



February 5, 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 Prodigal Son

أحد الابن الشاطر

Antiphon Prayer

O God of mercy and compassion, Who do not want the sinner to die but to repent and live, we ask You to shine the Light of your Face upon us. Convert us to You, for the enemy has deceived us and stripped us of your grace. Restore to us our initial vestment. Open to us the doors of your great mercy, that we may enter your heavenly Dwellings with the Elect and praise your glory forever. For You have sent your Only-begotten Son in forgiveness to the World. Through Him we render glory, thanksgiving and worship to You Eternal Father, and to your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Troparion of the resurrection (2nd tone)

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out to you: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Troparion of the Feast

Hail, O Full of grace, Virgin and Mother of God: from you has arisen the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who stand in darkness. You too, O just Elder Simeon, rejoice, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us 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 the Feast

O Christ our God who through your birth have sanctified the virgin womb and have blessed the arms of Simeon, You have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep your people in peace and strengthen our Public Authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

صلاة الأنديفونة

يا إله الرحمة والرأفة، يا من لا يشاء موت الخاطئ، بل يُريده أن يتوب ويحيا، نسألك أن تُنير علينا بوجهك وتُرجعنا إليك، نحن الذين خدعهم العدو وعزّاهم من نعمتك، وأن تُعيدَ لنا البنا الحلة الأولى، وتفتح لنا أبواب رحمتك الواسعة، فندخل ديارك مع المختارين ونسبح عزتك على الدوام لأنك أرسلت ابنك الوحيد غفراً للعالم، وبه نرفع إليك المجد والشكر والسجود، أيها الأب الأزلي، وإلى روحك القدس الصالح والمحبي، الآن وكلّ أوان...

طروبارية القيامة باللحن الثاني

لما نزلت إلى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمّت الجحيم بسني لاهوتك. ولما أقمّت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماوين: أيها المسيح الهنا، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

طروبارية دخول ربنا يسوع المسيح إلى الهيكل - إفرجي يا

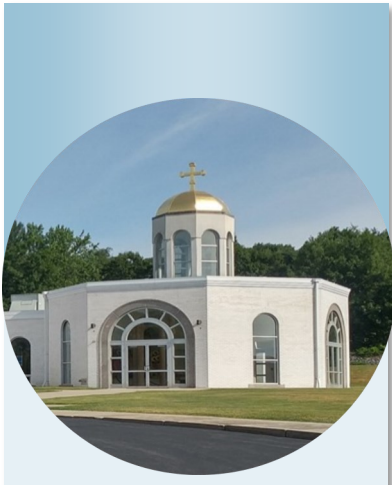
والدة الإله العذراء الممتلئة نعمة، لأنه منك أشرق شمس العدل المسيح الهنا، مُنيراً الذين هم في الظلام. وافترخ أنت أيها الشيخ الصديق، قابلاً على ذراعيك مُعطي نفوسنا، والمنعم علينا بالقيامة.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس

لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فإنها قد قبلت كلامك، الذي به بنيت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأب البار ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إنتهل إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

قنداق دخول ربنا يسوع المسيح إلى الهيكل باللحن الأول

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من بمولده قدس المستودع البتولي، وبارك يدي سمعان كما يليق، لقد بادرت الآن أيضاً وخلصتنا. فاحفظ رعيّتك بسلام في الحروب، وأيد عبديك الذين أحببتهم، أيها المحب البشر وحدك.



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>



Kondakion of the Prodigal Son

In my foolish wretchedness, I ran away from Your glory, and I squandered wickedly the riches you have given me. And so now, like the Prodigal Son, I cry out to You: I have sinned in your sight, Merciful Father. Receive now that I repent, and make me as one of Your hired servants."

Epistle 1 Cor 6:12-20 Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Prokimenon (Tone 1) Psalm 32:22,1

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are fitting. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of anyone. Food is for the belly, and the belly for food, but God will destroy both the one and the other. Now, the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. For God has raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a prostitute? By no means! Or do you not know that one who cleaves to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For the two, it is said, shall be one flesh (Gn.2 : 24). But he who cleaves to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee immortality. Every sin a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been bought at a great price. Glorify God therefore in your body and in your soul which both are God's.

Alleluia (Tone 1) Psalm 17:48,50

O God, you granted me retribution and make peoples subject to me and saved me from my raging enemies.

Stichon: Therefore I will proclaim you, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing praise to your name.

Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32 (The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

The Lord told this parable: "A man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his possessions between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered up all his wealth and traveled to a far country; and there he squandered his fortune in loose living. And after he had spent all, there came a severe famine over that country, and he began to suffer from it. And he went and joined one of the local landowners, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. And he longed to fill himself with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one offered to give them to him. But when he had come to his senses, he said, 'How many hired men in my father's house have bread in abundance, while I am perishing with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." And he got up and went to his father. But while he was yet a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion and ran and fell upon his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the Father said to his servants, 'Fetch quickly the best robe and put it on him, and give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet; and bring out the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; because this my son was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came close to the house, he heard music and dancing. And calling one of the servants he asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has got him back safe.' But he was angered and would not go in. His father, therefore, came out and began to beg him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look, these many years I have been serving you, and have never disobeyed any of your orders; and yet, you have never given me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours comes, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes; you have killed for him the fattened calf!' But he said to him, 'Son you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours; but we were bound to make merry and rejoice, for this your brother was dead, and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

قنداق الختام باللحن الثالث

لَمَّا نَفَرْتُ مِنَ الْمَجْدِ الْإِبْرِي بِغَاوَةِ، بَدَّرْتُ فِي الشَّرِّ الرَّوَّةَ الَّتِي أَعْطَيْتَنِيهَا. لِذَلِكَ أَمْرَحُ إِلَيْكَ كَالابْنِ الشَّاطِرِ: خَطَطْتُ أَمَامَكَ، أَيُّهَا الْآبُ الرَّؤُوفُ. فَاقْبَلْنِي تَائِبًا وَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ.

