



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

BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI

Monday, March 3, 2025
First Day of Great Lent.

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Matthew 6:21).

Dear Melkite Catholic clergy, faithful, and beloved friends,

During the last four Sundays, we prepared ourselves for the Great Fast by celebrating the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Meat-Fare Sunday, and Cheese-Fare Sunday. Our hymns, readings, and homilies, reflected on the biblical themes of humility, repentance, mercy, and forgiveness.

As we begin the journey of the Great Fast, we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to help us “enter by the narrow gate...that leads to life” (Cf. Matthew 7:13-14). Entering the narrow gate, by faith and repentance, will allow us to love God and one another more perfectly. The more we dedicate ourselves to faith, repentance, and renewal during this sacred time, the more we will grow spiritually. At the end of Great Lent, our fasting, sacrifice, and almsgiving will help us to rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In humility, let us commit to pray, fast, forgive, repent, and give generously to those in need. As we patiently and persistently work on our spiritual life to overcome our own sins, God will bless us, our families, and our communities. When each of us grows in our life of faith, we will see increased blessings in our individual communities and our entire Melkite Catholic Church in the United States.

I am hopeful for our future, because of you and the faith you have shared with me. Though we have many challenges before us, we also have many opportunities and blessings, since we walk with Christ. If we take this time seriously to fast, pray, repent, and renew our faith in Christ, we will see, experience, live, and proclaim God’s love in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With my prayers as we accompany each other on the journey,

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