



April 18th 2021

ST. BASIL THE GREAT MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH



Sunday of the Myrrh- Bearing Women أحد حاملات الطيب

Address :
15 Skyview Dr.
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Parish Website :
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Facebook :
<https://www.facebook.com/StBasilTheGreatMelkiteGreekCatholicChurchRI/>

YouTube :
<https://bit.ly/3gkl2UK>

Email :
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com

Telephone : (401)722-1345

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

Divine Liturgies :
Tuesday through Friday at 9: 00 A.M.
Saturday at 4:00 P.M.
Sunday at 11:00 A.M.

**Pastoral Emergencies and anointing
of the sick:** (401)722-1345

Holy Mysteries:

Reconciliation:
Saturday 2:30 –3:30 P.M.,
Sunday 9:30-10:30 A.M., or by
appointment.

Baptisms: Please arrange with the
pastor.

Marriages: 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.

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 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

صلاة الأنديفوننة

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من هو وحدة نور الجميع وحياتهم، أضيء عقولنا وغيوبنا، وأزها كما أنرت غيوب المريمات القديسات. فرح قلوبنا وأبهجها بالآيمان والسلام. وأد قد أنهضتنا من وهدة الخطيئة، وأعتقنا من الظلام، أهلنا برأفتك الجزيلة لأن نسرح مصابيحنا من شعاع هذا اليوم، رسيم قيامتك المجيدة البهية

لأنك أنت نورنا وحياتنا، أيها المسيح إلهنا، واليك نرفع المجد والشكر والسجود، وإلى أبيك الأزلي وروحك القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الدهرين

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثاني

لما نزلت إلى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمت الجحيم بسني لاهوتك. ولما أقمتم الأموات 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، وجهه ووضع في قبر جديد. لكنك قمت في اليوم الثالث يا رب مانحا العالم عظيم الرحمة.

نشيد حاملات الطيب – باللحن الثاني

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

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بنيت العقائد بيانا إلهيا، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأب البار ذو





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>



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

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Stichon: The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

READING from the Acts of the Apostle

In those days, as the number of disciples increased; there arose a complaint among the Greeks against the Hebrews, in that their widows were being neglected in the daily service. And so, the twelve summoned the many disciples and said, "It is not good that we give up the word of God and serve at tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom that we could put to this service, while we devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And the plan was pleasing to the whole crowd, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicholas, a recent convert from Antioch. These they presented to the apostles, who then prayed and laid their hands upon them. And God's word was growing, and the number of the disciples increased considerably in Jerusalem; and many of the priests also accepted the faith.

ALLELUIA (Tone 2) Ps.19: 1, 10

The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

Stichon: O Lord, save your king and listen to us on whatever day we call upon you.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST Mark 15: 43-16:8

At that time there came Joseph, the one from Arimathea, a councilor 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.

الكهنوت الملوكي، يبتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

قنداق الختام للفصح باللحن (الثاني أو الثامن)

وإن نزلت إلى القبر، يا من لا يموت، فقد نقضت قدرة الجحيم وقمت كظافر، أيها المسيح الإله. وللنساء حاملات الطيب قلت افرحن. ولرسلك وهبت السلام، يا مانح الوقعين القيام.

مقدمة الرسالة

الرب قوتي وتسبيحي، لقد كان لي خلاصاً
أدبني الرب تأديباً، وإلى الموت لم يُسلمني

الرسالة (اعمال الرسل 1: 6 – 7)

في تلك الأيام، لما تكاثرت التلاميذ. حدثت تدمر من اليونانيين على العبرانيين، بأن أراملهم كنَّ يُهملن في الخدمة اليومية. فدعا الاثنا عشر جمهور التلاميذ وقالوا: لا يحسن ان نترك كلمة الله ونخدم الموائد. فاخاروا ايها الاخوة سبعة رجال منكم يُشهد لهم بالفضل. قد ملأهم الروح القدس والحكمة، فنقيمهم على هذه الحاجة. ونحن نواظب على الصلاة وخدمة الكلمة. فحسُن الكلام لدي جميع الجمهور، فاخاروا استفانس رجلاً ممتلئاً من الايمان والروح القدس، وفيلبس وبرخورس، ونيكانور وطيمون، وبرمناس ونيقولوس دخيلاً انطاكيا. واقاموهم امام الرسل، فصلوا ووضعوا عليهم الايدي. وكانت كلمة الله تنمو، وعدت التلاميذ يتكاثر في اوراشليم جداً، وكان جمع كثير من الكهنة يُطيعون الايمان.

