



ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
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Web Page: stbasilutica.org
SUNDAY 7th AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, July 23, 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: **Carol Chanatry, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Anne Cragnolin, Edgar Hallak, Mary Machis, Rose Pawlinga, and Donald Thomas.**
Please, notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Sunday Collection July 15/16: \$ 359.00 Cheese Sale: \$ 100.00 Memorial Services: \$ 10.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, July 22, 2017 – NO HOLY LITURGY

This Sunday, July 23, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family
† **Yousef Marji**, By his Family

Next Saturday, July 29, 2017 –

† **Eugene Nassar**, By His Children

Next Sunday July 30, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

** ANNOUNCEMENTS **

1. The St Basil **Syrian Braided Cheese Sale** is underway! Please tell your family, friends, coworkers, & neighbors! Call the rectory at 315.732.4662 to place your orders. One braid for \$6, or two for \$10.
2. A **Syrian Braided Cheese Sale** is being held on Sunday, July 23, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Church Vestibule.
3. St Basil's **First Fall Flea Market and Raffle** will be held on Fri Sep 29 and Sat Sep 30 at the Rectory Garage. Nearly new or slightly used items will be accepted at the rectory's back door aft Sept 1. Cheryl Reesh Kopyt and Virginia Reesh Lynch will co-chair.

THE GREAT MARTYR ST. PANTELEMON

The Eastern Churches have, for centuries, honored a number of Unmercenaries, several of whom were also martyrs in the early persecutions. Some Unmercenaries were not trained physicians but rather native healers, usually associated with rural areas and practicing what we might call “alternative medicine” today. Among them we venerate: *St Tryphon* (February 1) who healed livestock as well as people in his village, Lampsacos. Not a few of these Unmercenaries were women. Among them the Church honors: *Ss. Zenaida and Philonella* (October 11), who operated a clinic at a healing spring in Thessaly, and the precursors of Mother Teresa, *Ss. Hermione and Eukhidia* (September 4), who established the first hostel for the homeless poor in Ephesus. These and others are also remembered in a collective feasts of the Holy Unmercenaries in the calendars of some local Churches, generally in October or November.

One of the most revered Unmercenaries in both East and West is the Great Martyr St. Panteleimon the Healer. He lived in Asia Minor from 284 to 304 and was thus a contemporary of St. George and other martyrs. Like them he suffered martyrdom in the same persecution. Our saint was born in Nicemedia, the regional capital, about the year 284 to a pagan father, Eustorgios, and a Christian mother, Eubula. At birth he was given the name Pantaleon, which means “in all things like a lion.” His mother began teaching him the Christian faith but she died when her son was still a boy. Raised by his father, Pantaleon was taught to join him in worshiping the ancestral gods of the region.

The highly intelligent lad was entrusted as a teenager to the noted physician Euphrosinos to learn the practice of medicine. As was the custom, he accompanied his master everywhere to study his methods. Since Euphrosinos was occasionally called to the imperial court Pantaleon attracted the attention of the Eastern emperor, Maximian. He successfully completed his studies and began the practice of medicine himself.

Pantaleon's Conversion: The young physician often passed a house where three priests – Hermolaos, Hermippos and Hermocrates – were living in seclusion. They had survived a notorious massacre in 303 when thousands of Christians, who had taken refuge in the principal church in Nicomedia, were slaughtered. Hermolaos noticed him and invited him in. In the course of what became frequent conversations, Hermolaos praised Pantaleon for his skills, but also challenged him: “But, my friend, of what use are all your acquisitions in this art, since you are ignorant of the science of salvation?” Pantaleon was well disposed to Hermolaos' teaching, but was only convinced to accept baptism through the following event. The young physician once happened to see a child stricken on the street, bitten by a poisonous snake. Pantaleon began to pray to our Lord Jesus Christ that the dead child might be revived and that the poisonous reptile might die. He firmly resolved that, should his prayers be answered, he would become a follower of Christ and would accept baptism. Pantaleon saw the child come back to life and the great viper burst into pieces. Pantaleon was then baptized by Hermolaos and was given the name Panteleimon (“all-compassionate”).

Panteleimon began urging his father, Eustorgios, to accept Christ. When Eustorgios saw his son heal a blind man by invoking the name of Christ, he came to believe and was baptized, along with the man who had regained his sight. After Eustorgios' death, Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, sick, needy and indigent. Everyone who came to him he treated without charge, healing them by invoking Jesus Christ. He would visit those in prison, especially Christians, whose numbers were filling the prisons, and treat their wounds, thus living up to his Christian name. This naturally attracted the attention of people and they abandoned their other physicians to be treated by Panteleimon.

The other physicians reacted by denouncing Panteleimon as a Christian. Maximian urged Panteleimon to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to the Roman gods, but he refused. On the contrary, Panteleimon healed a paralyzed man in the emperor's presence by invoking Christ. Maximian dismissed this as some kind of trick and condemned Panteleimon to death. He suffered martyrdom, along with the three priests who had befriended him, on July 27, 304.

(July2017Leaflets)