلية والعمل الذي لم نفعله بعد هو مكتوب في سفره. إنه يعلم ساعة انتقالنا إلى  
الأبدية التي لا مقياس لها ويخبرنا من أجل خلاصنا بوصيته الكلية القداسة:

من أراد أن يتبعني فليكرف بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني

لنرفع عيننا الروحية بقوة إيماننا الحي إلى الرب وسوف نراه سنراه هو الإله الأزلي والحاضر  
هنا معنا! لنفتح قلبنا مزيجين من مدخله حجر القسوة الثقيل ولنسمع ولنرى ولنقبل  
ولنستوعب تعليم ربنا من أجل أنفسنا

**ما المقصود بأن نحمل الصليب؟** لقد كان الصليب أداة لعقاب مذلل للناس المحتقرين  
والأسرى المحرومين من الحقوق المدنية. يحرم العالم المتكبر المعادي للمسيح تلاميذ  
المسيح من الحقوق التي ينتفع بها أبناء هذا الدهر. يقول الرب لأتباعه: " إن كنتم من  
العالم لأحب العالم خاصته لكن بما أنكم لستم من العالم لكي اخترتكم من العالم لهذا  
العالم أبغضكم. سيطردونكم من المجمع حتى أنه يأتي زمن عندما يظن كل واحد بقتلكم  
أنه يقدم خدمة لله. " ( يوحنا 15: 19، 16: 2 ).

**أن نحمل صليبنا معناه** أن نحتمل ببئس السخرية والتجديف التي يغمر بها العالم أتباع  
المسيح، وتلك الأحزان والاضطهادات التي بها يلاحقه هذا العالم الفحش للخطيئة. يقول  
القديس بطرس الرسول: " لأن هذا فضل، إن كان أحد من أجل ضمير نحو الله، يَحْتَمِلُ  
أحزاناً مثلاً بالظلم. " ( 1 بطرس 2: 19-21 ). ولذلك دعيت من قبل الرب الذي سبق  
فخبر أحبائه: " يكون لكم في العالم حزن ولكن تشجعوا فإنني قد غلبت  
العالم. " ( يوحنا 16: 33 ).

أن نحمل صليبنا معناه أن نحتمل بشجاعة نبرنا الثقيل والغير المرئي العذاب والشهادة  
الغير المرئيين من أجل الإنجيل أثناء جهادنا ضد شهواتنا الخاصة وضد الخطيئة الساكنة  
في داخلنا وضد أرواح الشر التي ستثور علينا بغضب وستقف ضدينا بشدة عندما سنقرز  
إسقاط نير الخطيئة من أنفسنا والخضوع لنير المسيح. قال القديس بولس الرسول: " إن  
مُضَارَعَتَنَا لَيْسَتْ مَعَ دَمٍ وَلَحْمٍ، بَلْ مَعَ الرُّؤَسَاءِ، مَعَ السَّلَاطِينِ، مَعَ وِلَاةِ الْعَالَمِ عَلَى ظُلْمَةٍ  
هَذَا الدَّهْرِ، مَعَ أَجْنَادِ الشَّرِّ الرَّوحِيَّةِ فِي السَّمَاوِيَّاتِ. " ( أفسس 6: 12 ). إن أسلحة حربنا  
الروحانية هي جسدية لكن بعون الله فهي قادرة على تدمير معازل: فنحن ندمر بهم أفكاراً  
وكل تعالٍ يقف عائقاً أمام معرفة الله ونأسر كل عقل كي يكون مطيعاً للمسيح ( 2  
كورنثوس 10: 4-5 ). صاخ الرسول بولس مقيماً النصر. في هذه الحرب الغير المرئية  
والصعبة جداً: " حاشاً لي أن أفتخر إلا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح، الذي به قد صلب  
الْعَالَمُ لِي وَأَنَا لِلْعَالَمِ. " ( غلاطية 6: 14 ).

**أن نحمل صليبنا معناه** أن نخضع للكروب والمجاعات الآتية بكل تواضع وطاعة التي  
حُسن للعناية الإلهية أن تسمح بها لتطهير خطايانا. عندها يصير الصليب بمثابة سلم  
يقودنا من الأرض إلى السموات. لقد صعد على هذا السلم اللص المذكور في الإنجيل  
الذي صعد من أرض أقبح الجرائم إلى الميع مساكن الفردوس: فمن صليبه تلقظ اللص  
بالكلمات المملوءة بالحكمة والتواضع: فبالحكمة دخل إلى معرفة الله وبالمعرفة الإلهية  
اكتسب السموات. لقد قال اللص: " لأننا نال استحقاق ما فعلنا اذكرني يا رب متى جئت

في ملكوتك. " ( لوقا 23: 41-42 ). ونحن أيضاً أيها الإخوة  
الأحباء عندما يحيطوننا  
بالأحزان لنكرر كلمات اللص  
التي قيمتها هي قيمة  
الفردوس! أو لنبارك على مثال  
أيوب الرب المعاقب إيانا الذي  
هو في الوقت نفسه إله عادل.

" أَلْخِزْ تَقَبُّلُ مِنْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ، وَالشَّرُّ لَا تَقْبَلُ؟ فَلْيَكُنْ اسْمُ الرَّبِّ مُبَارَكًا. " ( أيوب 2: 10، 1: 21 ).  
فليتحقق فينا وعد الله الغير الكاذب: " طَوْنِي لِلرُّجُلِ الَّذِي يَحْتَمِلُ التَّجَرِّبَةَ، لِأَنَّهُ إِذَا  
تَرَكَّى يَنَالُ إِكْلِيلَ الْحَيَاةِ الَّذِي وَعَدَ بِهِ الرَّبُّ لِلَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُ. " ( يعقوب 1: 12 ).

**أن نحمل صليبنا معناه** أن نخضع للحرمان والجهاد طوعاً وباجتهاد والتي بها تتمنطق  
الطموحات جسداً الهمجية ( أي التصرفات البدائية ) وقد لجأ إلى صلب لأهواء كهذا  
أيضاً والرسول القديس بولس: " بَلْ أَقْمَعُ جَسَدِي وَأَسْتَعِيدُّهُ، حَتَّى تَعْدَ مَا كَرُزْتُ لِلْآخَرِينَ  
لَا أَصِيرُ أَنَا نَفْسِي مَرْفُوضًا. " ( 1 كورنثوس 9: 27 ). أولئك الذين يعيشون بحسب الجسد  
أي الذين لا يكبحون أهواءهم بل يسمحون لها أن تسيطر على أنفسهم لا يستطيعون أن  
يُزْطَوا الله. ولذلك بينما نحن نعيش في الجسد يجب علينا أن ألا نعيش من أجل الجسد!  
" لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ عَشْتُمْ حَسَبَ الْجَسَدِ فَسَتَمُوتُونَ، وَلَكِنْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ بِالرُّوحِ تُمَيَّنُونَ أَعْمَالُ الْجَسَدِ  
فَسَتَخُونُ. " ( رومية 8: 12، 13 ). إن الجسد حقاً يُمنطق من قبل الروح لكن الروح  
يمكنه أن يسيطر على الجسد وأن يقوده فقط عندما يقوم الجسد بالصوم والسهر  
والسجود وجهادات جسدية أخرى. تفرض عليه باعتدال وبشكل حكيم. يُحَرِّزُ الصوم  
الحكيم والمعتدل الجسد من البدانة ويزيد من قواه ويدعه دائماً رشيقاً وقادراً على  
العمل. يقول الرسول بولس: " وَلَكِنَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ قَدْ صَلَبُوا الْجَسَدَ مَعَ الْأَهْوَاءِ  
وَالشَّهَوَاتِ. " ( غلاطية 5: 25 ).

