



**ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501  
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor  
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Web Page: [stbasilutica.org](http://stbasilutica.org)

**SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**  
**Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21, 2017**

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

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

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**SPEEDY RECOVERY**

Please pray for our convalescing members: **MaryEllen Busa, Carol Chanatry, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Anne Cragolin, Edgar Hallak, & Mary Machis.** Notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Sunday Collection May 13/14: 00.00      Candles: \$ 00.00      Memorial Services: \$ 00.00**

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

**This Saturday, May 20, 2017**

† **Antoinette Murad**, By Alex Murad  
† **Fred & Gladys Farwege**, By Louis Farwege Fultz

**This Sunday, May 21, 2017**

† **Basil Stamboly**, By Mr. & Mrs. David George  
† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

**Next Saturday, May 27, 2017**

† **Antoinette Murad**, By Julia & Mary Nassimos  
† **Dr. Eugene Nassar**, By Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Hutchinson

**Next Sunday, May 28, 2017**

† **Basil Stamboly**, By Marcia Reesh  
† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

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**\*\* ANNOUNCEMENT \*\***

**Parish Advisory Council (PAC) meeting will be held on Monday, June 5 at 6:30 PM.**

**SAUL**

**Saul's Baptism** – Saul was led into the city by the hand, “And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank” (Acts 9:9). Then, we are told, the following took place: “*Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ So, the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. In a vision, he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.’ “Then Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So, when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.*”

**Paul Preaches Christ** – As a result of Saul’s experience on the road, “*Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’ But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket” (Acts 9:19-25).*

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, which our Church reads publicly from Pascha to Pentecost, climaxes with the trial of St Paul and his journey to Rome where he would ultimately be beheaded. The story of his conflict with the Jewish leadership, his arrest and the various hearings which followed is told in Acts, chapters 20 to 28.

After what has come to be known as his third missionary journey, St Paul resolved to return to Jerusalem for the pilgrimage feast of Pentecost. Paul traveled south and landed at the port of Caesarea, the Roman military center in the region. There “*a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit, “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles”’*” (Acts 21:11, 12). Despite this and other warnings Paul was determined to return to Jerusalem. St Paul’s reputation was well known among the Jews of Jerusalem. His doctrine that Gentiles who became Christians did not need to be circumcised was particularly offensive in their circles. To devalue circumcision and the Jewish dietary laws was “*to forsake Moses*” (Acts 21:21) and undermine the very basis of Judaism.

Knowing the animosity of the Jewish leaders, who considered Paul an apostate, St. James and the elders of the Christian community in Jerusalem devised a plan to keep Paul safe. They urged him to “*...do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow. Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the Law*” (Acts 21:23, 24).  
*(May2017Leaflets)*