February 13, 2022

St. Basil the Great
Melkite Greek Catholic Church

Sunday of the Prodigal Son | **أحد الإبن الضال**

Address
15 Skyview Drive
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Tel (401) 722-1345

Parish Website
www.stbasilthegreatchurch.com
Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/StBasilTheGreatMelkiteGreekCatholicChurchRI/
YouTube
https://bit.ly/3gkI2Uk
Email
office@stbasilthegreatchurch.com

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

Divine Liturgies
Tuesday through Friday at 9: 00 AM
Sunday
English 9:00 AM
Arabic 11:15 AM

Religious Education
Sunday 10:00 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

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.

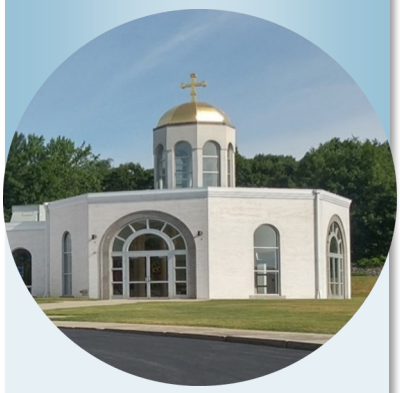
Troparion of the resurrection (5th tone)
Let us O Faithful, praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of St Basil :
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.

صلاة الأنديفونة
يا إلهَ الرحمةِ والرأفة، يا مَن لا يشاءُ موتَ الخاطئ، بل يُريده أن يتوبَ ويحيا، نسألُك أن تُنيرَ علينا بوجهكَ وتُرجعنا اليك، نحن الذين خَدعهم العدوُّ وعرَّاهم من نعمتك، وأنْ تُعيدَ الينا الحُلةَ الأولى، وتفتحَ لنا أبواب رحمتكَ الواسعة، فندخلَ ديارك مع المختارين ونسبح عزتك على الدوام . لأنك أرسلت ابنكَ الوحيد غُفراناً للعالم، وبه نرفعُ إليك المجد والشكر والسجود، أيها الأب الأزليُّ، وإلى روحك القدوس الصالح والمحيي، الآن وكلَّ أوان...

نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس
لننشد نحن المؤمنين ونسجدْ للكلمة، الأزلي مع الآبِ والروح، المولود من العذراء لخلاصنا. لأنه ارتضى أن يصعدَ بالجسدِ على الصليب، ويحتمل الموت، وينهض ِالموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

طروبارية القديس باسيليوس
لقد ذاعَ منطقُكَ في كل الأرض. فانها قد قَبِلَتْ كلامك، الذي به بيَّنت العقائدَ بياناً إلهيّاً، وأوضحتَ طبيعةَ الكائنات، ونظَّمتَ أخلاقَ البشر. فيا أيها الآبُ البارُّ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إبتهل إلى المسيحِ الإله 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

Kondakion of the Prodigal Son,
When in my wretchedness I ran away from your fatherly love, I squandered in wickedness the riches You had given me. And so now, like the Prodigal Son, I cry out to You: "I have sinned in your sight, O Merciful Father: receive me 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 tot 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.'"

نشيد الختام (القنداق) باللحن الثالث
لمَّا نفرتُ من المجدِ الابوي بغباوة، بذّرتُ في الشرورِ الثروةَ التي أعطيتنيها. لذلك أَصرخُ إليكَ كالابنِ الشاطر: خطئتُ أَمامَك، أَيها الآبُ الرؤوف. فاقبلني تأئباً واجعلني كأَحدِ أُجرائِك.