**ما المقصود بأن نحمل الصليب ، وصليبنا الخاص بالذات؟** إن هذا معناه أنه يجب  
على كل مسيحي أن يحتمل بصبر تلك الأحزان والاضطهادات من العالم بالذات التي  
تحدث معه وليس أية اضطهادات أخرى. وهذا معناه أنه يتوجب على كل مسيحي أن  
يتصارع بشجاعة وبشكل مستمر مع تلك الأهواء والأفكار الرديئة التي تظهر في داخله.  
وأنه يتوجب على كل مسيحي أن يحتمل بكل طاعة وأمانة للمشيئة الإلهية وباعتراف أمام  
القضاء والرحمة الإلهيين وبشكر تجاه الله تلك الأحزان وذلك الحرمان اللذان تسمح بهما  
العناية الإلهية وليس أية أحزان وحرمان أخرى مخترعة من قبل أمنيات عقله المتكبر.

**ما معنى أن نتبع المسيح؟** هذا يعني أن ندرس الإنجيل أن يكون الإنجيل مُرشد عمل  
عقلنا وقلبنا وجسدنا الوحيد. هذا يعني أن نأخذ منهج تفكيرنا من الإنجيل أن نبي شعورنا  
القلبي بحسب الإنجيل وكل تصرفاتنا وكل تحركاتنا الباطنية والعنانية لتكن عبارة عن  
الإنجيل. إنه لقادر على مثل هذا الإتيان للمسيح نكر فقط ذلك الإنسان الذي رغب  
متهرباً من الحكمة المخترعة من قبله أن يكتسب الحكمة الحقيقية هناك حيث تسكن  
هي أي في الإنصات والخضوع لله ( كولوسي 2: 18 ). بعد أن دخل في إنصات لله أي في  
إنصات مترافق مع إنكار كُلي للذات يكون قد قبل صليبه واعترف به وأعلن أنه صليب  
خاص به.

أيها الإخوة الأحباء! لنكرم صليب المسيح الكريم الذي هو أداة للنصر وراية لمجد المسيح  
بعد أن يعترف كل واحد بصليبه الخاص به: " لقد نلت استحقاق أعمالي! اذكرني يا رب  
في ملكوتك! " لنجعل بإدراك عن خطايانا وبشكر لله وبخضوع للمشيئة الإلهية من  
صليبنا الذي هو أداة العقاب وراية العار. أداة النصر. وراية المجد ، لنجعله على مثال  
صليب الرب. إننا بصليبنا نفتح أبواب الفردوس. إن نبوة كهذه قد بدت لبعض من الرسل  
القديسين غريبة ولا تصدق. عندها نادى الرب إليه تلاميذه وقال لهم: " الذي يريد أن  
يتبعني فليكرف بنفسه ويحمل صليبه ويتبعني. " آمين.

القديس إغناطيوس بربانتانينوف—من كتاب " موعظة نسكية "



# The Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross



of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the

spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

## Icons Of The Commemoration

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Veneration of the Cross on September 14. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

Another icon related to this feast depicts the actual service of veneration that is conducted in the churches on the Third Sunday of Lent. In the center of the icon is the Cross (1). It is on a table surrounded by flowers (2). Above the Cross is the image of Christ in a partial mandorla representing His glory (3). He is blessing those who have gathered to venerate the Cross, the rulers, clergy, monastics, and laity.

# افرحي يا عروسة لا عروس لها

العاصمة يقضون الليل ساهرين، وقوفاً، شاكي السلاح. وعلت من صفوف المؤمنين آيات "نشيد المدائح لوالدة الإله" الذي كان وضعه رومانوس الشاعر الحمصي، وإذا بالشعب كله يردد بعد كل بيت تلك اللازمة الرائعة: "افرحي يا عروسة لا عروس لها"، أو اللازمة الأخرى "هللوا".

إذا لم يكن هذا نشيد حرب، ولم تكن فيه أصلاً أي إشارة لجهاد أو معركة أو حصار. لكن تلك الآيات الملهمة، التي تضمنت أجمل ما ابتكره الشعور المسيحي من مديح للعذراء والدة الإله، كانت في ساعات الخطر تندفع طوعاً على شفاه المؤمنين وتصد إلى السماء متوسلة خاشعة.

وإذا بصفوف الاعداء تتحرك تحت جناح الظلام. وعبثاً انتقلت ابصار المؤمنين المحاصرين إلى مياه البوسفور لعلها تبصر في ظلام الليل سفن الملك هرقل تحمل النجدة للعاصمة. وعبثاً نظر البطريرك إلى ما تبقى من الجيوش المسيحية، وقارنها بجيوش الفرس الوثنيين... ولم يبق له من ملجأ إلا السماء...

وإذا بالأعجوبة المرتقبة تتم. فتظهر في السماء سيدة عظيمة جميلة ترفع يدها وتدفع الجيوش البربرية إلى الوراء. وإذا بجحافل الفرس تتخاذل وتراجع، وإذا بها تتخبط في الظلام وتتحارب، وإذا بغوغائها يملأ الفضاء.

وما تطلع الشمس حتى تبديد الرؤيا، ويبديد معها الاعداء المحاصرون. ففرح الشعب إلى الكنائس، وملا الساحات والشوارع. وارتفعت اصوات المرمنين تنشد من جديد "نشيد مدائح والدة الإله". ولهذه المناسبة وضع البطريرك لهذا النشيد التقليدي مقدمة جديدة تشير إلى اعجوبة انقاذ العاصمة، وتعلن العذراء الطاهرة "قائدة لا تغلب" وسلطانة المدينة المالكة، فكان القنداق الشهير: "نحن عبيدك يا والدة الإله...". وقد جاء في أصله اليوناني: "انا مدينتك يا والدة الإله...".

القسم الأول: يحتوي على إعلان الملاك لمريم خبلها من الروح القدس وخبرة العذراء من هذا الكلام الغريب. ثم ذهابها إلى نسيبتها اليصابات وأخيراً تعجب يوسف من هذا الحبل.

القسم الثاني: يشتمل قصة ولادة المخلص وسجود الرعاة وتقديم المجوس للهدايا ثم عودتهم إلى بلدهم. وهرب مريم ويوسف بالطفل إلى مصر ورجوعهم منها ثم على تسليم الطفل إلى سمعان الشيخ.

القسم الثالث: يصف بصورة شعرية ممتازة تجديد الطبيعة البشرية من جرّاء ولادة المسيح الفادي وينصح الشاعر المؤمنين بأن يرفعوا عقولهم من الأرض إلى السماء، من حيث نزل الإله وصار على الأرض إنساناً مثلاً ليخلص الإنسان.

القسم الرابع: والأخير فكله مديح لائق بالعذراء مريم التي استحققت أن تكون أما لخالق الكل ثم يختتمه الشاعر بالدعاء إليها لتشفع فينا لدى ابنها كي يبعد عنا كل الضيقات والمصائب.

وهناك كلمة تتردد كثيراً في هذا التسبيح هي كلمة "افرحي" أو "السلام عليك" وهي مأخوذة من قول الملاك جبرائيل ساعة بادر بالتحية المعروفة للسيدة العذراء لوقا ١: ٢٨.

**علاقة المديح بالصوم**  
يسهر المؤمن، كالعذارى الحكيمات، في الأيام الأولى من الأسبوع في التوبة والصلاة والصوم، ليوهل ذاته للاتحاد بالعريس الرب يسوع في المناولة، يومي السبت والأحد. لذلك فإن ليلة الجمعة - السبت هي ليلة الزفاف الليتورجي، والزينة لاستقبال الرب.

يقوم المديح ليتورجياً بالدور الذي أدته العذراء في التجسد. فالعذراء هي الصلة بين الله والإنسان في التجسد، هنا المديح يصير أداة الوصل الليتورجية بين أيام الصوم، أيام الحزن البهّي، ويوم الزفاف الإلهي للمؤمن.

نرتل في المدائح للبتول قائلين "افرحي يا مزيّنة النفوس بزيّنة العرس"، وهذا ما يحقّقه المديح. إنّه يوشحنا برداء العرس حين ينظر المؤمن في العذراء وحين ينشد مرثماً للعروس الأمّ، تقوده ترانيم المديح إلى طهارة النفس وتنقله من الحزن البهّي إلى فرح الخدر البتولي.

إنّنا في المديح نتأمل في محبة، وتواضع، وطهارة العذراء. ونعانين في ترانيمه صورة العروس الحقيقيّة المدعوين جميعنا إلى الاقتداء بمثلها. في المديح تتم أيضاً شفاعة العذراء، وما فينا من غير استحقاق تطهّره شفاعة العروس التي لا عروس لها.



