



February 4, 2024

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 Liturgy

Winter Schedule Begins This week

Saturday: 9:00 AM

Sunday: 11:15 AM

Pastoral Emergencies and anointing of the sick

(401)722-1345

Holy Mysteries

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before and after 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 Meat-Fare - 3rd Day of Celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord - Commemoration of our Holy Father Isidore of Pelusium

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 3)

Let all in heaven rejoice, and all on earth be glad, for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: By death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn from the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted to the world great mercy

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثالث
لتفرح السماويات، وتبتهج الارضيات. لأن الرب صنع
عزاً بساعده، ووطىء الموت بالموت، وصار بكر
الاموات، وأنقذنا من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم
عظيم الرحمة.

Troparion of the Encounter (Tone 1)

Hail, O Full of grace, Virgin and Mother of God: for 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, our Resurrection.

نشيد دخول ربنا يسوع المسيح الى الهيكل باللحن
الاول
إفرحي يا والدة الاله العذراء الممثلة نعمة، لأنه منك
أشرق شمس العدل المسيح إلهنا، منيراً الذين هم في
الظلام. وافرح أنت أيها الشيخ الصديق، قابلاً على
ذراعيك مُعْتِق نفوسنا، والمتعم علينا بالقيامة.

Troparion of St Basil

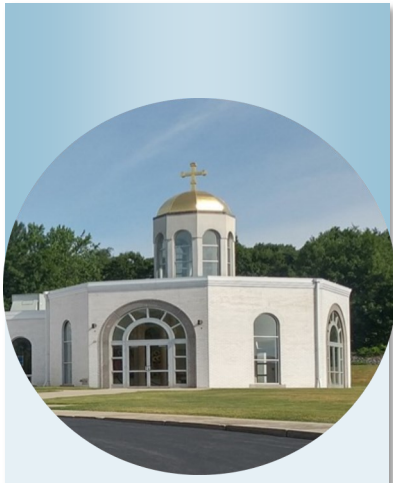
Your voice has sounded all over the earth, that accepted your preaching. You gave a divine explanation of doctrine, and made clear the nature of creatures, and set a rule of life for men. Holy Father, and Kingly Priest, intercede with Christ God to grant us great mercy.

طوبارية القديس باسيليوس
لقد ذاع منطقتك في كل الأرض. فانها قد قبِلت
كلامك، الذي به بينت العقائد بياناً إلهياً، وأوضحت
طبيعة الكائنات، ونظمت أخلاق البشر. فيا أيها الأب
البابؤ ذو الكهنوت الملوكي، إنتهل إلى المسيح الإله في
خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Encounter (Tone 1)

O Christ our God, who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal 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.

قنداق الختام باللحن الاول
أيتها المسيح الإله، يا من بمولده قدس المستودع
البتولي، وبارك يدي سمعان كما يليق، لقد بادرت
الآن أيضاً وخلصتنا. فاحفظ رعيتك بسلام في
الحروب، وأبد عبيدك الذين أحببتهم، أيتها المحب
البشر وحده.



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>



PROKIMENON: Psalm 117:14,18 (Tone 2)

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.

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
Brethren, food does not commend us to God. For neither shall we gain any advantage if we eat, nor suffer any loss if we do not. And yet, beware lest perhaps this right of yours become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if a man sees you who "have knowledge" sitting at table in a place dedicated to idols, will not his conscience, weak as it is, be emboldened to eat idol offerings? And through your "knowledge" the weak one will perish, the brother for whom Christ died. Now, when you sin in this way against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food scandalizes my brother, I will never again eat any more meat so as not to scandalize my brother.

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? And if to others I am not an apostle, yet to you I am. For you are the seal set upon my apostleship in the Lord

ALLELUIA: Psalm 19:1; 27:9 (Tone 2)

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 people and bless your inheritance.