مقدمة الرسالة

لَتَكُنْ يَا رَبِّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا، بِحَسَبِ اتِّكَلَانَا عَلَيْكَ ابْتِهَاجًا أَيُّهَا الصَّادِقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ، بِالْمَسْتَقِيمِينَ بِلِقَى التَّسْبِيحِ

الرسالة (1كورنثوس 6: 12-20)

يا أخوة. كل شيء يجوز لي، ولكن ليس كل شيء ينفع. كل شيء يجوز لي، ولكن لا يتسلط عليّ شيء. إن الأطعمة للجوف والجوف للأطعمة. وسَيُبِيدُ اللهُ هذا وتلك. أما الجسد فليس للزنى بل للرب. والرب للجسد والله قد أقام الرب. وسيقمينا نحن أيضاً بقوته. أما تعلمون إن أجسادكم هي أعضاء المسيح؟ فأخذ أعضاء المسيح واجعلها أعضاء زانية؟ حاشي. أما تعلمون أن من اقترن بزانية يصير معها جسداً واحداً؟ لأنه قد قيل: يصيران كلاهما جسداً واحداً. أما الذي يقترن بالرب فيكون معه روحاً واحداً. اهربوا من الزنى. إن كل خطيئة يفعلها الإنسان هي خارج الجسد. أما الزنى فإنه يجرم إلى الجسد. أما تعلمون إن أجسادكم هي هيكل الروح القدس الذي فيكم، الذي نلتموه من الله، وأنكم لستم لأنفسكم. لأنكم قد اشتريتم بثمن كريم؟ فمجدوا الله أذن في جسديكم وروحكم اللذين هما لله ههلوليا—الله هو المنتقم لي، ومخضع الشعوب تحتي المعظم خلاص الملك، والصانع رحمةً إلى مسيحيه

إنجيل الابن الشاطر لوقا 15: 11 - 32

قال الرب هذا المثل: إنسان كان له ابنان. فقال أصغرهم لأبيه: يا أبتي أعطني نصيبي من المال. فقسم بينهما أمواله. وبعد أيام غير كثيرة جمع الابن الأصغر كل شيء له وسافر إلى بلد بعيد. وبدّر ماله هناك عائشاً في الخلاعة. فلَمَّا أَفْقَ كل شيء له، حدثت في ذلك البلد مجاعة شديدة. فأخذ في العوز. فذهب وانضوى إلى واحد من أهل ذلك البلد. فأرسله إلى حُقُولِهِ يرعى الخنازير، وكان يشتهي أن يملأ بطنه من الخرنوب الذي كانت الخنازير تأكله، ولم يعطه أحد. فرجع إلى نفسه وقال. كم لأبي من أجراء يفضّل عنهم الخبز، وأنا أهلك جوعاً. أقوم وأمضي إلى أبي وأقول له: يا أبتي قد خطئْتُ إلى السماء وأمامك. ولستُ مُسْتَحِقّاً بعدُ أن أدعى لك ابناً، فأجعلني كأحد أجرائك. فقام وجاء إلى أبيه. وفيما هو بعيد، رآه أبوه فتحركت أحشاه. وأسرع وألقى بنفسه على عنقه وقبله. فقال له الابن: يا أبتي قد خطئْتُ إلى السماء وأمامك، ولستُ مُسْتَحِقّاً أن أدعى لك ابناً. فقال الأب لعبيده: هاتوا الحلة الأولى وألبسوه. واجعلوا خاتماً في يده وحذاءً في رجليه. وأتو بالعجل المسمّن واذبحوه فأكّل ونفّح. لأنّ ابني هذا كان ميتاً فعاش، وكان ضالاً فوجد. فطفقوا يفرحون. وكان ابنه الأكبر في الحقل. فلما أتى وقرب من البيت سمع أصوات الغناء والرقص. فدعا أحد الغلمان وسأله ما عسى أن يكون هذا. فقال له: قد قَدِمَ أخوك، فدبّخ أبوك العجل المسمّن، لأنه لقيه سالمًا. ففَضِبْ ولم يُرِدْ أن يدخل. فَخَرَجَ أبوه وظفّف يتضرّع إليه. فأجاب وقال لأبيه كم لي من السنين أخذمك ولم أتعدّ وصيتك قط. وأنت لم تعطني قط. جدياً لأفرّح مع أصدقائي. ولما جاء ابْنُكَ هذا الذي أكل أموالك مع الزواني، ذبحت له العجل المسمّن. فقال له يا ابني أنت معي في كل حين، وكل ما هو لي هو لك. ولكن كان ينبغي أن نَتَنَعَّمَ ونفّرح لأنّ أخاك هذا كان ميتاً فعاش، وكان ضالاً فوجد.



