



DIOCESE OF NEWTON
*for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America*

BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI

Christmas 2024

“Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world.”

-From the Troparion of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Dear beloved clergy, faithful parishioners, and friends,

The Nativity of our Lord is a celebration that the light of God has come upon us.

During this time of year, the light of day is shortest and the darkness of night is longest. In the winter, we yearn for the warmth and light of the sun, because by light we can see. By light, we live, work, play, and walk without stumbling. Light also warms us and allows living things to grow. Soon, the light of day will shine more brightly. And our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord reminds us that the light of Christ also shines upon us. His light illumines our world and shows us that the meaning and purpose of our lives is only fulfilled in Him.

In this Great Feast, we celebrate that the light of Christ overcomes the darkness of this world with love, justice, and truth. When we live according to the Gospel teachings, we too shine His light in the darkness. When we participate in Sunday and weekday prayers as a community of faith, we grow in our life in Christ. His light warms our souls and enlivens our hearts that we may live and love more fully.

In this joyful season, I am grateful for the blessings that you are and hopeful for our future together. As Melkite Catholics, who were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11), we have a great responsibility to live and pass on our faith. May the birth of our Savior bring us together as a family of faith so that we, our families, and our churches may bear witness to light of Christ in us.

To you and all of your loved ones, I send my warmest greetings and heartfelt Christmas blessings.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Almaseeh Wulidah. Fa-Majidoo.

With my prayers and best wishes,

✠ Most Reverend François Beyrouti, Ph.D./D.Th.
Eparchial Bishop of Newton
For the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America



3 VFW Pkwy ♦ West Roxbury, MA 02132

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