GOSPEL: Mt. 25:31-46, Sunday of Meat-Fare

The Lord said, "At that time when the Son of Man shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory; and before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on His right hand, Come, blessed of My Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; naked and you covered Me; sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the just will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You; or thirsty, and give You to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and take You in; or naked, and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen I say to you, every time you did it for one of these, the least of My brethren, you did it for Me.' Then He will say to those on His left hand, 'Go away from Me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his ministers. For I was hungry, and you did not give Me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger, and you did not take Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Amen I say to you as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for Me.' And these will go into everlasting punishment, but the just into everlasting life."

مقدمة الرسالة

الربُّ قوتي وتسيبي، لقد كان لي خلاصاً
أدبني الربُّ تأديباً، وإلى الموت لم يُسلمني

الرسالة (1 كورنثس 8: 8 إلى 9: 2)
يا إخوة، إنَّ الطَّعامَ لا يَفْرِّقُنَا إلى الله، لأنَّنا إنَّ أَكَلْنَا
لَمْ نَرُدِّدْ وَإِنَّ لَمْ نَأْكُلْ لَمْ نَنقُصْ. ولكن احذروا ان
يكونَ سُلطانكم هذا معثرةً للضعفاء. فإنه إن رآك
أحدٌ، أنت الذي لك العلم، مُتَكَبِّراً في بيت الاوثان،
أفلا يتقوَّى ضميره، إذ هو ضعيف، على أكل ذبائح
الاوثان؟ فيهلك، بسبب علمك، الأخ الضعيف
الذي مات المسيح لأجله. وهكذا إذ تخطئون إلى
الاخوة، وتجرحون ضميرهم الضعيف، انما
تخطئون إلى المسيح. فلذلك إن كان الطَّعامُ
يشكُّك أخي، فلا أكل اللحم إلى الابد، لنألاً أشكُّك
أخي. ألسنتُ رسولا؟ ألسنتُ حراً؟ أما رأيتُ يسوع
المسيح زينا؟ ألسنتم أنتم عملي في الرب؟ إن لم
أكن رسولا إلى آخرين، فإني رسول اليكم، لأنِّي
خاتم رسالي هو أنتم في الرب.

هللوا

ليستجلب لك الربُّ في يوم الضيق، ليعضدك
اسمُ إله يعقوب
خلصن يا ربُّ شعبك، وبارك ميراثك

أحد مرفع اللحم

الانجيل (متى 25: 31-46)

قال الرب: متى جاء ابن الانسان في مجده، وجميع
الملائكة القديسين معه، حينئذٍ يجلس على عرش
مجده. وتُجمَعُ لديه كل الامم فيمَيِّزُ بعضهم من
بعض، كما يُمَيِّزُ الراعي الخراف من الجداء. ويقبم
الخراف عن يمينه والجداء عن يساره. حينئذٍ
يقول الملك للذين عن يمينه: تعالوا يا مباركي أبي،
رثوا الملك المعد لكم منذ انشاء العالم. لأنني
جعت فأطعمتموني، وعطشْتُ فسقَّمتوني، كنتُ
غريباً فأويئتموني، وعرياناً فكسوتموني، ومريضاً
فعدتموني، وكنتُ محبوساً أتيتم إليّ. حينئذٍ
يجيبه الصديقون قائلين: يا رب، متى رأيناك جائعاً
فأطعمناك، أو عطشاناً فسقيناك، ومتى رأيناك
غريباً فأويئناك، أو عرياناً فكسوناك. ومتى رأيناك
مريضاً أو محبوساً فأتينا إليك؟ فيجيبُ الملك
ويقول لهم: الحق أقول لكم، إنكم كلما فعلتم ذلك
بأحد إخوتي هؤلاء الصغار في فعلتموه. حينئذٍ
يقول أيضاً للذين عن يساره: اذهبوا عني يا
ملاعين إلى النار الابدية المعدة لإبليس وملأكته.
لأنني جعت فلم تطعموني، وعطشْتُ فلم
تسقوني، وكنتُ غريباً فلم تؤوئني، وعرياناً فلم
تكسوني، ومريضاً ومحبوساً فلم تزوروني. حينئذٍ
يجيبونه هم أيضاً ويقولون: يا رب متى رأيناك
جائعاً أو عطشاناً أو غريباً أو عرياناً أو مريضاً أو
محبوساً ولم نخدمك؟ حينئذٍ يُجيبُ ويقول لهم:
الحق أقول لكم، كلما لم تفعلوا ذلك بأحد هؤلاء
الصغار في لم تفعلوه. فيذهب هؤلاء إلى عقاب
أبدي، والصديقون إلى الحياة الابدية.



