



April 23rd, 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 Myrrh-bearing women

أحد حملات الطيب

Antiphon Prayer

O Christ God, You alone are the Light of the world. Enlighten our spirit as You enlightened the eyes of the Marys. Gladden our hearts with faith and peace; and as You raised us up from the grave of our sins and delivered us from the power of Darkness, make us also worthy, in your great mercy, to light the lamps of our souls from the resplendent Light of your Glorious Resurrection, for You are our Light, our Life and our Resurrection, O Christ God, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving and worship, and to your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2)

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

Troparion of Joseph (Tone 2)

The Noble Joseph took down from the tree Your spotless body and wrapped it in pure linen and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day, You arose, O Lord, and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of the Myrrh-bearers

The angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the Ointment-bearing Women: "Ointments are for the dead, but Christ has proved Himself free from corruption. Cry out, then: "The Lord is risen and has bestowed great mercy upon the world."

Troparion of the Holy Great Martyr George (Tone 4)

Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor, and a physician of the sick, and a protector of the kings, O great among the martyrs and victorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

صلاة الأنديفونة

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من هو وحده نور الجميع وحياتهم، أضيء عقولنا وغيوتنا، وأزرها كما أنزت غيوت المريمات القديسات. فرح قلوبنا وأبهجها بالآيمان والسلام. وأذ قد أنهضتنا من وهدة الخطيئة، وأعتقنا من الظلام، أهلنا برأفتك الجزيلة لأن نسرح مصابيحنا من شعاع هذا اليوم، نرسم قيامتك المجيدة البهية. لأنك أنت نورنا وحياتنا، أيها المسيح إلهنا، واليك نرفع المجد والشكر والسجود، وإلى أبليك الأزلي وروحك القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الدهرين

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثاني

لما نزلت الى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمت الجحيم بسني لاهوتك. ولما أقممت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماوين: أيها المسيح إلهنا، يا معطي الحياة، المجد لك.

طروبارية يوسف الوجيه باللحن الثاني

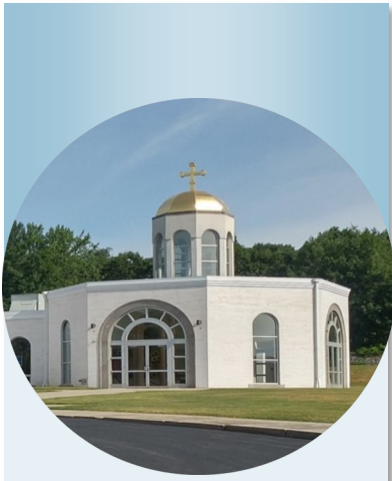
إن يوسف الوجيه أنزل من الخشبة جسدك الطاهر ولقه بكفن نقي وحنوط، وجهزه ووضع في قبر جديد. لكنك قمت في اليوم الثالث يا رب مانحا العالم عظيم الرحمة.

نشيد حملات الطيب – باللحن الثاني

إن الملاك وقف عند القبر، وهتف بالنسوة حاملات الطيب: أن الطيوب تليق بالأموات. لكن المسيح قد ظهر غريباً عن البلى. فاصرخن: قد قام الرب مانحاً العالم عظيم الرحمة.

نشيد القديس المجيد العظيم في الشهداء جاروجيوس المظفر

بما أنك للأسرى معتق، وللمساكين مجير، وللسقماء طبيب، وعن الملوك مناضل، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاروجيوس المظفر، إشفع إلى المسيح إله في خلاص نفوسنا.



Our church organizations:

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

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

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



Troparion of St Basil

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

Kondakion of Pascha.

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.

Prokimenon

Awesome in his saints is God, the God of Israel.

Stichon: In the churches, bless God, the Lord out of Israel's wellsprings.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Galatians: 3: 23-29; 4:1-5

Brethren, before the faith came, we were kept imprisoned under the Law, shut up from the faith tutor unto Christ, that we might be made holy by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. For all you who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he differs in no way from a slave, though he is the master of all; but he is under guardians and tutors until the time set by his father. So, we too, when we are children, were enslaved under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, that he might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Alleluia

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.

Stichon: He set my feet upon a rock; he made firm my steps.

Gospel of the Feast: Mark 15: 43-16:8 (Christ's Burial and Resurrection)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

At that time there came Joseph, the one from Arimathea, a councillor of high rank, who was himself looking for the kingdom of God. And he went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. But Pilate wondered whether he had expired so soon. And sending for the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen cloth, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone to the entrance of the tomb. But Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jose were looking on and saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, in order to go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, when the sun had just risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?" And looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back—now, it was very large. But on entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see him, as he told you." And they left and fled from the tomb, for trembling and fear had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاعَ منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبِلتْ كلامك، الذي به بَيَّنَّت العقائدَ بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأبُّ البَارُّ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

القنداق باللحن الثاني (أو الثامن)

وإن نزلتْ إلى القبرِ يا مَنْ لا يموت، فقد نقضتْ قُدرة الجحيم وقمتْ كظافر، أيها المسيح الإله. وللنسوة حاملاتِ الطيبِ قُلَّتْ أفرحن. ولرسلك وهبتْ السَّلام، يا مانحِ الواقعينِ القيام.