هللوا

ليستجب لك الرب في يوم الضيق، ولعضدك اسم اله يعقوب
يارب خلص الملك، واستجب لنا يوم ندعوك

انجيل أحد حاملات الطيب

الانجيل (مرقس 15: 43 الى 16: 8)

في ذلك الزمان، أتى يوسف الذي من الرامة، وهو عضو شريف في المجلس. وكان هو أيضاً ينتظر ملكوت الله. فدخل بجراً على بيلاطس وطلب جسد يسوع. فتعجب بيلاطس من أنه مات هكذا سريعاً. فدعا قائد المئة وسأله هل له زمان قد مات. ولما عرفت ذلك من قائد المئة وهب الجسد ليوسف. فأشترى كتناً وأنزله ولقاه في الكتان ووضع في قبر قد نُحِت في صخرة. ودحرج حجراً على باب القبر. وكانت مريم المجدلية ومريم أم يوسف تنظران أين وضع. ولما انقضى السبت اشترت مريم المجدلية ومريم أم يعقوب وسألوه حنوطاً ليأتين. ويحفظنه. ويكرن جداً في أول الأسبوع، وأتت القبر وقد طلعت الشمس. وكنَّ يقلن فيما بينهنَّ من يدحرج لنا الحجر عن باب القبر؟ وتطلعن فرأين الحجر قد دُحرج. لأنه كان عظيماً جداً. فلما دخلن القبر رأين شاباً جالساً عن اليمين عليه حلة بيضاء فاندهلن. فقال لهن: لا تذهلن. أنظرن يسوع الناصري المصلوب؟ قد قام. ليس هو ههنا. وها الموضع الذي وضعوه فيه. لكن أذهبن وقلن لتلاميذه ولبطرس إنه يسبقكم إلى الجليل. هناك ترونه كما قال لكم. فخرجن من القبر سريعاً وفرزن. وقد أخذتهنَّ الرعدة والدهش. ولم يقلن لأحد شيئاً. لأنهن كنَّ خائفات.



ST. BASIL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SACRIFICIAL GIVING: April 11, 2021: Budgets: \$2,525.00; Envelopes: \$2,512.00; Loose: \$13.00; Stipends: \$250.00; Candles: \$76.00; Building Fund: \$20.00; Addit'l Melkite Support: \$10.00; Religious Education: \$306.00.

Next Weekend, April 24 & 25, there will be a special collection for **MELKITE DIOCESAN SUPPORT**. Please be as generous as you can.

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

FATHER DANIEL NASSANEY UPDATE: Blessings to all! Thanks for all your help and support. It has been a week now that I was operated on. It seems that the operation was a success. The surgeon had to remove my medial gastrocnemius muscle. He was able to remove the total tumor and has good hope that nothing has spread. I have had no pain. I came back to our house in Tewksbury Monday night. I shall be having physical therapy and the healing process will be extended. What is next is in God's hand. I thank you all for your prayers, warm wishes, rides, cards and notes. Easter is indeed the time of healing.

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 offered flowers, altar servers, choirs, readers, ushers, tomb-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 church layout, server coordinators, sacristans, those who contributed to the Easter Collection as their Love Gift, and to all those who came, prayed worshipped, and joined in the never-ending of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Many thanks to those who decorated the Epitaphios (Tomb) and enhanced the sanctuary area by the giving of their time and talents. OH! What can happen when we all work together for the honor and glory of God.