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

THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024: EIGHTH SUNDAY BEFORE PASCHA. SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE.

9:00 a.m:

- + **LOUISE AMEEN (8th Anniv.)** by Judy Wilchynski.
- + **WALTER R. MOON (Birthday Remem.)** by his sister, Shirley.
- + **ANITA & JOSEPH BRULE** by M/M Norman E. Kishfy & Family.
- + **JULIA, FRED, ELIAS J. KISHFY** by M/M Norman E. Kishfy,

11:15 a.m:

- + **ROSE & HUNEIN KHOURY** by Micheline Ghanem.
- + **VICTOURIA GEORGE ALCHIKH** by Farid & Ebtisam Dib & Family.
- + **YOUSEF GEORGI DEEB** by M/M Gabriel Peters.
- + **MAGEE MARTINEZ** by Deacon Gilbert & Mimi Altongy.
- + **JOHN R. ROWEY** by Najib & Seda Hana.
- + **JOSEPH P. HANNA** by Elias & Barbara Deeb.





SACRIFICIAL GIVING: January 28, 2024: Budgets: \$2,282.00 (Envelopes: \$2,235.00; Loose: \$47.00; Candles: \$84.00; Stole Offerings: \$250.00; Building Fund: \$40.00; Melkite Diocesan Support: \$230.00; Addit'l Fuel: \$20.00.

Father Ephrem has now been here three and a half years and has been fully available for 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 this New Year.

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

2024 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are available-free for the taking-at both entrances of the Church. 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.

REFLECTION: "Deal with the faults of others as gently as your own." - *Chinese Proverb*

ANY NEEDS OR THOUGHTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, SUGGESTIONS, ETC. that you may have, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Parish Advisory Council or any standing committee immediately. Explanations/Corrections/Discussions/Changes will never be made unless all bring these concerns to us. Let us remain the united and caring community that we are.

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.

RHODE ISLAND CATHOLIC'S ANNUAL FEBRUARY SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN is underway. To subscribe to your national award-winning diocesan newspaper, just drop the specially marked Subscription Drive weekly envelope into the collection basket; log onto w.w.w.thercatholic.com and click Subscribe at the left order renew and even pay for your subscription online with a credit or debit card or call the newspaper's Circulation Desk at 272-1010 to subscribe by phone. Your Diocesan Newspaper depends on its faithful readers to continue its 146th year mission of bringing the good news of the church to your home each week. Subscription only \$30 per year.

CLEANLINESS AND 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!

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE of any change of address or telephone number information. This will cut down on returned mail and time waste. Unfortunately, this has been an ongoing request but to no avail. Kindly give this your undivided attention and as Our Lord says in His parables: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Thank you!

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.





The fellowship committee will be holding elections for chairperson, co-chair, and secretary at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the cultural center. Anyone who is interested or who would like to nominate someone for a position please contact

Sandra Elias at (401) 617-8433.

Following Jesus Kids bulletin



Corporal Works of Mercy



Feed
the
Hungry



Shelter
the
Homeless



Give
Drink to
the Thirsty



Care
for the
Sick



Clothe
the
Naked



Visit the
Imprisoned




Bury
the
Dead

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

Adapted by Fr Vitalii Stashkevych (BCC) for the Gregorian Calendar

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week JANUARY 21 ST	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week JANUARY 28 TH	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 4 TH FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 11 TH FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1 ST Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 18 TH	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2 ND Sunday of Lent FEBRUARY 25 TH	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3 RD Sunday of Lent MARCH 3 RD	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 10 TH	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5 TH Sunday of Lent MARCH 17 TH	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24 TH GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MARCH 29 TH	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MARCH 31 ST NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

The Sheep and the Goats



This Sunday the Church offers for us to contemplate on the Last Judgment, which is to come. In the Creed we say, "...He [Christ] shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead..." We are still awaiting the Second Coming, and Jesus promised that He will return (see Mark 13).