المديح هو قصيدة طويلة من القصائد الكنسية. المرجح أن ناظمه هو القديس رومانوس المرمم. المدائح مؤلفة من صلاة النوم الصغرى ثم تسع تسبيحات للعذراء ثم المديح. للمديح مقدمة صغيرة تعرف اليوم بالقنداق (ترنيمه مختصرة) وتبدأ "نحن عبيدك يا والدة الإله...". ثم أربع أقسام أو أدوار، كل دور مؤلف من ستة مقطوعات وتسمى أيضاً آيات. المصدر الذي استقى منه الشاعر هذا المديح الرائع هو إنجيل لوقا، حيث الكلام عن بشارة رئيس الملائكة جبرائيل للعذراء مريم (لوقا ١: ٢٦-٥٦).

وأكثستوس كلمة يونانية وقد أطلق هذا الاسم على مدائح العذراء لأن الأكليريوس وجمههور الشعب القسطنطيني ترمّوا بها علناً ولأول مرة، في أيام الملك هرقل سنة ٦٢٦، وهم واقفون إجلالاً للسيدة الطاهرة وطلّبا لنصرتها وحمايتها واستعداداً لحما السلاح بأسرع ما يمكن، عند أول إشارة، لصّد هجمات الاعداء المحيطين بالمدينة المالكة، على نحو العبرانيين لدى بنائهم أسوار أورشليم في أيام النبي نحميا. وبما أن لغتنا العربية تفقر إلى كلمة واحدة تعبر عن اللفظة اليونانية، فقد لجأ مترجمو كتبنا الطقسية إلى هذه العبارة: نشيد لوالدة الإله "لا يجلس فيه".

تضاربت الآراء حول واضع هذا النشيد المرمي الرائع. فالعالم اليوناني بابادوبولوس كيراميس ١٩٠٤ نسب إلى البطريرك فوتيوس (القرن التاسع)، وهذا زعم لا يسلم به أحد اليوم. ونسبه آخرون إلى بطريرك القسطنطينية سرجيوس الأول (٦١٠-٦٣٨) وآخرون إلى جورج بيزيدس أمين مخطوطات كنيسة أجيا صوفيا في عهد الملك هرقل (كورسيوس). على أن النقد العلمي الحديث يرجّح انتسابه إلى القديس رومانوس الحمصي المنشأ إمام الشعراء والمنشدين الكنسيين. ولد هذا القديس في أواخر القرن الخامس في حمص عاصمة سوريا الوسطى من عائلة يهودية الأصل وكان شماساً إكليريالاً، خدم في كنيسة القيامة في بيروت، وانتقل بعد ذلك إلى القسطنطينية في أواخر عهد الملك أنسطاسيوس الأول (٤٩١-٥١٨) على الأرجح. وقد ظهرت له العذراء في الحلم في كنيسة منطقة كيروس المشيدة على اسمها ودفعته إلى نظم الشعر والكتابة. توفي حول سنة ٥٥٦ تاركاً ما يربو على ألف نشيد ديني لم يبق من هذه الاناشيد اليوم سوى مئتين، بعضها معبر في رتب الفرض الإلهي.

أما قنداق "نحن عبيدك يا والدة الإله" الذي يُرتّم به قبل بيوت المديح فقد وضعه البطريرك المسكوني سرجيوس الأول (٦١٠-٦٣٨) عقب إنقاذ القسطنطينية بأعجوبة من يد الفرس والأفاريين، وفيه تلميح صريح إلى تدخل البتول العجيب يوم ٧ آب من سنة ٦٢٦. ونختم صلاة الأكثستوس بتقبيل أبقوة السيدة العذراء ونشيد "إن جبرائيل" من تأليف القديس العبري يوحنا الدمشقي المتعبّد الكبير للبتول الطاهرة.

وضع نشيد الأكثستوس في الأصل لعيد البشارة بحسب رأي النقاد العصريين. إن محور الكلام فيه عن التجسد الإلهي، سبب امتيازات والدة الإله كلها وسبب مجدها. أمّا عيد الأكثستوس (أو عيد تدخل العذراء ونجاة المملكة في عهد هرقل) فلم يحتفل به أصلاً في سبت ثابت أي السبت الخامس من الصوم كما هي الحال اليوم، بل كان لبطريرك القسطنطينية الحرية أن يحتفل به في السبت الرابع أو الخامس من الصوم بحسب التقويم الطقسي القديم يعود إلى القرن التاسع. وعندما أصبح عيد البشارة عيداً ثابتاً في ٢٥ آذار، فصل عنه الاحتفال بعيد الأكثستوس، وجعل في سبت من أيام الصوم، وهو السبت الخامس في أيامنا الحاضرة "إن رتبة الأكثستوس أو المدائح عزيزة على قلب المؤمنين التابعين للطقس البيزنطي، فيتسابقون كثيرين إلى حضور هذه الصلاة التي تذكّركم بسر المحبة العظيم، سرّ تجسد الكلمة يوم عيد البشارة، وتعلن على مسامعهم الألقاب المجيدة التي خصّ بها الكتاب الكريم الأم السماوية، وكل رموز العهد القديم التي أشارت إليها".

أما ارتباطها بتاريخ الحماية المسيحية، فكانت المملكة البيزنطية المسيحية مهددة من كل جهة، وإذا بالحصارة المسيحية التي كانت تلك المملكة تمثّلها وتحملها، أصبحت معرضة لغزوات الأمم الغربية من فرس وآبار وعرب وغوط وصقالية ومجر. وفي سنة ٦١٤ اجتاحت الفرس بلاد المشرق، فدمّروا أنطاكية ودمشق، واستولوا على اورشليم وقتلوا فيها في يوم واحد أكثر من مئة ألف مسيحي، وهدموا مزاراتها المقدسة، وسبوا رهبانها وكهننتها وأساقفتها وبتريكرها، وانتزعوا عود الصليب المكرّم من على هيكل الجلجلة، وعادوا به إلى بلادهم غانمين. فثار عليهم هرقل ملك الروم وكسرهم، واسترجع الأسرى وعود الصليب. ولكن الفرس ما لبثوا أن عادوا الكرّة في سنة ٦٢٦، فهاجموا البلاد المسيحية وبلغوا أسوار القسطنطينية، وشدّدوا في حصارها، حتى قط الشعب المسيحي فيها. وبالجهد استطاع الملك هرقل أن يخرج من المدينة ويجتاز صفوف المحاصرين لكي يذهب إلى الأقاليم ويجمع الجيوش ويوقدها لفك الحصار عن العاصمة.

كان في أثناء غيابه قد سلّم القيادة والحكم للبطريرك المسكوني سرجيوس، الذي توكل على الله ولم يهمل وسائل الدفاع الحربي. وكانت ليلة السابع من آب سنة ٦٢٦ الموعد الذي حدّده الفرس للهجوم على المدينة. فأمر البطريرك، وإذا بالجيوش والشعب كله يجتمع فوق أسوار



# When you fast

*Jesus said, 'and when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your father who sees in secret will reward you:'*

*Matthew 6: 16-18 (Gospel of Cheesefare Sunday)*



When people think of the word "Lent," the word "fasting" is one of the first things that comes to mind. The cornerstone of Lent is not fasting, but repentance and growing in our faith. Fasting is a tool that is used to assist in spiritual growth. Fasting is also mischaracterized as a form of deprivation, rather than a spiritual discipline. Because fasting is so misunderstood, it is many times done incorrectly.

In the Orthodox world, we use the word "passions" to describe tendencies that each person has that lead us to sin. Each of us has a "passion" for anger, lust, power, greed, ego, etc. We do not get through life without wrestling with each of these, sometimes on a daily basis. The most basic "passion" is hunger. While we can go a day without a lustful thought or an angry thought, we can't go more than a few hours without a hungry thought. So, if we can tame our passion for eating, we can hopefully tame our other passions. If we can discipline ourselves to go without certain kinds of food, we can hopefully discipline ourselves so that we can go without certain kinds of behavior that are spiritually destructive. Thus, fasting is not about giving up something only to get it back. Fasting is about getting control of our passions, maintaining control over them, and ultimately giving control of ourselves to God.