مقدمة الرسالة

عجيبُ الله في قديسيه، إله إسرائيل في المجامع باركوا الله، الرب من ينباع إسرائيل الرسالة 3: 29-23; 1: 4-5

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الى اهل غلاطية

يا اخوة، قبل أن يأتي الإيمان كنا محفوظين تحت الناموس، مغلقاً علينا إلى أن يعلن الإيمان الآتي. فالناموسُ إذن كان مُؤدبنا يُرشدنا إلى المسيح، لكي نبررُ بالإيمان. فبعد أن جاء الإيمان لسنا بعدُ تحت مُؤدب. لأنكم جميعاً أبناءُ الله بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع. لأنكم جميع من اعتمدتم في المسيح قد لبستم المسيح. ليس يهودي ولا يوناني، ليس عبد ولا حرٌّ، ليس ذكرٌ وأنثى، لأنكم جميعاً واحدٌ في المسيح يسوع. فإذا كنتم للمسيح فإذا كنتم للمسيح فأنتم إذن نسل إبراهيم، وورثة بحسب الموعد. وأقولُ إن الوارث ما دام طفلاً فلا فرق بينه وبين العبد، مع كونه رب الجميع. لكنه تحت أيدي الأوصياء والوكلاء إلى الأجل الذي سبق الأبُّ فحدده. وهكذا نحن أيضاً إذ كُنَّا أطفالاً، كنا متعددين تحت أركان العالم. فلما بلغ ملء الزمان، أرسل الله ابنه مولوداً من امرأة، مولوداً تحت الناموس. ليفتدي الذين نحت الناموس لننال التبني. هلوليا

الصديق كالنخلة يُزهر، وكأرز لبنان ينمو المغروس في بيت الرب، يزهر في ديار إلهنا

انجيل أحد حاملات الطيب

الانجيل (مرقس 15: 43 الى 16: 8)

في ذلك الزمان، أتى يوسف الذي من الرامة، وهو عضوٌ شريف في المجلس. وكان هو أيضاً ينتظرُ ملكوت الله. فدخل جراً على بيلاطس وطلب جسد يسوع. فتعجب بيلاطس من أنه مات هكذا سريعاً. فدعا قائداً المئة وسأله هل له زمانٌ قد مات. ولما عرّف ذلك من قائداً المئة وهب الجسد ليوسف. فأشترى كتناً وأنزله ولفه في الكتان ووضع في قبرٍ قد نُحِت في صخرة. ودحج حجراً على باب القبر. وكانت مريم المجدلية ومريم أم يوسف تنظران ابن وضع. ولما انقضى السبت اشترت مريم المجدلية ومريم أم يعقوب وسألومه حنوطاً ليأتين ويحفظنه. ويكرن جداً في أوّل الأسبوع، وأتين القبر وقد طلعت الشمس. وكنّ يقُلن فيما بينهنّ من يُدحرج لنا الحجر عن باب القبر؟ وتطلعن فرأين الحجر قد دُحج. لأنه كان عظيماً جداً. فلما دخلن القبر رأين شاباً جالساً عن اليمين عليه حلة بيضاء فاندهلن. فقال لهنّ: لا تذهلن. أنظبلن يسوع الناصري المصلوب؟ قد قام. ليس هو ههنا. وها الموضع الذي وضعت فيه. لكن أذهبن وقلن لتلاميذه ولبيطرس إنه يسبقكم إلى الجليل. هناك ترونه كما قال لكم. فخزجن من القبر سريعاً وفرزن. وقد أخذنهنّ الرعدة والدهش. ولم يقُلن لأحدٍ شيئاً. لأنهن كنّ خائفات.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

TODAY, APRIL 23, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER. SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TRIUMPHANT.

9:00 a.m DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **JAN CHARCHAFLIAH (40 Day)** by his wife Helene.
- + **GLORIA RAWAN RAZOOK** by Sharon D. Kishfy – Landry & Gregory.
- + **DAVID MARCOUX**, son of the late Julie Azar Marcoux, by the Family of the late Louis E. Azar.

11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **GEORGE, ROSE, BERNADETTE KHAOUAM** by Sami & Liliane Khaouam.
- + **YOUSSEF, ODETTE, BASSAM CHAMI** by Sami & Liliane Khaouam.
- + **ELIZABETH "BETTY" SALHANY** by the Family.