مقدمة الرسالة
لتكُنْ يا ربُ رحمتُكَ علينا، بحسبِ اتكالِنا عليك .. إبتهجوا أَيها الصدّيقونَ بالربّ، بالمستقيمينَ يليقُ التسبيح
الرسالة (1كورنثس 6: 12-20)
يا اخوة. كل شيء يجوز لي، ولكن ليس كل شيء ينفع. كل شيء يجوز لي، ولكن لا يتسلَّط عليَّ شيء. ان الاطعمة للجوف والجوف للاطعمة. وسَيُبيدُ الله هذا وتلك. أما الجسد فليس للزنى بل للرب. والربُ للجسد والله قد أقام الرب. وسيقيمنا نحنُ أيضاً بقوته. أما تعلمون ان اجسادكم هي أعضاء المسيح؟ أَفآخذ أعضاء المسيح واجعلها اعضاء زانية؟ حاشى. أوما تعلمون ان من اقترن بزانية يصير معها جسداً واحداً؟ لانه قد قيل: يصيرانِ كلاهما جسداً واحداً. أما الذي يقترنُ بالرب فيكونَ معه روحاً واحداً. اهربوا من الزنى. ان كل خطيئةٍ يفعلها الإنسان هي خارج الجسد. أما الزنى فإنة يجرم الى الجسده. أوما تعلمون ان أجسادكم هي هيكلُ الروح القدسِ الذي فيكم، الذي نلتموه من اللهَ، وأنكم لستم لانفسكم. لانكم قد اشتُريتم بثمنٍ كريم؟ فمجدوا الله اذن في جسدكم وروحكم اللذين هما لله
هللويا ... الله هو المنتقمُ لي، ومخضعَ الشعوبَ تحتي .. المعظِّمُ خلاص الملك، والصانعُ رحمةً إلى مسيحه

انجيل الابن الشاطر لوقا 15: 11 - 32)
قال الرب هذا المثل: إنسان كانَ لهُ ابنَان. فقالَ أصغرهم لأبيه: يا أَبت أَعطني نصيبي من المال. فقسم بينهما أَمواله. وبعد أَيام غير كثيرة جمع الابن الاصغر كل شيء له وسافر إلى بلدٍ بعيد. وبذّر ماله هناك عائشاً في الخلاعة. فلمَّا أنفق كل شيء له، حدثت في ذلك البلد مجاعة شديدة. فأَخذ في العوز. فذهب وانضوى الى واحد من أَهل ذلك البلد. فأَرسلهُ الى حُقُوله يرعى الخنازير، وكان يشتهي أَن يملأ بطنه من الخرنوب الذي كانت الخنازير تأكله، ولم يعطه أحد. فرجع الى نفسه وقال. كم لأَبي من أُجراء يفضل عنهم الخبز، وأَنا اهلك جوعاً. أَقومُ وأَمضي إلى أَبي وأَقولُ له: يا أَبتِ قد خطئتُ إلى السماءِ وامَامَك. ولستُ مُستَحِقاً بعدُ أَن أُدعى لكَ ابناً، فاجعلني كأَحدِ أُجرائك. فقَامَ وجاءَ إلى أَبيه. وفيما هو بعيد، رآه أبوه فتحرَّكت أحشاؤه. وأَسرع وأَلقى بنفسه على عنقه وقبَّله. فقال له الابن: يا أَبتِ قد خَطئتُ إلى السماءِ وأَمَامَك، ولستُ مُستحقاً أَن أُدعى لكَ ابناً. فقالَ الاب لعبيده: هاتوا الحلَّة الاولى وألبسوه. واجعلوا خاتماً في يده وحذاءً في رجليه. وأَتو بالعجل المسمَّن واذبحوه فنأكلُ ونفرح. لأنَ ابني هذا كان ميتاً فعاش، وكان ضالاً فوجد. فطفقوا يفرحون. وكان ابنهُ الأكبر في الحقل. فلما أَتى وقَرُبَ من البيتِ سَمِعَ أَصواتَ الغناءَ والرقص. فدعا أَحدَ الغلمان وسأَله ما عسى أَن يكون هذا. فقال له: قد قَدُمَ أَخوكَ، فَذَبحَ أَبوكَ العجلَ المسمَّن، لأنه لقيهُ سالماً. فَغَضِبَ ولَمْ يُرِدْ أَن يدخُل. فَخَرَجَ أَبوه وطَفِقَ يتضرَّعُ اليه. فأَجابَ وقالَ لأبيه كم لي من السنين أَخْدُمُكَ ولَمْ أَتعدَّ وصيتكَ قطّ. وأَنت لم تعطني قط جدياً لأَفرحَ مع أَصدقائي. ولما جاءَ ابْنُكَ هذا الذي أَكل أَموالكَ مع الزواني، ذبحتَ له العجلَ المسمَّن. فقالَ لهُ يا ابني أَنت معي في كل حين، وكلُ ما هوَ لي هوَ لكَ. ولكن كانَ ينبغي أَن نَتَنعَّمَ ونَفرح. لأَنَّ أَخاك هذا كان ميتاً فعاش، وكان ضالاً فَوُجِدْ.

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.