If you've never fasted before, I would not recommend doing a strict fast. Try fasting from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent (and then throughout the year), then next year try fasting Wednesdays and Fridays plus all of the first week of Lent and all of Holy Week. Then work up from that.

Below is a guide of some levels of fasting:

- **Level one** -- Fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week
- **Level two** -- Fast from meat and fish on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week
- **Level three** -- Fast from meat the entirety of Lent and Holy Week
- **Level four** -- Fast from meat and fish the entirety of Lent and Holy Week
- **Level five** -- Level four and eliminate dairy products during Holy Week
- **Level six** -- Level four and eliminate dairy products on Wednesday and Fridays and during Holy Week.
- **Level seven** -- Level four plus eliminate dairy products during all of Lent and Holy Week
- **Level eight** -- Level seven plus eliminate oil and wine during Holy Week
- **Level nine** -- The strict fast - no meat, fish, dairy products, wine or oil during the entirety of Great Lent

*\*\*Fish is allowed on March 25 (Annunciation) and Palm Sunday; oil and wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, except for Holy Saturday.*

After a few years at one level, challenge yourself to go up a level.

More important, however, than fasting from food, is fasting from the behaviors that are spiritually destructive. We need to fast from things that get us in trouble - perhaps the television, alcohol, inappropriate materials on the computer and in movies, foul language, etc. Fasting also does not mean "looking" deprived, complaining about what you can't eat, or making a show of your fasting. In fact, if you are fasting and you are invited to someone's home for dinner and they serve meat, eat the meat, don't make a big deal out of your fasting. Also, do not pass judgment on others who are not fasting to the degree you are. Saint Paul reminds us in Romans 14:3-4: *"Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own Master that he stands or falls."* As Christ tells us, our fasting is seen by our "Father who is in secret," and He will reward us for our efforts.

**Again, Lent is not a season of deprivation, nor should we "give up" something only to get it back once Lent is over. Lent is about repentance, and making small and permanent changes to bring us closer to the Lord, changes that will last long after Lent is over. This is the purpose of the Lenten journey. Fasting is an aid to help us in this.**

*The time has come - the start of our spiritual contests, the victory over demons, the full armor of self-control the angels' dignity, the confidence before God. Thereby did Moses become conversant with the Creator, and heard the invisible voice. Lord, through fasting make us worthy to worship Your Passion and Holy Resurrection, as You love humanity. (Doxastikon of Orthros, Cheesefare Sunday, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)*

**Give some thought to your fasting plan for Lent today!**

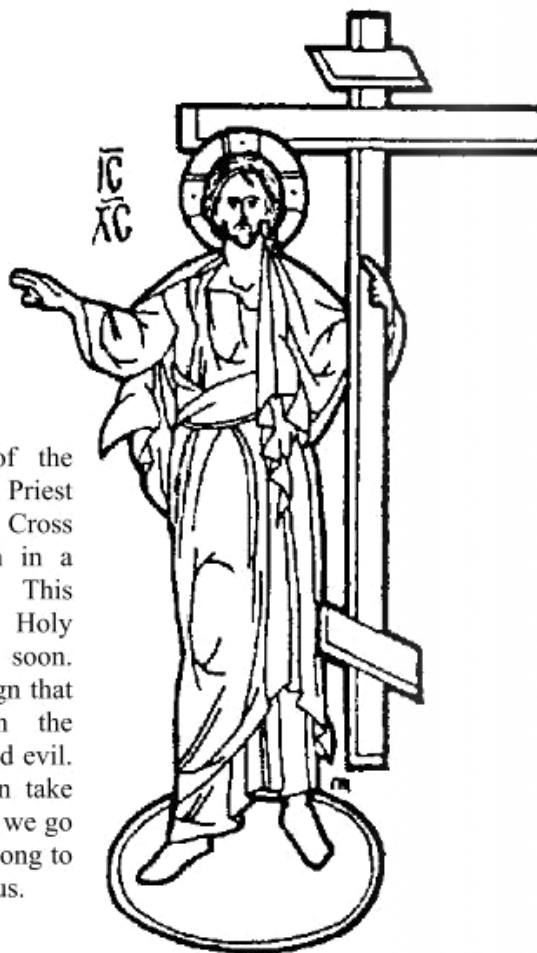
# Following Jesus Kids bulletin



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |        |          |         |        |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|----------|---------|--------|
| R | H | T | A | E | D | O | R | C | P | JESUS  | QUESTION | JOHN    | CHRIST |
| A | E | C | N | U | O | N | E | R | H | STRICT | SUFFER   | ELDERS  | DEATH  |
| N | C | W | S | A | T | A | O | A | S | CROSS  | PROPHETS | RENOUCE | LIFE   |
| A | C | R | O | S | S | P | J | E | S |        |          |         |        |
| T | H | H | I | L | H | I | R | S | U |        |          |         |        |
| A | C | R | S | E | L | D | E | R | S |        |          |         |        |
| S | H | I | T | E | E | O | F | E | N |        |          |         |        |
| C | E | S | T | F | S | U | F | F | H |        |          |         |        |
| W | N | O | I | T | S | E | U | Q | O |        |          |         |        |
| O | L | L | O | F | S | U | S | E | J |        |          |         |        |













3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent – Adoration of the Holy Cross

On the Sunday of the Holy Cross, our Priest carries the Holy Cross around the Church in a special procession. This reminds us that Holy Pascha is coming soon. The Cross is our sign that Jesus Christ won the battle over death and evil. It is a sign we can take with us everywhere we go to remind us we belong to Jesus and He loves us.





# Our Journey to Pascha 2022

| SUNDAYS   |   | THEMES / GOSPEL READING   | HOW TO PARTICIPATE   |
|---|---|---|--|
| Fast - Free Week<br><b>FEBRUARY 6th</b>                         |    | <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i><br><b>Publican and the Pharisee</b><br>Epistle: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15<br>Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14                            | Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week. |
| Normal Fast Week<br><b>FEBRUARY 13th</b>                        |    | <b>The Prodigal Son Returns</b><br>Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20<br>Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32  | Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, 'Today I will be humble.'<br>Use up/freeze meats this week.                    |
| Meatfare<br><b>FEBRUARY 20th</b><br>FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY      |    | <b>The Last Judgment</b><br>Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8: 8-9:2<br>Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46  | Pray facing East this week.<br>Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him!<br>Use up/freeze dairy this week.  |
| Cheesefare<br><b>FEBRUARY 27th</b><br>FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY  |    | <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise</b><br><i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i><br>Epistle: Romans 13: 11-14:4<br>Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21             | Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.  |
| 1st Sunday of Lent<br><b>MARCH 6th</b>                          |   | <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i><br><b>SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY</b><br>Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2<br>Gospel: John 1:43-51 | Bring an icon to church for a procession.  |
| 2nd Sunday of Lent<br><b>MARCH 13th</b>                         |  | <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b><br>Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3<br>Gospel: Mark 2:1-12   | Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today.<br>Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.                         |
| 3rd Sunday of Lent<br><b>MARCH 20th</b>                         |  | <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b><br><i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i><br>Epistle: Hebrews 4: 14-5:6<br>Gospel: Mark 8: 34-9:1                     | Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow.  |
| 4th Sunday of Lent<br><b>MARCH 27th</b>                         |  | <b>ST JOHN OF THE LADDER</b><br>Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20<br>Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31   | Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!                |
| 5th Sunday of Lent<br><b>APRIL 3rd</b>                          |  | <b>ST MARY OF EGYPT</b><br>Epistle: Hebrews 9: 11-14<br>Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45  | Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.  |
| FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY<br><b>APRIL 10th</b><br>GREAT WEEK BEGINS |  | <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i><br><b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b><br>Epistle: Philippians 4: 4-9<br>Gospel: John 12: 1-18                 | Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car.  |
| GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY<br><b>APRIL 15th</b>                      |  | <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b><br><i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i><br>CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE                 | Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.  |
| FEAST OF FEASTS!<br><b>APRIL 17th</b><br>NO FASTING!            |  | <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i><br><b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b><br>Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17                                       | Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and good night.                                      |