In the reading for this Sunday the Lord gives us, a rather brief, description of what will happen when He comes again, and calls all (living and the dead) to the judgement, the Final Judgement.

If you read through the Gospel above and find yourself a bit scared, then good! Christ's words should instill some fear in us. And fear is good. In both the Psalms and Proverbs we find this verse, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10 & Proverbs 9:10). Yes, the Lord is both compassionate and loving, but He is also the Judge, and His judgment is just. Meaning, if we choose to follow Him today, right now, then He will judge according to that. If we choose to abandon Him, however, His judgment will also reflect that. God desires nothing less than our salvation, but He will not change Who He is and His judgment based on our desires.

I would like for us to focus on three aspects from the reading:

1. Why sheep vs goats?
2. Grace & works
3. Who are the least of Christ's brothers and sisters?

Why sheep vs goats?

What did goats ever do to be compared to the condemned sinners? What is so special about sheep that they are the symbol of the righteous?

Keep in mind that Christ calls Himself the Good Shepherd and we are His herd, His sheep.

Both sheep and goats were considered clean according to the Jewish Law, but there are some differences between them. Sheep were considered more valuable than goats, and were usually raised in greater numbers, and were much more obedient. The last part is very important here - the sheep are obedient.

The shepherd walks in front of his sheep because they follow him. While the goats tend to go on their own and do their own thing. That's why sheep illustrate the righteous people - they follow the Shepherd's voice and are gently and productive. The goats, on the other hand, indicate the unrighteous people (the cursed ones) because they go on their own way, without paying attention to the Shepherd.

Grace & works.

For centuries now there have been debates among Christians about the grace of God and our works. Are we saved by the grace of God alone? Or is our salvation dependent on our good works? Is it both or neither?

The Orthodox Church has always taught, based on the words of Christ, that we are saved by the grace of God. But this does not mean that our behavior is irrelevant, as this Sunday's reading clearly illustrates.

The righteous people will be saved, inherit the Kingdom of God prepared for them, because they do something right. They feed the hungry, welcome the strangers, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. But that's not really the point. The point is that they do it without even thinking about it twice.

That's what separates the sheep from goats, the righteous from the cursed, those who are saved from those who are condemned. Right now, right at this moment, all of us are saved. Christ has died on the Cross, and resurrected, trampling down death by death, and bringing salvation to the humanity. Our behavior is the reflection of this fact. If we truly believe that we are saved, then we will act accordingly, that is feed the hungry, welcome the strangers, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned, etc.

In other words, we are not saved because of our supposed good works, rather we do good works because we are saved, because God has bestowed His grace on us. Our behavior is the reflection of our salvation.

Does your behavior reflect your salvation? If not, and you are still breathing, then you still have time to change that!

Who are the least of Christ's brothers and sisters?

The least among Christ's brothers and sisters can be anyone from the poor to His followers, but most importantly someone who is in need. Some of the Holy Fathers say that the poor are saved because they let others exercise their Christian love.

Why are they called the least? Because Christ's followers are humble, they do not seek self-exultation, they are the poor in spirit (for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven) (Matthew 5:3). They are also the least because they are literally poor. And all the poor are Christ's brothers and sisters.

Be an obedient sheep, rather than a free-spirited goat :)

because you are saved.

الخرفان والجداء



الفرق كبير من حيث السلوك بين الخراف والجداء. فالخراف معروفة كونها وديعة ومسالمة وهي تعيش ضمن جماعة واحدة وتعرف صوت الراعي وتتبعه (يوحنا 10: 14-16). أما الجداء فهي رمز للشراهة والشهوة. الجدي يُفضل العيش منفرداً كما أنه يتميز بالعدوانية والشراسة.

