



March 5th, 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 Liturgies

Sunday Divine Liturgy
9:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Pastoral Emergencies and anointing of the sick

(401)722-1345

Holy Mysteries

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before the Divine Liturgy or by appointment

Baptism

Please arrange with the pastor

Marriage

A notice of at least 6 months should be given to the pastor, before the proposed wedding date to arrange for the required interview and instructions



Sunday of the Holy Relics and St. Gregory Palamas Commemoration of our Holy Father Alexis, the Man of God

احد الذخائر المقدسة -
وعيد القديس غريغوريوس بالاماس

Antiphon Prayer

O Lord, our God, You have granted the holy martyrs that their relics would be spread throughout the world, including this church, to bring forth the grace of healing from diseases. Make us worthy, through the intercession of your Saints, to offer You the Spiritual Sacrifice and guide us on the way of Salvation For you are Good and the Lover of mankind and to you we render glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the Resurrection (6th tone)

The angelic powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead, and Mary stood at the tomb, seeking Your spotless body; Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it, and You met the Virgin O Bestower of life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You!

Troparion of the Holy Relics (Tone 2)

Victorious witnesses of the Lord, blessed is the earth that received your blood, and holy are the heavenly places that opened to your souls. You have vanquished the enemy in battle and proclaimed Christ with courage. We beg you to intercede with Him who is all good, that He may save our souls.

Troparion of our Holy Father Gregory Palamas (Tone 8)

O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, pride of Thessaloniki and preacher of grace: Pray without ceasing for the salvation of us all.

صلاة الأنديفونة

أيها الربّ إلهنا، يا مَنْ وَهَبَ للشُّهداءِ للقديسين أن تتوزّع أعضاؤهم في كل الأرض وفي هذه الكنيسة، لتأتي بثمار الشفاء من الأمراض، أهلكنا، بشفاعة قديسيك، لأنّ نُقدّم لك الذبيحة الروحية، واهدنا سبيل الخلاص لأنك إله صالح ومحبّ للبشر، واليك نرفع المجد، أيها الآب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلّ أوان وإلى دهر الدهرين.

طروبارية القيامة باللحن السادس

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

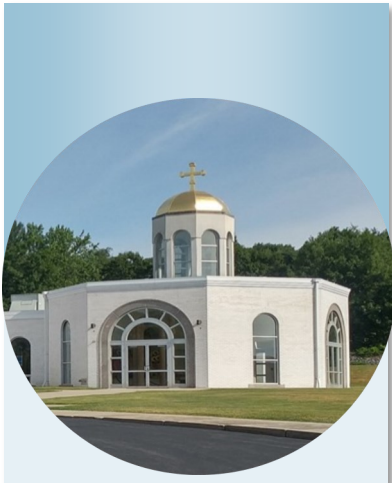
طروبارية الذخائر المقدسة باللحن الثامن

مغبوطة الارض التي أخصبها دماؤكم، يا شهداء الربّ الظافرين. ومقدسة المساكن التي قبِلت أجسادكم. فإنكم قد غلبتم العدو في الميدان، وكرزتم بالمسيح بشجاعة، فنسالكم أن تبتهلوا إليه، بما انه صالح، في خلاص نفوسنا.

طروبارية العيد للقديس غريغوريوس باللحن الثامن

يا كوكب الايمان القويم. وثبات الكنيسة ومعلمها. يا جمال المتوحدين. والمناضل الذي لا يحارب عن المتكلمين بالإلهيات. غريغوريوس الصانع العجائب. يا فخر تسالونيكى والمُنادي بالنعمة. ابتهل على الدوام في خلاص نفوسنا.





Troparion of St Basil The Great

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.

Kondakion of the Annunciation

Triumphant leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you, our thanks. We are your people O mother of God! So, as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

Epistle of the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Hebrews 1: 10-14; 2: 1-3, Prokimenon (Tone 5)

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Stichon: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews: 1: 10-14; 2: 1-4

You in the beginning, O Lord, did found the earth, and the heavens are works of your hands. They shall perish, but you shall continue; and they shall all grow old as does a garment, and as clothing shall you change them, and they shall be changed. But you are the same, and your years shall not fail (Ps. 101: 26-28)

Now, to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool at your feet" (Ps. 109: 1)? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent for service, for the sake of those who shall inherit salvation?

That is why we should all the more earnestly observe the things we have heard, lest perhaps we drift away. For if the word spoken by angels proved to be valid, and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? For it was first announced by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard it.

Alleluia (Tone 5)

Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Stichon: For you have said, "My kindness is established forever." In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel of the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Mark 2:1-12 (Healing of the Paralytic)

At that time Jesus entered Capharnaum, and it was reported that he was at home. And immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even around the door. And he spoke the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four. And since they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was, and, having made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the Paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Now some of the Scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man blaspheme in this way? Who can forgive sins, beside God?" And at once Jesus, knowing in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why are you arguing these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet, and walk'? But that you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the paralytic — "I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house," And immediately he arose and, taking up his pallet, went forth in the sight of all, so that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "Never did we see anything like this!"

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقتك في كل الأرض. فإنها قد قَبِلَتْ كلامك، الذي به بَدِئْتَ العقائدَ بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعَةَ الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاقَ البشر. فيا أيها الأبُّ البارُّ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

قنداق الختام باللحن الثامن

نحْنُ عبيدك يا والدة الإله، نكتبُ لك آياتِ الغلبة يا قائدةَ قاهره. ونقدم الشكرَ لك وقد أنقذتنا من الشدائد. لكن بما أن لك العزة. التي لا تحارب، أعتقينا من اصناف المخاطر لكي نصرخ إليك: إفرحي يا عروسة! لا عروس لها.

مقدمة الرسالة

أنت يا ربُّ تحفظنا وتحميننا من هذا الجيل وإلى الدهر خلصني يا رب، فإن البارُّ قد فني، لأن الحقيقة قد صَبَعَتْ عند بني البشر

الرسالة (عبرانيين 1: 10-14; 2: 1-4)

أنت أيها الرب في البدء أسست الأرض، والسماوات هي صنع يديك. هي تزول وأنت تبقى، وكلها تبلى كالنوب، وتطويها كالرداء فتتغير، وأنت أنت، وسنوك لن تفتني. ولمن من الملائكة قال قط: اجلس عن يميني حتى أجعل أعداءك موطئاً لقدميك؟ أليسوا جميعهم أرواحاً خادمة، مرسلّة لخدمته من أجل المزمعين أن يَرَوْا الخلاص؟ فلذلك يجب علينا أن تنتبه إلى ما سمعناه غاية التنبه، لئلا نبتعد عنه. فإنها إن كانت الكلمة التي نُطِقَ بها على أسنهِ الملائكة قد ثبتت، وكلُّ تَدَبُّرٍ ومعصيةٍ قد نال جزاءً عادلاً، فكيف نُفَنِّ لُتْ نحن إن أهملنا خلاصاً عظيماً كهذا قد نُطِقَ به على لسان الربِّ أولاً، ثم تَبَّتْه لنا الذين سمعوه.

هللوا

بمراحمك يا رب. أرتب، إلى الابد، إلى جيلٍ فجيلٍ أعلن حَقَّك بفي

لأنك قلت: إن الرحمة تُبني الى الابد، وفي السماوات يَهَيِّأ حَقَّك.