Divine Liturgy Intentions

TODAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022: SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON. NINTH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER.

9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

+ **REV. ARCHDEACON GEORGE YANY & ANGELA MAZZONE** by Joe & Yolanda Saggal.
+ **MICHAEL & MARY KOUSSA & MARYLYN POMMENVILLE** by the Domaney & Koussa Family
+ **STEVEN KANAKRY** by Catherine Kando.
+ **FREDERICK KOUSSA** by Ronald & Mary Ann DiGregorio.
+ **MARGARET SABBAGH** by Faiz Albatal.
+ **VICTORIA PROCHNIAK** by Jim & Mary Briden.
+ **LILLIAN NASSANEY** by Thomas & Joanne Sabbagh.

11:15 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY:

+ **ANTHONY NAJJAR (1st Anniv.)** by his wife & children.
+ **ADEL ALBATAL (1st Anniv.)** by the Family.
+ **MAMOUN NEIMA (1st Anniv.)** by the Family.
+ **SOUHAIL & HAIAT ALBATAL** by the Family.
+ **ADELE YOUNES** by Youakim Family.
+ **LAYLA ANGELA CHARETTE (5th Anniv.)** by her grandparents Nick & Joyce Kayata
+ **GEORGETTE S. SAGGAL** by M/M Justin Boudjouk & Family.
+ **YVONNE COLABELLA** by Nelly Kishfy.
+ **GEORGETTE A. SAGGAL** by Zenon & Joelle Lozinski.
+ **MARY TAHAN** by Norman & Diane Kishfy.
+ **YUSUF MUSSALLI** by Elias & Barbara Deeb.
+ **BLANCHE MUSSALLI** by Rob & Chantal Simon.
+ **GEORGEANNA DECKEY** by George & Sherine Mussalli & Family.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING: February 6, 2022**:** Budgets: $3,821.00: (Envelopes: $3,810, Loose: $11.00); Candles: $76.00; Stipends: $335.00; Melkite Diocesan Support: $135.00; Building Fund: $160.00; Donations: $772.00.

TODAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022, there will be a special collection taken up for your **FUEL OFFERINGS.** Help defray the cost of heating the Church and rectory, as prices are escalating rapidly. We must remember that utilities are more than doubled in our new complex. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022, there will be a special collection taken up for the **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.** Please be generous in your support to help defray the cost of paper stock, visual aids, and all that is involved to perfect our program and meet present day standards in this field of education.

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.

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.

Canon Law prohibits accepting stipends or offerings for Liturgies more than one year in advance (rolling calendar) Canon 953. The time within which Liturgies must be celebrated (1 year) begins the day the intention is received. (Canon 955 #2). Formerly under the jurisdiction of the local Latin Ordinaries before the Exarchate was established under the leadership of the late Bishiop 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.every day clergy attire, stipends (Liturgy 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Presently effective, the schedule of offerings in the parishes is now: Liturgies: $25.00; Funerals: $300.00; Weddings: $300.00; Baptisms: $100.00.

Thus far, all Liturgy Offerings received from Funerals, which exceeded more than one year or even more, have had the maximum and minimum celebrations. Surplus ones have been deposited in the Building Fund, and placed on the altar and remembered collectively, similar to the customs of Spiritual Bouquets, Perpetual Mass Enrollments & Memorial Cards, as in Chapels, Shrines, & Monasteries.

May the memories of our beloved deceased rest in peace & be eternal. Many thanks for your understanding and undivided attention in regard to these canonical guidelines and restrictions.

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.

CUMBERLAND/LINCOLN LIONS CLUB offers a general scholarship for a graduating senior from area high schools who is a Cumberland or Lincoln resident. The scholarship is for $1,000 and the application deadline is Tuesday, March 15. One of our parishioners, BAHJAT ALKOURY, was the recipient of the last scholarship. Our deepest congratulations and best wishes to him on this award. May this year be an incentive for other parishioners to apply.

Another Scholarship is given to a Cumberland or Lincoln resident studying in the medical field – doctor, nurse, pharmacist, therapist, CNA, etc. Applicants should be college or university students already enrolled in a related college program. The scholarship is for $1,000 and the deadline for the application is Friday, April 15.

Applications for both scholarships are currently available to download at the Cumberland/Lincoln Lions website,http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/cumberlandri. For more information, contact Mark Jackman, president of the Cumberland/Lincoln Lions Club at markjackman117@gmail.com.