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: April 16, 2023: Budgets: \$1056.00: Envelopes: \$975.00, Loose: \$81.00; Candles: \$70.00: Stole Offerings: \$75.00; Building Fund: \$60; Addit'l Easter Offerings: \$60.00; Shepherd's Care: \$325.00; Donations: \$475.00.

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 and leave him your message. **PLEASE! NO GRATUITIES!** A cup of coffee or tea is just fine. He looks forward to in-person contact.

ARABIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIP: Application, eligibility information and check list is available at aef-ri.org. All scholarships and transcripts must be postmarked by April 15, 2023. Question(s) contact: aef1966@cox.net

CHRIST IS RISEN! AL MASEEH QAM! KHRISTOS ANESTI!
WITH APPRECIATION

Thank you to all who made our Great Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Celebration beautiful and memorable: those who made donations, especially the eggs and sweet bread, those who offered flowers, altar servers, choirs, readers, ushers, Tomb-bearers, Shroud-bearers, errand runners, those who decorated, cleaned and set up the church, those responsible for the Easter Decorum of the Church, those who organized the chair layout, server coordinators, sacristans, those who contributed to the Easter Collection as their Love Gift, those who prepared the Social Hour in the Cultural Center following the Easter Vigil, the clergy, and to all those who came, prayed, worshipped and joined in the never-ending experiencing of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Many thanks to those who decorated the Epitaphios (Tomb) and enhanced the sanctuary area by giving of their time and talents. OH! What can happen when we all work together for the honor and glory of God!

ST. GEORGE: George, a Captain in the Roman Army, tore up in defiance and edict of Emperor Diocletian ordering the persecutions of Christians. He battled the devil, symbolized by the dragon, and saved the Holy Church, symbolized by the King's daughter shown in a number of icons. He rides a white horse that indicates God's grace carrying him to the heroism of martyrdom. Constantine the Great built a great Church over his tomb in Lyda of Palestine. The name George means "Tiller of the Earth."



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.





SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN: In the beginning of his public life, Jesus often went to Galilee where He performed many miracles. A group of holy women followed Him around, ministering to Him out of their own resources, and even accompanied Him to the foot of the cross. On the morning of the third day after his death, they came to the tomb, bearing ointments they had prepared to embalm his body. Hence they are called also the Ointment-bearing Women. Seven of them are known by name: Mary Magdalene, Mary, mother of James and wife of Cleophas, Joanna, the wife of Chusa, a steward to Herod Antipas, Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Suzanna, and Martha & Mary, the sisters of Lazarus.

Two secret disciples of Christ are also commemorated on this day; Nicodemus, a leader of the Pharisees who came to visit Jesus at night and believed in Him, as told in the third chapter of the Gospel of John; and Joseph of Arimathea, a rich and noble citizen of Ramah, or Arimathea. After Christ died, he had the courage to claim his body and to place it in the tomb that had been hewn out of the rock for his own use.



ANNOUNCEMENT: The Food Fair committee is requesting medium to extra large baskets and/or containers to assist us with creating the Penny Social. Any items from previously received fruit baskets, flowers, gifts, etc. will be very much appreciated. There will be a boxes near the entrance of the church and across from the kitchen for your donation. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

TODAY, there will be a special collection taken up for **MELKITE DIOCESAN SUPPORT.** Please help subsidize the support, upkeep and expenses for the operation of our Diocese. Please give generously.

REFLECTION: "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing." -Socrates"

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



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



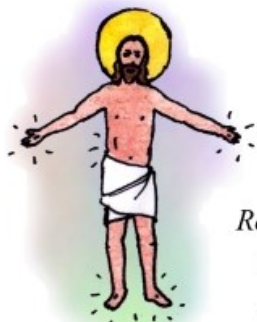
Easter is the time when we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead.



Early in the morning the day after the Sabbath, the women went to the tomb and found it empty! They went and told the disciples, who went and saw it was true. Jesus' body was gone! He had risen from the dead!



Imagine the joy of Our Lady that her Son was alive again! Here is a special Easter prayer to Our Lady:



*Queen of Heaven, rejoice! Alleluia!
For the Son Whom you were
privileged to bear, Alleluia!
Has risen as He said. Alleluia!*

*Pray to God for us, Alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad, Virgin Mary, Alleluia!
For the Lord has truly risen! Alleluia!*

Answer to the Word-find: Jesus is risen!

