



May 14, 2023

## ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



### Sunday of the man born blind

أحد الاعمي

#### 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

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

#### Troparion of the resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our Salvation; for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross and to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

#### 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 Pascha, 2nd or 8th Tone

Though You went down in the tomb, O immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades and rose victorious, O Christ God. You greeted the ointment bearing women, saying "Rejoice!" You gave peace to Your apostles, and to those who had Fallen resurrection.

#### Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 16: 16-34

#### PROK1MENON (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 Acts of the Apostles

In those days it came to pass that as we the disciples were going to pray, we were met by a girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her masters much profit by her soothsaying. Now, she was following Paul and us, and kept crying out loudly, "These men are servants of the most high

#### نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس

لننشد نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، الأزلي مع الآب والروح، المولود من العذراء لخلاصنا. لأنه ارتضى، أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب، ويحتمل الموت، وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

#### طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

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

#### قنداق الختام باللحن (الثاني أو الثامن)

وإن نزلت إلى القبر يا من لا يموت، فقد نقضت فُدرة الجحيم وقمت كظافر، أيها المسيح الإله. وللنسوة حاملات الطيب قلت افرحن. ولرسلك وهبت السّلام، يا مانح الواقعين القيام.

#### مقدمة الرسالة

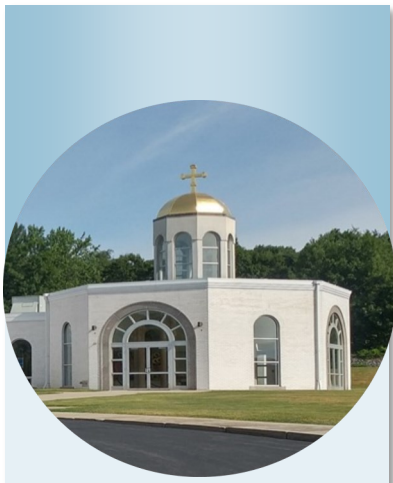
أنت يا ربّ تحفظنا وتحمينا من هذا الجيل وإلى الدهر

خَلصني يا ربّ فإنّ البارّ قد فني لأنّ الحقيقة قد ضغقت عند بني البشر

#### أعمال الرسل (16: 16-34)

في تلك الايام، فيما تحنّ الرّسل ذاهبون الى الصّلاة، استقبلتنا جاريتة بها روح عرافة، وكانت تكسب مواليتها كسباً جزئياً بعزافتها. فطفقت تمشي في إثر بولس وإثرنا وتصبح قائلة: هؤلاء الرجال هم عبيد الله العلي، وهم يبشرونكم بطريق الخلاص. وفعلت ذلك أياماً كثيرة. وإذ صجر بولس، التفت وقال للروح: إني أمرك باسم يسوع المسيح أن تخرج منها. فخرج في تلك الساعة. فلما رأى مواليتها أنه قد ذهب رجاء مكسبهم، قبضوا على بولس وسبيلا، وجزّوهما إلى السوق عند الحُكّام، وقدّموهما للؤلؤة قائلين: إن



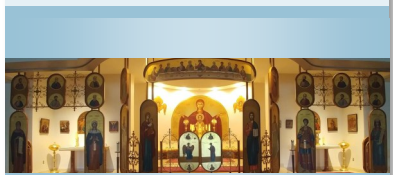


### Our church organizations:

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**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.  
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God, and they announce to you a way of salvation!" This she did for many days. But Paul could not stand it, so he turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ: get out of her!" And it went out of her that very moment.

But seeing that their hope of profit was gone, her masters seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the market-place before the authorities; and bringing them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city. They are Jews, and they advocate practices it is not permitted for us to adopt or observe, since we are Romans."

And the crowd opposed them too, and the magistrates tore off their cloaks and ordered them to be beaten with rods. And after inflicting many blows on them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to keep them under safe guard. And he, receiving this command, consigned them to the inner jail and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight, while Paul and Silas were singing hymns to God, the prisoners listened to them. And suddenly, there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and at once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

But when the jailer woke up and saw all the doors of the jail open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here!" Then calling for a light, he ran in, and trembling with fear, fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. And he let them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved together with your household."

And he spoke to him the word of the Lord, and also to all his household. And he took them at that same hour of the night, and washed their wounds; and he himself was baptized, and all those of his household immediately after. And taking them into his house, he set a table before them, and rejoiced with all his household over his faith in God.

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 Feast: John 9:1-38

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

At that time as Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who has sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither has this man sinned nor have his parents, but the works of God were to be made manifest in him. I must do the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the Light of the world." When he had said these things, he spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle, and spread the clay over the man's eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted 'sent')."

هذین الرَّجُلَینِ یُبَلِّغانِ مَدینَتَنَا. وَهُمَا یَهُودِیَّانِ، وَیُنَادِیانِ بِعَادَاتِ لَا یَجُوزُ لَنَا قَبُولُهَا وَلَا الْعَمَلُ بِهَا إِذْ نَحْنُ رُومَانِیُّونَ.