Divine Liturgy Intentions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023: NINTH SUNDAY BEFORE PASCHA. SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. FOURTH DAY OF CELEBRATION OF THE PRESENTATION.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **MICHAEL MASSUD** by Richard, Christine, Rebecca & Marissa Barrett.
- + **WALTER R. MOON (Birthday Remem.)** by his sister, Shirley.
- + **LOUISE AMEEN (7th Anniv.) & GEORGE AMEEN (23rd Anniv.)** by Judy Ameen Wilchynski.
- + **YVONNE COLABELLA** by the Family.

11:15 DIVINE LITURGY:

- + **ROSE & HOUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **GEORGE LAYOUS** by Sonia Layous.
- + **VIOLETTE (HAGGAR) SAGGAL (Australia)** by Shakib P. Mashata.
- + **JEANNETTE AYOUB DAIKH (Aleppo, Syria)** by Bishara & Wafaa Tahhan.
- + **MARIE SAURIOL** by Dr. Jason Boudjouk & Ms. Jiana Daikh.
- + **MICHAEL GEORGE BOUDJOUK (NJ)** by Mr. Albert & Lina Kishfy.
- + **GEORGETTE S. SAGGAL** by Joseph & Yolanda Saggal.
- + **VICTORIA PROCHNIAK** by her 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: January 29, 2023: Budgets: \$3,039.00: Envelopes: \$2,935.00, Loose: \$104.00; Candles: \$92.00; Building Fund: \$80.00 : Stole Offerings: \$545.00; Melkite Diocesan Support: \$267.00; Hall Rental: \$150.00; New Year's Reimbursement: \$150.00.

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

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

2023 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available – free for the taking – at both entrances of the church. By following the liturgical cycle of the church year and remembering the Saints each day is an excellent way to attach yourself more closely to the worshipping community that is the church.

ENVELOPE USERS: It would be helpful to us if you could please check off the amount on the outside of the budget envelope. This will allow for more efficiency and accuracy in the recording of your budgets. Thank you kindly! Also, it has been observed that some people have forgotten to fill their budget envelopes with their offering (some sealed, others unsealed), and it is awkward to put us in this kind of position. We humbly ask you to be more careful in this regard.

IN PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE: Please continue to remember in your prayers all the needs of the parish family, the sick and suffering, those who have asked for our prayers, the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church, those people who have been denied their basic human rights and dignity, the oppressed, the lonely, the homeless and those who suffer, and those who have no peace of mind or heart.

CLEANLINESS & HEALTH: Please pick up after yourselves and the children during and following Coffee Hour; insects and rodents are attracted by what we leave throughout and around the interior and exterior of the building; it takes but a few moments to clean up well. Cultural Center, kitchen, and bar should always be free of open food items. Everyone, please take note: Hall dining tables, coffee serving areas, stainless steel tables, counters, sinks, stove, etc. should be soap washed after every use and before leaving the building. The custodian does not always come in on our desired schedule. Thank you!

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS**. Please help defray the cost of heating the church and rectory, as prices are escalating rapidly. Also, we must not forget that utilities are more than doubled in our new complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

CLERGY CONFERENCE: Father Ephrem and all active Melkite Clergy will be attending the Annual Clergy Conference in San Antonio, Texas from Monday through Friday, February 6-10, 2023. Father John Mefrige, pastor of Three Hierarchs Parish is the host of this convocation of clergy. Most Rev. Francois Beyrouti, Eparchial Bishop of Newton, will preside over this conference and all liturgical services. Our prayers and best wishes are with them as they enjoy intensive talks on their pastoral and spiritual life. May they have a fruitful and uplifting week in their daily prayer, personal reflection, and social get-togethers, with an added hope for real growth in the Spirit.

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.





NO COST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Medical Equipment for home use only to those in need and the willingness to return when no longer needed. wheelchairs ,Electric beds, hoyer lifts, crutches, shower chairs etc.

If you have medical equipment you own and don't need anymore, they would appreciate the donation of the equipment. Contact Br. Donahue, cell phone: 401-451-018

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

FEBRUARY 2nd

Feast of the PRESENTATION of our Lord, God and Savior JESUS CHRIST to the Temple, and PURIFICATION of the Blessed VIRGIN MARY

In the Byzantine Rite, the title of this feast is Hypapanty, a Greek word that signifies "Meeting" for the Presentation is in fact the first meeting of the Lord with his people. The birth of Christ, the adoration of the shepherds and wise men had been confined to the small circle of the Holy Family's abode. Today, Christ appears in the midst of his people, for Simeon and the Prophetess Anna represent the elect. Christ, being an infant at the time, acted through his Mother Mary's miraculous motherhood placed her above the Mosaic Law, yet she chose to obey it. Forty days after the birth of her Son, she went to Jerusalem in order to offer the prescribed sacrifice: a lamb, or if the parents' means did not permit it, two doves or two young pigeons.

The Church has maintained until the present day the meaningful ceremony of "churching."

REFLECTION: "Think before you speak. Read before you think." *Fran Lebowitz, The Fran Lebowitz Reader*

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O Jesus, Who has said,
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Holy Mother, I humbly
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my prayer will be granted.

O Jesus, Who has said,
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Following Jesus Kids bulletin



The Parable of the Prodigal Son Luke 15: 11- 32

www.happysaints.com

Jesus told a story about God's mercy: A man had two sons. The younger one said, 'Father, give me my share of your estate.'