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The Kids' Bulletin

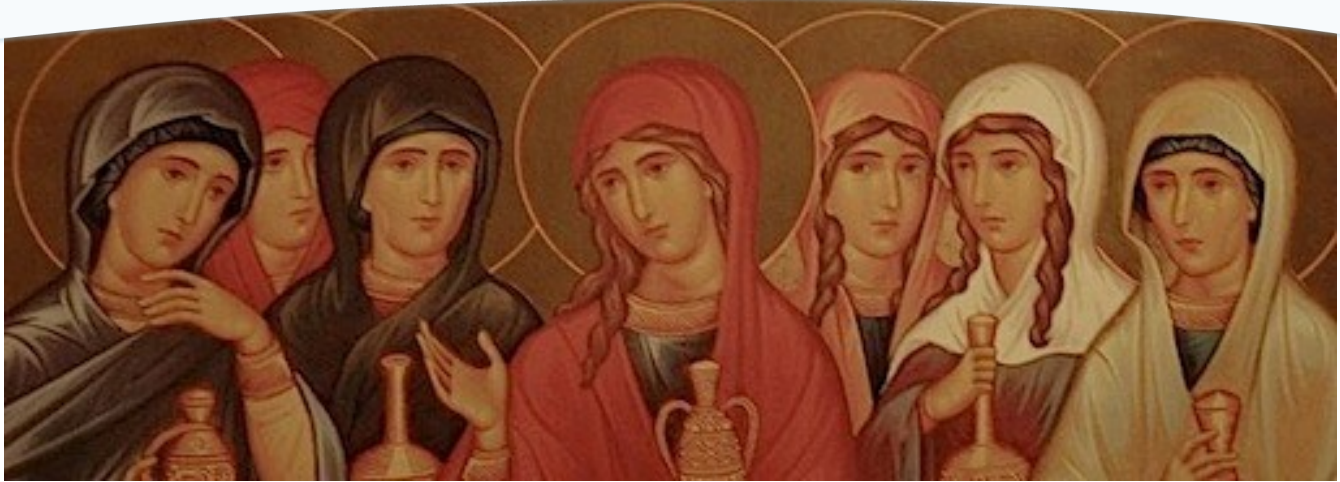


Early on Easter morning some women went to the tomb and saw that Jesus' body was gone!

Can you help the women find their way to the tomb?



The First To Preach The Resurrection of Christ



The second Sunday in the Byzantine tradition is the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. On it, this Eastern tradition commemorates the remarkable witness of the women who followed Christ. In many ways, their story shows us something which is proven true throughout history: the women who followed Jesus were braver and more devout than their male counterparts, and yet their voice, their fidelity was often ignored. The myrrh bearing women were the women who followed after Christ, who stood watch over Christ, even unto his death, while most of the men took flight, thinking their hopes and dreams had been squashed.

There are several women who are accounted for as among the myrrh bearing women, including: Sts. Mary Magdalene, Salome, Susanna, Joanna, Mary and Martha of Bethany (the sisters of Lazarus), Mary the Mother of James, and Mary the wife of Cleopas. With them, to be sure, we find Sts. Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, and the Theotokos, Mary the Mother of God, so that among the myrrh bearers were some of the disciples who desired to honor Jesus.

Nonetheless, just as there was a central contingent of Jesus' male disciples, we find there was a group of women who consistently followed after Jesus, who were often seen not only with Jesus, but his mother, and unlike his core male disciples, they kept a sense of fidelity to Christ which made them want to honor and protect him even in death. Although they often worked together, they also divided amongst themselves various different activities.

The reason why the myrrh bearing women went to Christ's tomb was that they wanted to anoint his body, to bless it; they would have done so earlier, except that the time of his death made this impossible. They had to wait until after the Sabbath, as St. Anthony of Padua commented:

Mary, the Theotokos, was the first to know of the resurrection, but she was not asked to spread the message of the resurrection. It would have caused suspicion if she had been the first to proclaim it. "That's just what his mother would

say." Rather, others would have to witness what happened after the resurrection, to witness the empty tomb and the resurrected Christ. St. Mary Magdalene was the first of those witnesses, the first called to preach the message of the resurrection to others. It was a woman who saw the resurrection, and it was a woman who was the first to proclaim it to the rest of Jesus' disciples. It was the women who had not fled. It was mostly the women who continued their devotion even after Jesus' death. Many have noted this as very fitting: through women the glory of the resurrection, the preaching of ever-lasting life comes, showing that women are not to be thought of as cursed because of the story of Eve, but rather as bearers of life. For this reason, they bore the message of the triumph of life, giving birth to the first Easter proclamation:

The women bearing ointments to anoint Christ were granted a vision, where they saw what lay beyond the kingdom of death, which is the everlasting glory of the light of the life of the world. Death has an end. The kingdom of God overcomes death granting life to all. Enlightened by the glory of the resurrection, the myrrh bearing women preached the good news, with St. Mary Magdalene leading them as "the Apostle to the Apostles." Mary Magdalene was sent out to preach, she who bore such great love for Jesus she found the fruit of that love being the glory of the resurrection itself, transforming her and her mission as a result of it. The faith, as St. Hildegard taught, was spread because of these illustrious women:

The Theotokos, the myrrh bearing women, then Peter and John, were the first witnesses of the resurrection. The Theotokos had the special gift of witnessing the resurrection as it happened, with the myrrh bearing women, because of their great love and devotion, were the first to see what happened after the resurrection and the first called to spread the word to Jesus' followers that he had risen. If we want to properly remember them, if we remember their extraordinary witness, should we not consider what remarkable glory he can share to us through his eminent and holy women disciples today.

