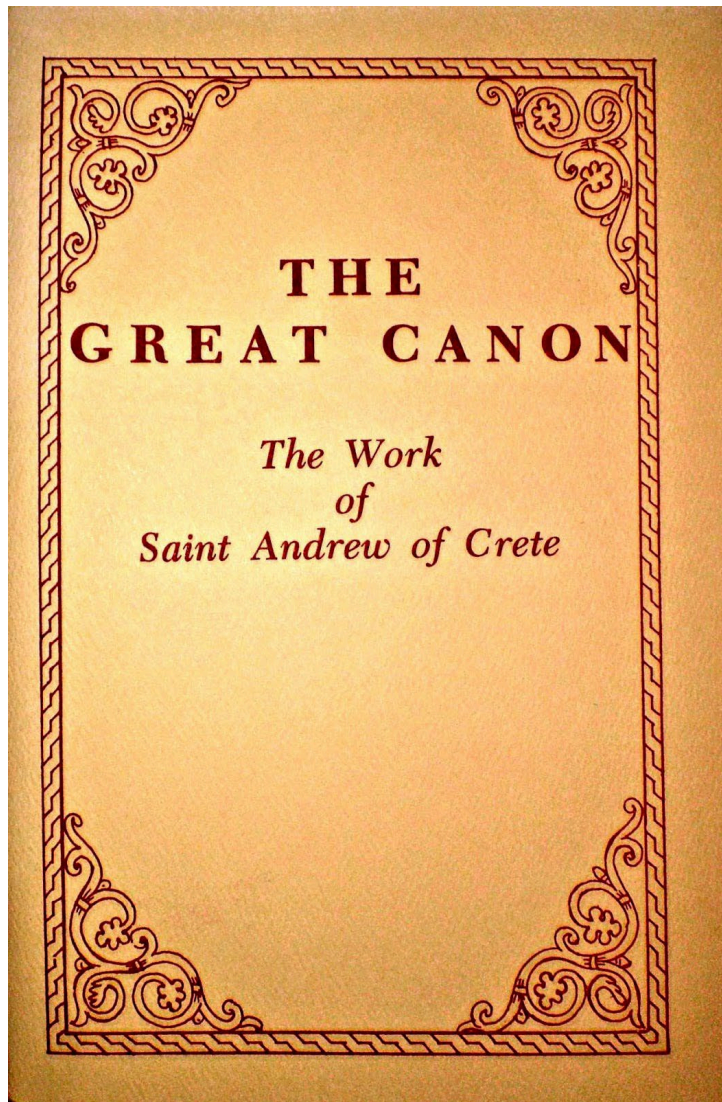


Dear Members and Friends of the Outreach:

**CHRIST IS AMONG US!  
AL-MASEEH MA'NA!**



(Thursday of Repentance – Today, March 23)

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**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

*Unless otherwise noted, all services and other events will be held at St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church, [1118 East Union Bower Road, Irving, TX 75061](#)*

Thursday, 23 Mar **Thursday of Repentance** – Canon of Andrew of Crete 7:00 PM

**Saturday, 25 Mar Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Annunciation at 9:30 at Mount Carmel Center**

Sunday, 26 Mar Sunday Mary of Egypt - 9:30 AM at **Mount Carmel Center Chapel**

Tuesday, 28 Mar Great Compline (the last one of the Season) 7:00 PM followed by Lenten Catechesis

Thursday, 30 Mar Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (the final one of the Season followed by the Mystery of Confession

See below for the Holy Week Schedule!!!!!!

Web calendar is up-to-date through Tuesday, April 4: <https://www.melkitecatholicdfw.org/events/>.

## **GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

**Mark the dates for the holiest days of the entire year:**

### **Great and Holy Week**

- a. **April 1 – Holy Week begins with Lazarus Saturday** – Mount Carmel Center at 9:30 AM
- b. April 2 – Palm Sunday at Mount Carmel Center – Orthros begins at 9:30 AM – **Potluck after the Divine Liturgy.**
- c. April 4 - Great and Holy Tuesday – Bridegroom Service – At Saint Basil – 7:00 PM
- d. April 5-7 Great and Holy Wednesday through Great and Holy Friday at Mount Carmel Center – 7:00 PM each evening.
- e. April 8 - Holy Pascha Liturgy – Hajme, Orthros and Divine Liturgy – 9:00 PM at Saint Basil followed by a Grand Potluck.

We resume the Friday Parish Nights on April 14 during Bright Week.