After taking his money, the son left to a far country and squandered his wealth.



Soon, he had to work in a pig farm to feed himself. He felt sorry for his sins and decided to go home to beg for forgiveness.



As he approached his house, his father came out to hug him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'



The father told the servants to prepare a big feast as he said, 'My son was dead, and is alive again!'



The elder son was angry when he heard this but his father said, 'Son, all that is mine is yours. We should rejoice for your brother was lost and is found!'



This story shows how God is like. He is a Father Who forgives us despite our past wrong-doings and He asks us to forgive those who have hurt us. He eagerly waits for us to return to Him everyday!



**"I will be merciful
and remember their
sins no more."
Hebrews 8: 12**

www.happysaints.com



30
FEAST!
Begin to eat up the treats you have stored in your pantry and refrigerator so they won't tempt you.

31
FEAST!
Discuss with your family which foods are allowed and which are not during the fast, and why.

February 1
FEAST!
Which activities will you fast from and which will you begin to do during the fast?

2
FEAST!
of the Encounter! With Simeon Humility is also simplicity. Will you simplify your environment by taking down decorations in your house, or your room, for the fast?

3
FEAST!
The Pharisee boasted while the Publican humbled himself. Practice the Jesus Prayer today.

4
FEAST!
We all need to cultivate the virtue of humility, which means seeing ourselves as God does. Pray for this grace today.



February 5:
Sunday of the Prodigal Son:
Work on mercy and forgive your neighbor. Remember, the son returned and fell prostrate before his father to beg forgiveness. We do this before our Heavenly Father too, when we make prostrations in prayer.

6
Do you know how to make prostrations like the Prodigal Son? You may want to practice them!

7
Is there someone who has made you angry? Show them forgiveness today to prepare for the fast.

8
The Prodigal son took his father for granted. Go to your parents today and tell them how much they mean to you.

9
The Prodigal Son was so hungry he longed to eat animal food. Make a plan

Our Countdown to Great Lent Calendar 2023

Compiled to coordinate with *The Zacchaeus Tree* by *Lynne Warchach*, available from the gift shop page at ByzIkonom.com

Pre-Lenten Weeks of Preparation

New Calendar Edition

January 29: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:
Work on humility and feast! Did you know that we are expected NOT to fast at all this week? Even on Friday! It's true! We need to practice humility by doing so, and also get rid of all the goodies in our pantries this week. Make Publican and Pharisee Cookies! See the recipe and instructions at ByzIkonom.com!

28
Remember to make a plan to give alms to those who are less fortunate! How will your family do that this lent?

27
It's not just about food! Prepare your prayer plan tool! Will you attend Presanctified Liturgy? Say the Jesus Prayer? etc?

26
Don't fall out of your tree! Make sure your plan is practical and safe. Discuss it with your parents and/or your Spiritual Father first.

25
When you climb YOUR tree this lent, will others try to pull you down? Surround yourself with supportive friends.

24
Make a plan for fasting and discuss it with your family. Try to do one more thing than you did last year!

23
Zacchaeus worked hard to see Jesus. Pray for the grace to make a good effort this lent!

January 22
Zacchaeus Sunday:
Establish your plan and get ready to climb! Review your eparchy's rules for fasting and discuss what this will look like in your home. Ask your parents what they expect from you.



Start here!

16
Bad habits imprison those who cultivate them. Do you have any bad habits that you want to be free from? Make a plan to work on those during the fast.

15
People who are ashamed often can't forgive themselves. Be quick to forget the shame of others and never bring it to anyone's attention.

14
Are there any strangers in your church, school group, or neighborhood whom

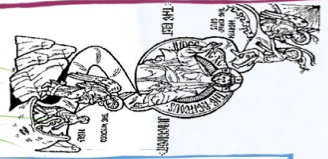
13
People hunger and thirst for all sorts of things like love, patience, or

17
Make a card or say a prayer for those you know who are ill. Sometimes just knowing someone cares can help them heal and feel better.

18
Whatever you do for the least of your friends, you do for Jesus! Do a good deed for someone today.

19:
Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday: The Great Fast begins tomorrow!
Ask forgiveness of everyone in your household so that you may begin the fast tomorrow with a clean and humble heart!

February 12:
Sunday of Meatfare/Last Judgment:
What can you do for the least of your brethren? Listen carefully to this Gospel reading because it contains the answers to the very final, Final Exam of life! This is how we will be judged before God and it's important that we get it right. Make Lamb Cupcakes! See the recipe and instructions at ByzIkonom.com!



11
Today is the first All Souls Saturday. Pray for the Departed! Make a list of those departed of your family for

10
The Father rushed to greet his son when he repented. Be eager



Which Son Are You?



When we read the story out of context, we sometimes wonder why Jesus would talk about the elder brother at all. It feels like an interruption in the parable or an unnecessary add-on. There's a lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son... and then, "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field." It's somewhat anti-climactic. There could be little doubt in His hearer's minds, though, that the muttering elder son was an illustration of the muttering Pharisees and teachers of the law who could find no pleasure in the repentance of sinners because of their own self-righteousness and indignation. While Jesus described the wayward son, they were probably disgusted by his actions. He didn't care about his father at all! He just wanted his money. He took off and indulged in one party after another without any thought of his father... that is, until he found himself penniless and slopping pigs. Thank God they were not like that! It's the same attitude the Pharisee displayed in Luke 18:9-14. In that parable, the Pharisee thanks God he is not like that humbled tax collector, and then he lists all his religious accomplishments. When the elder son in the story of the prodigal son tells his father, "All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders," they were probably thinking, "Now, there's someone we can relate to! He's the good one!"