الشجاعة والمحبة



خان. ويبقى السؤال، هل هذا هو موقف الرجال؟ لا، فيوسف الذي من الرامة عوّض عن الرجال بأعماله هو ونيقوديموس.

الجميع يحبون. ولكن قلائل يجرون أن يحبوا غيرهم حباً أكبر من حبههم لذاتهم. وهذا هو الحب الحقيقي. أن نجرأ ونفضّل الآخر على ذواتنا. أن نحب هذا أمر طبيعي. ولكن أن نحب كما يريد الرب فهذا يعني أن نتجرأ ونحب حتى لدرجة تعريض ذاتنا إلى البذل.

حباً كهذا أحبّت النسوة حاملات الطيب، التي تذكرنا الكنيسة اليوم بعيدهن، فيجّرن أول الأسبوع، أي صباح الأحد، مثل هذا اليوم الذي نحن فيه الآن. فبمجرد انقضاء السبت، الذي لم يكن يسمح لهّن فيه بالقيام بأي عمل، في اللحظات الأولى من أول الأسبوع انطلقن إلى القبر إلى الرب الذي خدمته وأحببته ليطيّبينه غير خائفات أن يطلبن من حُكم عليه ووُضِع على قبره حجر عظيم وحرّاس.

اذ يصف الإنجيل النساء الحاملات الطيب ويشدد على جرأتهن وحبهن الشديد ليسوع، فقد رافقته في مسيرته التبشيرية وخدمته وحملن المهموم معه لما كان اليهود يضطهدونه، ويذكر الإنجيل عدداً من النسوة حاملات الطيب أشهرهم مريم المجدلية. التي بعد صعود المسيح ذهبت إلى روما لتبشر بقيامة المسيح من بين الأموات. ورفعت إلى طيباريوس قيصر الروماني جميع الأمور التي جرت مع المسيح من موته وقيامته وظهوره لها.

وكان يسوع يرتاح في بيتهن مثل مرثا ومريم. النساء بقين وفيات حتى في مسيرة الألام ووقفن عند الصليب.

إن المسيح سعى في رفع شأن المرأة، بل قدّسها وعزز مكانتها في الملكوت، لقد تحررت المرأة في يسوع المسيح بعد أن كانت بحسب التقليد اليهودي متحفظة ومنتشدة. والكنيسة اليوم غيرت من موقفها تجاه النساء بعد أن كانت متأخرة بسبب خضوعها للتقاليد والعقليات السائدة عند شعوب كثيرة، وأعطيت المرأة حقها في التبشير ونشر كلمة الإنجيل.

لذلك انجيل اليوم يظهر لنا دور المرأة في نشر الكلمة الإلهية وهذا هو دور كل امرأة فهي الأم التي تربي أطفالها وتعتني بهم حسب كلام الإنجيل، هي الزوجة التي تصون زوجها بكلمة الإنجيل، هي الأخت التي تحمي أخاها وتؤثر عليه بكلمة الإنجيل. ما أعظمك ابنتها المرأة كم أنت كبيرة في عين الرب. فقد كلك بالمجد وجعلك مستودعا له ليأخذ منك الجسد البشري الذي أعطاك إياه هو.

ايضا من بين الذين أتوا إلى القبر (يوم الجمعة لدفن جسد الرب) كان رجلا مميزا هو يوسف الذي من الرامة، وما يميزه انه عضو شريف في المجلس الديني الأعلى الذي يرفع شؤون اليهود الدينية والأمر الطقسية.

ويبقى السؤال حول هذا الشخص، لماذا دخل بجرأة على بيلاطس الحاكم وطلب جسد يسوع؟ وقد أعطى جسد يسوع بكل سهولة، فقد كان هذا الرجل من الأعيان وعظماء الشعب وكان مواليا للرومان ولحكهم. وكان أيضا محبا ليسوع، فقد حضر كل ما يلزم للدفن وقد وضعه في قبره الذي أعدّه خصيصا له وقد نحت في الصخر. ويوسف هذا كان ينتظر خلاص اسرائيل كبقية اليهود في ذلك الزمان.