CONGRATULATIONS: Today, Sunday, April 18, 2021, we celebrate the 50TH Wedding Anniversary of our brother FREDERICK KOUSSA, and sister, **LINDA ANN NOURY KOUSSA**. The marriage took place on April 18th, 1971 and was blessed by the late Rev. Peter Cappuci and presently Father Joe.

O Lord, look with favor as they ask for your help and the protection of the Virgin Mary. In their struggles, let them rejoice that you are near to help them; in their needs, let them know that you are there to rescue them; in their joys let them see that you are the source and completion of every happiness.

May the words of the ceremony 50 years ago reverberate in their hearts and sound just like they were chanted that day:

"O Lord our God, crown them with glory and honor, and grant them dominion over the works of your hands."

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR MANY MORE BLESSED AND HEALTHY YEARS!!!!

Fr. Ephrem, Fr. Joe, Deacon Edmond, Deacon Gilbert and the Community of St. Basil's!!!

AXIOS! MUSTAHIQ! WORTHY! On the same note, today, April 18, 2021, our Pastor, Father Ephrem celebrates his 8th Anniversary to the Sacred Priesthood. He was ordained at the hands of His Excellency, Sayyidna Nicholas Samra, on April 18, 2013 at the Annunciation Melkite Cathedral, West Roxbury, MA. We offer our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to ABOUNA and his immediate family on this solemn occasion. We thank God for the generous and selfless ministry rendered to our community for the past 10 months among us. Many more blessed years with peace, health, joy, and contentment.

MEMORIAM: It is with the deepest sadness that we announce to you the passing of one of our Senior Melkite priests, Rev. Robert Kerby, who served in S. Bend, IN for many years. God rest his soul. Please remember his soul as well as all the souls of the faithful departed in your prayers. May his memory be eternal!

REFLECTION: Middle Age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy....

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.





TODAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, AND SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER. THE SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN.

4:00 p.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **JOSEPH HARRAKA** by Caroline St. Germain.
- + **ALICE & JAMES NOURY** by Terry Noury Michael & Family.
- + **ANTHONY NAJJAR** by George & Jeanne Harraka.
- + **REV. ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY & ANGELA MAZZONE** by George & Sherine Mussalli & Family.
- + **MARY TAHAN** by Thomas & Joanne Sabbagh.
- + **JAMES N. ALLAM** by Pat-Luc St. Germain.
- + **VICTORIA PROCHNIAK** by Joan (Kishfy) Ray.
- + **JAY PAUL** by his parents, Dr. & Mrs. Biswa N. Paul.
- + **YVONNE HAGGAR COLABELLA** by Joe & Connie Fayan.

11:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **GEORGE BOUDJOUK (2nd Anniv.)** by his wife Kawsar & Children.
- + **CLAUDINE RABBAT** by George & Sherine Mussalli & Family.
- + **SAMI, NADIMA, GEORGE & FERIAL DALLAL** by Georgette S. Saggal.
- + **JOSEPH P. AZAR, JR.** by Najib & Saydeh Hanna.
- + **YUSEF AGHIA** by Samir & Hanaa Boudjouk.
- + **MICHAEL ALAM** by Gilbert Nassar & Family.
- + **MARIE CLAIRE CHOUHA** by Joseph & Yolanda Saggal.
- + **GEORGE DECKEY** by Jalal & Souad Dekki & Family.
- + **GEORGEANNA DECKEY** by Judith & Wayne Rawan.
- + **LINDA ALKHOULY HADDAD** by Barbara & Elias Deeb.
- + **ELIAS KISHFY** by Joseph & Rosemary Shabouk.
- + **JULIA & FRED KISHFY** by the Family.
- + **FRANCIS A. SAGGAL** by Bud & Mary Saggal & Family.
- + **LOUIS P. KISHFY** by Tony & Myrna Brahimsha.
- + **YOUSSEF MADOUR** by Tony Charchafiah & Family.
- + **ALBERT J. KISHFY** by M/M Federico Cavallini & Family.
- + **GEORGETTE SAGGAL** by George & Kristen Baalbaki.
- + **YUSUF & BLANCHE MUSSALLI** by Hon. Thomas Lazieuh & Sons.
- + **JAY PAUL** by his parents, Dr. & Mrs Biswa N. Paul.