# Our Journey to Pascha 2022



**Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ!**

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



## HOLY WEEK

Focus on Christ's Passion

### NURTURE SILENCE

Spend the week in silence, thought and prayer

Attend Holy Week Services

Wednesday: Holy Unction

Thursday: Mystical Supper & Washing of feet

(Reading of 12 Passion Gospels)

Friday: Crucifixion and burial of Christ

(Vespers)

Saturday: Harrowing of Hades

## THIRD WEEK

The Cross is presented to us

Focus on Sacrifice and Charity

### DONATE

Each day this week set aside tasty food and feed the hungry

Each day take one item from your closet and donate it to those in need

Turn off the television all week - sacrifices are not meant to be easy

Put aside a tenth of this week's paycheck, and donate it

Offer your services at church

Offer to help a neighbor

Donate books

Donate a pair of nice shoes

GO ONE DAY WITHOUT COMPLAINING

TRY AGAIN - to go all day without negative comment

Sacrifices are not meant to be easy

## SECOND WEEK

Focus on Prayer

Be disciplined with your Prayer Routine

Memorize the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

### PRAY

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

While it is good to avoid places of temptation, it is better to **seek places of inspiration**. While it is good to avoid individuals, who may lead you to sin, it is better to **seek out individuals who will lead you to virtue**. While it is good to shun those things which tend to control us, it is better to **seek self-control over things which have no power over us unless we give them that power**.

# ROAD TO PASCHA

Journeying together through

**GREAT LENT**

**2022**



## FIFTH WEEK

Focus on God

### SPEND TIME GETTING TO KNOW GOD

Attend Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday

Read the prescribed readings:

Monday: Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday: Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday: Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday: Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday: Proverbs 17:17-18:5



5

LAZARUS SATURDAY

ST. MARY OF EGYPT  
(CONTEMPLATE AND FIX YOUR OWN SINS)

April 10  
PALM SUNDAY

"Humility is the only virtue that no devil can imitate. If pride made demons out of angels, there is no doubt that humility could make angels out of demons."  
- St. John Climacus

## FOURTH WEEK

Focus on Family

### SPEND TIME FOCUSING ON YOUR FAMILY

Pray Evening Prayers with your family

Share stories from your day, and listen to each other

During dinner tell each person something you love about them

Tell each of your children what makes them unique

Tell your parents why you appreciate them

Find a family recipe and prepare it together

Ask, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go?"



4

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

- THE CROSS IS PRESENTED TO STRENGTHEN US  
ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER  
KEEP TRYING TO BE GOOD

Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing...  
- St. Gregory of Palamas



BRING YOUR ICONS TO CHURCH



- DEFENSE OF ICONS

## FIRST WEEK

Monday - Strict Fast

Try to attend services

Focus on Self-Improvement

You are a living icon of Christ

Do not GOSSIP

Formulate a Prayer Rule, and stick to it all through Lent... and beyond.









# LITURGICAL CALENDAR



| MARCH   | Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | 1   | 2     | 3   | 4   | 5   |
|   |  |  | St Eudocia<br>Romans 8:14-21<br>Matthew 6:1-13   | St Theodotos of Cyrene<br>2 Corinthians 4:13-18<br>Mark 11:22-26<br>Matthew 7:7-8        | Sts Eutropios, Cleonikos and Basiliscos<br>Romans 15:30-33<br>Matthew 7:7-11             | 1 <sup>st</sup> Akathist<br>المناجاة الأولى<br>1 Timothy 2:1-7<br>John 15:1-7            | St Theodore the Martyr<br>(أعجوبة القمح المملوق)<br>Hebrews 1:1-12<br>Mark 2:23-3:5      |
| أذار - مارس<br>2022   | 6                     | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| FEBRUARY 2022   | Sunday of Orthodoxy<br>أحد الأثروبكسية<br>Hebrews 11:24-40<br>John 1:43-51                               | Martyrs of Cherson<br>Romans 15:1-7<br>Matthew 18:10-20                                | St Theophylactos of Nicomedia<br>Galatians 6:2-10<br>Matthew 4:25-5:12                 | Forty Martyrs of Sebastia<br>Hebrews 12:1-10<br>Matthew 20:1-16                          | St Codratos and his companions<br>1 Corinthians 10:5-12<br>Matthew 5:27-32               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Akathist<br>المناجاة الثانية<br>Romans 5:1-10<br>Matthew 5:33-41         | St Theophane of Sorgia<br>Hebrews 3:12-16<br>Mark 1:35-44                                |
| S M T W T F S   | 13 St Gregory Palamas<br>Sunday of Holy Relics<br>أحد الذخائر المقدسة<br>Hebrews 1:10-2:3<br>Mark 2:1-12 | 14 St Benedict<br>Ephesians 4:25-32<br>Matthew 5:42-48                                 | 15 St Agapios and his companions<br>Philippians 2:12-16<br>Matthew 10:32-38; 19:27-30  | 16 St Sabinos the Egyptian<br>Ephesians 4:1-7<br>Matthew 7:1-8                           | 17 St Alexis<br>Colossians 3:4-11<br>Matthew 7:24-8:4                                    | 18 3 <sup>rd</sup> Akathist<br>المناجاة الثالثة<br>Ephesians 5:1-8<br>Matthew 6:22-33    | 19 Sts Chrysanthos and Daria<br>Hebrews 10:32-38<br>Mark 2:14-17                         |
| APRIL 2022  | 20                    | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| S M T W T F S   | Veneration of Holy Cross<br>أحد المسجود للصليب الكريم<br>Hebrews 4:14-5:6<br>Mark 8:34-9:1               | St James of Catania<br>Philippians 2:5-11<br>Matthew 13:10-23,9                        | St Basil of Ancyra<br>1 Corinthians 1:18-24<br>Matthew 13:36-43                        | St Nikon and his 200 pupils<br>Galatians 2:16-20<br>Matthew 9:18-26                      | Preparation of the Annunciation<br>Galatians 5:22-6:2<br>Matthew 25:14-30                | Annunciation<br>عيد البشارة<br>Hebrews 2:11-18<br>Luke 1:24-38                           | Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel<br>Hebrews 6:9-12<br>Mark 7:31-37                           |
|   | 27                    | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |  |  |
|   | St John Climacos<br>القديس يوحنا السلمى<br>Hebrews 6:13-20<br>Mark 9:17-31                               | Sts Stephen and Hilarion<br>Romans 12:1-3<br>Luke 6:31-36                              | St Cyril and his companions<br>Ephesians 4:14-17<br>Luke 6:24-30                       | St John Climacos<br>Ephesians 4:17-25<br>Luke 7:36-50                                    | Thursday of Great Canon<br>خميس القانون الكبير<br>Ephesians 4:25-32<br>Luke 13:1-9       |  |  |



Church Major Feasts



Abstain from Meat



Fast from midnight until noon



Lenten Season

# Prayer for Lent



## PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM

+O Lord and Master of my life! Drive from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust for power, and idle chatter. *(prostration)*

+Instead, grant to me, your servant,  
the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. *(prostration)*

+Yes, O Lord and King! Let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters;  
for you are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

*(prostration)* Followed by 12 small prostrations, with the sign of the Cross:

God, be merciful to me a sinner! *(prostration)* God,

cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me! *(prostration)*

I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord! *(prostration)*

O Lord and Master of my life!

Drive from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust for power, and idle chatter.

Instead, grant to me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, O Lord and King! Let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters;  
for You are blessed for ever and ever.