مع ان انجيل هذا اليوم هو انجيل خاص للنساء يُظهر جرأتهن ومحبتهم الشديدة ليسوع، بعد ان ترك الرجال أثرا سينا فالرسل هربوا ولم يظهر أحدا منهم، بطرس أنكروا ويهوذا

لكن يطرح السؤال ماهو الجديد في عيد فصح اليوم؟ وما الذي تغيّر عن الأعوام الماضية؟ الصليب هو الصليب والمصلوب هو المصلوب، والدم المهرق يقرب في كل حين. ولكن كيف نجعل العيد مميزاً هذا العام ليس كما كنا أمس وما قبل أمس وما سنكون عليه غداً وما بعد الغد، ملتصقين ومشدودين لضغفاننا ولكن السؤال هو: كيف نجعل أعيادنا بهيئة؟ وكيف نحيا القيامة في حياتنا؟ كيف نجعلها عبوراً حقيقياً إلى حياة جديدة؟ كيف لنا أن نشترك بالعيد بثياب عبثية لوثتها الخطايا، وليس لنا توبة نشترى بها ثوباً جديداً، ثوب الفضيلة والوداعة والمحبة. كيف ندخل الحياة الجديدة بثياب بالية؟

يبدو الرب يسوع في أكثر الأحيان مسجون في نفوسنا وعقولنا وقلوبنا وهمونا وأسنا، ولذلك نسال أحيانا لماذا يسوع لا يغيرنا ولا يتحرك فينا ولا يتجلى في حياتنا؟

والجواب هو لأن حجر خطايانا الثقيل يحجب نوره عنا، ومهما حاولنا درجته عن صدورنا لن ننجح، لأن ثقل الخطايا وتكرار العادة تكثفنا وتجعلنا عبيد لها، ولكن المهم أن نعترف بوجود الحجر الذي يرهق حياتنا الروحية، ولكي ننجح علينا أن نتعلم من مسلك حاملات الطيب حين كن في طريقهن إلى قبر السيد، وهن يتساءلن:

من يدرج لنا الحجر عن باب القبر ولكن يتابعن المسيرة إلى الهدف دون أن يستسلمن لوجود هذا الحجر بأن يمنعهن أو يكون عائقاً بينهن وبين يسوع، وقد استعدين بشراء طيب غالي الثمن ليكرمن به يسوع. وهكذا نحن أيضا إذا أردنا ورغينا في إراحة حجر خطايانا الثقيل عن صدورنا، علينا أن نضحى بشيء يكفنا غالبا ويحمل طابع التضحية

يجب أن ندفع الثمن غالبا من شهواتنا وملذاتنا وكل ما كان يأسرنا ويستعبدنا من خطايا، لأن الهدف والغاية أثنى بكثير من الثمن الذي نظنه كبيرا وبالحقيقة هو تافه، فرؤية يسوع تستاهل منا أن نتخلى عن كل شيء مخالف لوصاياه، أن نتخلى عن الكبرياء والانانية المعششة فينا وعن روح الغضب والتسلط.

إذا استطعنا أن نتخلى عن كل ذلك، وحملنا طيوب التوبة والمحبة والتواضع معنا كل يوم عندها يرسل الرب ملاكه أمامنا ليزحزح من أمامنا كل العوائق ويعلن لنا قيامته. في كل حين نحن بحاجة لزلزلة تحدث فينا تغيّر جذريا يرفع عنا حجر خطايانا ليشرق فينا نور المسيح القائم ويحطم الظلمة التي فينا، المسيح قام مرة من القبر وإلى الأبد.


نحن نعلن اليوم يا احبائي أن المسيح قام فينا لأننا تخلينا عن ظلمة خطايانا وهكذا تستمر مفاعيل القيامة فينا، إذا سلطنا وعشنا حياة الإيمان والمحبة، وشملنا قريينا بالحنان والعطف فهكذا نقوم مع المسيح ونشهد لحقيقة قيامة المسيح، ويصبح حضور المسيح حقيقيا في حياتنا وهكذا نصير أيامنا كلها عبورا مستمرا من نور إلى نور حتى نصل إلى الفرح الأبدي.