الانجيل (مرقس 2: 1-12)

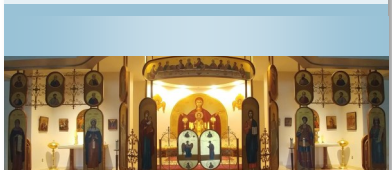
في ذلك الزمان، دخل يسوع كفرناحوم. وسمع أنه في بيت، ففي الحال اجتمع خلق كثير بحيث لم يبق موضع يسع ولا عند الباب، وكان يخاطبهم بالكلمة. فأتوا اليه بمخلع يحمله أربعة. وإذ لم يقدرُوا أن يقتربوا اليه بسبب الجمع، كشفوا السقف حيث كان، وبعد ما نقبوه دلو الفرائش الذي كان المخلع مضطجعا عليه. فلما رأى يسوع إيمانهم قال للمخلع: يا بني مغفورة لك خطاياك. وكان قومٌ من الكتبة جالسين هناك يفكرون في قلوبهم: ما بال هذا يتكلم هكذا بالتجديف؟ من يقدر أن يغفر الخطايا إلا الله وحده؟ فللوقت علم يسوع بروحه انهم يفكرون هكذا في أنفسهم. فقال لهم: لماذا تفكرون بهذا في قلوبكم؟ ما الايسر: أن يُقال للمخلع مغفورة لك خطاياك. أم أن يقال قم احمل فراشك وامشي؟ ولكن لكي تعلموا ان ابن الانسان له سلطان على الارض ان يغفر الخطايا، قال للمخلع: لك أقول قم احمل فراشك واذهب الى بيتك. فقام للوقت وحمل فراشه وخرج أمام الجميع، حتى دهبوا كلهم ومجدوا الله قائلين: ما رأينا قط مثل هذا.

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>





Divine Liturgy Intentions

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023: SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS & ST. GREGORY PALAMAS.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **DAVID SCHNETZLER (40 Day)** by Deborah Sshnetzler & Family.
- + **FRED & JEAN SHARKEY** by Deborah Schnetzler & Family.
- + **PETER MASHATA (Birthday Remem.)** by Eugenie Mashata & Family.
- + **EMILY NOURY (21st Anniv.)** by her nieces & nephews.
- + **KIM NASSANEY CULPAN (Birthday Remem.)** by her father and brothers.
- + **LILLIAN & JAMES L. SALOME** by their children & families.
- + **ANNA LEFRANCOIS** by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + **LOUIS PETERS** by the family of the late Louis E. Peters.

11:15 DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **ROSE & HOUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **MICHAEL GEORGE BOUDJOUK (NJ)** by Mr. Albert & Lina Kishfy.
- + **VIOLETTE (HAGGAR) SAGGAL (Australia)** by Riad & Souhair Khoury.
- + **BOSCO FOWLER** by Wayne & Judy Rawan & Family.
- + **JEANNETTE AYOUB DAIKH (Aleppo, Syria)** by Deacon Mimi & Gilbert Altongy.



Prayer for the dead



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

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





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: February 26, 2023: Budgets: \$1,792.00: Envelopes: \$1,608.00, Loose: \$184.00; Candles: \$138.00; Building Fund: \$105.00; Stole Offerings: \$280.00; Addit'l Fuel: \$53.00; Addit'l Religious Education: \$58.00; Melkite Diocesan Support: \$257.00.

TODAY, MARCH 5, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS.** Help defray the cost of heating the Church and Rectory, as prices have been escalating rapidly. We must remember that utilities are more than doubled in our new complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated!

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

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

2023 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available – free for the taking – at both entrances 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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: All the faithful who have recently changed their address or who are planning to do so, 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.

RULE OF FASTING IN THE DIOCESE OF NEWTON

So as not to burden anyone's conscience, the Holy Synod of the Melkite Church permits each diocesan 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 minimal rule that Melkites in the Diocese of Newton must observe: *Fasting* from all food and drink from midnight until noon, must be observed on the first day of Great Lent (Monday, February 20th), 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.

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.

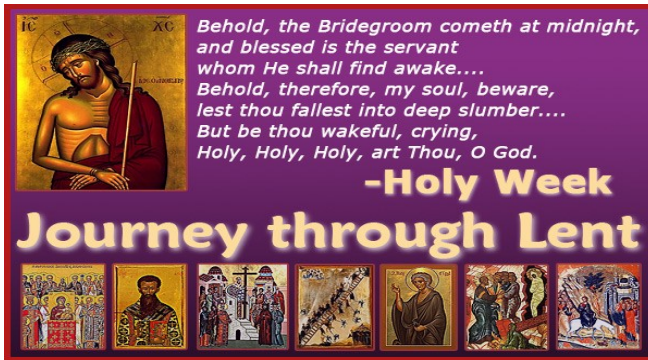
O Jesus, Who has said,
"Heaven and earth shall
pass away but My word
shall not pass away,"
through the intercession
of the Theotokos Your
Most Holy Mother, I feel
confident that my prayer
will be granted.





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. Various Services will be conducted during the weekdays of Lent, thereby making it convenient for more people.



This week, services will be held on Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Monday, March 6, 2023: | 7:00 p.m. | Presanctified Liturgy |
| Tuesday, March 7, 2023: | 6:30 p.m. | Great Compline |
| Friday, March 10, 2023: | 6:30 p.m. | Akathist Hymn |

On Friday, March 10th & March 24th, a Complimentary Agape Lenten Dinner will be served after the Akathist Service. You are requested to register with your name and number of people attending on the sign up sheets at both entrances to the Church to allow for an accurate order of food to be served.

EASTER FLOWERS: Many parishioners have followed the long-time tradition of donating lilies to the Church for the Easter Season. If you would like to participate in this tradition, please sign your name on the bulletin board located outside the kitchen area. 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. Please make your \$10 offering to Christine Durnin.

SUN SAVING STARTS NEXT SUNDAY: America will push back the hour of darkness starting next Sunday, March 12th, 2023. Daylight -savings time is returning, bringing that extra hour of evening light to spend on outdoor projects, sports, and barbecues or just fritter away. The actual moment of change from standard to daylight time occurs at 2:00 a.m. for most of the nation. That’s when clocks should be shifted forward an hour. This year, the law calls for the change to be the second Sunday in March. Standard time returns November 5, 2023, the first Sunday in November. The change doesn’t really save any daylight – or time. It simply moves and hour of light from morning to evening by delaying both sunrise and sunset an hour.