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.



LITURGY OR MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women



Listening to the account of Christ's crucifixion and death during Holy Week, I am invariably struck by one detail in the story: the loyalty to the very end of a handful of people, mostly women, about whom the gospels tell us almost nothing else. What we do know is that Christ's disciples, all of them, ran away and left him behind. Peter denied him three times. Judas betrayed him. Crowds followed Christ while he was preaching, and each person was expecting to get something from him: they expected help, miracles and healings; they expected liberation from hated Roman occupation; they expected him to put their earthly cares in order.

These countless people poorly understood the meaning of His teaching, if they even really heard it at all, of self-renunciation and love, of wholehearted self-giving. For them, Christ was a handout, an offer of help, and so they came and followed. But then came growing hatred toward him on the part of the national leaders and those in authority. In Christ's preaching of love the crowds now began to hear him foretelling that, through this love, He would offer himself as a sacrifice. And the crowd began to thin, to melt away. Christ's earthly glory and human success burst into bright flame for the last time on the day of his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when, in the words of the gospel, "all the city was stirred" (Mt 21:10). But that was only for a moment. And even then, didn't the crowds greet him with such joy and enthusiasm only because, once again, they wanted and expected him to give them an earthly kingdom, earthly victory, power, and glory?

All of this suddenly ended. The light went out, and after Palm Sunday came the darkness, loneliness and inconsolable grief of Holy Week. And was not the most painful part of these final days the betrayal by close friends and disciples to whom Christ had truly given himself totally? In the garden of Gethsemane, even the three disciples closest to him did not stand firm, but fell asleep while Christ was in final agony, sweating blood and preparing for a horrible death. We know that even Peter, who so loudly promised to die with Christ, wavered at the last moment and renounced, rejected and betrayed him. And "Then," writes the evangelist, "all the disciples forsook him and fled" (Mt 26:56).

But not all, as it turned out. The Cross brings on the hour of simple human faithfulness and love. Those who in time of "success" seemed so removed, whom we almost never meet in the pages of the gospels, to whom Christ had given no advance word of his resurrection, and for whom therefore everything ended and was lost on the night of the Cross – these were the people who proved faithful, who remained at the Cross in steadfast human love. The evangelist John writes, "Standing by the Cross of Christ were His mother, and His Mother's sister, **Mary the wife of Clopas**, and **Mary Magdalene**" (Jn 19:25). Later, after the death of Jesus, when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. (Mt 27:57-60)

One day later, after the Sabbath, at dawn on the third day, the same women came to the grave, in keeping with the custom of that time, to anoint the dead body with aromatic spices. And it was precisely to them that the risen Christ first appeared. They were the first to hear

from him that "Rejoice" which forever afterwards be-came the essence of Christian strength. Christ had not revealed the mystery of the future to these women, as He did to the twelve chosen apostles. They knew neither the meaning of his death nor the mystery of his approaching victory in the resurrection. For them, the death of their teacher and

friend was simply death, the end; even worse, it was a terrible and shameful death, a terrible and abrupt end. They stood at the Cross only because they loved Jesus, and in loving him, suffered with him. They did not leave his poor, tortured body, but did all that love has always done at final separation.

Those whom Christ had asked to stay with him at the hour of his agonizing struggle, when He "began to be greatly distressed and troubled" (Mk 14:33), dropped him, ran away and renounced him. But those from whom He asked nothing remained faithful in their simple human love. "Mary stood weeping outside the tomb" (Jn 20:11). Down through the centuries, love has always wept in this way, as Christ wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus. Here then, it is this love which first learns of the victory; this love, this faithfulness is the first to know that there is no longer any need for weeping, for "death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor 15:54), and hopeless separation is no more.