وهناك تروا مع الملائكة المسيح وتقولون المسيح قام. حقا قام الرب.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



APRIL	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 نيسان - أبريل 2023 MARCH 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 MAY 2023 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	30 Sunday of the Paralytic أحد المفلج Acts 9:32-42 John 5:1-15						1 Lazarus Saturday سبت لعازر Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 8:27-31
	2 Palm Sunday أحد الشعانين Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18	3 Great & Holy Monday الاثنين العظيم المقدس Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 24:3-35	4 Great & Holy Tuesday الثلاثاء العظيم المقدس Ephesians 1:1-9 Matthew 24:36-26:2	5 Great & Holy Wednesday الأربعاء العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 Matthew 26:6-16	6 Great & Holy Thursday الخميس العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-27:1-2 John 13:3-17 Luke 22:43-44	7 Great & Holy Friday الجمعة العظيمة المقدسة Eothinon: Twelve Gospels	8 Great & Holy Saturday سبت النور المقدس Romans 6:3-12 Matthew 28:1-20
9 Easter Sunday أحد الفصح العظيم المقدس Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17	10 Monday of New Week الإثنين لتجديدات Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 John 1:18-28	11 Tuesday of New Week الثلاثاء لتجديدات Acts 2:14-21 Luke 24:12-35	12 Wednesday of New Week الأربعاء لتجديدات Acts 2:22-38 John 1:35-51	13 Thursday of New Week الخميس لتجديدات Acts 2:38-43 John 3:1-15	14 Friday of New Week الجمعة لتجديدات Acts 3:1-8 John 2:12-22	15 Saturday of New Week سبت لتجديدات Acts 3:9-16 John 3:22-33	
16 St Thomas Sunday أحد الرسول توما Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31	17 St Simeon the Persian Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11	18 St John, disciple of Gregory Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21	19 St John the Hermit Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24	20 St Theodore Trichinas Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30	21 St Theodore of Pergla Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-6:2	22 St Theodore Sykeotes Acts 5:21-32 John 6:14-27	
23 St George the Triumphant Sunday of Holy Myrrh-bearers أحد حمامات الطيب Acts 12:1-11 Mark 15:43-16:8	24 St Elizabeth the Wonderworker Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60 John 4:46-54	25 Anzac Day St Mark the Apostle 1 Peter 5:6-14 Luke 10:16-21	26 St Basil of Amasia Acts 8:18-25 John 6:35-39	27 St Simeon Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44	28 Sts Jason and Sosipater Acts 8:40-9:19 John 6:48-54	29 St Memnon the Wonderworker Acts 9:19-31 John 15:17-16:2	