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

O Jesus, Who has said,
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shall find, knock and it
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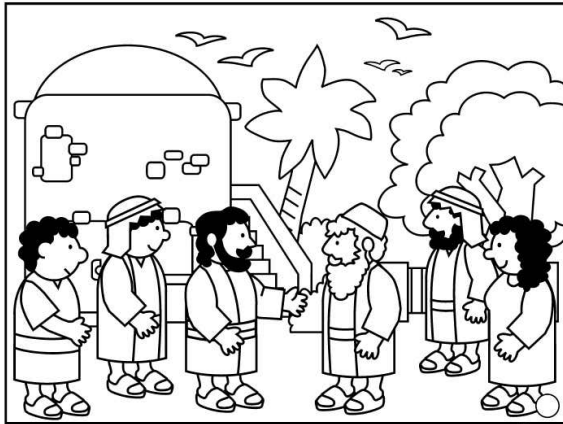
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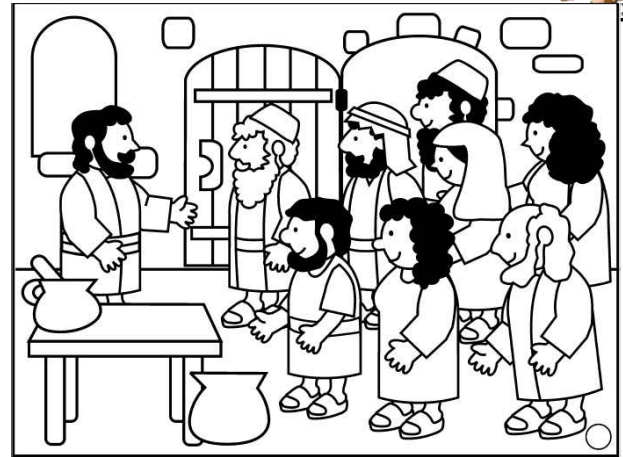


Following Jesus

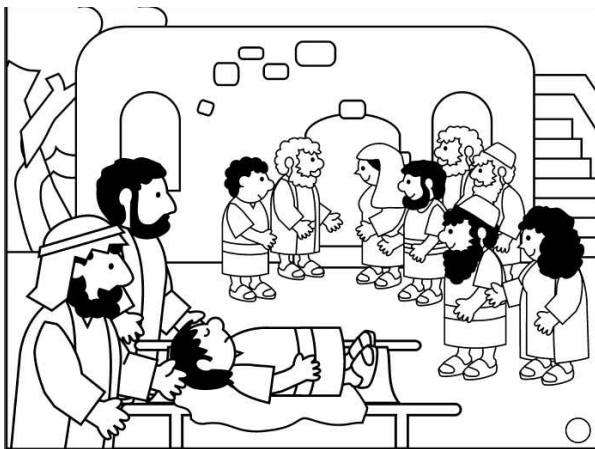
Kids bulletin



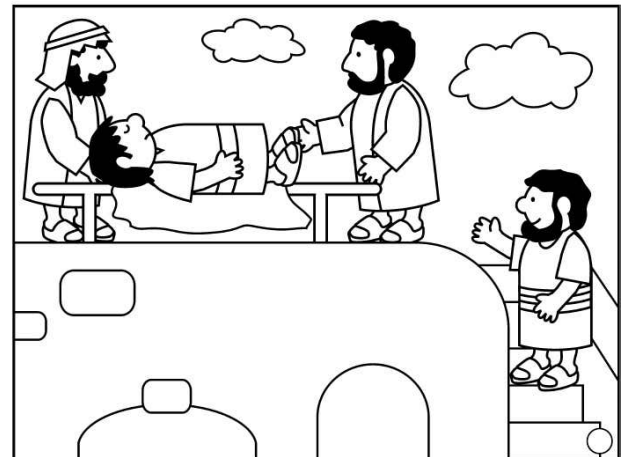
One day Jesus and His disciples went to the city of Capernaum . People were excited that Jesus had come, and they went to hear Him speak



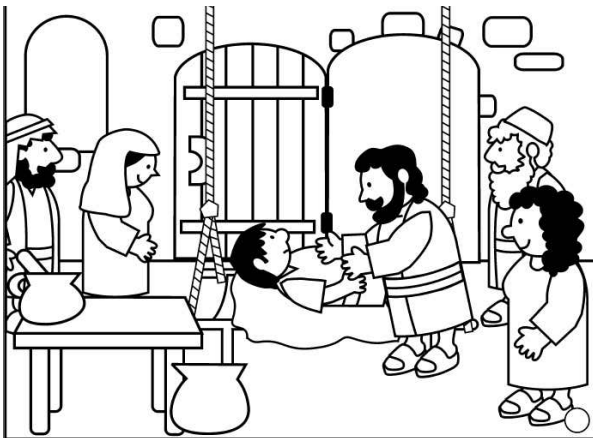
Jesus was inside a house, but it was very crowded. There were many people there wanting to see Jesus.



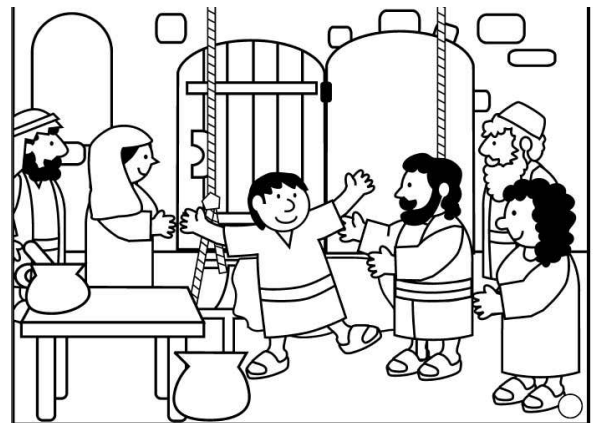
Some men had a friend who was sick. He couldn't move and had to lie in bed all the time. The men wanted Jesus to heal their friend, but there were so many people that they couldn't get close to



Suddenly, one of the men had an idea. Ever so carefully they carried the sick man up to the roof of the house



They made a hole in the roof, big enough to lower the sick man and his bed into the house. They lowered their sick friend all the way down to where Jesus was standing. Jesus was happy that the sick man's friends had faith that He could heal their friend. "Stand up and walk," Jesus told the sick man and immediately the man stood up




Jesus had healed him, and now he could move. He could stand and he could even jump! The man went running back to his home praising and thanking God for healing him

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar

| SUNDAYS | THEMES / GOSPEL READING | HOW TO PARTICIPATE: |
|---|---|--|
| Fast - Free Week JANUARY 29 TH |  <i>TRIDION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 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 FEBRUARY 5 TH |  The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32 | Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week. |
| Meatfare FEBRUARY 12 TH FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY |  The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 | Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week. |
| Cheesefare FEBRUARY 19 TH FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY |  Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21 | Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed. |
| 1 ST Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 26 TH |  <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51 | Bring an icon to church for a procession. |
| 2 ND Sunday of Lent MARCH 5 TH |  ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 | Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week. |
| 3 RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 12 TH |  VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 | Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow! |
| 4 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 19 TH |  ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 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! |
| 5 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 26 TH |  ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 | Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week. |
| PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2 ND GREAT WEEK BEGINS |  <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18 | Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car! |
| GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 7 TH |  GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE | Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death. |
| FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 9 TH NO FASTING! |  <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17 | Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight! |

الخلاص في المسيح



بيتك."

هكذا وبكلمة واحدة من يسوع تحولت كل الأنظار إلى هذا الرجل المقعد الذي شفى. هكذا تحولت كل الكلمات نحو هذا الرجل الصامت الذي لم يفتح فاه. هذا المخلع لم يتكلم كلمة واحدة... كانت كلمات يسوع له محببة: "مغفورة لك خطاياك... لك أقول انفض!" للحظة كان السؤال هل سينفض؟ بكلمة واحدة من يسوع هل سيتمكنه أن يحرك جسده المشلول؟ هذا العمل الذي كان مستحيلًا بالإيمان تترجم عملاً عجائبيًا مذهشًا. جسده هذا المخلع تجدد وانتعش وقام وتحرك. بكلمة واحدة في هذه اللحظة الحرجة، بكلمة رجاء امتلأ قلب هذا المسكين شفاء... أطاع وقام ومضى.

