



**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](http://stbasilutica.org)

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
**Saturday, September 23 & Sunday, September 24, 2017**

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:00AM      **Holy Confession:** Every Monday at 4-6PM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM      **Vespers:** Every Saturday at 3:00PM  
**Matins/Orthros:** 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, Edgar Hallak, Mary Machis, Rose Pawlinga, and Donald Thomas.**  
Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Sunday Collection Sept 16/17: \$ 000.00    Hurricane Collection: \$ 00.00    Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**

**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**This Saturday, September 23, 2017**

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

**This Sunday, September 24, 2017**

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family  
† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggie Atallah

**Next Saturday, September 30, 2017**

† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggie Atallah  
† **Anne Cragnolin**, By her children

**Next Sunday, October 01, 2017**

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family  
† **Rt. Rev. Julian Eliane**, Centennial of his birthday, By Robert Lalli  
† **Mae Raiser, 9<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary**, By Robert Lalli

**\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\***

1. The next **Parish Advisory Council Meeting** will be held on Mon Oct 2, 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room.
2. 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 Kopyt & Virginia Lynch are co-chairing.

**\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED\*\***

3. 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.

**ST THEKLA**

The story of St Thekla is told in the *Acts of Paul and Thekla*, a late first or early second century work written in the lifetime of the Apostle John the Theologian but not by him. It is considered apocryphal, chiefly because its teachings are not consistent with those of St Paul in the canonical Scriptures.

In this work Thekla is said to be a daughter of an aristocratic family in Iconium (modern Konya in Asia Minor) who heard St Paul preaching during his stay there (see Acts of the Apostles 14:1-7). She was so captivated by Paul's preaching that her mother and fiancé denounced him to the authorities and he was jailed. Thekla bribed the guards to gain entry to the prison and spent the night listening to Paul. When she was discovered, she too was arrested and condemned to death so that "all the women who have been taught by this man may be afraid."

Thekla was convinced of the truth of the Gospel and was ready to renounce everything she had for its sake. She was taken to the outdoor theater and placed on a pyre. Then, as the *Acts of Paul and Thekla* tells it, "They lighted the fire. And though a great fire was blazing, it did not touch her. For God, having compassion upon her, made an underground rumbling and a cloud full of water and hail overshadowed the theater from above" (¶ 22). In the storm which followed the earthquake the pyre was overturned and Thekla was saved.

In the Scriptural Acts of the Apostles we are told that, when St Paul left Iconium he went to Lystra. In the apocryphal Acts we are told that he went to Antioch, taking Thekla with him. In any case, Thekla spent the rest of a long life near Seleucia (modern Silifke, in southern Turkey) where she "enlightened many and died in peace." Because of the many people Thekla brought to Christ in that pagan region the Church accords her the title "Equal to the Apostles."

Many early writers in both East and West revered St Thekla as a model for devout women, particularly ascetics. Thus other notable women such as St Macrina and St Melany the Roman were described as "second Theklas" by eminent Church Fathers St Gregory of Nyssa and St Jerome.

**The Tomb of St Thekla:** The cave near Silifke, in which Thekla reputedly lived as an ascetic and was buried, was revered locally during the time of the Roman persecutions. As St Gregory the Theologian wrote (Oration 31), the fame of this shrine spread and by the fourth century a church had been built around the cave. This church, as well as the ruins of the more prominent church, built over it in the fifth century, may still be seen at the site. This church, as its ruins attest, was the largest in the region. Monasteries for both men and women grew up surrounding it which attracted pilgrims from all over the empire. The fourth-century Spanish pilgrim nun Egeria wrote about visiting this shrine twice, on her way to and from Jerusalem. On her second visit, she writes, "When I had arrived in the name of God, prayer was made at the [saint's] memorial and the whole of the Acts of Saint Thekla had been read, I gave endless thanks to Christ our God, who deigned to fulfill my desires in all things, unworthy and undeserving as I am. Then, after a stay of two days, when I had seen the holy monks and ascetics who were there, both men and women, and when I had prayed and made my Communion, I returned to Tarsus and to my journey."

**St Thekla and the Defile:** Stories of St Thekla often tell how she was protected from being defiled by "a defile". "To defile" means to debase or render impure, but "a defile" is a narrow crevice affording passage through mountains. In a number of stories about St Thekla it is said that she was pursued by people intending to defile her. In some versions her pursuer is a would-be lover frustrated by her commitment to chastity. In other versions pagans, resenting her success at proclaiming the Gospel, pursue her in order to silence her.

*(Sept2017Leaflet)*