This is what the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women means. It reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, and our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human his-tory has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman – an image of care, self-giving, love and compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror. It can be said without exaggeration that the humanity of the human race was, and is, being preserved, saved, by woman – preserved not by words or ideas, but by her silent, caring, loving presence. And if, despite all the evil that dominates the world, the mysterious feast of life still continues, if it is still celebrated in a poverty-stricken room, at a barren table, just as joyously as in a palace, then the joy and light of this feast is in her, in woman, in her never-fading love and faithfulness.

تأمل في أحد حاملات الطيب

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

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 لضعفاننا ولكن السؤال هو: كيف نجعل أعيادنا بهية؟ وكيف نحيا القيامة في حياتنا؟ كيف نجعلها عبوراً حقيقياً إلى حياة جديدة؟ كيف لنا أن نشترك بالعيد بثياب عتيقة 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 وبأسنا، ولذلك نسأل أحياناً 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 تكبلنا وتجعلنا عبيد لها، ولكن المهم أن نعترف بوجود الحجر الذي يرهق حياتنا الروحية، ولكي ننجح علينا أن نتعلم من مسلك حاملات الطيب حين كنّ في طريقهنّ إلى قبر السيد، وهنّ يتساءلن:

من يدحرج 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 استعدن بشراء طيب غالي الثمن ليكرمن به يسوع. وهكذا نحن أيضاً إذا أردنا ورغبنا في إزاحة حجر خطايانا الثقيل عن صدورنا، علينا أن نضحى بشيء يكفنا غالياً ويحمل طابع التضحية

يجب أن ندفع الثمن غالياً من شهواتنا وملذاتنا وكل ما كان يأسرنا ويستعبدنا من خطايا، لأن الهدف والغاية أثنى بكثير من الثمن الذي نظنه كبيراً وبالْحَقِيقَةُ هو تافه، فرؤية يسوع تستأهل منا أن نتخلى عن كل شيء مخالف لوصاياه، أن نتخلى عن الكبرياء والأناية 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 ليحزح من أمامنا كل العوائق ويعلن لنا قيامته.

في كل حين نحن بحاجة لزلزلة تُحدث فينا تغييراً جذرياً 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 سلكتنا وعشنا حياة الإيمان والمحبة، وشمطنا قريبتنا بالحنان والعطف فهكذا نقوم مع المسيح ونشهد لحقيقة قيامة المسيح، ويصبح حضور المسيح حقيقياً في حياتنا وهكذا تصير أيامنا كلها عبوراً مستمراً من نورٍ إلى نور حتى نصل إلى الفرح الأبدي .

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



المسيح قام من بين الاموات ووطئ الموت بالموت ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور

ايها الاحباء: المسيح قام

الجميع يحبون. ولكن قلائل يجروون أن يحبوا غيرهم حباً أكبر من حبهم لذاتهم. وهذا هو الحب الحقيقي. أن نجرأ ونفضل الآخر على ذاتنا. أن نحب هذا أمر طبيعي. ولكن أن

نحب كما يريد الرب فهذا يعني أن ننجراً ونحب حتى لدرجة تعريض ذاتنا إلى البذل.

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

اذ يصف الإنجيل النساء حاملات الطيب ويشدد على جرأتهن وحبهن الشديد ليسوع، فقد رافقته في مسيرته التبشيرية وخدمته وحملن الهموم معه لما كان اليهود يضطهدونه، ويذكر الإنجيل عدداً من النسوة حاملات الطيب أشهرهم مريم المجدلية. التي اخرج منها المسيح السبعة شياطين. التي بعد صعود المسيح ذهبت إلى روما لتبشر بقيامة المسيح من بين الاموات . 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 يقين وفيات حتى في مسيرة الآلام ووقفن عند الصليب.