كل تلك السنوات الماضية التي كان فيها هذا المقعد محمولاً من غيره، هذه الكتلة من الألم واليأس، هذا التاريخ المأساوي، بأمر المسيح مسخ وانتهى، وهو الآن يعيش لحظات خلاصية. كلمات المسيح تقول لنا إن المأساة ليست في الشلل، إنما هي في الخطيئة. ويسوع شفى هذا المقعد من

خطيئته ومن شلله.

وكل جماعة مسيحية أصابها الشلل، يقول لها المسيح أولاً: "مغفورة لك خطاياك!" انفضي!

من خلال هذا النص يمكننا أن نأخذ ثلاث عبرات:

1. **النشر موجود**، متمثل بخطيئة هذا المقعد، بشلل هذا المقعد، متمثل أيضاً في إيمان الكتيبة الذين يراقبون المسيح والذين يعيقون المسيح في تقديم خلاص الله له وللناس.

2. **محبو الخلاص موجودين**، أراهم من خلال هؤلاء الجمالين الأربعة، الذين فعلوا كل شيء، وبذلوا جهداً كبيراً كي يحملوا المقعد للمسيح. إيمانهم كبير أن الخلاص هو بالمسيح فقط والأهم بالنسبة إليهم هو أن يصل هذا المقعد إلى المسيح وتغفر خطيئته ويشفى.

في هذا الأحد اليوم، هؤلاء الجمالون هم القديسين الذين يحملوننا في صلاتهم، ويحملوننا بحضورهم في ذخائرهم المقدسة ليقدّمونا للمسيح لكي يشفيانا.

ونحن أيضاً ذخائر حية في الكنيسة نحمل بعضنا البعض في الصلاة والصيام، نقدم بعضنا البعض إلى المسيح طالبين منه الخلاص ومغفرة خطايانا والشفاء من شلل نفوسنا واجسادنا.

3. **هذا المقعد، هو العبرة الأهم، لم يستسلم لشلله ولم يعتبر أن الخطيئة والمرض قدر محتوم ولم يسمح لليأس أن يملك قلبه.** هذا المقعد قبل المغفرة المقدمة من المسيح، وقبل الشفاء كهدية عظيمة من الله. وهو مثال للتحلي بالصبر على الألم والتحلي بالرجاء، هو مثال الإيمان.

أقول لرعيتي الحبيبة، الخلاص هو في المسيح، المهم أن تصلي إليه وتسمعينه يقول لك: "مغفورة لك خطاياك. انفضي! قومي". آمين

في هذا الأحد الثاني والمبارك من زمن الصيام، تعيد الكنيسة البيزنطية للذخائر المقدسة، وتكرم فيها بقايا القديسين والقديسات والشهداء.

ما الذي سينتصر أخيراً في قلوب الناس الإيمان أو عدم الإيمان؟

يريد هذا النص المقدس أن يقول لنا إن الإيمان هو الذي سينتصر، من خلال هؤلاء الأشخاص الأربعة. إيمانهم أكيد، إيمانهم حي.

هؤلاء الأشخاص الأربعة يتألمون بسبب الام هذا المقعد، هذا الصديق الحميم. إيمانهم كان في يسوع إنه الشافي والمخلص والملجأ الأخير.

يترجم إيمان هؤلاء الأربعة بهمتهم وجهدهم: مهما كلف الأمر، حملوا هذا المخلع واقتحموا الجموع وصعدوا به إلى السقف ونقبوه ودلوا صديقهم منه. إيمانهم كسر كل الحواجز لكي يمتنعوا هذا الرجل الكسح بالعاية. وعدم الإيمان كان حاضراً هنا أيضاً. الإيمان وعدم الإيمان متواعدان هنا. عدم الإيمان متمثل في قلب بعض الكتيبة، كان وقيس، ليحكم ويدين.

هؤلاء الكتيبة سمعوا وفهموا جيداً وقارنوا كلام يسوع بما يعتقدون به. بعدما سمعوا كلام المسيح "مغفورة لك خطاياك" سألوا المسيح سؤال عدل، سؤالاً صحيحاً: "من يستطيع أن يغفر الخطايا إلا الله وحده؟" ولكنهم بالحقيقة غير قادرين على استيعاب الحل الحقيقي الذي قدمه المسيح. هربوا من فعل الإيمان الحقيقي. فبدل أن يستسلموا ويؤمنوا بقدرة الله ويقولوا: "هذا الرجل يفعل أفعال الله." فضلوا عدم الإيمان بقدرة الله وقالوا: "هذا الرجل يجدف."

هؤلاء الأشخاص موجودون في كل زمان وفي كل مكان. يرفضون عطايا الله الحقيقية المقدمة بشخص المسيح. ربما كانوا يريدون المسيح رجلاً ذا قدرة كسائر الأنبياء، رجلاً يعمل كما هم يتخيلون الإيمان. على عكس إيمان هؤلاء الرجال الأربعة الذين يحملون المخلع، الذين يؤمنون أن الله قادر أن يفعل أفعال خلاص شفاء بسيطة. والمفارقة أن هؤلاء الأشخاص سمعوا من المسيح ما لم ينتظروه منه. هم يريدون الشفاء للمخلع من كسحه، ولكن كلمات يسوع لا دخل لها في الظاهر بالشفاء الجسدي الذي كانوا يرغبون سماعه. ولكن يسوع قال: "يا بني، مغفورة خطاياك."

أجاب المسيح على ما هو أهم من الشفاء الجسدي، أجابهم على ما هو جوهرى، على ما هو أساسي. المسيح منح هذا المخلع أولاً شفاء القلب وشفاء الروح، منحه حرية تفوق حرية الحركة، منحه الخلاص الحقيقي.

ونحن أيضاً، أبها الإخوة والأخوات، ربما نطلب من المسيح شفاءً مادياً من خلال المال أو الممتلكات وربما الجاه، وربما شفاءً للجسد، وهذا ما كان محبو هذا المخلع يريدونه. ولكن المسيح قدم لهم ما هو أهم، الخلاص الحقيقي: سلام النفس والتحرير من الخطيئة. قدم لهم كلمة أهم: "مغفورة لك خطاياك." إن المسيح هو ابن الإنسان الذي يقدم خلاص الله الحقيقي.

سيأتي الشفاء، ولكن في مرحلة ثانية، سيأتي كمكافأة على الإيمان، كعلامة لكي يعيد الإيمان إلى من فقد الإيمان، لاسيما هؤلاء الكتيبة: "امرك!" "لك أقول:" قم احمل فراشك وامضي إلى

Spiritual and Physical Healing

In today's Gospel, we find buried a story of great faith. It is the story of four friends who carried a paralyzed man to see Jesus, because they believed in the healing power of this prophet. When the size of the crowd blocked their way, they did not stop. They climbed the house and dug through the roof, lowering the paralytic so that Jesus might gaze upon him and have mercy. And "when Jesus saw their faith", he performed a miracle and the paralytic walked again.