FATHER DAN UPDATE: Dear loved ones, family and friends: Personally, I have much to be thankful for this past year. Eight months after my cancer operation, there is no sign of a return of sarcoma. The hole left by the removal of the tumor and calf muscle is almost closed. And I am now doing ministry here at our Tewksbury residence and in local parishes. I have been able to accept more responsibilities within the community, including driving my brothers to local appointments and solving computer and loud-speaker problems. I have been giving monthly conferences and have been asked if I could start up again weekly talks as I did before going to White Earth. Until the provincial gives me an assignment, I shall be serving here. I may not know my future, but I do know God is with us. I love you all and keep you present in my prayers morning and night. And, even if Covid keeps getting in the way of free travel, you are always with me. May your Christmas not only be merry, but blessed, full of Christ Child's graces, and the New Year under the promised protection of our Blessed Mother. - *Father Dan.*

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

2022 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available – free for the taking – at the entrance 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.

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD, please remember to remove any chewing gum before entering the church building. Also, please place your pagers and cell phones on silent.

2021 BUDGET STATEMENT AVAILABLE: It is that time of year to start thinking about the preparation of your 2021 Federal Income Tax Returns. Statements of your offerings to the Church for 2021 will only be issued upon request. If you would like a statement, please contact Father Joe at the rectory at 401-722-1345. To those who have been using envelopes, we extend our thanks and a reminder to please mark the amount enclosed which facilitates the recording of your contributions and allows for more accuracy.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD!!!

REFLECTION: Hostile words hold us hostage to hate. Hopeful words help us heal our hurts.

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.

زمن التيريودي.... زمن الرجوع إلى الله

الصوم هو استمرار لفعل التوبة، والتوبة تعنى القيام المستمر والارتماء في حضن الآب... حيث نكتشف قلب الله غير المحدود في المحبة، لذلك تقرأ الكنيسة لنا هذا الأسبوع عن الابن الضال... حيث أقوم وأرجع إلى أبي. نحن نتذمر على الله ونعتب ونقول ربنا تركنا والحقيقة نحن الذين نذهب إلى كورة الخنازير وعندما نرجع نكتشف حقيقة أبدية: إن محبة الله لا يمكن أن ت نقص، بل على العكس يزداد تعمقنا في اكتشافها.

والقصد من التوبة هو اكتشاف غنى بيت الآب ، غنى الكنيسة. فيها الحلة الأولى (المعمودية)، فيها الخاتم علامة الشركة الدائمة مع الآب، وفيها العجل المسمن- هذه وليمة الألف سنة (جسد الرب ودمه الدائم على المذبح).
ومن أجمل مميزات التوبة الفرح ... وهذا الفرح أكبر مشجع في الرحلة... فرح أولاد الله التائبين بأبيهم حول المائدة السماوية (المذبح) فرح لا ينطق به ومجيد. إنها طبيعة الكنيسة التائبة. التي تعيش دائمًا في الفرح الدائم، والفرح بالمسيح هو زاد الكنيسة في رحلة صومها وجهادها المقدس.

وقصة الابن الضال لها ثلاثة أركان:

1- أبوة الله لنا:
يبدأ حديث إشعياء في أول أيام الأسبوع عن هذه الأبوة: "هاأنذا والأولاد الذين أعطيتهم الآب " (إش 8: 18).
فقصة الابن الضال هي بالأكثر تكشف عن قلب الآب المحب وشوقه لرجوع ابنه، "وإذ كان لم يزل بعيدًا رآه أبوه فتحنن وركض ووقع على عنقه وقبله" (لو 15: 20).
2- الخطية:
"وإذا قالوا اطلبوا إلى أصحاب التوابع العرافين.. ." (إش 8: 19).
"فيعبرون فيها مضايقين وجائعين. ويكون حينما يجوعون أنهم يحنقون... وينظرون إلى الأرض وإذا شدة ظلمة قتام الضيق وإلى الظلام هم مطرودون" (إش 8: 21، 22) "الجالسون في أرض ظلال الموت الشعب السالك في الظلمة" (إش 21، 22).
أليست هذه هي تصرفات الابن الضال:
بدل أن يسأل أباه سأل أصدقاءه الأشرار الذين قادوه للعرافين... كأن ليس له أب أو إله.
الأرض التي ذهب إليها يقول عنها إشعياء أنها أرض ضيقة وجوع وظلام ويعيشون فيها غرباء (مطرودين)، وهذه نفس أوصاف ربنا عن أنها كانت أرض الخنازير، وكان يشتهي أن يملأ بطنه منها وهو في حالة جوع.
هذه هي ثمار الخطية وصفها لنا إشعياء النبي في أسبوع الابن الضال.

