



ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
Tel: 315-732-4662 Cell: 315-664-6734
Web Page: stbasilutica.org

SUNDAY 10th AFTER PENTECOST - DORMITION
Saturday, August 12 & Sunday, August 13, 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 continue to pray for our convalescing members, including **Carol Chanatry, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Anne Cragolin, Edgar Hallak, Mary Machis, Rose Pawlinga, and Donald Thomas.**
Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Sunday Collection Aug 5/6: \$ 551.00 Cheese Sales: \$ 950.00 Memorial Services: \$ 100.00
Baptism Donation: \$100.00 Flowers Donation: \$ 20.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, August 12, 2017

† **Norma Chanatry**, By Bart Hutchinson

This Sunday, August 13, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By Her Family
† **Adel Jangi & Bahyja Jangi**, By Their Children

Next Saturday, August 19, 2017

† **Norma Chanatry**, By Luke Hutchinson

Next Sunday, August 20, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By Her Family
† **Adel Jangi & Bahyja Jangi**, By Their Children

**** ANNOUNCEMENTS ****

1. St Basil **Syrian Braided Cheese Sale** is available for purchase! Please tell your family, friends, coworkers, & neighbors! Call the rectory at 315.732.4662 to place your order. One braid for \$6, or two for \$10.
2. 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.
3. Parish Advisory Council (PAC) will meet next on Mon Sep 11 @ 6:30 PM in the meeting rm.

TASTE OF LEBANON WORKERS

Many thanks to the St Basil Team who dedicated their time to sell our Syrian Braided Cheese at St Louis' Taste of Lebanon, Fri Aug 4 through Sun Aug 6. Thank you Tony Showa, Bob Zaloom, Marcia Reesh, Janet & David George, and Christina & Rafael Marrero. The St Basil Community recognizes and appreciates your continued support! God bless you. Fr Saba.

BUT ONLY ONE IS YOUR FATHER

When St Paul says that he "begat" the Corinthian Church, he is clearly speaking in a way Jews of his day would recognize. The Jews commonly called Abraham the father of the God-fearing who would become the people of Israel. This claim was a source of pride for the Jews – One which their own actions did not support. Thus St John the Forerunner and Baptist reproached Jews of his day for claiming that being sons of Abraham made them by definition acceptable to God as Abraham was: "...do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Mt 3:9). As some say today, "God has no grandchildren" – we must all live as His children.

In Jesus' day many of the Jewish religious leaders had distorted the teaching of the Law and the Prophets by their "authoritative" interpretations. Jesus rebuked them to their face in these words: "*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, which observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with One of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'*" But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Mt 23: 2-11).

The Lord reproached the Jewish religious leaders for claiming the authority to interpret the Law and using that as a means to attain worldly prestige and power. Jesus' own disciples were to distance themselves from such practices. This passage is often quoted by many fundamentalist Protestants against the practice in the historic Churches of East and West of calling the clergy "father." If they are correct, then St Paul clearly was violating Jesus' precept when he claimed to have fathered the Church at Corinth.

When the Gospel passage is read in context, it is clear that the Lord is not speaking against titles or imagery but the abuse they may represent. Even the foremost authority in European Protestantism, John Calvin, did not believe that St Paul was wrong to speak of himself as begetting the Corinthian Church. Commenting on this passage Calvin wrote, "While Paul claims for himself the appellation of father, he does it in such a manner as not to take away or diminish the smallest portion of the honor which is due to God. ... God alone is the Father of all in faith ... But they whom he is graciously pleased to employ as his ministers for that purpose, are likewise allowed to share with Him in His honor while, at the same time, He parts with nothing that belongs to Himself."

"Fathering" a Church: Every Church – whether eparchy or local parish – has its fathers, in the sense that St Paul used the term. Some were established by missionaries who were sent for that purpose, either to non-Christian areas or to scattered groups of Christians. Other communities were organized by groups of the faithful who had come from elsewhere and wanted to worship in the ways of their own Church. They often formed a society or organization and contacted Church authorities to request a priest to serve them. In some cases they even built a church, then asked for a priest. This was often the case when Eastern Christians first migrated from their homelands in the nineteenth century. These missionaries, grassroots organizers and the bishops who blessed their endeavors are all remembered as "founders of this holy Church" during every Liturgy served in that church. **During the prothesis** a particle is offered on the diskos "in memory of and for the remission of sins of the blessed founders of this holy church." Secondly, "the blessed and ever to be remembered founders of this holy church" are remembered **during the insistent litany** after the Gospel or during the Great Entrance. A similar remembrance is made when this litany is chanted at vespers or orthros. (August2017Leaflet)