The core of this reading, is the faith of these friends and this paralyzed man. Indeed, Jesus did not heal this man because he and his friends were rich or poor, respected or rejected, connected or cast out. Of these things, we know not. But we do know this: Jesus healed this man because of his faith and the faith of his friends. In this and other miracles, Jesus is clear that faith is required before healing can occur.

1. The Paralytic: Four men carried a friend to Jesus. It made all the difference in the world to the friend, for he was paralyzed and was unable to approach Jesus on his own. He had heard of the miracles Jesus had performed but had never seen them. His healing was out of the question: he couldn't go to Jesus on his own. Had his four friends not stepped in and brought him to Jesus, he would never have been cured. Their faith and love made his healing possible. Who does Jesus want me to bring to him? Do I invite people to prayer and adoration? Do I invite people to Mass and confession?

2. The Four Friends: These four men were not stopped by the obstacles in their way. How long they traveled isn't mentioned, but even a short distance is tiring when carrying a man on a mat. When they arrived at the house, it was full of people who had traveled to hear and see Jesus and to be cured by him. It was impossible for the men to get inside the house through the door, but they didn't give up. They didn't quit. They carried their friend up to the rooftop and lowered him down into the house. By persevering, we can achieve anything. Love knows no boundaries or limits.



3. Jesus: God wants to save people. He wants to bring real healing into their lives, but he wants to heal them through us. Jesus could have found the paralyzed man. He chose, rather, to let the others bring the man to him. Jesus wanted to heal him, but without the charity in the hearts of the four men, the healing might never have been accomplished. Who does Jesus wish to encounter through me? How can I be a better instrument of his love?

Conversation with Christ: Lord, help me to realize more deeply that you want me involved in salvation history. I'm on the front lines. You entrust souls to me, and you want to bless their lives through my prayers, my sacrifices, and my work. Increase my love for these souls. They need my help and my fidelity. I don't want to let them down. Help me to be faithful.

Jesus deals first with the spiritual problem—the forgiveness of sins—and then the physical problem—the physical affliction. Most people want it the other way around, putting greater emphasis on healing the physical ailment than fixing the spiritual problem. Solomon gives us the answer to which is more important: "The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?" (Proverbs 18:14). From God's perfect perspective, spiritual needs are always more critical than physical ones (Mark 8:36), so in this miracle, forgiveness precedes healing.

Resolution: I will make a sacrifice today for the person most in need of God's grace.

To have faith is sometimes hard; Faith in ourselves, faith in our families, faith in our friends, faith in our God. We struggle. We hope. We pray. In the end, we find Jesus is right. Without faith, no miracles occur. If we do not believe for ourselves, no one can believe for us.

And when we have faith, we act. These friends opened up a roof. With our faith, we can open up our hearts and minds to reveal generosity, compassion, mercy and love. Through these expressions, we demonstrate our faith much like this group in today's Gospel demonstrated theirs. Because we believe and act, Jesus can see our faith, our intentions are heard, and miracles occur that make our lives, and lives of all we love, better.

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!

شَرْحُ أَيْقُونَةِ الْمَدَائِحِ لَوَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ

12. إيقونة دخول المسيح إلى الهيكل: "لما أجمع سيمعان أن ينتقل من هذا الدهر الحاضر الخداع. دفعت إليه كطفل...".

13. إيقونة الخليفة الجديدة: "إن الخالق بظهوره. أرانا خليفة جديدة...".

14. إيقونة ميلاد المسيح: "إذ قد رأينا ولادة غريبة. فلنتعرب عن العالم...".

15. إيقونة التنازل الإلهي: "إن الكلمة غير المحصور. كان بجملة مع الأرضيين. ولم يغب البتة عن السماويين. إذ صار تنازل إلهي لا انتقال مكاني. وصارت الولادة من بتولي استولى عليها روح الله...".

16. إيقونة الملائكة المريميين: "إن طبيعة الملائكة كلها. قد ذهبت من حدت تانسك العظيم...".

17. إيقونة الخطباء الصامتين بشأن سر التجسد: "إننا نرى الخطباء الموقوهين. يصحون بشأنك يا والدة الإله. كالأسماك الكم. إذ يحارون أن يفسروا كيف استطعت أن تلدي وتلبتي عذراء...".

18. إيقونة خلاص العالم: "إن مديرك الكل. لما شاء أن يخلص العالم. وافاه من تلقاء نفسه. ومع أنه راغبنا من حيث هو إله...".

19. إيقونة حامية العذراء وجميع الملتجئين إليها: "أنت يا والدة الإله العذراء. سور للعذاري ولجميع اللاتدين بك. لأن مبدع السماء والأرض أعدك يا طاهرة. ليسكن في مستودعك...".

20. إيقونة المنيشيدين أمام إيقونة المسيح: "كل مديح وإن تكلف الإسهاب. يقصر عن مساواة غزارة رافتك الغزيرة. أيها الملك القدوس...".

21. إيقونة العذراء المصباح المشع، والمؤمنين الجالسين ظلام الجهل: "إننا نرى البتول القديسة مصباحا مشعيا ظاهرا للذين في الظلام. لأنها بإشعالها النور غير المادي. تهدي الجميع إلى المعرفة الإلهية...".

22. إيقونة يسوع الذي يمزق الصك: "لما شاء موفي ديون البشر أجمعين. أن نعلم عليهم بتكذب ديونهم القديمة. قدم بنفسه إلى الذين ابتعدوا عن نعمته. ومزق الصك المكتوب عليهم...".

23. إيقونة المريميين لوالدة الإله: "فيما تترنم بولادتك. يا والدة الإله. نشيد لك جميعا. أيها الهيكل الحي. لأن الرب الضابط الكل بيده قد سكن في بطنك...".

24. إيقونة تكريم إيقونة والدة الإله: "أيها الأم الجديرة بكل مديح. يا من ولدت الكلمة قدوس القديسين. تقبلي تقدمتنا هذه...".



في كنيسة الروم الكاثوليك، يُكرّم المؤمنون إيقونة المدائح في أيام الجمعة من الأسابيع الخمسة الأولى من الصوم الكبير المبارك. وهي تتألف من أربع وعشرين إيقونة، وذلك على عدد آيات صلاة "المدائح لوالدة الإله العذراء".

تُنشِئُ وتُسَبِّحُ وتَسَبِّحُ البيوت والإيقونات الـ ٢٤ أحداث التجسد الإلهي انطلاقاً من حدث البشارة.

فيما يلي، سوف يتم عرض كل إيقونة مع مطلع البيت الخاص بها في صلاة المدائح لوالدة الإله. يبدأ عرض الإيقونات من يسار الإيقونة العلوي تدريجاً نحو اليمين:

1. إيقونة الملاك جبرائيل المرسل لبقاء مريم: "إن الملاك المتقدّم أرسل من السماء ليقرأ السلام على والدة الإله...".

2. إيقونة دهشة مريم من كلام الملاك: "لما رأت القديسة ذاتها في حالة النقاوة. قالت لجبرائيل بجزأة: إن مفالك الغريب يبدو لتفسي عسير القبول...".

3. إيقونة التماس مريم أن تعلم العلم الذي لا يعلم: "لما التمسّت العذراء أن تعلم العلم الذي لا يعلم. هتفت نحو الرسول: قل لي كيف يمكن أن يولد ابن من أحشائي النقية؟".