فَقَامَ عَلَیْهِمَا الْجَمْعُ. وَمَرَّقَ الْوَلَاةُ نِیَاتَهُمَا وَأَمَرُوا أَنْ یُضْرِبَا بِالْعِصِی. وَلَمَّا أَخْنُوهُمَا بِالْجِرَاحِ، أَلْقَوْهُمَا فِی السِّجْنِ، وَأَوْضُوا السِّجَّانَ بَانَ یَحْرِسُهُمَا بِضَبِطٍ. وَإِذْ أَوْصَى السِّجَّانَ بِمِثْلِ تِلْكَ الْوَصِیةِ، أَلْقَاهُمَا فِی السِّجْنِ الدَّاخِلِی، وَضَبَطَ أَرْجُلَهُمَا فِی الْمِیقْطَرَةِ، وَعِنْدَ نِصْفِ اللَّیْلِ، كَانَ بُولُسُ وَسِیلا یُضَلِّیانِ وَیُسَبِّحانِ اللَّهَ، وَالْمُخَبَّوسُونَ یَسْمَعُونَهُمَا. فَخَدَّتْ بَعْتُهُ زَلْزَلَةٌ شَدِیدَةٌ حَتَّى تَزَعَزَعَتْ أُسُسُ السِّجْنِ، فَانْفَتَحَتْ فِی الْحَالِ الْأَبْوَابِ كُلِّهَا، وَأَنْفَكَّتْ قِیُودُ الْجَمِیعِ.

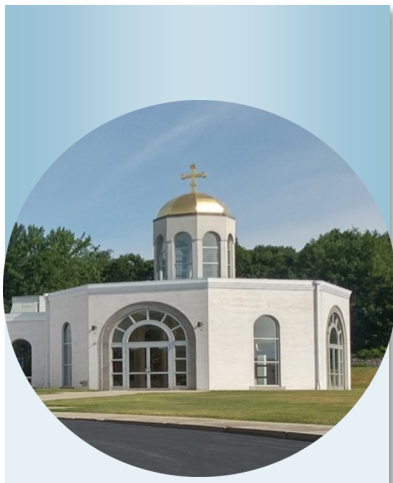
فَلَمَّا اسْتِیقَظَ السِّجَّانُ وَرَأَى أَبْوَابَ السِّجْنِ مَفْتُوحَةً، اسْتَلَّ السِّیْفَ وَهَمَّ أَنْ یَقْتُلَ نَفْسَهُ، لَظَنَّهُ أَنَّ الْمَحْبُوسِینَ قَدْ هَرَبُوا. فَنَادَاهُ بُولُسُ بِصَوْتٍ عَالٍ قَائِلًا: لَا تَفْعَلْ بِنَفْسِكَ سُوءًا، فَإِنَّا جَمِیعًا هَهُنَا. فَاسْتَدْعَى بِمِصْبَاحٍ وَوَثَبَ إِلَى دَاخِلِی، وَخَرَّ لِبُولُسَ وَسِیلا وَهُوَ مُرْتَعِدٌ.

ثُمَّ خَرَجَ بِهِمَا وَقَالَ: يَا سَیِّدِی، مَاذَا یَنْتَبِی لِي أَنْ أَصْنَعُ لِأَخْلَصَ؟ فَقَالَ: آمَنْ بِالرَّبِّ یَسُوعَ الْمَسِیحِ، فَتَخَلَّصَ أَنْتَ وَأَهْلُ بَیتِكَ. وَكَلِمَاةٌ وَجَمِیعٌ مَنْ فِی بَیتِهِ بِكَلِمَةِ الرَّبِّ. فَأَخَذَهُمَا فِی تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ مِنَ اللَّیْلِ، وَعَسَلَ جِرَاحَهُمَا، وَاعْتَمَدَ مِنْ وَقْتِهِ، هُوَ وَذَوْوُهُ أَجْمَعُونَ. ثُمَّ أَضَعَهُمَا إِلَى بَیتِهِ، وَقَدَّمَ لَهُمَا مَائِدَةً، وَابْتَهَجَ مَعَ جَمِیعِ أَهْلِ بَیتِهِ، إِذْ كَانَ قَدْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ.

هللویا  
 بِمِرْاحِمِكَ يَا رَبُّ ارْتَمِ إِلَى الْأَبْدِ، إِلَى جِیْلِ فِجِیلِ  
 أَعْلُنْ حَقِّكَ بِقَمِي  
 لِأَنَّكَ قُلْتَ: إِنَّ الرَّحْمَةَ تُبْنِي إِلَى الْأَبْدِ، وَفِي  
 السَّمَاوَاتِ يُنْبَتُ حَقِّكَ.