3- التوبة:
1- التوبة هي رجوع وخضوع للآب والتلمذة له:
فيقول النبي: "صرَّ الشهادة اختم الشريعة بتلاميذي" (إش 8: 16).
فاشعياء يكشف لنا أن التوبة هي تلمذة لوصايا ربنا يسوع وهي في ذات الوقت شهادة (صر الشهادة).
فالشخص التائب هو أكبر شاهد لعمل نعمة المسيح فيه، والعصر الذي تعيش فيه الكنيسة اليوم يتوقف على قوة التوبة فيها، كما ذكرنا أيضًا هنا في موقع الأنبا تكلا هيمانوت في أقسام أخرى. فكنيسة ليس فيها توبة مستمرة هي كنيسة جامدة، أما كنيسة تعيش أفرادها حياة التوبة فتكون شاهد لعمل المسيح وتجذب إليها ا لآخرين.
2- والتوبة هي "مخافة الرب وحياة القداسة":
فيقول إشعياء: "قدسوا رب الجنود فهو خوفكم وهو رهبتكم". (إش 8: 13).
فكثيرون هذه الأيام يتحدثون عن التوبة بمنتهى البساطة إن التوبة هي دموع وتسمير مخافة الله في القلب كقول داود النبي: "سمر خوفك في لحمى" (مز 118). والقداسة هي ثمرة مخافة الرب، أما الاستهتار في التوبة وتسهيلها يؤدى إلى عدم المخافة وسرعة العودة للسقوط.
3- والتوبة هي السير في نور السيد المسيح:
"الشعب السالك في الظلمة أبصر نوراً عظيماً . الجالسون في أرض ظلال الموت أشرق عليهم نور" (إش 9: 2).
هل يوجد تعبير للتوبة أجمل من تعبير إشعياء، أي أنها الانتقال من الظلمة للنور ومن الموت للحياة.
"لأن ابني هذا كان ميتاً فعاش وكان ضالًا (في الظلام) فوجد (في النور)" (لو 15: 24)...
4- **والتوبة فرح**:
"عظمت لها الفرح، يفرحون أمامك كالفرح في الحصاد كالذين يبتهجون عندما يقتسمون غنيمة" (إش 9: 3). فدموع التوبة دموع مفرحة، وتعب الرجوع لحضن الآب ينتهي بفرح الأحضان والقبلات وذبح العجل المسمن، وقد قال الآب: "ينبغي أن نفرح" (لو 15: 23). "إنه فرح الملائكة" (لو 15: 7، 10)، " وفرح الجيران" (لو 15: 6)، وفرح الآب نفسه وفرح الابن (لو 15: 23- 25)، إن أفراح التوبة هي ثمرة الروح القدس العامل في الكنيسة- لذلك كنيسة بلا توبة في حياة أفرادها هي كنيسة بلا فرح، والعكس صحيح لأنه ليس هناك مصدر لفرح الروح القدس في الكنيسة إلاَّ توبة أولادها- فهيا بنا يا إخوتي في فترة الصوم نفرح الآب والسماء والملائكة والقديسين والكنيسة، ونفرح نحن بفرحهم.
5- والذين يلجئون لغير الله فليس لهم فخر (إش 8: 19):
الذين لم يرجعوا عن الطلب إلى أصحاب التوابع والعرافين... وأي شيء آخر غير الله- أي لم يتوبوا- فليس لهم فجر ولا حياة في النور مع السيد المسيح.
6 - **أخيرا ...**
ليست التوبة فقط هي البعد عن الخطية ولكنها هي أيضا fً الحياة الإيجابية مع السيد المسيح. وهذا أروع ما كتب عنه إشعياء في نهاية نبرات يوم الاثنين:
" ويولد لنا ولد ونعطى ا بناً وتكون الرياسة على كتفه ويدعى اسمه عجيب ا مشيراً إلهاً قديراً أباً أبدياً رئيس السلام. لنمو رياسته وللسلام لا نهاية" (إش 9: 6).
هذه الآية هي ختام لنبوة يوم الاثنين، حيث يبدأ أسبوع التوبة (الابن الضال) الذي هو صفة الصوم كله. وليتك تتأمل الربط العجيب بين الحديث عن الابن الضال ونبوات هذا اليوم...
التي تنتهي بالقول: "والسلام لا نهاية له لأنه ولد لنا ولد و أعطينا ا بناً هو ملك السلام".