4. إيقونة حلول الروح القدس على مريم: "إن قدرة العليّ ظلّيت حينئذ التي لم تختير زواجا. لكي تحبل. فاهبط أحشاءها المثمرة حقا طيبا لجميع الذين يرومون أن ينجحوا خلاصا...".

5. إيقونة زيارة مريم لأليصابات: "إن البتول أسرعت نحو أليصابات. وهي تحمل الله في مستودعها...".

6. إيقونة اضطراب يوسف: "إن يوسف العفيف. شعر في داخله بعاصفة من الأفكار المقلقة. فاضطرب حين نظر إليك أنت البكر...".

7. إيقونة بشارة الرعاة بميلاد المسيح: "إن يوسف العفيف. شعر في داخله بعاصفة من الأفكار المقلقة. فاضطرب حين نظر إليك أنت البكر...".

8. إيقونة المجوس وهو يتبعون الكوكب: "لما رأى المجوس كوكبا بسيرة الله. إتبعوا ضياءه واتخذوه كمصباح يبعثون عن الملك القدير...".

9. إيقونة تكريم المجوس للطفل الإلهي: "أبصر فتيان الكلدانيين في يدي البتول جليل البشر بيده. البتول تحمل في يديها جابل البشر بيده، وفقهوا أنه السيد وإن اتخذ صورة عبد. فبادروا إلى إكرامه بالهدايا...".

10. إيقونة عودة المجوس إلى بلادهم: "لما عدا المجوس مبعشرين لابسين الله. عادوا إلى بابل بعد أن أتموا ما أوجي به إليهم...".




























































11. إيقونة الهروب إلى مصر: "لما أشعلت في مصر نور الحقيقة...".

"يا والدة الإله، الفاتحة القداسة، خلصينا".



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



| MARCH | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | | | | 1   St Eudocia 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Matthew 5:20-26 | 2   St Theodotos of Cyrene 1 Corinthians 10:5-12 Matthew 5:27-32 | 3   2 nd Akathist المدايح الثانية Romans 12:6-14 Matthew 5:33-41 | 4  St Gerasimos Hebrews 3:12-16 Mark 1:35-44 |
| 5   St Gregory of Palamas Sunday of Holy Relics أحد الذخائر المقدسة Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Mark 2:1-12 | 6   The 42 Martyrs of Amorion Ephesians 4:25-32 Matthew 5:42-48 | 7   Martyrs of Cherson Philippians 2:12-16 Matthew 10:32-38, 19:27-30 | 8   St Theophylactos of Nicomedia Ephesians 4:1-7 Matthew 7:1-8 | 9   Forty Martyrs of Sebastea Hebrews 12:1-10 Matthew 20:1-16 | 10   3 rd Akathist المدايح الثالثة Ephesians 5:1-8 Matthew 6:22-33 | 11  St Sophronios of Jerusalem Hebrews 10:32-38 Mark 2:14-17 | |
| 12   Veneration of Holy Cross أحد المسجود للصليب الكريم Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Mark 8:34-9:1 | 13   Remains of Nicephoros Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 13:10-23 | 14   St Benedict 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 Matthew 13:36-43 | 15   St Agapios and his companions Galatians 2:16-20 Matthew 9:18-26 | 16   St Sabinos the Egyptian Galatians 5:22-6:2 Matthew 25:14-30 | 17   4 th Akathist المدايح الرابعة 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Matthew 25:1-13 | 18  St Cyril of Jerusalem Hebrews 6:9-12 Mark 7:31-37 | |
| 19   Sunday of St John Climacos أحد القديس يوحنا السلمى Hebrews 6:13-20 Mark 9:17-31 | 20   The 796 Martyred at St Sabas Romans 12:1-3 Luke 6:31-36 | 21   St James of Catania Ephesians 4:14-17 Luke 6:24-30 | 22   St Basil of Ancyra Ephesians 4:17-25 Luke 7:36-50 | 23   Thursday of Great Canon خميس القانون الكبير Ephesians 4:25-32 Luke 13:1-9 | 24   5 th Akathist المدايح الخامسة 2 Corinthians 5:10-15 Luke 12:42-48 | 25   Annunciation عيد البشارة Hebrews 2:11-18 Luke 1:24-38 | |
| 26   Sunday of Mary of Egypt أحد مريم المصرية Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 10:32-45 | 27   St Matrona of Salonica Colossians 3:12-16 Luke 11:34-41 | 28   Sts Stephen and Hilarion 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23 Mark 8:30-34 | 29   St Cyril and his companions Ephesians 4:7-13 Luke 12:16-21 | 30   St John Climacos Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 18:18-27 | 31   St Hypatios of Gangra Ephesians 2:4-10 Matthew 4:1-11 | | |

