



ST. BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
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SUNDAY 2nd AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, September 30 & Sunday, October 1, 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 23/24: \$ 429.00 Memorial Services: \$ 10.00

*** SPECIAL INTENTION ***

Our prayers and special intentions go to Lorraine Chanatry-Howell. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant her many years to come in good health, prosperity, happiness, and holiness. Amen

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, September 30, 2017

† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah
† **Joanne Jokajtys**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

This Sunday, October 1, 2017

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

Next Saturday, October 7, 2017

† **Deceased Members of the Marchio & Reesh Families**, By the Reesh Family

Next Sunday, October 8, 2017

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family
† **Joseph, Edward, & James Chanatry**, By Lorraine Chanatry-Howell

**** 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.

THE VISION OF ST. ANDREW

The memory of these events, as well as the presence of the Virgin's robe, made the Blachernae church the most popular shrine to the Theotokos in the imperial capital. It would become even more renowned with the events of October 1, 911. It was a Sunday and the all-night vigil was being served in the church at Blachernae. Among those present was St Andrew, a Fool-for-Christ, a Slav who had been captured during a military incursion and sold as a slave.

His master saw to it that Andrew learned to read and the young man became attached to the Church and its worship. He was inspired to adopt the access of feigned insanity, being a "fool-for Christ." He would pretend madness during the day, but pray all night.

During the vigil, sometime after 3 AM, we are told in the Synaxarion that St Andrew "lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees, the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the ambo, she continued her prayer.

"After completing her prayer, she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in the church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands glowed more than the rays of the sun."

Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" "I do see, holy Father Epiphanius replied, "and am in awe."

For a long time, they observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."

The icon of this feast shows this appearance of the Theotokos to St Andrew. Some icons, particularly those displayed for veneration on this feast, have a lower tier or an inset depicting St Romanos the Melodist chanting at the ambo. October 1 is also the feast day of this saint. This vision is celebrated in most Byzantine Churches on October 1. In the Church of Greece, however, the feast of the Protection of the Theotokos has been transferred to October 28 to coincide with the Greek national holiday, "Ohi" Day, marking the start of Greek resistance to the German and Italian occupation during World War II.

The Church at Blachernae: The Church of the Theotokos was severely damaged by fire in 1070 but was rebuilt and restored by two successive emperors. Finally, the entire church complex, along with the surrounding quarter, was completely destroyed on February 29, 1434 when some children accidentally started a fire on the church roof. A few years before the fire, a portion of the robe had been sent to Russia. When the feast of the robe (July 2) was celebrated during the Tatar siege of Moscow in 1451 the Tatars were unaccountably seized with confusion and fled in disarray. Again, the Virgin's protection was credited with the deliverance of a Christian city.

By the 17th century a portion of the robe was being venerated at the Dormition Monastery in Khobi, Georgia. To this day this relic is carried in procession around that city for veneration on July 2. (Sept2017Leaflet)