### الانجيل أحد الاعمى (الاحد السادس بعد الفصح)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مَجْتَازُ رَأَى إِنساناً أعمى منذ مولده. فسأله تلاميذه قائلين: يا معلم من أخطأ؟ أهذا أم أبواه حتى يولد أعمى؟ أجاب يسوع: لا هذا أخطأ ولا أبواه، لكن لتظهر أعمال الله فيه. ينبغي لي أن أعمل أعمال من أرسلني ما دام النهار. سيأتي الليل الذي لا يستطيع أحد فيه عملاً ما دمت في العالم فأنا نور العالم. قال هذا وتفل على الأرض وصنع من تفلته طيناً وطلى بالطين عيني الأعمى. وقال له: اذهب واغتسل في بركة سلوام - ومعنى الكلمة: المرسل - فمضى. واغتسل وعاد بصيراً. فالجيران والذين كانوا يرونه قبلاً أعمى قالوا: أليس هذا هو الذي كان يجلس ويتوسل؟ فقال بعضهم: أنه هو. وقال آخرون إنه يشبهه. واما هو فكان يقول: انا هو. فقالوا له: كيف انفتحت عيناك؟ أجاب ذلك وقال: هذا الرجل الذي يقال له يسوع، صنع طيناً وطلى عيني. وقال لي اذهب الى بركة سلوام واغتسل. فمضيت واغتسلت فأبصرت. فقالوا له: أين ذلك؟ فقال: لا أعلم. فأنا بالذي كان قبلاً أعمى إلى الفريسيين. وكان حين



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So, he went away, and washed, and returned seeing. The neighbors therefore and those who had seen earlier that he was blind began saying, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is." But others said, "He only looks like him." Yet, the man declared, "I am the one." They therefore asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "The man who is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' And I went and washed, and I see." And they asked him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now, it was a Sabbath on which Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Again, therefore, the Pharisees asked him: how he received his sight. But he said to them, "He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore, some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner work these signs?" And there was a division among them. Again, therefore they said to the blind man, "What do you say of the one who opened your eyes?" But he said, "He is a prophet." he Jews therefore did not believe of him that he had been blind and had got his sight, until they called the parents of the one who had gained his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, of whom you say he was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we ourselves do not know. Ask him; he is of age, let him speak for himself." These things his parents said because they feared the Jews. For already the Jews had agreed that if anyone were to confess him to be the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. This is why his parents said, "He is of age; question him." They therefore called a second time the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God! We ourselves know this man is a sinner." He therefore said, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that whereas I was blind, now I see." They therefore asked him again, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, but you did not listen. Why would you hear a second time? Would you also become his disciples?" They heaped abuse on him therefore and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where he is from." In answer the man said to them, "Why herein is the marvel, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. Now we know God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and does his will, him he hears. Not from the beginning of the world has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were altogether born in sins, and do you teach us?" And they turned him out. Jesus heard they had turned him out, and when he had found him, said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and he it is who speaks with you." And he said, "I believe, Lord." And falling down, he worshipped him.

صنع يسوع الطين وفتح عينية يوم سبت. فسأله الفريسيون أيضاً كيف أبصر. فقال لهم: جعل على عيني طينا واغتسلت فأبصرت. فقال قوم من الفريسيين: هذا الرجل ليس من الله. لأنه لا يحفظ السبت. وآخرون قالوا: كيف يقدر رجل خاطئ أن يعمل مثل هذه الآيات؟ فوقع بينهم شقاق. فقالوا أيضاً للأعمى: أنت ماذا تقول؟ فاجابهم ابواه وقالوا: عينيك؟ فقال إنه نبي. ولم يصدق اليهود عنه أنه كان أعمى فأبصر. حتى دعوا أبوي الذي أبصر، وسألوهما قائلين: أهذا هو ابنكما الذي تقولان إنه ولد أعمى؟ فكيف أبصر الآن؟ فأجابهم ابواه وقالوا: نحن نعلم أن هذا ولدنا، وأنه ولد أعمى. وأما كيف أبصر الآن فلا نعلم. أو من فتح عينيه فلا نعرف، وهو كامل السن فسألوه، فهو يتكلم عن نفسه. قال أبواه هذا لأنهما كانا يخافان من اليهود. لأن اليهود كانوا قد تعاهدوا على أنه إن اعترف أحد بأنه المسيح يخرج من المجمع. فلذلك قال أبواه إنه كامل السن فسألوه. فدعوا الرجل الذي كان أعمى مرة ثانية وقالوا له: أعط مجداً لله، فإننا نعلم أن هذا الرجل خاطئ. فأجاب ذلك وقال: إن كان خاطئاً فلا أعلم إنما أعلم شيئاً واحداً هو أنني كنت أعمى والآن أبصر. فقالوا له من جديد: ماذا صنع بك، كيف فتح عينيك؟ أجابهم قد أخبرتكم قبلاً فلم تسمعوا فماذا تريدون أن تسمعوا أيضاً، ألعلمكم تريدون أنتم أيضاً أن تصيروا له تلاميذ؟ فشتموه وقالوا: أنت تلميذ ذلك. فأما نحن فإننا تلاميذ موسى. ونحن نعلم ان الله كلم موسى. فإما هذا فلم نعلم من أين هو. أجاب الرجل وقال لهم: إن في هذا لعجباً، أنكم لا تعرفون من أين هو وقد فتح عيني. ونحن نعلم ان الله لا يسمع للخطاة، ولكن إذا أخذ أتقى الله وعمل مشيئته فله يستجيب. ولم يسمع منذ الدهر أن أحداً فتح عيني من ولد أعمى. فلو لم يكن هذا من الله لما أستطاع أن يفعل شيئاً. أجابوا وقالوا له: إنك بجملتك قد ولدت في الخطايا وأنت تعلمنا؟ فطردوه خارجاً. وسمع يسوع أنهم طردوه خارجاً، فوجده وقال له: أتؤمن أنت بأبن الله؟ فأجاب ذلك وقال: ومن هو يا سيد لأؤمن به؟ قال يسوع: قد رأيته وهو الذي يكلمك فقال له أنا أؤمن يارب، وسجد له.