Amen. *(prostration)*

---

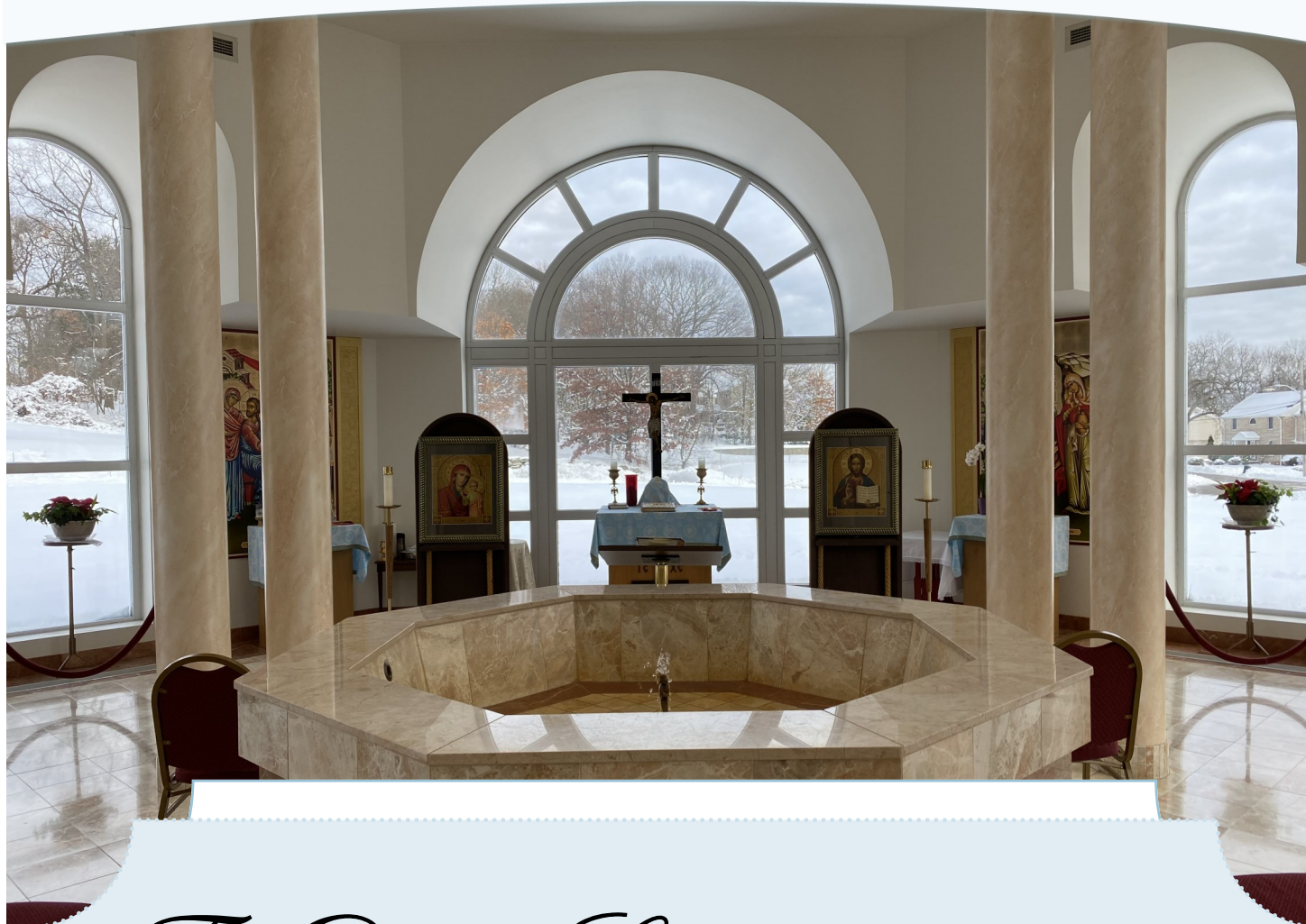
To emphasize the theme of this prayer--changing our lives--we accompany it with **Great Prostration**, kneeling and touching the forehead to the floor, then standing and making the sign of the cross. When we pray "O God, be gracious to me a sinner, and have mercy on me" 12 times, we make **Small Prostration**, bowing very low, touching the floor with the fingertips of the right hand, then standing and making the sign of the cross. The bows represent the twelve hours of the day, and our awareness of the sins and shortcomings we suffer throughout each day of our life.

The Prayer of St Ephrem is one of the main components of Lenten services in the Byzantine Church. It signifies our awareness of our sins and of temptations, it proclaims our faith in the all-merciful God, and it asks for the gifts and graces we need to lead a holy life. During Lent, it is a good practice to recite the prayer of St Ephrem when you get up in the morning and before you go to bed at night.

Both privately and publicly, the Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian is the characteristic prayer of Great Lent. It reminds us that God is the Master of our lives, and asks God to free us from the sins of everyday life, like pride and gossip and laziness and greed. In it we ask God to give us humility and love of our neighbor, awareness of our own sins, and disinterest in the sins of others. We then pray "O God, be gracious to me a sinner, and have mercy on me" twelve times.



# Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



*The Divine Liturgy is celebrated*

At St. Elias Chapel

|(St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church)

**Tuesday to Friday at 9:00 am**

Sunday Divine Liturgy :

**English at 9:00 am—Arabic at 11:15 am**

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

As of 3/17/2022



## 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: \$416,000



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

### Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 40%

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

### Current & Future Projects:



Roof Repair: Contract Signed- March 2022



Mold Remediation: Proposals received & In Review



Doors & Windows: Part 1 of Proposals received & In Review



HVAC & Boiler: Proposals received & In Review



Flooring Upgrades: Acquiring Proposals



Parking Lot & Walkway Resurfacing



Interior Décor Enhancements



Walk In Cooler & Kitchen Equipment Repair



Masonry Repairs



TBD

### Important Highlights

- We are extremely grateful to all of those who have contributed and supported this campaign thus far.
- Our first priority of this campaign was the roof -But there are several other projects/repairs being reviewed and considered that are listed above
- 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



# **ALL-DAY CONFESSIONS**

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Saint Joseph Church

1200 Mendon Road, Woonsocket, R.I.

**Has it been a long time?**

**WELCOME HOME!**

- two to three priests at all times
- anonymous Confessions behind the screen and face-to-face available
- friendly volunteers to answer your questions
- examinations of conscience provided
- music playing so voices cannot be heard

**NEVER DOUBT GOD'S WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE YOU!**

# LITURGY OR MASS INTENTIONS



Divine Liturgy intentions can be scheduled for those who have died, and on the occasion of a birthday, wedding anniversary, for healing for the conversion of sinners, for the grace to face the challenges in life, for the success in a new job, for those serving in the church and country in different levels, for good weather, bountiful harvest, for world peace, in thanksgiving for the blessings received, etc. You can find so many reasons to think about a Mass offering. We offer the Mass for a specific intention because we believe in the immense spiritual value of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The custom of giving offering to have Liturgies said for specific intentions is a laudable one and should be maintained as much as possible. Church teaching and Canon Law (nos. 942-958) provide important guidelines on how to preserve the dignity and appreciation of this practice. Overall, it should be well noted that Liturgy offerings are never to be viewed as a means of parish fundraising.

**COMMEMORATIONS OF THE DEAD:** The Apostolic Constitutions refer to the repetition of the Mass on the third, ninth and fortieth days: "Let the third day be observed in remembrance of the dead with psalms, lessons, and prayers, because Christ rose from the dead on the third day. Let the ninth day be observed in remembrance both of the living and the dead, and also the fortieth day, in accordance with mourning customs of the Israelites at the time of Moses' death. Finally, let the anniversary day be observed in memory of the dead."

In contemporary Byzantine practice, the dead are commemorated on the ninth and fortieth days and on the anniversary of their departure from this world.

Formerly under the jurisdiction of the local Latin Ordinaries before the Exarchate was established under the leadership of the late Bishop Justin Najmy of this Parish, all Melkites have been subject to the latter since its erection in 1966. The Constitution of the Melkite Eparchy which is now a sole Diocese since 1976 still acknowledges this definitive protocol. Our parishes follow local discipline in the various customs e.g., clergy attire, stipends (Mass Offerings), etc. except in Liturgy and Ritual. Our relationship with the local Latin Dioceses and Latin pastors must be permeated with a spirit of love and friendship and cooperation.

Effective January 1, 2008, which by-passed us, the schedule of offerings for Masses in parishes is now \$25.00; Funerals: \$300.00; Weddings: \$300.00.

Canon Law prohibits accepting stipends or offerings for Masses more than one year in advance (rolling calendar) Canon 953. The time within which Masses must be celebrated (1 year) begins the day the intention is received (Canon 955 #2.)