أذار - مارس
2023

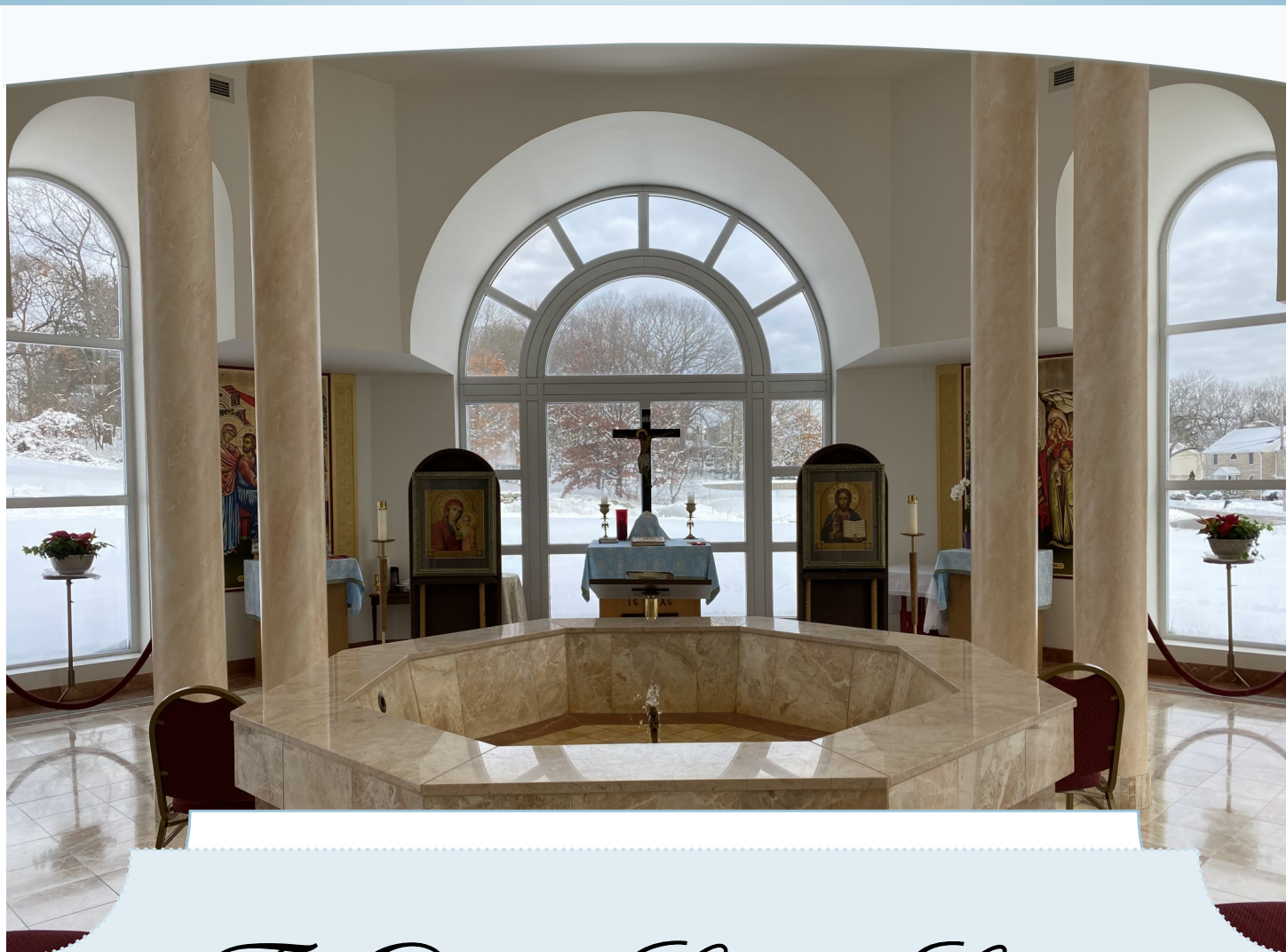
FEBRUARY 2023

| | | | | | | |
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| 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 | | | | |

APRIL 2023

| | | | | | | |
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| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Divine Liturgy

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

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

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

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

Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER"

2 COR 9:7

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



SHEPHERD'S CARE

Associated Charities

Great Lent 2023

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

St. John Chrysostom

Almsgiving is an essential pillar of Great Lent. Owing to your love and faithful support, the diocese has been able to help orphans, the hungry, the homeless, addicted, destitute, runaway teens, victims of war, victims of disease and disaster, and so many others through Shepherd's Care Associated Charities.

Shepherd's Care is much more than simply raising funds for charity. It is a guide to assist us in living a holy Lent through understanding and practicing the cornerstones of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As Great Lent begins please pick up a brochure and a coin box when you come to church. 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. At the end of Great Lent simply bring the proceeds of your mite box to the church as your offering for Shepherd's Care.

This year, due to the recent tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria, all proceeds from Shepherd's Care 2023 will be given to alleviate their suffering. If you would like to make a donation to assist those who have lost loved ones, have been injured, or had their property damaged or destroyed, you may mail a donation to the address below. The check may be made out to: "Diocese of Newton" with the memo: "Shepherd's Care Earthquake Relief." Mail to Diocese of Newton Shepherd's Care, 3 VFW Parkway, W. Roxbury, MA 02132. You may also make online donations through your parish's online portal, or at: www.melkite.org/donate. Please specify: "Earthquake relief."

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity on behalf of those less fortunate.

Shepherd's Care Associated Charities 2023. To help those in need, the Shepherd's Care Associated Charities of the Diocese of Newton is sponsoring this Lenten giving program to provide for the less fortunate. This year's proceeds will be given to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

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, our 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 diocese 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 is 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"



Our Lord, in His infinite wisdom, recognized that the widow's mite was so very valuable. The poor widow gave from her need. She 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 a 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

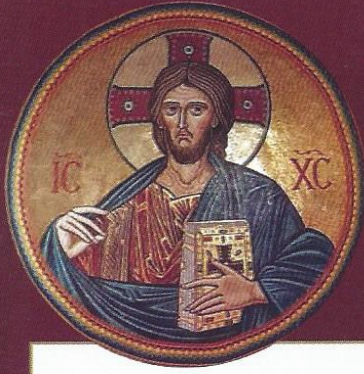
make donations by check directly to the Eparchial Office. Address is on the back. Together our eparchial family can help alleviate the sufferings of God's people.

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



MELKITE CATHOLIC  EPARCHY OF NEWTON

VOCATION PLAN

Christ Calls All to Serve

FEBRUARY 2023

Bishop François forms New Vocation Team

The goal is to create a “Culture of Service & Vocations” within the Melkite Catholic Church

As Bishop François Beyrouti begins his episcopal ministry, he is emphasizing the Lord’s invitation to “serve one another humbly in love” (Gal 5:13). In this spirit, one of his key priorities is to strengthen our focus on vocations throughout the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton.

Thanks be to God, over the past few years, the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States has been blessed with many new vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Looking toward the future, we can also see that many parishes have aging clergy who have been faithfully serving for so many years. Thus, there is a serious need to ensure uninterrupted pastoral care for our 50 churches and communities and to respond to the needs of our faithful who are asking us to establish new parishes.

Thus Bishop François has convened a new Vocation Team, headed by Fr. John Mefrige and composed of four other priests from each region of the eparchy. The challenge for the team is threefold.

The first task is to re-organize our efforts, both by standardizing the formation of priests and deacons, as well as establishing a clear process for men to discern God’s call.

Secondly, Bishop François’ vision is that new vocations will flow organically from active ministry in local parishes. Put simply, the men who will one day serve as priests and deacons must now be serving generously in other capacities. A campaign is planned to identify these men—both single and married—and invite them to discern a potential role as reader, subdeacon, deacon, or priest.



Finally, the Vocation Team aims to dramatically improve communications about vocations within the eparchy. For example, the Melkite Catholic community in the United States needs to see the joys of married clergy with families, as well as the blessing of men who serve celibately or enter monastic life. We have a number of digital and print projects planned for 2023 and beyond.

In summary, the Vocation Team is preparing to enter a multi-year process of organizing, inviting, and communicating a “pro-vocations” message throughout the eparchy. The overall vision is to build upon the core message that *Christ calls all to serve*—in all sorts of capacities—to make us a true *ecclesia*, a living Church. Every vocation is vital, including marriage and family, nuns, monks, and the clergy who lead our liturgical worship. ☀

INSIDE

Three Key Areas of the New Vocation Plan

1. Organization
2. Invitation
3. Communication



Organization



BEGAN NOVEMBER 2022

Vocation Team Roles

Fr. John Mefrige in San Antonio, Texas, is the director of our new Vocation Team. He is joined by representatives from various regions:

- Fr. Dimitri Saliba - Western Region
- Fr. Elias Dorham - MidAtlantic Region
- Fr. Philip Raczka - New England
- Fr. Bryan McNeil - Deacon Formation

In addition to representing a region of the eparchy, each member will also take on specific roles, including:

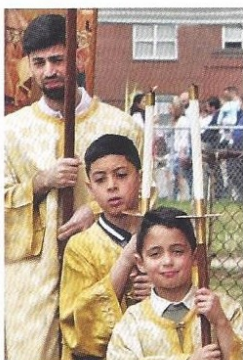
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