إن المسيح سعى في رفع شأن المرأة، بل قدّسها وعزز مكانتها في الملكوت، لقد تحررت المرأة في يسوع المسيح بعد ان كانت بحسب التقليد اليهودي متحفظة ومتشددة.

لذلك انجيل اليوم يظهر لنا دور المرأة في نشر الكلمة الالهية 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 ايها المرأة كم انت كبيرة في عين الرب. فقد كللك بالمجد وجعلك مستودعا له ليأخذ منك الجسد البشري الذي أعطاك اياه هو.

ايضا من بين الذين أتوا الى القبر (يوم الجمعة لدفن جسد الرب) كان رجلا مميزا هو يوسف الذي من الرامة، وما يميزه انه عضو شريف في المجلس الديني الأعلى الذي يرعى شؤون اليهود الدينية والأمور 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 ولحكومتهم. وكان أيضا محبا ليسوع، فقد حضر كل ما يلزم للدفن وقد وضعه في قبره الذي أعده خصيصا له وقد نحتة في الصخر. ويوسف هذا كان ينتظر خلاص اسراييل 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 خان.

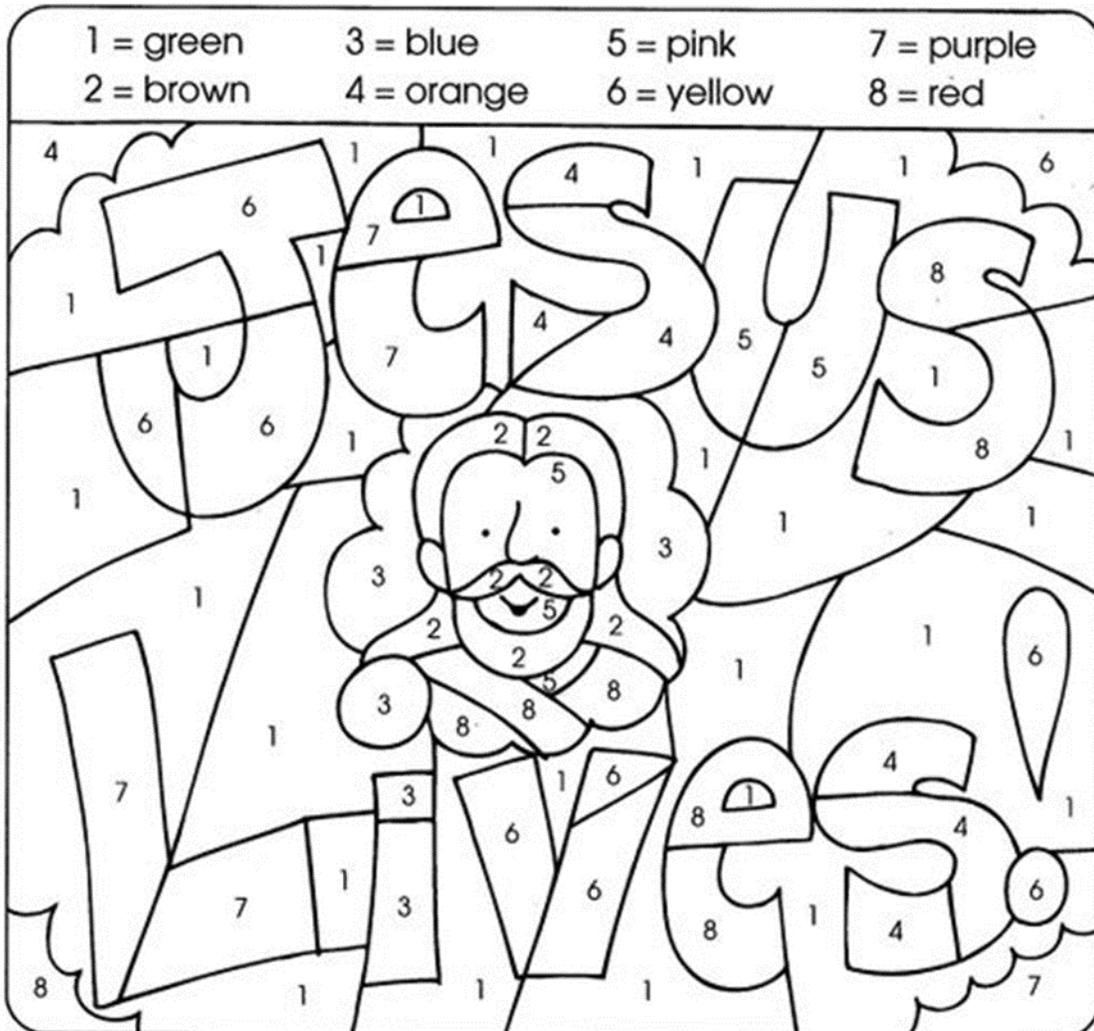


Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!





LITURGICAL CALENDAR

APRIL



نيسان - أبريل
2021

March 2021

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 2021

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					

- Liturgical Symbols:
- Abstain from meat
 - Church Major Feasts
 - Fast from midnight until noon
 - Lenten Season

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Great & Holy Thursday الخميس العظيم المقدس 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-27:2 John 13:3-17; Luke 22:43-44	2 Great & Holy Friday الجمعة العظيمة المقدسة Eothinon: Twelve Gospels	3 Great & Holy Saturday سبت النور Romans 6:3-12 Matthew 28:1-20
4 Easter Sunday أحد الفصح العظيم المقدس Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17	5 Monday of New Week أثنين التجديدات	6 Tuesday of New Week ثلاثاء التجديدات	7 Wednesday of New Week أربعاء التجديدات	8 Thursday of New Week خميس التجديدات	9 Friday of New Week جمعة التجديدات	10 Saturday of New Week سبت التجديدات
