



ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
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SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF NICEA I
Saturday, May 27 & Sunday, May 28, 2017

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

SPEEDY RECOVERY

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

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Sunday Collection May 20/21: \$ 177.00 Cheese Sale: \$ 40.00 Memorial Services: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, May 27, 2017

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

This Sunday, May 28, 2017

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

Next Saturday, June 3, 2017

† **Yousef Marji**, By his Family

Next Sunday, June 4, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family
† **Chester Bednarczyk**, By Robert Lalli

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Please join me in thanking the Syrian Cheese Making Committee - Janet Kakaty George, MaryAnn Astour, Christina Roth Marrera, Sandy Showa, Olga Barahmeh, Michelle Roth, Nadia Casab, Virginia Reesh-Lynch, Diane Kakaty, Cheryl Reesh-Kopyt, and Karen Jweid for making cheese. And, to Tony Showa for his assistance. Thank you Marcia Reesh for creating the business cards, labels, and order forms used during the cheese sales. St Basil and the entire parish community deeply appreciates your sincere dedication. God bless you! Fr. Saba

**** ANNOUNCEMENT ****

The next Parish Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Mon Jun 5 @ 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room.

ST. PAUL

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).

St Paul complied, but "Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, 'Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the Law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.'" (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple" (Acts 21:27-29). St Paul was seized and had to be rescued by the commander of the local garrison. What followed was a series of hearings which would determine St Paul's fate, fulfilling Agabus' prophecy concerning him.

As Christ had been tried before the Sanhedrin (the religious leaders), King Herod (the Jewish ruler) and Pontius Pilate (the Roman Procurator), Paul's trial followed a similar route. He first was tried by the high priests and their council, the Sanhedrin, as recorded in Acts 22. Paul began his defense before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem by tracing his personal religious history: "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished" (Acts 22:3-5).

Paul was then taken to the current Roman governor, Antonius Felix by the Jewish authorities to validate their judgment against Him. Once it was clear that Paul was a Roman citizen, however, he was taken from the Sanhedrin by the Romans. He was not subject to their jurisdiction.

While full Roman citizenship was restricted to those born in Rome and its environs, people from associated states were granted a form of Roman citizenship, without some of the rights which full citizens enjoyed. Judaea, however was a conquered province with none of those rights. Although a Jew, St. Paul had been born in Tarsus, a city of Cilicia, in Asia Minor, and the citizens of Tarsus were eligible for Roman citizenship.

When St Paul revealed that he was a Roman citizen, the Sanhedrin knew that they could not touch him. It was illegal to whip or torture Roman citizens who could only be put to death for treason, and never by crucifixion, a punishment for slaves and subject peoples.

(May2017Leaflets)