A Robe, Ring, and Sandals

The parable of the Prodigal Son is likely one of the most quoted and most versatile of all the stories in the Gospels. And it is so because at various times in our lives it is easy to identify with one or all of these three characters. Of course our motives for identifying with them can be mixed, such as when we prefer to put ourselves in the shoes of the generous father. He has been deeply wronged, and his youngest son has been a keen disappointment. We've all been there. And there is more than a hint of disappointment to be found in the eldest son, who complains that he has not gotten proper recognition from the father. We've all been the aggrieved elder brother. But unlike the father, are there times when we've preferred to wallow in our grief and refuse to turn the page and move on?

We've also been in the shoes of the penitential son, who returns hat in hand from a wasted life, hoping to begin all over again. If the truth be told, most of us have a hard time imagining ourselves doing horrible things from which we need to repent. Repentance and change of life are generally what other people need to do, and each of us, without much trouble, could compile a list of friends and neighbors who are in need of a healthy dose of repentance.

More often than not, however, many of us prefer to be the older brother. We've been good boys and girls throughout life, been well-behaved, worked hard. But why is it that all the wicked people around us seem to prosper? Where is justice in this world?

So we end up with a story in which one person desperately wants forgiveness; a second wants to give it freely; and a third begrudges the easy forgiveness that the undeserving brother gets. But therein is the struggle that goes on daily in our lives.

Just for today let's pretend that we are not the generous father. Let's pretend that we are not the virtuous older brother who does everything right and gets so little recognition in return. For a moment, let's pretend, hypothetically of course, that we are the younger brother – the sinner, the wastrel, the guy who needs to turn his life around. If you have to, stretch your imagination on this, even if you've never been there.

For years there was an element in this parable that had never occurred to me, until someone pointed out to me how unconditional the father's love really is. There is no sequel to this parable, but if there were, it would not include a scene like this. Having forgiven his son on Monday, the father wakes up on Tuesday and begins a lifetime of nagging his son – a lifetime of reminding his son of how much he had forgiven him. On the contrary, the parable assumes there will be no daily reminders of the ridiculous life his son had led, because the father has moved on emotionally. He's wiped the son's slate clean, but the father has also rid himself of any memory of disappointment that could haunt him for the rest of his life. He counts his blessings and leaves the burden of his son's sins behind him.

And so for the father this story of forgiveness is wonderfully liberating. But it is liberating for the son too. For the son the reconciliation is genuine. There is no burden of sin to contend with. There is the joy of having a clean slate on which to write the next stage of his life, and an appreciation of how generous his father had been. And while the absence of a sequel to the parable lets us guess, I'd like to think that on Tuesday the prodigal son starts his life all over – with a vengeance. We have to assume that after forgiveness on Monday, he does not resume his old ways on Tuesday. Instead, there is a genuine conversion experience. He's gotten another chance, and with forgiveness has come responsibility. With his father's forgiveness and love, he now can't go back. His commitment must be total and complete and be lived out every day. He must be a new man, building on the gifts that were already there but never used before.

There's one other piece to the parable that makes it perfect for this Investiture vigil. At the welcome home, after the son has repented and committed himself to a new life, the father clothes him in a colorful robe. Whatever else that robing accomplished, it most definitely was not meant to honor his son's past life. Rather, it was a sign to the son and to everyone else that something important had taken place. He was the same old son, but he is a new son, and acceptance of the robe is a sign of a covenant between the repentant son and the loving father. The son cannot go back to the old ways, because the robe is a reminder to everyone of the new responsibility that the son accepts.

You and I are repentant sons and daughters as we approach the altar this afternoon. God is our loving father, and we know that his forgiveness is complete. We should also know that if today we are the perfect and aggrieved elder brother, then we don't need the robe that symbolizes a change of life. The robe is for those who need to repent; the robe is for those who commit their lives in response to a loving father.