11 St Thomas Sunday أحد الرسول توما Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31	12 St Basil of Parios Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11	13 St Martin, Pope of Rome Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21	14 Sts Aristarchos, Pudeos and Trophimus Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24	15 St Crescent Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30	16 Sts Agapia, Irene and Chionia Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-6:2	17 St Simeon the Persian Acts 5:21-32 John 6:14-27
18 Sunday of Holy Myrrh-bearers أحد حاملات الطيب Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8	19 St John the Hermit Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60 John 4:46-54	20 St Theodore Trichinas Acts 8:5-15 John 6:27-33	21 St Theodore of Pergia Acts 8:18-25 John 6:35-39	22 St Theodore Sykeotes Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44	23 St George the Triumphant القديس جاورجيوس Acts 12:1-11 John 15:17-16:2	24 St Elizabeth the Wonderworker Acts 9:19-31 John 15:17-16:2
25 Anzac Day Sunday of the Paralytic أحد المفلج 1 Peter 5:6-14 John 5:1-15	26 St Basil of Amasia Acts 10:1-16 John 6:56-69	27 St Simeon Acts 10:21-33 John 7:1-13	28 Mid-Paschaltide منتصف الخمسين Acts 14:6-18 John 7:14-30	29 St Memnon the Wonderworker Acts 10:34-43 John 8:12-20	30 St James the Apostle Acts 10:44-11:10 John 8:21-30	

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness."

At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus.

May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with our priests and spiritual care givers. May they know that they are loved and cared for.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few,

Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

For You are a God of mercy, kindness, and love, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



We are pleased to announce

The Daily Divine Liturgy

At St. Elias Chapel (St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church)

Tuesday through Friday at 9 A.M.

Saturday at 4 P.M.

