



ST. BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
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SUNDAY 3rd AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, October 7 & Sunday, October 8, 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, & Donald Thomas.**
Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Sunday Collection Sept 30/Oct 1: \$ 598.00 Memorial Services: \$ 40.00
Garage Sale/Raffle: \$ 1,663.00 Cheese Sale: \$ 770.00 Hot Dog Sale: \$ 162.00

*** SPECIAL INTENTION ***

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

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, October 7, 2017

† **Deceased Members of the Marchio & Reesh Families**, By Reesh Family
† **David Godkin Jr, 10th Memorial Anniversary**, By his Mother

This Sunday, October 8, 2017

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

Next Saturday, October 14, 2017

† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah
† **Albert & Margaret Casab**, By their Children
† **Rose Marie Khoury, 1st Memorial Anniversary**, By her husband John & Children

Next Sunday, October 15, 2017

† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah
† **Ann Cragolin**, By her children

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST BASIL COMMUNITY!!!
THE GARAGE SALE, RAFFLE SALE, CHEESE SALE & HOTDOG SALE
HELD ON FRI SEP 29 & SAT SEP 30 WERE ALL SUCCESSES!

Special recognition & many thanks to Cheryl Reesh Kopyt & Virginia Reesh Lynch for chairing the Garage Sale Event, with help from their husbands Fred Kopyt & Mike Lynch. Thank you to the Raffle Sale Committee, led by MaryAnn Astour, assisted by Robin & Kayleigh Astour. Thanks to the Hot Dog Sale Team; Eddie Nassimos, Mary Nassimos, Julia Nassimos, & Fred Kopyt. Thank you to the Cheese Making Committee, who made fresh Syrian Braided Cheese on Mon Sep 25: Janet Kakaty George, Virginia Lynch, Sandy Showa, Tony Showa, MaryAnn Astour, Michelle Roth, Nadia Casab, Carol Chanatry, & Karen Jweid. Thanks to the Cheese Selling Committee: Marcia Reesh, Sandy Showa, Tony Showa, Nadia Casab, Michelle Roth, Sandy Kakaty, & Diane Kakaty. Special thank you to Nadia Casab for making Syrian Cheese Cookies to enhance the Cheese Sale! Your dedication & commitment to St Basil is recognized & greatly appreciated. God bless you.

TITHING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The practice of tithing arose at the start of the Israelite nation. When the Israelites occupied the Promised L&, eleven of their twelve tribes were given a portion of the conquered territory. The twelfth tribe, Levi, which was set apart as the nation’s priests, received no l&. The eleven landed tribes were to give their tithes to the Levites (temple assistants, comparable to our deacons). These mandatory tithes were used to support the priests, manage the temple, & provide relief for foreigners, orphans & widows (see Num 18). The tithe was seen in the Torah as a recognition that all of creation was God’s: “& all the tithe of the l&, whether of the seed of the l& or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. & concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD” (Lev 27: 30-32). If a person failed to pay the tithe or held back some of it he was considered to have robbed God. As the nation became more established & prosperous, the temptation to avoid paying the full tithe was not uncommon. The prophet Malachi thundered against this practice, but also promised that those who paid the tithe would be blessed: “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes & offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, & try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts.” If I will not open for you the windows of heaven & pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Mal 3: 8-10). Malachi distinguishes between tithes & offerings. The tithe was the required tenth of one’s income which was God’s by right. An offering was whatever was freely given over & above the tithe. Sometimes such gifts are called “love offerings,” made from personal devotion rather than by law. **Tithing in the New Testament:** Tithing was practiced regularly by Jews into New Testament times. In the Gospels, we see that the Lord Jesus criticized the Pharisees for being strict about determining tithes of everything they have received while ignoring more important matters: “Woe to you, scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint & anise & cumin, & have neglected the weightier matters of the Law: justice & mercy & faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat & swallow a camel!” (Mt 23:23, 24). He did not condemn tithing, only the mechanical performance of it while ignoring the spirit behind it. Similarly, in His parable of the Publican & the Pharisee (Lk 18:9-14), the Lord Jesus shows the Pharisee taking pride in his fasting & tithing. The Lord does not reproach the Pharisee for doing these things, but for taking pride in them. That even the poor sometimes gave more than was required was noted – & praised –by Jesus when He visited the temple: “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury & saw how the people put money into the treasury. & many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came & threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself & said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood” (Mk 12:41-44).

(Oct2017Leaflet)