Though we reject him, God never rejects us! He lovingly awaits our coming to him - with arms wide open - longing to receive and restore to us - without hesitation - critically needed "property" as are these "gifts": A Robe - Forgiveness, covering our sin and shame (love, grace), A Ring - Restored Identity and Belonging to his family (value), Sandals - Renewed Purpose and Meaning for Life (hope)

The Lord invites us as a loving Father to confess, to amend our lives, and to walk always in his paths. If we choose to do this, the Lord will always walk with us.

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

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Liturgical Calendar

FEBRUARY

شباط – فبراير
2022

JANUARY 2022

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					

MARCH 2022

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		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Preparation of Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple 1 Peter 3:10-22 Mark 12:18-27	**2** **Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple** دخول السيد إلى الهيكل Hebrews 7:7-17 Luke 2:22-40	**3** Sts Simeon & Anna Hebrews 9:11-14 Luke 2:25-38	**4** St Isidore of Pelusium 2 Peter 1:1-10 Mark 13:1-8	**5** St Agatha 2 Timothy 2:11-19 Luke 18:2-8
6 **Publican & Pharisee Sunday** أحد الفرّيسيّ والعشّار 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14	**7** St Luke the Greek 2 Peter 1:20-2:9 Mark 13:9-13	**8** Holy Prophet Zechariah 2 Peter 2:9-22 Mark 13:14-23	**9** Leave-taking of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord 2 Peter 3:1-18 Mark 13:24-31	**10** St Charalampos 1 John 1:8-2:6 Mark 13:31-14:2	**11** St Blaise 1 John 2:7-17 Mark 14:3-9	**12** St Meletios 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 20:45-21:4
13 **Sunday of the Prodigal Son** أحد الابن الشاطر 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Luke 15:11-32	**14** St Maron the Hermit 1 John 2:18-3:8 Mark 11:1-11	**15** St Onesimos 1 John 3:9-22 Mark 14:10-42	**16** St Pamphilos and his companions 1 John 3:21-4:11 Mark 14:43-15:1	**17** St Theodore 1 John 4:20-5:21 Mark 15:1-15	**18** St Leo, Pope of Rome 2 John 1-13 Mark 15:22, 25, 33-41	**19** **First Saturday of the dead** السبت الاول للراقدين 1 Corinthians 10:23-29 Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
20 **Meat-fare Sunday** أحد مرفع اللحم 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Matthew 25:31-46	**21** Holy Father Timothy 3 John 1-13 Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39	**22** Relics of Martyrs at Eugenios Jude 1-10 Luke 22:39-23:1	**23** St Polycarp of Smyrna Romans 14:6-9 Matthew 26:57-75	**24** Discoveries of the Head of John the Forerunner 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Matthew 11:2-15	**25** St Tarasios Ephesians 5:8-19 John 19:25-37	**26** Saturday of Ascetics سبت جميع الأباء النساك Romans 14:19-23; 6:25-27 Matthew 6:1-13
27 **Cheese-fare Sunday** أحد مرفع الجبن Romans 13:11-14:4 Matthew 6:14-21	**28** **Beginning of Holy and Great Fast** بدء الصوم المقدس الكبير 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Luke 21:8-36					

Church Major Feasts · Abstain from Meat · Fast from midnight until noon · Lenten Season

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. (Ps 23:1)

اَلرَّبُّ رَاعِيَّ فَلاَ يُعْوِزُنِي شَيْءٌ.

Prayer for Lent

"O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness, the lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to your servant. Yes, O Lord, and King grant me to see my own sin and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed from all ages to all ages. Amen"

(Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian)

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated

At St. Elias's Chapel
(St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church)
Tuesday to Friday at 9:00 am

Sunday Divine Liturgy :
English at 9:00 am—Arabic at 11:15 am

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

LITURGY OR MASS INTENTIONS

Divine Liturgy 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 since1976 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.

Announcements

Welcome to

St. Basil The Great
Melkite Greek Catholic Church

Check our website
for Church news and updates at
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Contact us for information and ideas
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"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.

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MYO Bake Sale

Fundraiser on Sunday, February 13

after both Divine Liturgies

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Eligibility information and applications can be found on the AEF website or Facebook. For more information, Please contact AEF board member at aef1966@cox.net

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2022

VISIT www.aef-ri.org

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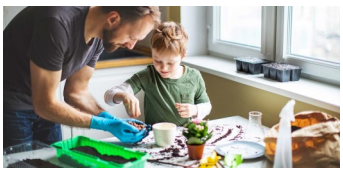

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