إن الدينونة سوف تكون على أساس معيار المحبة وأعمال الرحمة، كيف نسلك مع قريبنا وكيف نُظهر له محبتنا؟ لقد وضع الرب يسوع المحبة والرحمة معياراً للدينونة وللفضل بين اليمين واليسار أي المخلصين والهالكين. "كنت جاعاً وعطشاً، غريباً ومرمياً أو مسجوناً" فماذا فعلتم بي؟

لقد وحد الرب يسوع نفسه مع المُعذِّبين والمتألِّمين والمنبوذين، وهو يدعوهم "إخوتي الصغار" وكل ما عمله لأحد أخوة يسوع الصغار فهو يذهب إلى شخص السيد له المجد. إن خدمة المحتاج والغريب هي خدمة للمسيح نفسه. لقد وعت الكنيسة المقدسة أن الطريق إلى الله تمرّ عبر القريب.

يقول يوحنا الإنجيلي: "يا أولادي لا تُحَبِّ بالكلام ولا باللسان بل بالعمل والحق" (1 يوحنا 3: 18) ويُضيف التلميذ الحبيب: "إذا قال أحدُني أحبُّ الله وأبغضَ أخاه فهو كاذب لأن من لا يُحب أخاه الذي أبصره كيف يقدر أن يُحب الله الذي لم يُبصره، من يُحب الله يحب أخاه أيضاً" (1 يوحنا 4: 20-21).

القدّيس يعقوب يسأل ما هي منفعة الإيمان بدون أعمال؟

"إن كان أخ وأخت عريانين ومعتازين للقوت اليومي فقال لهما أحدكم امضيا بسلام استدفئا واشبعا ولكن لم تعطوهما حاجات الجسد فما المنفعة؟ هكذا الإيمان أيضاً إن لم يكن له أعمال ميتٌ في ذاته (يعقوب 2: 14-17).

لقد أدركت الكنيسة الأولى أهمية خدمة الآخر المتألم عن طريقة المحبة والرحمة، القدّيس يوحنا الرحيم بطريرك الأسكندرية (619+) يعتبر نموذجاً مهماً. القدّيس باسيليوس الكبير (379+) تجسيدا لفعل الإيمان بالأعمال، بنى خارج مدينة قيصرية كبادوكية (تركيا حالياً) التي كان أسقفاً عليها، مدينة أخرى سماها مدينة المحبة أو (Basiliad)، كان مُجمَعاً خدماتياً ورعائياً متنوعاً يتضمن بالإضافة إلى الكنيسة، بيوت للفقراء، مستشفى ومضافة للغرباء وميتيم ومدارس مهنية لتأمين العمل ولقمة العيش للمحتاجين، التي أكسبتها شهرة عالمية كبيرة كونها كانت الأول من نوعها في العالم والذي يُجسِّد العمل الخيري المسيحي (Christian Philanthropy).

يقول القدّيس مكسيموس المُعترف: "كما أن التفكير بالنار لا يُدفا الجسد كذلك الإيمان من

إذا أتيت يا الله على الأرض بمجدٍ، فترتعد منك البرايا بأسرها، ونهز النار يجري أمام عرشك، والصُحف تُفْتَح، والخفايا تُشْهَر. فنَجِّنِي حينئذٍ من النار التي لا تُطفأ، وأهلِّني للوقوف عن يمينك أيها الدِّيان العادل". قنذاق أحد الدينونة.

هذا الأحد يُسمى أحد الدينونة أو أحد مرفع اللحم وهو الأحد الثالث من الأحد الأربعة التي تسبق الصيام الكبير (الصيام الأربعينين المقدس) والتي تُعرف بأحد التهنئة للصوم الأربعيني.

من بعد أن رأينا في الأحد السابقة، أي في أحد الفرّيسي والعشار وأحد الإبن الضال عن أهمية الاستعداد للصوم الكبير من خلال فضيلة التواضع والصلاة المنسحقة مع العشار وأهمية التوبة أو الرجوع إلى الله، مع الإبن الضال، يبرز موضع الدينونة والأعمال الصالحة في هذا الأحد.