# Divine Liturgy Intentions

**TODAY, SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND. MOTHER'S DAY.**

9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGIES:  
For the special intentions of all the Mothers  
of the Parish (both living and deceased) on the  
occasion of MOTHER'S DAY

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR MOTHERS NEAR AND FAR,  
LIVING ON EARTH OR ALIVE WITH GOD AND THE SAINTS.  
MAY THEY ALWAYS BE PROUD OF US AND MAY WE  
ALWAYS BE FULLY WORTHY OF THEIR LOVE!!!

*(Out of love for the mothers, the MYO will gratuitously present each one a bouquet of flowers on the way into church or on the way out. Please see a member of the MYO)*

## 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.



*Happy Mother's Day!*

Mary, Mother of Jesus,  
we ask you on this Mother's day  
to pray for our own dear mothers.

May your Son, Jesus,  
reward them for all the care they have  
so lovingly given us over the years

May He give them peace of heart  
for all the time they have soothed us  
in times of trouble or failure

May Jesus give them joy of spirit  
for all the times they have healed our wounds  
and wiped away our tears

We ask you, Mary, on this day  
when we honor and praise our mothers  
for their unconditional love and care  
that Jesus might bestow upon them

His peace and blessings  
and His deepest love.

AMEN





**SACRIFICIAL GIVING:** May 7, 2023: Budgets: \$2,504.00; Envelopes: \$2,420.00; Loose: \$84.00; Candle: \$86.00; Building Fund: \$20.00; Cemetery: \$260.00; First Reconciliation Robes: \$100.00.

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone who is planning an **ENGAGEMENT/BAPTISM/MARRIAGE RECEPTION PLANS** is kindly requested to notify a member of the clergy **BEFORE** reception/party plans are made. The Clergy may be already scheduled for something else on the day that you have rented a hall/restaurant. Following this policy will help avoid any later misunderstandings/hurt feelings. Thank you!

**TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE:** We are all links of a chain. A chain is as strong as its weakest link! What kind of link are you? Let us make this year 2023 the year that we give more of ourselves on the strengthening of the chain of St. Basil the Great Community. Hopefully, many more will step up in their real understanding of parish membership.

**Do you feel the nudging of your reminder angel, assigned to help you understand your new responsibility?**

To be a real member of the parish goes beyond having one's name on the mailing list. It consists of real love, involvement and commitment in living the Faith within your parish. The giving of oneself is a sacrifice to which we are all called. The areas of regular and consistent TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE are all evidence of one's real and active membership in the Church. Won't you be an angel too by moving up to the next level of support, making up your donations and support missed while you were away? I will continue to watch over you, your loved ones and our beloved Melkite Church of St. Basil. By the actions of you and your entire family, each of you demonstrates how much you care for your parish. Please love it and bless it as your Lord loves and blesses it!

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:**

**This Wednesday May 17 is the vigil of the major Feast of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to join the community in prayer in this solemn occasion.**

**General Parish Advisory Council meeting for all members of the parish this Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m., in the cultural center.**

**The Festival Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 24. All are welcome to participate in this once a year major event.**

**The Fellowship Committee will meet every first Thursday of the month. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!**

**REFLECTION: "Live so that the pastor will not need to lie at your funeral." *unknown***

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

O Jesus, Who has said,  
"All that you ask of the  
Father in My Name, He  
will grant you," through  
the intercession of the  
*Theotokos* Your Most  
Holy Mother, I humbly  
and urgently ask your  
Father in your name that  
my prayer will be granted.

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



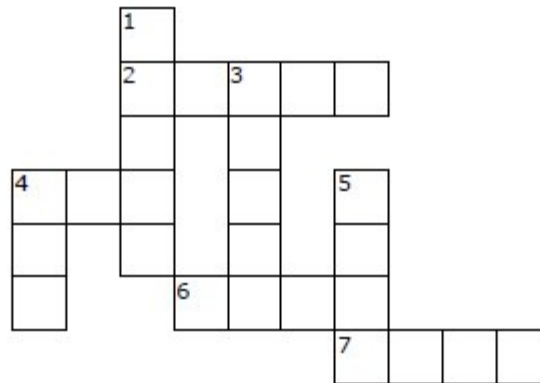
# Following Jesus Kids bulletin



## Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV)



### ACROSS

2. Brightness that comes from the sun, candles, or electrical devices that allows things to be seen
4. An adult male human being
6. The two organs in your face which are used to see
7. To make someone well from a sickness or injury

### DOWN

1. Unable to see
3. Great admiration, honour and praise, especially as given to God
4. A sticky mixture of dirt and water
5. To clean something using water

LIGHT	BLIND	GLORY	MUD
WASH	EYES	MAN	HEAL

# The miracle of sight



If we are sincere about asking God to “open our eyes,” to see as God sees, then we must also be willing to change the way we live our lives so that our lives reflect God’s point to view, and not ours.

