



# ST. BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## SUNDAY OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Saturday, September 16 & Sunday, September 17, 2017

### WEEKLY SERVICES

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

### SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing members, including **Carol Chanatry, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Edgar Hallak, Mary Machis, Rose Pawlinga, and Donald Thomas.** Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

**Sunday Collection Sept 9/10: \$ 522.00 Hurricane Collection: \$ 247.00 Cheese Sale: \$ 418.00**

### † MEMORIAL MASSES †

#### This Saturday, September 16, 2017

† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah  
† **Anne Cragolin**, 40-day Memorial Services, By her children

#### This Sunday, September 17, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her family  
† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah

#### Next Saturday, September 23, 2017

† **Mr & Mrs Joseph Mardenly**, By her family  
† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah

#### Next Sunday, September 24, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her family  
† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah

### \*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\*

1. St Basil's **First Garage Sale** will be held on **Fri Sep 29 10am-5pm & Sat Sep 30 10am-3pm** at the Rectory Garage. Cheryl Reesh Kopyt & Virginia Reesh Lynch will co-chair the event.
2. Following Holy Liturgy on **Sun Sep 24**, PAC members & parishioners will come together to set-up tables in the Garage, & move donated items from the Auditorium to the Garage. Thank you for assisting.

## CHRIST AND THE LAW

In the Gospels Christ is not depicted as critical of the Law but as endorsing it. He was critical of people who abused the precepts of the Law, using it to look down on others or control them. Thus, in the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee Christ says that the Pharisee, who observed the precepts of the Law, did not attain righteousness through his actions because he made of them a way to look down upon his neighbor, the Publican.

Observing the precepts of the Law was good, but not enough to make a person godly. The same is true today. As the twentieth-century Greek elder St Porphyrios observed, some people "... make prostrations and cross themselves in church and they say, 'we are unworthy sinners', then as soon as they come out they start to blaspheme everything holy whenever someone upsets them a little."

Jesus taught that the ceremonial precepts of the Torah were good, but that there was something most important. He confronted the Pharisees for insisting on these precepts while neglecting its more humane counsels: "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone*" (Mt 23:23).

Christ also pointed towards more than mere observance of the various precepts of the Torah. He directed people to see that the Law was to be fulfilled through Him. "*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill*" (Mt 5:17). He did not explain how this was to happen; it was the Apostolic Church, directed by the Holy Spirit which came to see that there was a way for people of all kinds to be righteous before God. It was not by assiduously observing the precepts of the Torah but by living in Christ, who perfectly fulfilled the Father's will for Him on earth.

**St Paul on Christ and the Law:** St Paul was convinced that Christ had fulfilled the Law as He had promised, teaching that "*Christ is the end [i.e. completion] of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes*" (Rom 10:4) and that therefore "...by the works of the Law no flesh shall be justified" (Gal 2:16).

Obedying the precepts of the Law because they are the will of God is the heart of a righteous observance of the Torah. And so, by submitting Himself completely to the Father's will, Christ totally fulfilled the moral precepts of the Law. In the Garden before His arrest Christ prayed, "*O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*" (Mt 26:39). He accepted even "this cup" (His approaching passion) if it were His Father's will. Christ is also the fulfillment of the ritual precepts of the Law in that He replaces the temple and its cult as the authentic worship of God. When Jesus entered the temple, He drove out those selling the animals needed for sacrifice. People often see this as an attack on commercialism in religion, but this was not Jesus' point. Asked for a sign to explain His actions, He replied: "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" Then the Jews said, "*It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?*" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said" (Jn 2:19-22). The Temple would be "rebuilt" as the risen body of Christ. Its offerings would be fulfilled in Christ's offering of Himself, the eternal sacrifice, in which we share at the Divine Liturgy.

**Not an Easy Out:** St Paul's insistence that a person is not made righteous by observing the Law led some people to conclude that they could do whatever they wanted. St Paul never taught that. The point of his teaching is that a person does not **earn** righteousness by observing the Law. He saw that observing the Commandments or following the lead of the Church was a way of sacrificing our own will in union with Christ who did the same. Thus the believer can say with St Paul, "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Gal 2:20).  
(Sept2017Leaflet)