May the memories of our beloved deceased be eternal and many thanks for your understanding and undivided attention in regard to these guidelines and restrictions.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Welcome to*

## **St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church**

**Check our website  
for Church news and updates at**  
[www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

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

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

**Contact us for information and ideas**  
[office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com](mailto: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.



# 52nd National Melkite Convention

*Hosted by Eparchy of Newton*

# Living Waters



## CHRIST Our Fountain of Life

**PRAY**

Divine Services

**LEARN**

Spiritual Workshops

**CELEBRATE**

Evening Socials

**July 7-10, 2022**

*Palm Springs, California*

[52melkiteconvention@gmail.com](mailto:52melkiteconvention@gmail.com)



**THE WESTIN RANCHO MIRAGE  
GOLF RESORT AND SPA**

Rancho Mirage, CA

**Room Rate: \$129/night**

Reservations

[book.passkey.com/go/diocesenewton](http://book.passkey.com/go/diocesenewton)

or call **1-877-253-0041**

request the Diocese of Newton Convention special group rate



# 52nd National Melkite Convention

Hosted by Eparchy of Newton

## Living Waters

### CHRIST Our Fountain of Life



## PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

*if Purchased Separately from Package*

| Individual Events                      | Price per ticket | Quantity | Total Cost |
|--|------------------|----------|------------|
| Thursday July 7   BAR-B-Q Buffet       | \$60.00          |          |            |
| Friday July 8   Hawaiian Sunset Dinner | \$80.00          |          |            |
| Saturday July 9   Grand Banquet Hafli  | \$110.00         |          |            |
| Sunday July 10   Farewell Brunch       | \$40.00          |          |            |

### COMPLETE PACKAGES

*(Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evenings only – Sunday Brunch not included)*

| Evening Social Events    | Price per package | Quantity | Total Cost |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|
| Purchased before 5/31/22 | \$225.00          |          |            |
| Purchased after 5/31/22  | \$250.00          |          |            |
| GRAND TOTAL              |                   |          |            |

#### Mail Payments and Registration to:

DIOCESE OF NEWTON - CONVENTION  
802 Rifle Camp Rd. PO BOX 630  
Woodland Park, NJ 07424

#### Make Checks Payable to:

DIOCESE OF NEWTON - CONVENTION  
**Do Not Send Cash**

Registration material to be picked up at convention registration desk

**NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR**

Please complete entire registration form and mail with your payment.

**For further information, contact Rosemary Shabouk**

718.748.1235 or 52melkiteconvention@gmail.com

## REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Parish/City \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Credit Card  
NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_ CARD TYPE \_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

# 52nd National Melkite Convention

Hosted by Eparchy of Newton

## Living Waters

### CHRIST Our Fountain of Life



## SOUVENIR BOOK – AD ORDER FORM

52melkiteconvention@gmail.com

Contributor or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Solicited By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Contributor Email \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL & BUSINESS AD PRICES

Please Mark the Desired Category

**DEADLINE: MAY 27, 2022**

#### PREMIUM PAGES

|                    |         |                          |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Back Cover Outside | \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Back Cover Inside  | \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Front Cover Inside | \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Full Page Gold     | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Full Page Silver   | \$ 750  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### STANDARD B/W PAGES

|               |        |                          |
|---------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Full Page     | \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Half Page     | \$ 300 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarter Page  | \$ 150 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business Card | \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Photos for full pages only

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

### AD DIMENSIONS:

Full Page: 8.5"w x 11"h

½ Page: 4.25"w x 5.5"h

¼ Page: 2.125"w x 2.75"h

⅛ Page: Business Card

☐ Text Received

☐ Art/Graphics Received

☐ Photos Received

# of Photos \_\_\_\_\_

#### Make Check Payable to:

Diocese of Newton - Convention

#### Mail Payments to:

Diocese of Newton - Convention  
802 Rifle Camp Rd . PO BOX 630  
Woodland Park, NJ 07424

### PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit Card

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

CARD TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ INITIAL \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional info/Artwork:

Doreen Pierson | 973.800.2643

52melkiteconvention@gmail.com



## Shepherd's Care Associated Charities

Shepherd's Care began in 1988 at the request of the faithful and clergy who saw a need for a united effort among all Melkite Catholic Parishes in the United States to reach out to people in need. By means of this initiative, the Eparchy reaches out in love through financial assistance to people in need here in the United States and abroad. Over the years Shepherd's Care has raised more than \$250,000.

Through your love and faithful support, the Eparchy has been able to help orphans, the hungry, the homeless, drug addicted, the destitute, runaway teens, victims of war, victims of disease and disasters, and so many more.

Donations are distributed to local parish charities such as soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, eparchial charities, world charities, and offers tuition assistance to seminarians of the Eparchy.

But Shepherd's Care much more than raising funds for charitable causes. More importantly, it is a guide to assist us in living a Holy Lent through understanding and practicing the Lenten cornerstones of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



**Shepherd's Care  
Associated Charities  
Eparchy of Newton  
3 V.F.W. Parkway  
West Roxbury, MA 02132-7727**



## SHEPHERD'S CARE Associated Charities Great Lent

**"There is no sin that  
alms cannot cleanse.  
Charity is a medicine  
suitable for any wound."**

*St. John Chrysostom*

## The Widow's Mite

Each year during the Great Fast, the Church encourages us with the example of the "widow's mite". We receive a little box — a "mite box" which we take home. This box symbolizes the offerings (alms) we give during Lent, together with our increased prayers, fasting, and abstinence.

*"When He looked up, he saw some wealthy people putting their offering into the treasury, and He noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, 'I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth. But she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood'"*



recognized that the widow's "mite" was far greater than the large offerings other people were contributing. They could afford to give more. The poor widow, however, gave to God everything she had.



## Lenten Gift Box

Each family, indeed every person, is invited to take home a Lenten gift (mite) box. Put it on your dining table, or in your icon corner, anywhere you will see it and be inspired to remember the needy. Throughout Lent place your offerings in the box. Some people try to put in the amount they save by abstaining from certain foods. Children find it especially fun to use the coin calendar.

At the end of Great Lent bring the proceeds of your mite box to the church

as your offering for Shepherd's Care. If you are presenting a check please make it payable to **SHEPHERD'S CARE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES**. You may also make donations by check directly to the Eparchial Office. Address is on the back. Together our eparchial family can help alleviate the sufferings of God's people.

All proceeds from Shepherd's Care Associated Charities go directly to the charities. The Bishop, together with his advisors, insures that 100% of the money is given to the needy at home and abroad.

Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated by all who will benefit from them. The Fathers of the Church encourage us to always be humbly grateful and remember those in need. In helping others, we are doing the will of God.

*"The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry. The garment in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor."*

*St. Basil the Great*



**Seeking  
Money  
for College?**

**Apply for the Arabic Educational  
Foundation of RI**

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

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

**High school seniors and current undergraduates of Arabic descent  
who are or will be enrolled as full-time students at an accredited  
college for the 2022-2023 academic year**

Eligibility information and applications can be found on the AEF website or  
Facebook. For more information, Please contact  
AEF board member at [aef1966@cox.net](mailto:aef1966@cox.net)