Here’s an example of how life changes once you’re given a new perspective. How many of you wear glasses or contact lenses? Then you might know what I am talking about. When I was in the 6th grade, I got my first pair of glasses. When I stepped out of the doctor’s office into the parking lot, the first thing I saw was this tree. Now, I had never in my life seen a tree like that. Before I got the glasses, I thought trees were just blobs of green and brown and red and orange. Theoretically, I knew what a tree looked like. I could see leaves and bark and such. But after I saw them through my new glasses, I realized that a tree was more than just leaves and bark. The leaves had lines, and edges, and curves. There were birds in the trees that I could see. There were cracks and grooves in the bark that I had missed before.

Finally being able to see the detail, the intricacies of nature, and its true beauty is like how God sees each of us. In the first reading, God told Samuel that God doesn’t see as humans see. We can only see part of the picture, what’s on the outside of a person. But God sees deeper, into the heart of that person. God sees the fullness of that person’s potential. God sees that person’s intricate and detailed beauty.

How differently we would act if each time we encountered our co-workers or neighbors or people on the street, we saw Christ. How differently we would treat our parents, our children, our spouse, and our classmates, our friends, our enemies. How differently we would treat the people who sit around us in church, the people we see here every week but to whom we never talk, the people who don’t speak our language, the people who don’t look, act, or think the way we do. How differently we would treat the beggar, the homeless, the people we label as failure, as sinner, the people we label as conservative, liberal, gay, straight, too old, too young, too dark, too light, too smart, too dumb, too much of something that doesn’t fit our point of view. Imagine if each time we encounter each other, each time we speak with one another, we “see” Christ, we “hear” Jesus. How different our world would be.

Our Lord chooses to heal through the medium of mud. Ordinary mud, the stuff that we scrape off of our shoes, the stuff that we try to step over. Jesus took common dirt, mixed it with His own saliva and smeared it upon the blind man’s eyes. It all sounds very mysterious, and so it must have appeared to bystanders.

Then the impossible happens, and people don’t know what to think. Those who were Jesus’ enemies were prepared to condemn Him, the healed man, everything about the healing. It wasn’t the right time, right place, or right person. Our Lord’s friends were prepared to give thanks to God and to rejoice. We do not need to ask ourselves about

which camp we are in. We are His friends, and need to become more so. And the way to that deeper friendship is to consider how God acts in our lives, as He did in the life of the blind man.

**This mud, this healing, tells us a lot about how God**

**acts through the most ordinary and common things of life—even through things that we try our best to stay away from. Those are oftentimes God’s chosen instruments. This includes people, unpleasant situations, and so many other things over which we have no control. For us, too, it is not always the “right” time, place, or even the “right” person who might mediate God’s grace to us.**

We have to remember that our lives are all about friendship with a God who became an ordinary man and lived most of his life in a most ordinary village, applying himself to the most humble occupations. He worked long hours and was paid for His labor. If we are always on the lookout for the extraordinary in religion we will only find what our imagination produces.

Sometimes people drive themselves crazy imagining all sorts of extraordinary things about themselves and others which simply have no basis in reality. Strong mental images and strong feelings do not change reality, and they do not prepare us to receive God’s intervention in our lives in the thousand and one humble ways that He chooses to make use of. This is why the advice of true mystics. The arena of Christian struggle and perfection, the venue of our spiritual growth, is the same earth upon which our Savior worked, prayed, preached, and suffered. As He enlightens us to see this, then our outlook becomes truly Christian, and we begin to look out for the divine in daily life. This blind man who found healing at the hands of Christ was not looking for it; that would have been most extraordinary and unusual. He was simply begging because he was, simply, blind. He was doing his best under the circumstances. And the Lord knew that and everything else about him and so chose him to receive this miracle that would lead to his confession of faith: “I do believe, Lord.”

And in the midst of the bustling Temple area, where people were going about their ordinary business, he fell down and worshipped his God. Jesus also wills to fill our eyes with this light, so that they open to this startling discovery of faith: In the Lord’s hands, the ordinary “clay” of daily life becomes a reason to believe.

Christ our God, Sun of Righteousness, by Your divine touch, You gave light to the eyes of the blind man, who had been deprived of light since his birth. Enlighten also the eyes of our souls, and make us sons and daughters of light, so that we may cry out to You in faith: great and beyond words is Your Compassion towards us, loving Lord, glory to you!