But Jesus tags on the elder brother description to drive the point home that the younger brother wasn't the only one who showed disregard for the father. Both sons were "lost." They were equally in need of being found. In the parable, the father actually went looking for the older brother, just as the shepherd actively searched for the lost sheep and the woman searched for the lost coin until she found it. The one who was truly lost was the one who thought he wasn't – the one who didn't recognize his need.

This is what we could term "The Elder Brother Syndrome." It's why we look at a reprobate "sinner" and recognize his need of Jesus immediately but fail to see the need of the prideful soul sitting in the front pew week after week and year after year.

The younger-brother types are the ones who are adventurous and risk-taking. They distrust institutions (like government and religion), shake off constraints, and desire to experience all that life has to offer. When they sin, they sin big and bold and everyone knows it.

The elder-brother types are the rule-keepers and people-pleasers who work stable, predictable jobs, hold traditional values and are risk-averse. Many faithful church attendees are elder-brother types who tend to see their type as "good" and the other type as "bad." If only everyone could be more like them, the world would be a better place. But Jesus' parable reminds us that the ones who are truly "lost" are the ones who don't realize their need. Here are a few characteristics of the elder brother in the parable and how we can make sure we don't fall into the trap of pride, anger, resentment, and indignation.

He thought because he obeyed the rules, he deserved blessing. Have you ever found yourself asking God to heal someone because she deserved it or because she has been faithful for so many years?

Have you caught yourself thinking surely you will make it to heaven simply because you go to church every week and you don't break any rules? We are very much prone to keeping a checklist and treating our salvation like a contract. If we just do enough of the right things, we'll make it. That's how the elder brother felt. "All these years I've been slaving for you...yet you never gave me even a young goat..." He was mad because he didn't think he was getting what he deserved for his faithful service. Have you ever felt short-changed by God? Have you felt that your service has been overlooked

and that you deserve a pat on the back? Has your pride puffed you up to the point where you think it's actually possible to earn God's grace and blessing?

His motive was to receive, not to show love to his father. Perhaps the real reason the elder brother was so angry was because his younger brother had squandered half of their shared inheritance.

Now that he has been welcomed back into the family, they would both receive a slice from a much smaller pie when their father died.

He didn't care about his father any more than his younger brother had when he demanded his inheritance while his father was still alive. So, for us, our relationship with our heavenly Father should center on pleasing Him, loving Him, and growing closer to Him, even if it means we don't get everything we want. If you don't wind up with a "mansion over the hilltop" when you get to heaven and find yourself in a one-room apartment in the new Jerusalem, will you be disappointed? Are you serving God only for the promise of getting a crown or walking on streets of gold? Or do you want to know Him more than you want another breath? Love for Jesus must be our starting point, without loving only to get something, even if that something has been promised and is beneficial to everyone. Our motives must be pure. If you're only serving God so your spouse will return to you or so you'll get a better job or so He'll bless you financially, then your motives are tainted. Love Jesus for who He is, not what He can give you.

He thought his brother's sinfulness was unforgivable. The elder brother was indignant that "this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes" was the object of his father's affection and celebration. His father might be willing to forgive, but by golly, he wouldn't! His standards were higher than his father's. This sin was unforgivable. While the younger brother might be his father's son, he was no longer a brother to him. How pompous and arrogant! But Christians do this all the time. They judge and hold past sins against one another. They identify people as "former" this or "ex" that. Instead of offering the clean slate of forgiveness, they hang on to the dirt so they can bring it up again later. If the father, who has been wronged, can forgive, why can't we? And as I was reminded once through a sermon by Dr. Earle Wilson, forgiveness means forgiving yourself, too. If God can bring himself to forgive you, then you can forgive yourself, too. Your standard is not higher than God's!

He resented his father's joy and refused to share in it. Think of the long, dark, heartbroken nights this father had spent worrying about his lost son. Think about his disappointment as days turned into months and perhaps years of longing for him to return. And now he is so full of joy that everyone in the household and probably the town came to celebrate with him. And the elder son won't even come to the party. He didn't share his father's heart. He didn't share his joy. As Christians, our hearts should be broken by the things that break the heart of God. And they should also be filled with joy by the things that bring joy to the father. That means we need to know Him and what He truly wants. We need to get on the same page as God and see the world through His eyes. I admit this is not always easy to do. But we're not on this planet to look out for our own interests. We're here as His ambassadors to represent Him to a world that is lost and in need of a relationship with Him. If we can't catch His heart and reflect it, then we don't know Him as well as we need to.

God help all of us! May we never become the Pharisees who are blinded by our own "goodness." May we search our hearts daily and examine ourselves on the inside rather than just the outside.

زمن التيرودي... زمن الرجوع إلى الله



تبدو الحياة المسيحية لدى البعض مثل "دين" يحمل الناس "دينًا" من الوصايا لكي نتقي الغضب الإلهي. ولما كان هذا مستحيلًا بالكليّة، أضافت الأديان "عقوبات" و"تكفيرات" لمصالحة الله واستدراج غفرانه.