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# THIS EVENING THURSDAY, MARCH 23 – THURSDAY OF REPENTANCE

- The Canon is the summation of Repentance. The Canon is a penitential lamentation that conveys the scope and depth of sin, shaking the soul with despair, repentance, and hope. The Canon is a series of biblical themes beginning with Adam and ending with Christ and His Church. Since the events of sacred history are revealed as events of my life, God's acts in past are aimed at me and my salvation, the tragedy of sin and betrayal are also my personal tragedy.
- The objective of the Canon is to reveal sin to us and to lead us thus to conversion (repentance, metanoia), through a meditation on the biblical account of salvation history, which is the account of sin, repentance and forgiveness. Living in a de-Christianized secular culture, the Canon helps restore in you and me the true life and assures you and me that repentance is possible.
- The Canon helps the baptized person with Faith recover a spiritual, a Godly vision of life and a reorientation of one's life toward God Who is Life, Love, Being, Joy and Peace. The Canon, with all of its biblical images, helps the Christian learn to see again creation and the events of life in a Godly way – a sacramental and iconic way- because sin is the disfigurement of that sacramental vision.
- **IMPORTANT: Do not hesitate to bring something upon which to kneel, also, for those not able to kneel or should you become tired during the prostrations, do not push yourself. Simply make a profound metany rather than the prostration.**
- Attached is an electronic version of the Canon: [http://www.saintjonah.org/services/greatcanon\\_sts.pdf](http://www.saintjonah.org/services/greatcanon_sts.pdf). The Canon for the Thursday of Repentance will begin on page 42; however, one does not need the book. **We will be using, however,**

the version in the Melkite Publican Prayer Book. Should you have a copy of the book, please bring it.

## THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 25 - DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

- **IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT** – A great feast is a great solemnity, obligation does not impel us to attend but rather love, gratitude, and joy. The Annunciation in particular is the beginning of the New Testament. The Church celebrates the event when Holy Mary said yes to God thus beginning the event of the human's person return to the Garden. All Melkites, please make every effort to attend. Orthros will begin at 9:30 AM at Mount Carmel Center.
- **A reflection:**
  - The world and human history are filled with miracles – unexplained wonders, rightly called Divine interventions. The entire created world is a miracle; the human person is a miracle; how the human body works is a miracle; and the entire visible and comprehensible order and manner of the universe is a miracle. None of these miraculous wonders however equal the event of the Incarnation of Christ when the Word of God became man. Without exaggeration and without hyperbole, we can say it is the greatest miracle ever revealed to the human race. Confronted with this effable and incomprehensible wonder, Holy Mary asked of the Archangel the same question every generation asks: "*How shall this be*" (Luke 1:34)? The Angel Gabriel responded simply: "*For with God nothing shall be impossible*" (Luke 1:37).
- O Lord God, our Creator, Immortal and Ever-existing Miracle-worker, enlighten our minds that we no longer doubt, but believe; and direct our tongues not to question Thee, but to praise Thee. And, for that reason the Church assembles on Saturday for Divine Worship – the perfect act of praise. May everyone make every effort to attend such an august celebration.

# Begin Your preparation today!!!!

There are few things worth dying for. The dramatic events of Great and Holy Week are just that week. During that week we enter into the “today” of Jesus the Christ.

No other week of the entire year is designated Great and Holy Week. Holy means “set apart.” The days between Saturday, April 1 through Saturday, April 9, therefore, are set apart from every other week of the entire year. The liturgical year, every Sunday, every feast and every solemnity revolves around the events of Great and Holy Week. It is their source and summit. What is more, everything of one’s baptismal life centers on what happened during that Week. It is the celebration of the Passion, Death, Burial and Resurrection of the God/Man, when death and corruption were defeated once and for all by Love, and life eternal was offered. Without equivocation, it is the *most important week* of salvation history and human history.

At one time, when our society was faith-filled, solidly Catholic and Orthodox, the holiest days Great and Holy Thursday, Great and Holy Friday and Great and Holy Saturday were treated equally to a Sunday, the Lord’s Day. Rightly, the baptized faithful did not work on these days or they cut short their work days. Sports, entertainment and all other activities ceased on these days.

**Today, mark your calendars!!!! Plan to attend Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, the Tuesday evening Bridegroom Service, the Service of Holy Anointing on Holy Wednesday, the Liturgy of the Mystical Supper on Holy Thursday, the Lamentation Service on Holy Friday and the night of all nights – the Mother of all Liturgies and celebrations – Holy Pascha, Holy Saturday Night.**

No words can capture the intensity, the significance or the importance of those days. Only come and experience.

## **PRAYERS:**

- Carlos’s mother, Maria Soliedad, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma. Let us also keep the entire family in prayer.
- Parishioner Raymond
- Parishioner Watfa – healing

- Ramez Nader – the paternal uncle of Elma, who passed into eternity. He will be commemorated in the Divine Liturgy on Saturday.
- Ryan Mulcahy – Michele’s brother on the anniversary of his birth. He will be commemorated at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 26
- Doors continue to open regarding a piece of property. Please everyone continue to say each day one “Our Father,” that God show us our new home.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Electronic copy of the Canon of St. Andrew - March 16
- Typicon for Sunday, March 26 – Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt and in Honor of the Archangel of Gabriel (Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel)

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In Christ our God ,

Father Marcus Mallick

[www.melkitecatholicdfw.org](http://www.melkitecatholicdfw.org)

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