## طريق الخلاص



يروى الإنجيل (را. يو 9، 1-14) حادثة الرجل الأعمى منذ ولادته، والذي أعاد إليه يسوع البصر. هذه المعجزة هي علامة تؤكد ما قاله يسوع عن نفسه: "أنا نور العالم" (الآية 5)، النور الذي ينير ظلماتنا. يعمل يسوع على مستويين: على مستوى الجسد والروح. إنه يمنح الأعمى أولاً أن يرى بعيني الجسد، ثم يقوده إلى الإيمان "بابن الإنسان" (الآية 35)، أي بيسوع. والآيات التي يصنعها ليست معجزات لإذهال الناس، بل تهدف إلى توصيلهم إلى الإيمان من خلال مسيرة تحول وتوبة في داخل النفس.

أصرّ الفريسيون وعلماء الشريعة على رفض الاعتراف بالمعجزة، وطرحوا أسئلة ماكرة على الرجل الذي شُفي. واجههم الأعمى بقوة الواقع: "أعرف أمراً واحداً: كنت أعمى والآن أنا أبصر" (آية 25). بين عدم الثقة والعداء في قلوب الذين يحيطون به ويسألونه وهم غير مؤمنين، بدأ الرجل الأعمى مسيرة حملته تدريجاً إلى اكتشاف هويته الشخص الذي فتح عينيه، وإلى الاعتراف والإيمان به. في البداية اعتبره نبيّ (الآية 17)، ثم اعترف به أنه رجل من عند الله (را. آية 33)؛ وأخيراً قبله على أنه المسيح وسجد له (را. الآيات 36-38). وفهم أن يسوع، إذ منحه البصر، "أظهر فيه أعمال الله" (را. الآية 3).

لينا نقوم نحن أيضاً بهذه الخبرة! بنور الإيمان، اكتشف الأعمى هويته الجديدة. إنه الآن "خليقة جديدة"، قادر على رؤية حياته والعالم من حوله في ضوء جديد، لأنه دخل في شركة مع المسيح. لم يعد متسولاً مهمشاً من قبل المجتمع؛ لم يعد عبداً للعمى وللأفكار المسبقة. مسيرة النور التي بدأها هي صورة ومجاز لمسيرة التحرر من الخطيئة التي نحن مدعوون إليها. تشبه الخطيئة حجاً مغطياً يغطي وجهنا ويمنعنا من رؤية أنفسنا والعالم بوضوح. المغفرة التي يمنحنا إياها الله تزيل ستار الظل والظلام وتمنحنا نوراً جديداً. ليكن الصوم الذي نعيشه الزمن المناسب والتمين للاقتراب من الرب يسوع، طالبين رحمته، من خلال طرق مختلفة تقترحها علينا الكنيسة الأم.

الرجل الأعمى الذي شُفي، والذي يرى الآن بعيني الجسد والروح، هو صورة لكل شخص معمد، غمرته النعمة، فبددت الظلمات فيه، ووضعت في نور الإيمان. لكن لا يكفي قبول النور. يجب أن نصير نوراً. كل واحد منا مدعو لقبول النور الإلهي وإظهاره في حياتنا كلها. قال المسيحيون الأوائل، ولاهوتيون القرون الأولى، أن جماعة المسيحيين، أي الكنيسة، هي "سر القمر"، لأنها تعطي النور، الذي ليس نورها، بل النور الذي تستقبله من المسيح. نحن أيضاً يجب أن نكون "سر القمر": لإعطاء النور الذي نقبله من الشمس، أي المسيح، الرب. يذكرنا بذلك القديس بولس اليوم بقوله: "سيروا سيرة أبناء النور. فإن ثمر النور يكون في كل صلاح وبر وحيق" (أف 5، 8-9). إن بذار الحياة الجديدة التي وضعت فينا في المعمودية هي مثل شرارة النار، التي تظهرنا أولاً، وتحرق الشر الذي في قلوبنا، ثم تسمح لنا بأن نشع ونضيء لغيرنا.

لنساعدنا مريم العذراء الكلية القداسة لنقتدي بالرجل الأعمى الذي ذكره الإنجيل، حتى يغمرنا نور المسيح ونسير معه على طريق الخلاص.