لغة الكتاب المقدّس مختلفة تماماً عن هذه الحلقة الغامضة من "الخطيئة البشريّة" ثمّ الفداء الإلهي ثمّ أعمال الغفران! لغة الكتاب المقدّس، والكلمة الوحيدة التي تلخص فحواه، هي تلك التي بدأ بها يسوع كرازته "التوبة!" والتوبة في الكتاب مرتبطة مباشرة بالفرح كما سمعنا في نهاية هذا المثل اليوم. هناك خمسة معانٍ تخرج من مطالعتنا وسماعنا لمثل الابن الضال وتستحقّ منّا التأمل العميق وهي:

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1- التمييز ما بين الخاطئ والخطيئة

من الواضح أن السيّد يشدّد في تركيب هذا المثل على القيمة الغالبة لكلّ إنسان بغضّ النظر عن وضعه كان في برّ أم في خطيئة. فالإنسان هو "ابن" في أوضاع متبدّلة، ومهما كان وضعه، في بيت أبوي أم في كورة بعيدة، فهو لا يفقأ يبقى "الابن" وله المحبّة ذاتها. الله محبّ. الله أبّ يحبّ أولاده. يحبّنا. لكن لمحبّته هذه عنده وجهان، وجه الفرح -حين نعود- ووجه الصليب حين نرحل. نعم الخطيئة غير الخاطئ. الخطيئة هي خطأ الابن وليست قيمته الحقيقيّة. قيمة الابن هي في محبّة الأب التي لا تتبدّل، أما الخطيئة فهي ضعفت فيه يمكن أن يتبدّل. البرّ والخطيئة احتمالان للإنسان ذاته. لذلك عندما يخطئ الإنسان لا يصير في لائحة الملعونين وإنما من المطلوبين لدى الأب! لهذا يوصينا بولس أن يصلح الأقرباء وهن الضعفاء بالمحبّة وروحياً. لأنه كما أن هناك خطيئة هناك توبة. والخاطئ هو ابن غير تائب بعد، والبار ما هو إلا الابن الذي تاب إلى الله.

يفتقّم الكتاب إذا مرورنا بلحظات الضعف وترجيحنا حيناً جيباً ما على حبّ الأب، لكن يدعونا إلى التوبة والعودة. ليس دينونة أن نخطئ أحياناً، ولكن الدينونة أن نبقى في الخطيئة. ليس دينونة أن نرحل للحظات، ولكن دينونة أن نبقى في الكورة البعيدة. مفهوم البرّ في الكتاب لا يقوم على قداسة فطرية عفوية لم تختبر خطيئة ولم تمرّ بلحظة ضعف. يقوم مفهوم البرّ على تفضيل العجل المثلث على كلّ خرزوب الدنيا. ينمو الإنسان في الحبّ الإلهي، ويبدأ بحبّ الخبز السماويّ أكثر من ملذات الدنيا كلّها. لدرجة زهد فيها بعض البشر حتّى عن الخبز اليوميّ الضروريّ حيناً، ولصقّ لحم داوود بعظمه ونسها عن أكل خبزها عندما هام في طلب البيت الأبويّ. لهذا هناك فرح خاصّ "بتائب واحد يعود" أكثر من "التسعة والتسعين!"

2-انتظار الأب

5- أفخارستيا التوبة

يمركز الربّ يسوع هنا الخطيئة والتوبة حول الطعام. فهذا الابن يرحل ويأكل الخرنوب مع الملذات، وهذا الابن يعود فيأكل العجل المسمّن مع الأفراح! إنّ اللقاء مع الأب الحنون، وخبرة المصالحة والغفران المجاني، تتمّ في الإفخارستيا.

نمتحن توبتنا كلّ يوم أمام دعوة الإفخارستيا الرهيبة: "خذوا كلوا... وخذوا اشربوا كلّمكم...". هذا هو نداء الأب الغفور المحبّ والحنون الذي يبحث كلّ حين عن خرافه. يمدّ العالم أمامنا كلّ مغفريات وشبائك، ويمدّ الربّ يسوع أمامنا مائدته وجسده ودمه، والخطيئة والتوبة تتعلّقان في تفضيل أحد العرضيين على الآخر.

"اذبحوا العجل المسمّن وتعالوا لنأكل ونفرح". الكأس المقدّسة المعروضة كلّ يوم، وصرخة المرئم "نوقوا وانظروا ما أطيب الربّ" غداً في أيّام الصوم الكبير، كلها قادرة فعلاً أن تجعلنا نقول "ليذهب العالم ولتأت النعمة!" كلها قادرة أن تجعلنا نقرر تفضيل الخبز الجوهريّ على الرغبات، وتجعل الصلاة والصوم طعامنا اليوميّ الأساسيّ-الجوهريّ. هذه الكأس الإفخارستية قادرة، عندما نراها، أن تنهض فينا القرار لنقول: "أقوم وأعود وأقول لأبي: يا أبي قد أخطأت إلى السماء وأمامك فأقبلني الآن كأحد أجراءك"، فيذبح لنا ونأكل ونفرح.