أحد مرفع اللحم، هو اليوم الأخير المسموح فيه بأكل اللحم قبل الصوم الكبير وبدأ من يوم الإثنين نرفع اللحم عن الموائد المسيحية. أما الأحد القادم فهو مرفع الجبن وهو الأسبوع الأخير الذي يُسمح فيه بأكل البيض ومن يوم الإثنين يُرفع الجبن عن الموائد ويندأ بالصيام الكامل عن الرِّزِّين (اللحم والبيض).

القراءة الإنجيلية من إنجيل متى الإصحاح (25: 31-46) وهو يأتي من بعد الإصحاح التي تتضمن كلام الرب يسوع عن "علامات المجيء وانقضاء الدهر" والأمثال التي تليها عن السهر والإنّظار: ممثّل الخادم الأمين والعبد الرديء، ممثّل العذارى العشر ومثّل الوزنات.

في هذا الأحد تُشدّد الكنيسة على أن الصوم عن الطعام وحده لا يكفي إن لم يكن مُقترناً بالأعمال الصالحة. رسالة الأحد تشرح هذه الفكرة بقول الرسول بولس: "يا أخوة، إن الطعام لا يُقرِّبنا من الله، لأن إن أكلنا لا نزيد وإن لم نأكل لا ننقص" (1 كور 8: 8). يأتي الجواب على كيف ينبغي أن نسلك في الصوم في تعليم الرب يسوع عن الدينونة.

تعليم المسيح عن يوم الدينونة هو ليس بمثل بل هو وصف لما سيحدث في الأيام الأخير عند المجيء الثاني. هذا يؤكد حقيقة حدث الدينونة. نقول في دستور الإيمان عن المسيح أنه: "وأيضاً سيأتي بمجدٍ ليدين الأحياء والأموات". هذا يؤكد أن حدث الدينونة سوف يتم عند المجيء الثاني. سوف يدين الرب يسوع الجميع دون استثناء "سوف تُجمع إليه كل الأمم". نحن نصلي إلى الله الرحيم والشفوق والمُتحنن لكننا لا يمكن أن ننزل الله عن صفاته الأخرى وهي أنه الدِّيان العادل أيضاً والذي سيجازي كل إنسان حسب أعماله.

يقول الرب أنه سوف يفرز البشر إلى مجموعتين، إلى خراف وجداء، لقد استعمل الرب هذا التمييز على أساس أن كلا من الخراف والجداء هما من الحيوانات العاشبة ولكن

Weekly Divine Liturgy Schedule



The Divine Liturgy Schedule

Divine Liturgy

- Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:15 am

The Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation is available before and after the Divine Liturgy or by appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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As of 09/15/2023



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: \$329,240



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

Parish Community Facts:



Total Registered Families: 410



Active Families: 200



% of Active Families Participation: 55%

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

Current & Future Projects:



Church Roof Replacement: Project completed, final cost \$321,000.



Rectory Roof Replacement: Project completed, final cost \$18,850.



Church Window Repairs: Project completed, final cost \$9,000. Additional window was found to need repair, awaiting additional estimate.



HVAC & Boiler Replacement: Proposals received, estimated cost \$196,000. Boiler does need immediate replacing, awaiting timeframe. HVAC system is okay for now.



Flooring Upgrades: Proposal received, estimated cost \$50,000 (carpeting for Church, Cultural Center, office & hallway), awaiting samples and timeframe.



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



Interior Repairs, Expand Storage & HVAC Vent Cleaning: Partial proposals received. Vent cleaning completed, final cost \$9,020



Exterior/Masonry/Walkway Repairs: Awaiting proposals. Maintenance to mosaic of The Blessed Mother completed, cost \$8,000.



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



Central Air Conditioning and HVAC improvements to Rectory: Project completed, final cost \$56,665.

Important Highlights

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



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

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