Clergy & Candidate Databases

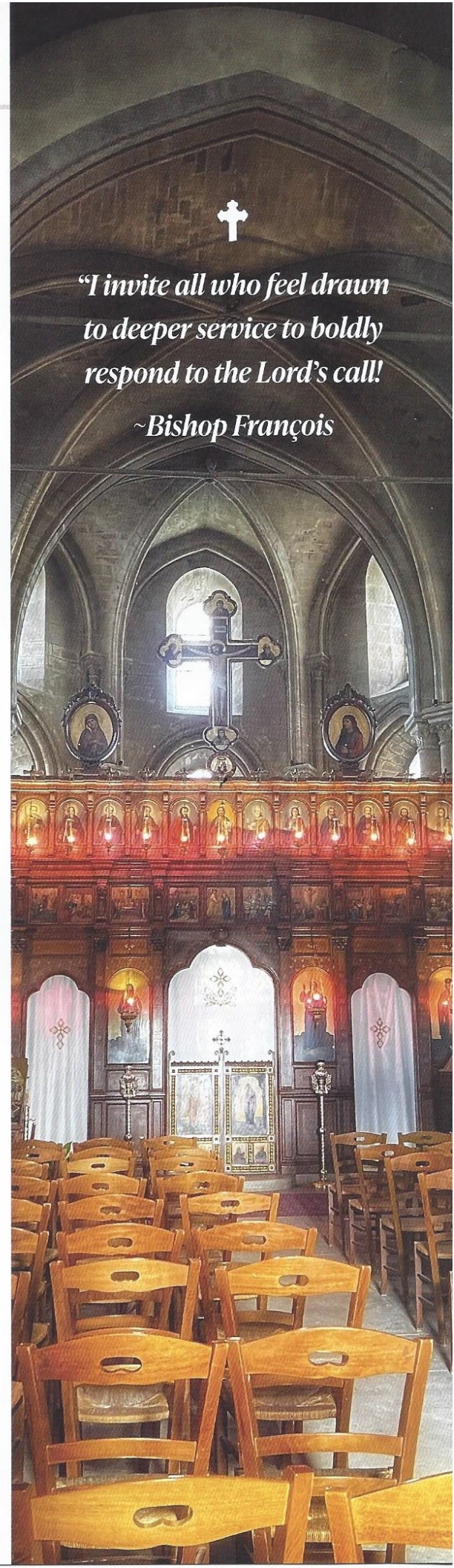
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement dates and estimate how many new men we need in formation to serve our growing communities. Similarly, our Vocation Team is streamlining the way we keep track of prospects with a new database of candidates.



2023-2024

Standardizing the Application & Formation Process

We have had a wealth of excellent candidates, but their paths to ordination have been widely varied. Our plan is to standardize the entire process, for both priests and deacons, beginning with a new, more rigorous application process, and continuing with well-defined tracks for both married and celibate seminarians.



✠
*"I invite all who feel drawn
to deeper service to boldly
respond to the Lord's call!"*

~Bishop François

Invitation

Becoming Fishers of Men

A call to deeper service is always a call from Christ himself. Experience shows, however, that the call is most often mediated by parish priests. Over the next three years, the role of priests as “inviters” will be a recurring theme in our regular Clergy meetings and annual Clergy Conference. We will also be sending resources to equip priests to be mentors to men in their parishes. The goal is to encourage priests to be true “fishers of men.”



FALL 2023

Called by Name ✠

Will You Help Identify Future Clergy?

Perhaps the most exciting part of our Vocation Plan is a campaign to identify candidates for readers, subdeacons, deacons, and priests. “Called by Name” will be an eparchy-wide process in which clergy and laity can submit the names of men in our parishes who may

be called to these ministries. Importantly, candidates should be longstanding, faithful members who have demonstrated stability of life and a heart for service. As Jesus told us: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15).

WINTER 2023-2024

Online Discernment Meetings

Men who are submitted in the Called by Name campaign will be invited to begin the discernment process through a series of online meetings with Bishop François and the Vocation Team. The purpose is to open dialogue and offer guidance for listening to God’s call.

SPRING 2024

Discernment Retreat

Those who have faithfully participated in the online meetings will be invited to an in-person Discernment Retreat. This is an opportunity for talks, personal prayer, and Liturgical Prayer. The goal is that after the retreat, we will have a good sense of the next cohort of men who will advance into formation, either toward diaconate or priesthood.



Communication



SPRING AND FALL, 2023-2024

Vocations Bulletin

In the coming months, keep your eyes open for our Vocations Bulletin! It will be similar in format to this Vocation Plan and will include articles and photos highlighting our new seminarians, readers, subdeacons, deacons, priests, monks, and nuns. We will also focus on their families who nourish them and also highlight couples who are in ministry together. The overall goal is to show that living out one's baptism is the path to holiness—and that responding to God's call begins with faithful service and an open heart.

APRIL AND NOVEMBER, 2023-2024

Bi-annual Vocation Days

Twice a year, in Spring and Fall, the Vocations Team will prepare resources for parishes to place special emphasis on vocations, by preaching as well as in children's catechesis and youth ministry. This will align with the readings and Feast days in our Melkite Catholic liturgical calendar.

New Online Presence for Vocations

We will include robust vocation pages on the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's website, Melkite.org. This will refresh our online presence, and provide a platform for our Called by Name program and other Vocation resources.

Other Communication Efforts

In Year Two of our Vocation Plan, we would like to re-energize our social media presence, specifically with a series of videos on priests, deacons, and seminarians. We will also work on an e-newsletter with tips and encouragement for young people to live out their baptism and discern their vocations.



All Have a Role to Play

The Vocation Plan is not just the work of the Vocation Team. It requires the enthusiastic support of clergy, educators, and those who work with youth. Above all, it requires families who make their home a true domestic church. All are encouraged to find some role to play. Keep in mind that our Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Vocation Plan is open to your feedback and creativity. Feel free to be creative in your parish and to share with us your ideas and most importantly begin to develop a culture of ministry that encourages Vocations in your family and parish. It is never too early to reply personally or to keep your eyes open to send us names of those you feel should be encouraged to serve in this way. 🌟

MELKITE CATHOLIC



EPARCHY OF NEWTON

3 VFW PARKWAY, WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132-7722 • 617-323-9922 • MELKITE.ORG • VOCATIONS@MELKITE.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

Sharing our Faith
SECURING OUR FUTURE



Campaign Facts:



Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000



Outstanding Goal: \$340,000



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

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 51%

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

Current & Future Projects:



Church Roof Repair: Project completed, estimated cost of \$400,000...final cost \$321,000.



Rectory Roof Repair: Proposals received, estimated cost \$18,000, pending review.



Church Window Repairs: Proposals received, estimated cost \$9,000, pending review.



HVAC & Boiler Replacement: Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000.



Flooring Upgrades: Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), pending review.



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



Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & Vent Cleaning: Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning estimated cost \$9,000.



Exterior/Masonry /Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals.



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

Important Highlights

- We are extremely grateful to all of those who have contributed and supported the campaign thus far.
- The finance committee has begun strategy planning on maximizing the return of current financial reserves for future projects. God willing, this will prevent the need for another capital campaign and *allow for a more spiritual focus!*
- As reflected above, donations have varied in amounts, we do not expect everyone to support with the same amount...*However, we do pray that everyone will support this important campaign!*
- This is an open and transparent campaign, if you have any questions, suggestion, or concerns Fr. Ephrem or any of the committee members would be more than happy review/discuss during coffee hour or feel free to call them at the numbers listed below.



For more information contact any of the committee members, [click here](#), or scan this code with your Smartphone Camera!

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737
Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190
Kyle Mardo: 401-578-5369

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