

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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## THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

The annual Bishop's Appeal is an essential way in which our parish fulfills its duty to our larger Melkite family throughout the U.S. Our Father and Shepherd, Bishop Nicholas asks every Melkite household in the U.S. to give **at least \$100-\$200 each year** to support our Eparchy in America. By contributing to the Appeal, each of us responds to Christ's call to support our Church and helps to fund its vital works, such as: publishing *SOPHIA* magazine; supporting our seminarians for the Priesthood and Diaconate; providing for our elderly priests; teaching the Faith to our children and young adults; establishing/supporting new missions and outreaches.

**Those who give a gift of \$1000 or more will be automatically enrolled in the Order of Saint Nicholas, the charitable society of our Eparchy. It is the holy obligation of every member of our parish to support our Church as you are able. Please send your gift today. May God bless your generosity.**

## THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

For the apostles the cross represented the depth of the mystery of Christ. His passion showed the extent of His love for His people. *"Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end"* (Jn 13:1). It represents the totality of His incarnation. He became man in every way, accepting suffering, abandonment, and a painful death to be one with His creatures who endure such things every day. We can never portray our Savior as a "distant God" – He has shared the totality of humanity with us while remaining one with the Father.

**The Cross sign of Kenosis:** The profundity of His descent in order to share our humanity is expressed in the term *kenosis*. St Paul uses it in what has become a well-loved synopsis of the Christian's faith in the incarnation and its meaning for us. *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Phil 2:5-11).

In this passage St Paul describes the condescension of the Word of God to us. The only begotten Son and Word of God *"made Himself of no reputation"* by taking our nature, and then by accepting the degrading death of a convict, the cross.

This self-abasement or kenosis, however, resulted in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ in glory, proclaimed as Lord by *"every tongue."* St Paul saw the power of the cross uniting all peoples, even the Jews and Gentiles, separated by the barrier imposed by the Law. By His death Christ *"...abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity"* (Phil 2:15, 16). Not only all peoples but all creation was affected by the cross. *"... it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross"* (Col 1:19, 20).

**The Cross sign of Unity:** Through the cross Christ overcomes all the divisions and separations in creation, bringing everything to the fullness and unity which was designed at the original creation and then lost. The idea of God emptying Himself and being crucified appeals to no human logic. The Jews expected the Messiah to be manifested with signs of divine power. (*MarchLeaflets2020*)

## SEASON OF LENT - WEEKLY SERVICES

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:30AM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM  
**Matins/Orthos:** Every Sunday at 9:00AM  
**Great Compline:** Wednesday at 6:00PM  
**Holy Confession:** Every Monday at 4-6PM  
**Vespers:** Every Saturday at 3:00PM  
**Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday at 10:30AM  
**Akathistos:** Friday at 6:00PM

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Nadia Casab, Wael and his son Jordan Barahmeh, Maggy Atallah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, Julia Nassimos, Jean Benoit and Brian Sagrestano. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

## WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

**Weekly Collection March 7/ 8: \$ 387.00**  
**Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 000.00**  
**Fuel Donation: \$ 25.00**  
**Memorial Offering: \$ 130.00**  
**Sacramental Docs. Donation: \$ 00.00**

## † MEMORIAL MASSES †

### THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 14

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

### THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 15

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Debbie Gillihan

† **Donna Ferenti**, By Robert Lalli

### NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 21

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Debbie Gillihan

### NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 22

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

## \* ANNOUNCEMENT \*

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon Apr. 6, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm