

BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501

Saba Shofany, Pastor

: 315-732-4662 Cell: 315-664-6734

Web Page: stbasilutica.org

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

Friday, January 20 & Sunday, January 21, 2018

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 Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Nancy Gazal, Edgar Hallak, Mary Machis, & Rose Pawlinga. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection Jan 13/14: \$ 000.00

Memorial Services: \$ 00.00

Fuel: \$ 00.0

Christmas Offerings/Party: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

† **Ida McHarris**, By P. A. Baddles

† **Anne Cragnolin**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

† **Joseph Kakaty**, 25th Memorial Anniversary, By his Family

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

† **Ida McHarris**, By P. A. Baddles

† **Salwa Atallah-Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah

NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

† **Ida McHarris**, By P. A. Baddles

† **Joseph Showa**, By Anthony & Sandra Showa

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

† **Ida McHarris**, By Leo & Judith Schwenzfeier

† **Salwa Atallah Hamati**, By Maggy Atallah

*** ANNOUNCEMENT ***

The next Parish Advisory Council meeting will be held on Mon Feb 5, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm.

THE BISHOP’S APPEAL

The Bishop’s Appeal is an important way in which our parish fulfills its duty to our larger Melkite family throughout the U.S. Our Father and Shepherd, Bishop Nicholas Samra asks every Melkite household in the U.S. to give **at least \$100-\$200 each year** to support our Eparchy in America. By contributing to the Appeal, each of us responds to Christ’s call to support our Church, and helps fund its vital works, such as publishing *SOPHIA* magazine, establishing new missions and outreaches, supporting our seminarians for the Priesthood and Diaconate, providing for our elderly priests, educating our children and young adults, and 10% is tithed to our unfortunate and persecuted brother and sisters. It is the holy obligation of every member of our parish respond to his call. Please send your gift today. Extra Appeal donation slips are available in the narthex.

EXPERIENCE GOD

People run to gyms and exercise programs, or they just run. St. Paul sees the value of keeping one’s body in shape, but puts it in a perspective of his own. *“Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise for the life that now is and of that which is to come”* (1 Tim 4:8).

We may readily grasp that spiritual exercise may bear fruit in the life to come, but what promise does it have “for the life that now is”?

A great part of spiritual training is concerned with *the control of the passions*. We strive to free ourselves from the compulsion to pursue pleasure so that we can pursue a relationship with the living God. If we follow this training, the result in our life now is that we are no longer driven to acquire or possess. We are content. When a person is beset by greed he is never satisfied with what he has. There is always more, there is always something better to be acquired. While he seems content with his latest acquisition it is only for a moment, because nothing he has truly satisfies. The same is true of people governed by gluttony, lust, popular acclaim, or pride. They never have enough.

A person who has learned to control the passions, on the other hand, is content knowing that all he is and all he has is the gift of God. He has learned that material wealth, physical pleasure, or the good opinion of others are all passing and insignificant when compared with the possibility of knowing and serving God. He is happy to devote energy and resources to others as much as possible because he controls them; they do not control him. Controlling the passions makes us free here and now.

Someone who undertakes spiritual discipline devotes himself to developing spiritual strengths or virtues just as an athlete strengthens physical muscles. These strengths, or virtues, enable spiritual athletes to remain faithful in the face of persecution or hardship. How could the martyrs and confessors have endured the torments they suffered without the fortitude spiritual discipline produces? How could people like Father Damien in a leper colony, Mother Teresa on the streets of Calcutta, or Dorothy Day in the tenements of New York have served day after day in such atrocious conditions without the patience and dedication of a spiritual athlete? Without the endurance which spiritual discipline produces believers would quickly fall away from their commitment and collapse on the sidelines. Spiritual discipline develops the endurance to live for God in the here and now.

Another aspect of spiritual discipline is concerned with *fidelity to prayer*. Many people pray – or say prayers – from a sense of duty. Praying, they feel, is something we “ought to do.” A person of prayer is rather one who senses an authentic relationship with God and who prays out of love rather than a sense of obligation. Such a person reaps the fruits of a commitment to prayer in this life, becoming someone who experiences the presence of God in his life on earth. The presence of God may be experienced in many ways. There are saints who have experienced God directly in visions or in charismatic gifts. But the presence of God may also be experienced in consolations or in the assurance of blessing from God without any exterior manifestation.

(Jan Leaflets 2018)