كلمة قداسة البابا فرنسيس


الأحد 22 مارس/ آذار 2020





# LITURGICAL CALENDAR



MAY	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>أيار - مايو 2023</p> <p>APRIL 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p> <p>JUNE 2023</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>		<b>1</b> Holy Prophet Jeremiah  Acts 10:1-16 John 6:56-69	<b>2</b> Relics of St Athanasios  Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19	<b>3</b> Mid-Paschaltide متنصف الخمسين  Acts 14:6-18 John 7:14-30	<b>4</b> St Pelagia  Acts 10:34-43 John 8:12-20	<b>5</b> St Irene  Acts 10:44-11:10 John 8:21-30	<b>6</b> Holy Prophet Job  Acts 12:1-11 John 8:31-42
	<b>7</b> Holy Cross over Jerusalem Sunday of Samaritan Woman أحد السامرية  Acts 11:19-30 John 4:5-42	<b>8</b> St John the Apostle  1 John 1:1-7 John 19:25-27, 21:24-25	<b>9</b> Holy Prophet Isaiah  Acts 12:25-13:12 John 8:51-59	<b>10</b> St Simon the Apostle Leave-taking Mid-Paschaltide وداع متنصف الخمسين  Acts 13:13-24 John 6:5-14	<b>11</b> Foundation of Constantinople Sts Cyril and Methodios  Acts 14:20-28, 15:1-4 John 9:39-10:9	<b>12</b> St Germanos the Hymnographer  Acts 15:5-12 John 10:17-28	<b>13</b> St Glyceria  Acts 15:35-41 John 10:27-38
	<b>14</b> Sunday of Man born Blind أحد الأعمى  Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38	<b>15</b> St Achillos of Larissa  Acts 17:1-9 John 11:47-54	<b>16</b> St Theodore the Sanctified  Acts 17:19-28 John 12:19-36	<b>17</b> Leave-taking of Easter وداع الفصح  Acts 18:22-28 John 12:36-47	<b>18</b> ✠ Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ صعود ربنا يسوع المسيح  Acts 1:1-12 Luke 24:36-53	<b>19</b> 🐟 St Patrick of Prusa  Acts 19:1-8 John 14:1-11	<b>20</b> St Thalleleos  Acts 20:7-12 John 14:10-21
	<b>21</b> Sts Constantine and Helena Fathers of 1 <sup>st</sup> council of Nicaea أحد الآباء المجتمعين في نيقية  Acts 26:1, 12-20 John 17:1-13	<b>22</b> St Rita القديمة ريتا  Acts 21:8-14 John 14:27-15:7	<b>23</b> St Michael the Confessor  Acts 21:26-32 John 16:2-13	<b>24</b> 🐟 St Simeon the Younger  Acts 23:1-11 John 16:15-23	<b>25</b> Third Finding of the Head of St John the forerunner  Acts 25:13-19 John 16:23-33	<b>26</b> 🐟 Leave-taking of Ascension وداع عيد الصعود  Acts 27:1-44, 28:1 John 17:18-26	<b>27</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Dead السبت الثاني للراقيين  Acts 28:1-31 John 21:14-25
	<b>28</b> ✠ Pentecost أحد العنصرة العظيم المقدس  Acts 2:1-11 John 7:37-52, 8:12	<b>29</b> Monday of the Holy Spirit أثنين العنصرة  Ephesians 5:8-19 Matthew 18:10-20	<b>30</b> St Isaac of Dalmatia  Romans 1:1-7, 13-17 Matthew 4:25-5:12	<b>31</b> St Hermias  Romans 1:18-27 Matthew 5:20-26			

