



ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
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SUNDAY 8th AFTER PENTECOST
Saturday, July 29 & Sunday, July 30, 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 23: \$ 380.00 Cheese Sale: \$ 836.00 Memorial Services: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, July 29, 2017

† **Eugene Nassar**, By his Children
† **Norma Chanatry**, By St. Basil Community

This Sunday, July 30, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family
† **Norma Chanatry**, By St. Basil Community

Next Saturday, August 5, 2017

† **Antoinette Murad**, By Alex Murad

Next Sunday, August 6, 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. St Basil will, again this year, have a booth set up at **St Louis Taste of Lebanon**, Fri Aug 4 to Sun Aug 6. See Marcia Reesh regarding your availability to assist with booth coverage. Thank you.
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 **beginning September 1st** at the rectory's back door. Cheryl Reesh Kopyt and Virginia Reesh Lynch will co-chair the event.

THANKS AND TRIBUTE

SYRIAN BRAIDED CHEESE: Please join me in thanking the Cheese Making Committee, Janet Kakaty-George, MaryAnn Astour, Christina Roth-Marrera, Sandy Showa, Michelle Roth, Nadia Casab, Virginia Reesh-Lynch, Diane Kakaty, Eleanor Stamboly-Steppelo, and Tony Showa for their help with making our Syrian Braided Cheese. Also, many thanks to the Cheese Selling Committee, Robert Zaloom, Marcia Reesh, and Sandy Showa for selling cheese on Sun Jul 23. St Basil and the entire parish community deeply appreciates your sincere dedication. God bless you! Fr. Saba

LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

There were several reasons for these divisions; at the beginning of St Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians he discusses the question of rival allegiances: "...each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ'" (1 Cor 1:12). This does not mean that the leaders named were responsible for the divisions, but that members of these factions were using the names of Paul or the others named to justify their divisive actions.

Commentators have suggested that the "Cephas party" may have consisted of converted Jews who continued to observe Jewish practices such as the Sabbath, circumcision and the dietary laws. Apollos was an apparently powerful preacher who had come to Ephesus (probably in AD 52 or 53), where he was described as "a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, [who] ... had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah" (Acts 18:24-28).

Apollos had apparently come to Corinth after St Paul had left and built on Paul's work. As the Apostle himself described it, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Cor 3:6). There is no evidence that Apollos himself led the faction which claimed his name. St Paul was particularly upset that people were claiming Christ as inspiring one of these factions, in fact reducing His place to that of a sectarian leader: "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (1Cor 1:12). There is no Church without Christ so, as St John Chrysostom observed, "The quarreling at Corinth was not over trivial matters, but over something fundamental. Even those who said they were 'of Christ' were at fault, because they were implicitly denying this to others and making Christ the head of a faction rather than the head of the whole Church" (Hom. on the Corinthians, 3.5).

Because of his experience with Christ on the road to Damascus, St Paul saw the unity of believer with the Lord as more than that of teacher and pupil. He viewed it as an organic relationship. When Christ told Paul, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5), the Lord made it clear that Christ's people are one with their Lord. St Paul would express this in imagery of the whole body – Christ the Head and we the members (see 1 Cor 12:12 ff.).

St Paul saw the unity of the Church as encompassing a two-fold dynamic: unity of mind and heart. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor 1:10). The Church has understood oneness of mind to mean agreement in belief. Within a few years this led to the formation of creeds and the canon of Scripture as indicators of the unity of mind expected of believers.

(July2017Leaflet)