3- عدم محاسبة التائب

يصوّر يسوع لنا في المثل الأب في وضع تشوّق وانتظار لابنه الذي رحل. يحقّ لهذا الأب أن يرجو عودة ابنه، ولربّما بثقة، لأنه يعرف أنّ الابن لن يحدّ في آية كورة دفء البيت الأبويّ. ترسم بعض الأيقونات هذا المثل وتصوّر الأب مترقباً من على السطح عودة ابنه من بعيد. نعم الله في انتظار، فليت انتظره كلّ منّا لا يطول! هذا هو صليب الربّ: انتظاره! لا يطلب الله تكفيرات ولا يتملّكه غضب الكرامة المنتقمة حين نخطئ، إنّما يصلبه الرجاء بأنّ نعود. هذا هو قدر "الحبّ" في عالم تلوّن بالضعف كما بالنعمة.

العجيب، أنّه عندما عاد الابن بادر الأب إلى إعطائه الحقوق والنعمة المفقودة بدل أن يسأله أين يبدّد المال، أو لماذا أهان الحبّ الأبويّ ورحل. هذا طبيعي لمن ينتظر. ألم تكن هذه هي أسئلة الابن الأكبر، وهذا ما أدهشه في أبيه؟ ليست هذه المحاسبة الغربية هي التي ستجعل الابن العائد لا يعود يفكر بالرحيل ثانية ويبقى مديناً بالحبّ والتوبة مدى الحياة؟ نعم، لا يحاسب الله على الماضي، لأنّه الأب الحنون وليس الأب المهان أو المجروح.

كلّنا ننتمى المصالحة مع بعضنا البعض، ولكن غالباً ما نسلك طرقاً مخالفة لطريقة هذا الأب الحنون. لأننا نطالب ولا نسامح عند اللقاء! نعاتب ونحاسب ونشتدّ لإعادة الحقوق قبل الغفران. لكن بالنسبة لله المسألة هي "لقاء" وليست تصفية حسابات! "يا بني أعطني قلبك!" وهذا هو حقّ الله الأثمن من كلّ خاطئ يعود!

4- الفرح الأكبر

لا بدّ أنّ هذا الأب كان فرحاً في بيته مع ابنه الأكبر الذي لم يغادر. ولكن الغريب هو ما يشدّد عليه هذا المثل، وعدّة أمثلة حوله في الكتاب، أن تشير إلى "فرح أكبر" بعودة الابن



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



FEBRUARY	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>شباط - فبراير 2023</p> <p>JANUARY 2023</p> <p>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</p> <p>MARCH 2023</p> <p>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</p>				1 Preparation of Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple 2 Peter 3:1-18 Mark 13:24-31	2 ✠ Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple دخول السيد إلى الهيكل Hebrews 7:7-17 Luke 2:22-41	3 Sts Simeon & Anna 1 John 2:7-17 Mark 14:3-9	4 St Isidore of Pelusium 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 20:45-21:4
	5 Sunday of the Prodigal Son أحد الابن الضالط 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Luke 15:11-32	6 St Elian 1 John 2:18-3:8 Mark 11:1-11	7 St Luke the Greek 1 John 3:9-22 Mark 14:10-42	8 🐟 Holy Prophet Zechariah 1 John 3:21-4:11 Mark 14:43-15:1	9 Leave-taking of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord 1 John 4:20-5:21 Mark 15:1-15	10 🐟 St Charalampos 2 John 1-13 Mark 15:22-25, 33-41	11 First Saturday of the dead السبت الأول للراقيين 1 Corinthians 10:23-29 Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
	12 Meat-fare Sunday أحد مرفع اللحم 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Matthew 25:31-46	13 🐟 St Martinian 3 John 1:1-15 Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39	14 🐟 St Maron the Hermit Jude 1: 1-10 Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1	15 🐟 St Onesimos Romans 14:6-9 Mt 26:57-75	16 🐟 St Pamphilos and his companions Jude 1:11-25 Luke 23:2-34, 44-56	17 🐟 St Theodore Ephesus 5:8-19 John 19:25-37	18 🐟 St Leo Pope of Rome Saturday of Ascetics سبت جميع الآباء النساك Romans 14:19-23, 16:25-27 Matthew 6:1-13
	19 🐟 Cheese-fare Sunday أحد مرفع الجبن Romans 13:11-14:4 Matthew 6:14-21	20 🐟 Beginning of Holy and Great Fast بدء الصوم المقدس الكبير 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Luke 21:8-36	21 🐟 Holy Father Timothy Romans 8:14-21 Matthew 6:1-13	22 🐟 Relics of Martyrs at Eugenios 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 Mark 11:22-26 & Matthew 7:7-8	23 🐟 St Polycarp of Smyrna Romans 15:30-33 Matthew 7:7-11	24 🐟 1st Akathist المدائح الأولى 1 Timothy 2:1-7 John 15:1-7	25 🐟 St Tarasios عجوبة الفصح المسلوق Hebrews 1:1-12 Mark 2:23-3:5
	26 🐟 Sunday of Orthodoxy أحد الأرثوذكسية Hebrews 11:24-40 John 1:43-51	27 🐟 St Procopios Romans 15:1-7 Matthew 18:10-20	28 🐟 St Basil the Confessor Galatians 6:2-10 Matthew 4:23-5:13				