**DEADLINE: May 1, 2022**

**VISIT [www.aef-ri.org](http://www.aef-ri.org)**

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



# St. George Maronite Catholic Church

## *St. Joseph 73rd Annual Haftli*

Saturday,  
April 23, 2022

*Dancing  
Live Entertainment  
Grand Raffle!*

**VIP Seating** \$100.00

**General Admission** \$75.00

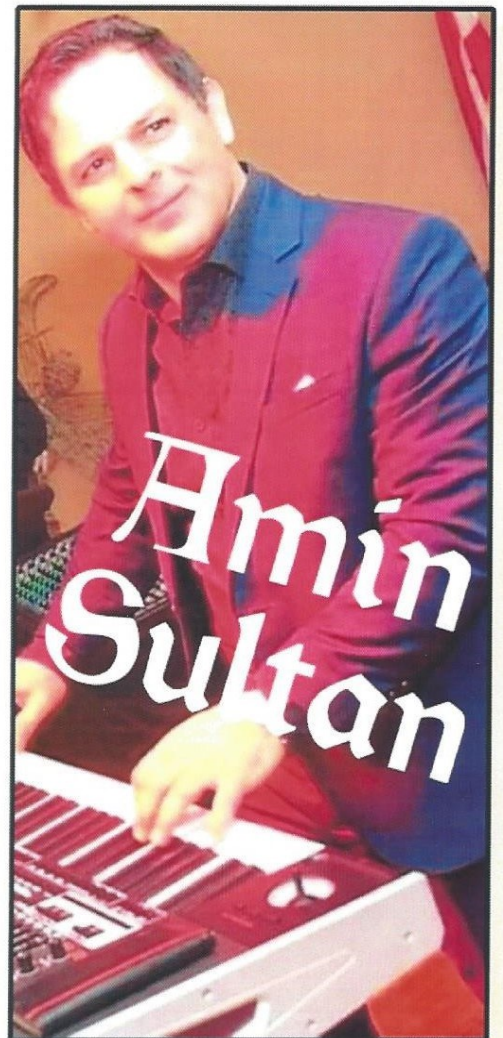
**MYO (Age 12-17)** \$40.00

**Children (12 & Under)** \$20.00

For Tickets please contact:  
Lillian Barish (401) 521-4888  
Nancy Pasquerillo (401) 231-8981  
Samia Sleiman (401) 864-1933

**WHITE'S  
OF WESTPORT**

66 State Street  
Westport, MA  
6:30pm



Hotel rooms available within walking distance.



# ADVERTISEMENTS

## MASSUD & SONS FLOOR COVERING, INC. ESTABLISHED 1972

(401) 724-6674

772 Dexter Street., Central Falls, RI

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

Carpets-Vinyl-Hardwood-Laminate-Ceramic Tile

*"Come See The Massud Family Today"*

**FAMILY  
OWNED & OPERATED  
FOR OVER 48 YEARS!**

Schedule your appointment



**JAMES M. PROCTER**

SALES MANAGER

NMLS# 23362

TOLL FREE : 844-500-5552X3501

DIRECT : 401-589-1601

MOBILE : 401-744-1532

E-FAX : 866-449-9855

JAMES.PROCTER@NATIONSLENDING.COM

800 OAKLAWN AVE. SUITE C-201, CRANSTON, RI 02920

## New England Stone

15 Branch Pike

Smithfield, RI 02917

(401) 232-2040

Monuments . Benches . Paving Blocks



**Lila Delman**  
Real Estate

**MICHELLE H. LEFRANCOIS**

Sales Associate

369 South Main St.

Providence, RI 02903

401-274-1644

M 401-935-5854

F 401-331-1719

E Michelle.Lefrancois@LilaDelman.com

**JOSEPH RAHEB  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

650 WASHINGTON HIGHWAY  
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND 02865  
401-333-3377

**STEPHEN M. CUSHMAN, CPA., MST**



Certified Public Accountants  
Mardo, Lachapelle & Palumbo, LLP  
221 Broadway Providence RI 02903

401-274-8400

Fax : 401-274-9242

Email: [steve@mlcpa.com](mailto:steve@mlcpa.com)

webpage: [mlcpa.com](http://mlcpa.com)



**SHARON DeSIMONE, EA**  
401-651-1112

[LincolnTaxServicesofRI@yahoo.com](mailto:LincolnTaxServicesofRI@yahoo.com)  
650 George Washington Hwy.  
Lincoln, RI 02865-4206

**JAMES A. BRIDEN**

Attorney At Law

**Blais Cunningham & Crowe Chester, LLP**

P.O.Box 1325 150 Main street Pawtucket, RI 02862

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

401-723-1122

Fax : 401-726-6140

Email : [jbriden@blaislaw.com](mailto:jbriden@blaislaw.com)

**REGAL CONSULTING GROUP**  
REAL ESTATE CONSULTING AND VALUATION

**MICHAEL P. LEFRANCOIS JR.**

PRESIDENT & CHIEF CONSULTANT

640 GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY-BLDG B

SUITE 103-LINCOLN RI 02865

401-626-6619

[MIKE@REGALCGROUP.COM](mailto:MIKE@REGALCGROUP.COM)

**COSTIGAN - O'NEILL FUNERAL HOME**



Phone: (401) 723-4035  
220 COTTAGE STREET • PAWTUCKET, RI 02860

**John H. O'Neill  
Vincent P. O'Neill**

*"Catholic Funeral Directors"*

FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES



**Navigant**  
CREDIT UNION

Proud to be part of your community.

401.233.4700 — [www.navigantcu.org](http://www.navigantcu.org)

**New location:**

3102 Mendon Rd. Cumberland, RI 02864

Phone: (401) 658-1155



# ADVERTISEMENTS

**NAYCO**

**Great Family Store**

190 Front Street  
Lincoln Shopping Center

724-7504



**Gonsalves/Pastore Realty**  
126 Broad Street, Cumberland,  
RI 02864

**V. Edward Fayan**

**Broker/Associate \* Licensed in RI & MA**

**Bus: 401-728-2770 Cell : 401-474-7279**

**Shirley A. Moon Lemay, CPIW**



**Blais**  
INSURANCE

Tel : 401-725-0070  
Fax : 401-726-2620  
P.O. Box 158, One Walker Street  
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

**FAYAN**  
LAW PC

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

**Keith E. Fayan, Esq.**

Hope Artiste Village  
1005 Main Street, Unit 1204  
Pawtucket, RI-02860  
T: 401-475-2755 F: 401-223-6387  
kef@fayanlaw.com  
Admitted in Mass & RI

**Diamond**  
 **Cleaners**

A Brilliant Choice!

**Carl J. Sahady**

President  
Narragansett Shopping Plaza  
(Next to Stop & Shop)  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

**Park Printers, Inc**

**Service-Quality-Affordability**

Full service Printing since 1976  
496 Power Road, Pawtucket, RI  
401-728-8650



"NO JOB TOO BIG"

**THE AFFORDABLE  
PLUMBER & SON**  
**401.255.6996**



"NO JOB TOO SMALL"

**Elie Jewelers**

"CUSTOMIZE YOUR DREAMS"

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY & ON-SITE  
JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR WHILE YOU WAIT  
CASH 4 \*GOLD/SILVER/DIAMONDS/PLATINUM\*  
SAMI KARRAZ, PRESIDENT - 508-643-3543  
ELIEJEWELERS@COMCAST.NET  
999 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST., N. ATTLEBORO, MA 02760  
(EMERALD SQUARE MALL LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR)

**Feel Better Live Better**

**ELITE**  
PHYSICAL THERAPY

YOUR HEALTH. YOUR CHOICE.

**Lincoln: 401.475.6599**

**PATRICIA MELKOUN VP of Administration**

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

[pmelkoun@elitephysicaltherapy.com](mailto:pmelkoun@elitephysicaltherapy.com)

Lincoln: 401.475.6599  
Cranston: 401.533.9616  
N. Smithfield: 401.597.5840  
Warwick: 401.737.4581  
E. Greenwich: 401.398.7988  
Providence: 401.276.0800  
Coventry: 401.615.3140

**Northeast**  
INVESTMENT GROUP



**Jeffrey M. Boudjouk**

Managing Partner - Wealth Advisor  
[jeff@northeastinvestmentgroup.com](mailto:jeff@northeastinvestmentgroup.com)

**Phone:** 401-213-8315 • **Toll Free:** 855-232-6748 • **eFax:** 401-329-0039  
1000 Chapel View Blvd., Suite 200 • Cranston, RI 02920  
[www.northeastinvestmentgroup.com](http://www.northeastinvestmentgroup.com)



**Offshore Seafood**

'Quality at its best'

Fresh Frozen

Bob Marcoux 401-737-3763



**KW** LEADING  
EDGE  
KELLERWILLIAMS  
REAL ESTATE

**Thinking About Selling?**  
Contact Justin for a Complimentary Home Valuation



**Justin Dower**

Listing Specialist & Realtor®  
Licensed in RI, MA & NY

**(631) 466-1399**

Find me: [Justin.SpectrumREC.com](http://Justin.SpectrumREC.com)

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated Equal Housing Opportunity