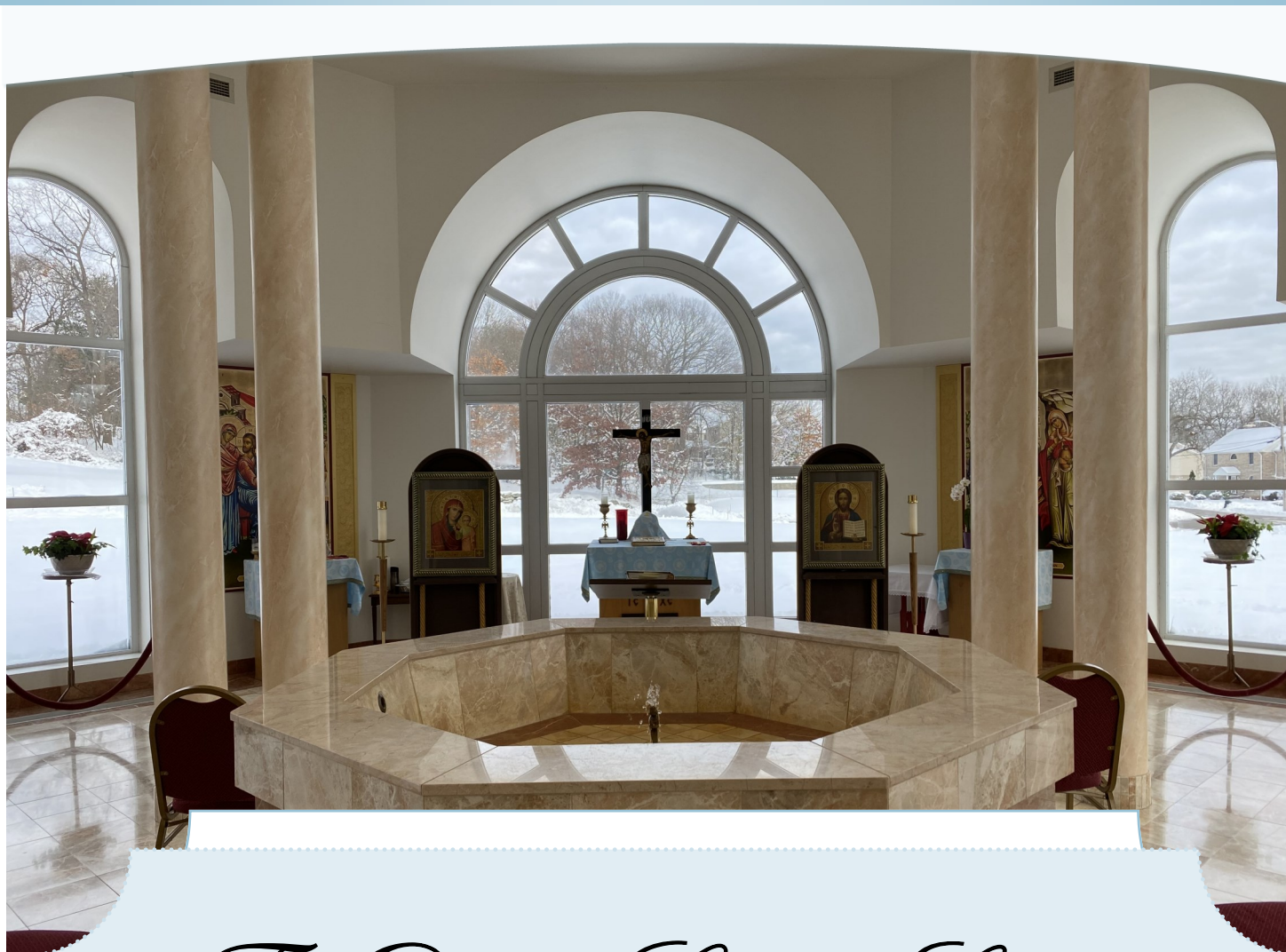
Church Major Feasts

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

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

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

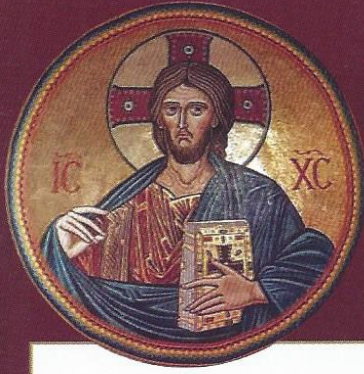
Contact us for information and ideas
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com



"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.



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:

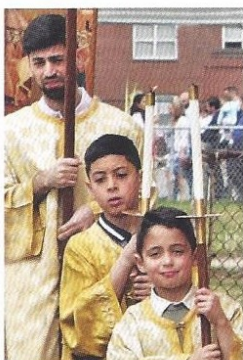
- Vocation promotion and communications
- Interviewing potential candidates
- Handling the application process
- Overseeing the formation of seminarians



SPRING 2023

Clergy & Candidate Databases

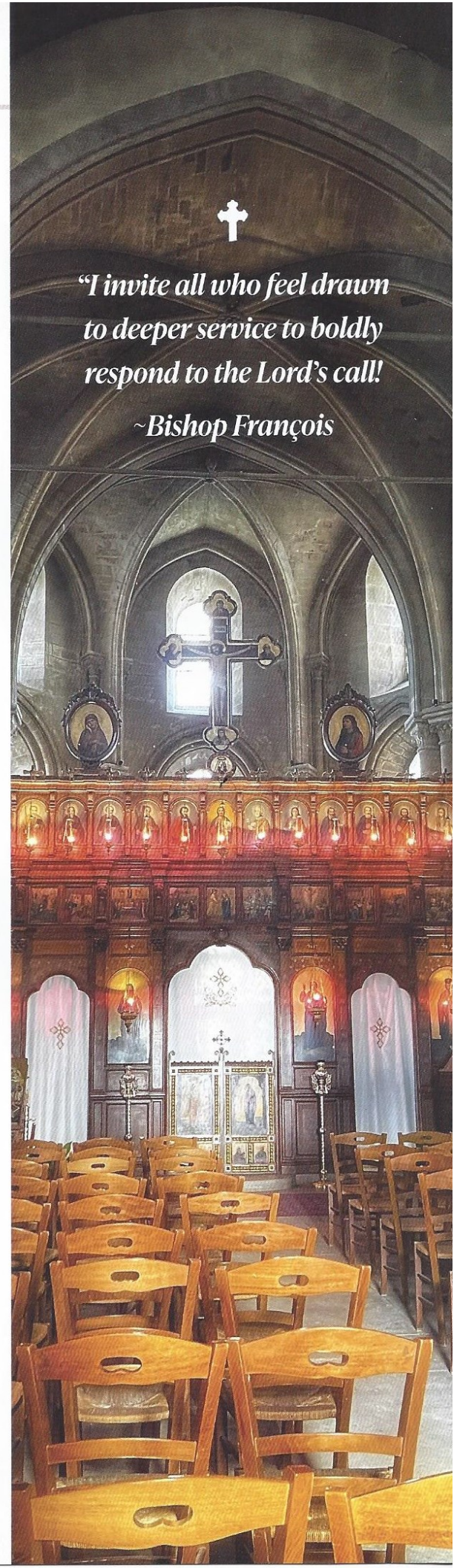
One essential task is to update the biographical information of all our clergy. This will help Bishop François to review the assignments of each deacon and priest and plan for future transitions and retirements. For example, simply knowing the birth dates of all priests allows us to project retirement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

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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!

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