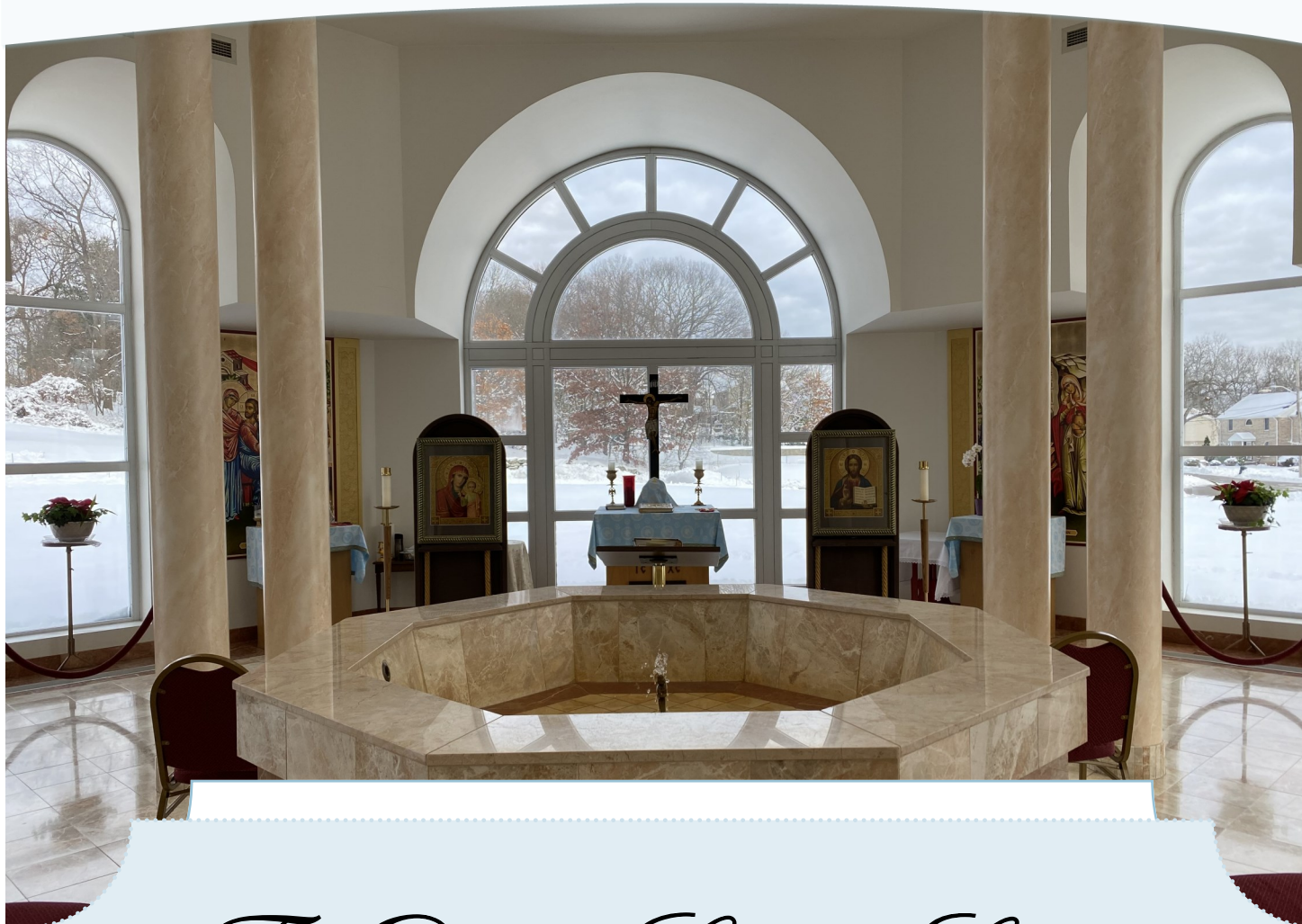
✠ Church Major Feasts

🐟 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.



Online Programming classes for Lower School Students

All proceeds to benefit Saint Basil MYO!

Offering:

- Intro Scratch Class for Grades 3-6 (Saturday mornings at 9am)

Four one-hour sessions Feb 11, 18, 25, and March 4 for a \$20 donation

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St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church
15 Skyview drive – Lincoln RI 02865

MYO
St. Valentine's Day
Celebration
& Fr. Ephrem's 50th Birthday

Saturday, February 11, 2023
7:00 pm to 12:00 am
Doors open at 6:30 pm
(Snow Date, Feb. 18)

Featuring

*George Maalouf and Ensemble
Life Band & DJ*

Ticket includes Mazza & Dinner

*From Kaza Maza Restaurant
North Providence, Cash bar*



Tickets and info:

Joe Massud 508-802-7585
Chris Barrett : 401-265-0386
St. Basil Rectory : 401-722-1345 or any MYO member

Tickets purchased in advance only –
Deadline Sunday, February 5, 2023
All proceeds go to St. Basil's MYO

Please complete this form and mail to: St. Basil Rectory, 111 Cross St. Central Falls RI 02863
Or place in the Sunday collection basket at Church

Name _____
Address _____
Phone number _____

_____ of adults. \$55
_____ MYO or 17 and under \$45
I am unable to attend but would like to
make a donation to the MYO \$ _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of 12/30/2022



St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church

15 Skyview Drive Lincoln, RI 02865

Sharing our Faith
SECURING OUR FUTURE



Campaign Facts:



Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000



Outstanding Goal: \$340,000



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

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 415



Active Families: 250



% of Active Families Participation: 51%

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

Current & Future Projects:



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Exterior/Masonry /Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals.



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

Important Highlights

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



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

Jeff Boudjouk: 401-441-2737

Ann Sabbagh: 508-243-1190

Kyle Mardo: 401-578-5369

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