Sunday at 11 A.M.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” *John 11:25*

Remember me in your Kingdom

You are invited to the Divine Liturgy for the departed
in the Lord in the Hope of Resurrection
On the last Wednesday of the Month at 6:30 pm

أَنَا هُوَ الْقِيَامَةُ وَالْحَيَاةُ. مَنْ آمَنَ بِي وَلَوْ مَاتَ فَسَيَحْيَا. (يو 11: 25)

اذكرني في ملكوتك

أدعوكم إلى القداس الإلهي

من اجل الراقدين على رجاء القيامة

في الأربعاء الأخير من كل شهر الساعة 6:30 مساء

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to

St. Basil The Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

**Check our website
for Church news and updates at**
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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Apply for the Arabic Educational Foundation of RI

Arabic Educational Foundation of RI is now accepting college scholarship applications

Scholarship Applicants must meet the following requirements:

High school seniors and current undergraduates of Arabic descent who are or will be enrolled as full-time students at an accredited college for the 2021-2022 academic year

Eligibility information and applications can be found on the AEF website or Facebook. For more information, Please contact AEF board member: Theresa McMichael at tmcmichael@cox.net

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2020

VISIT www.aef-ri.org

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

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), presently, more than 20% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated against the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; the virus that causes the coronavirus disease [COVID-19]). This means that more than 68 million Americans – or about 1 in 5 – have received either one dose of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine or two doses of the vaccines from Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech. More than 1 in 3 Americans have received at least one dose of vaccine (not yet fully vaccinated). As of this time, people aged 40 and over are eligible to schedule a vaccine appointment in Rhode Island. Information about how to schedule an appointment at a pharmacy or a vaccine can be found at [C19vaccineRI.org](https://www.c19vaccine.ri.org).

In Rhode Island, over 298,000 people (more than 28% of the total population) have already been fully vaccinated, according to RI Health Department data. The vaccines afford people protection from COVID-19. Public health experts have advised that if 80% of a community group is vaccinated “then the need for social distancing and the need for surveillance testing, dramatically decreases and in some cases goes away.” If people don't want to or can't accept a vaccine they should remain remote for certain situations.

What is recommended?

Getting vaccinated is especially important as multiple versions of the COVID-19 virus develop (these are called variants), driving up the number of confirmed cases in 19 of the state's 39 high risk states. It remains strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, regardless of one-shot Johnson & Johnson or 2 doses of Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech. Any available shot is the best shot.

Additionally, all Rhode Islanders are encouraged to continue protecting their families, households, staff and customers at all times by: (1) Wearing a mask at all times possible; (2) Maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet from those not in their household; (3) Cleaning frequently touched or shared objects and washing hands frequently; (4) Limiting interactions with individuals outside of their household; (5) Getting tested often; (6) Getting vaccinated once eligible; (7) Working from home when possible; (8) Limiting non-essential travel out of state especially to hot spot states (states that have > 5% positivity rate).

The State of Rhode Island Updated COVID-19 Guidance and Requirements outlines frequently asked questions relating to restrictions for Businesses, including Houses of Worship (April 9, 2021). Churches may hold services – in indoor and outdoor settings – up to 75% capacity, with at least six feet physical distancing between households. It is also strongly encouraged to provide virtual services as an alternative to in-person services.

As more people are vaccinated, our state is continuing to make progress on easing restrictions while balancing public health and economic needs. Further information related to quarantine, isolation, and travel can be found at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) website at www.covid.ri.gov.

References:

Rhode Island Guidance on Reopening:

<https://reopeningri.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Protect-Your-Household-Guidance.pdf>

Rhode Island Department of Health provides comprehensive information on all aspects of COVID-19:

<https://covid.ri.gov/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw38->

REOPENING RI

Wear a mask that protects you and others

Wearing a face covering in public places helps protect you and anyone near you from COVID-19. **Your mask should fit snugly but comfortably over your nose, mouth, and chin without any gaps.**



RECOMMENDED

- **Face mask** worn the right way and at least two layers thick
- * N-95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare providers and other first responders



NOT RECOMMENDED

- **Face shield** alone
- **Loose-fitting bandana**
- **Face mask with valve**
- **Face mask** worn the wrong way
- **Neck gaiter** only one layer thick

Always wash your hands after handling or touching a used mask. Wash and dry cloth face coverings after use each day. Learn more about how to handle and care for your mask at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html

Masks should not be worn by children younger than age two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without help.

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reopeningri.com | health.ri.gov/covid
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