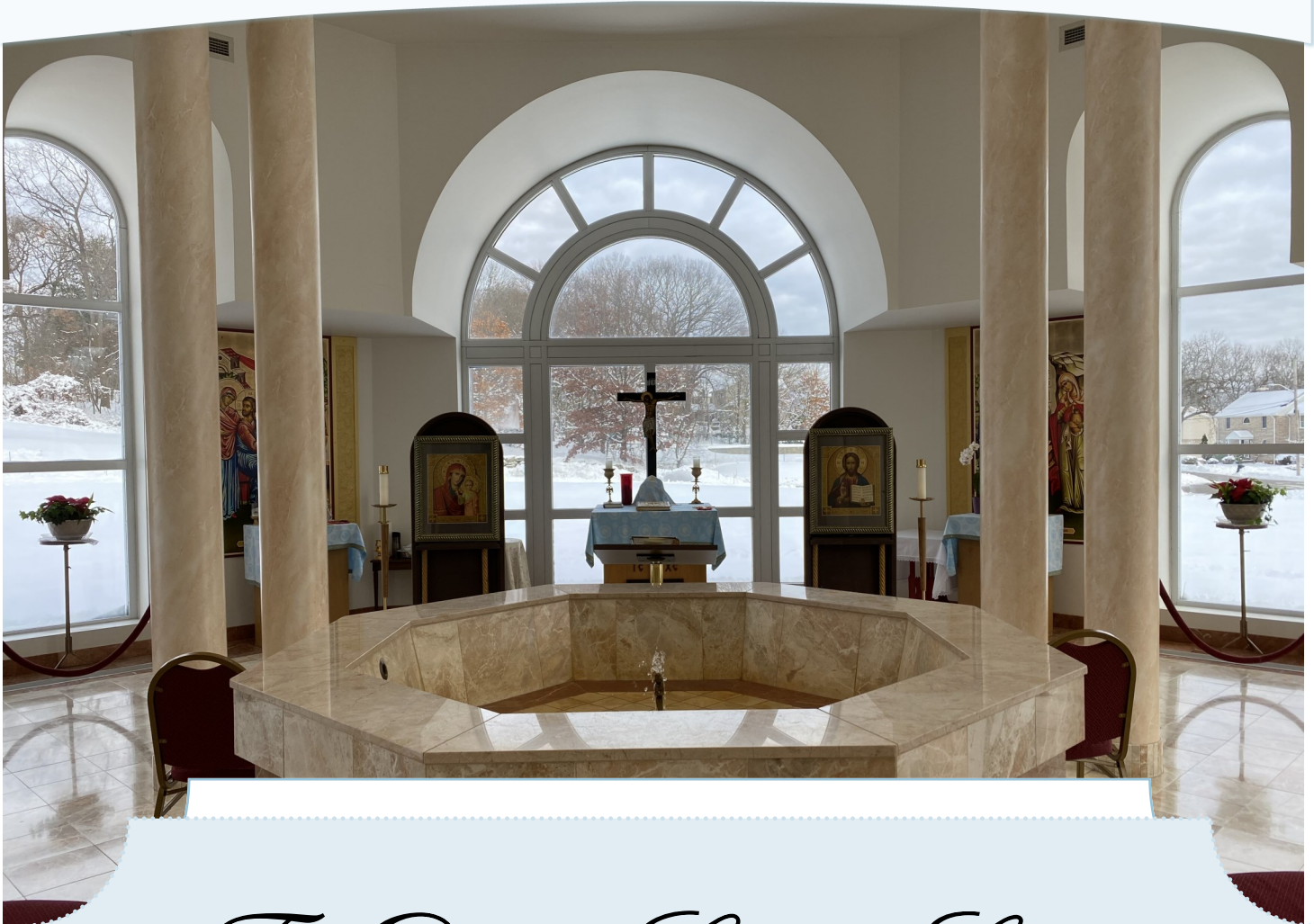
✠ Church Major Feasts

🐟 Abstain from Meat

🕒 Fast from midnight until noon

🌸 Lenten Season

# 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](http://www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com)

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

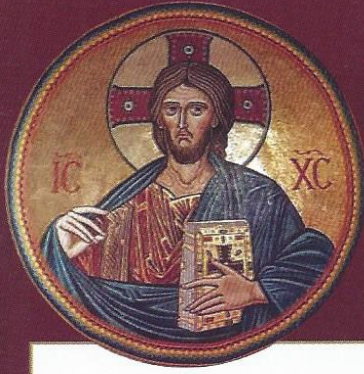
**YouTube**  
<https://bit.ly/2VJgvnS>

**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.



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:

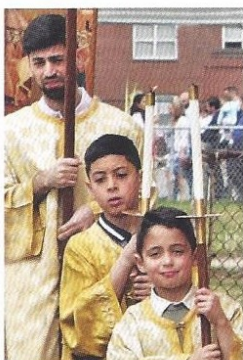
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



**SPRING 2023**

## *Clergy & Candidate Databases*

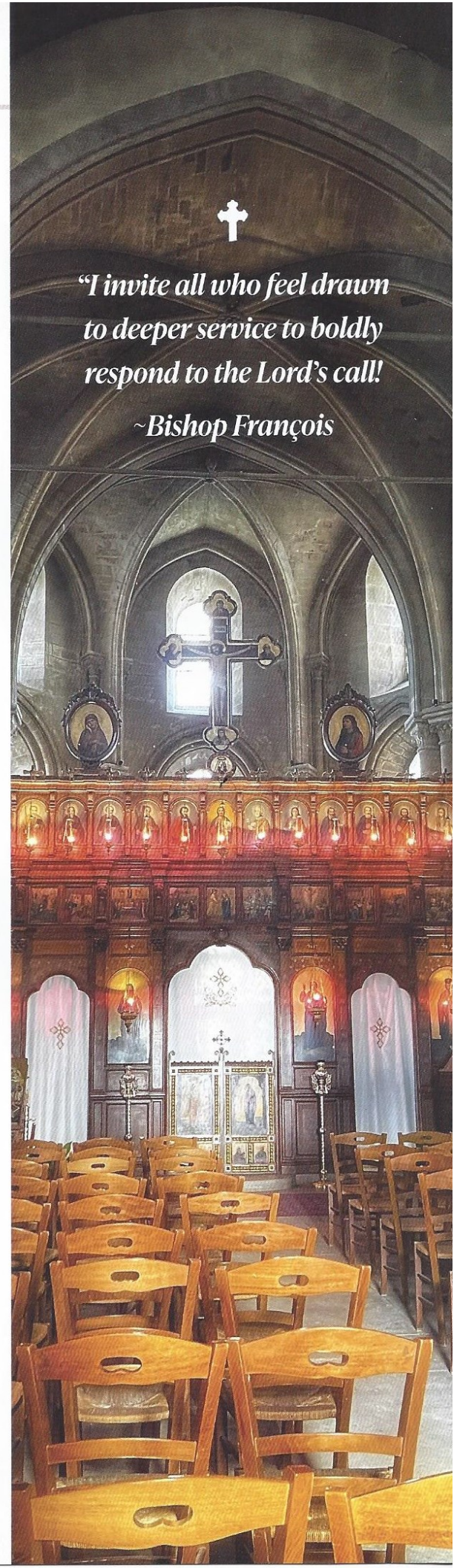
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement 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](http://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. 🌟

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



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### 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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