

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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5th SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY OF MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT
Saturday, March 17 & Sunday, March 18, 2018

HOLY LENT LITURGICAL/PRAYER SERVICES

Daily Liturgy: Monday-Friday at 8:30AM **Holy Confession:** Every Monday at 4-6PM
Holy Liturgy: Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM **Vespers:** Every Saturday at 3:00PM
Matins/Orthos: Every Sunday at 9:00AM **Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday at 10:30AM
Great Compline: Wednesday at 6:00PM **Akathistos:** Friday at 6:00PM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for all of our convalescing friends, including Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, William Homsany, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Daniel Klockowski, and Rose Pawlinga. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection March 10/11: \$ 370.00 **Syrian Braided Cheese Sale: \$10.00**
Fuel: \$ 55.00 **Easter Flowers: \$ 120.00**

* 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, MARCH 17

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **Mary Machis**, By Mr. Alex Murad

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 18

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **Elias Casper**, By Evelyn Casper and Family

NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 24

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **James Casper**, By Evelyn Casper and Family

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 25

† **Mary Machis**, By Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family
† **Lena Rowe**, 4th Memorial Anniversary, By Robert Lalli

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

1. Please join us for the St Basil Palm Sunday Luncheon, immediately following 11:00 AM Holy Liturgy on Sunday, March 25. St Basil's original founders will be recognized during the festivities. Marcia Reesh will chair the event, and may be reaching out to you regarding set up, or food/beverage donations.
2. St Basil Parish Advisory Council will meet on Monday, April 2 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.

2018 EASTER FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following parishioners for their monetary donations toward the purchase of St Basil's 2018 Easter Flowers: Julia & Mary Nassimos in memory of their parents Kareem & Sophia Nassimos; Carol Chanatry in Memory of her Husband Alfred Chanatry. The entire St Basil Community appreciates and recognizes your generosity. Thank you, and God bless you.

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S RETURN

At His ascension Christ's disciples are told by an angel, "*This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11). Ever since, the members of the Church have been waiting for the return of Christ: "*To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation*" (Heb 9:28). This promise of a second appearance, or second coming, energized the preaching of the apostles, who placed it at the heart of our faith. As the Nicene Creed professes, we believe that Christ "... shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead and of His Kingdom there shall be no end." And this faith gives us hope.

Our Hope for Eternal Life: Another dimension is added to this teaching in the First Epistle of St Peter, where God is praised in these words: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*" (1 Pt 1:3, 4). Putting these images together, we can say that our hope for eternal life in the company of the saints is not wishful thinking but is solidly based on the reality of Christ's sacrificial death and its acceptance by the Father. It is confirmed by Christ's resurrection and becomes ours through our sharing in the Divine Liturgy. As forerunner and first fruits, Christ stands at the head of an endless procession, leading those united to Him beyond the veil into the eternal Holy of Holies.

This Is Our Hope: In popular speech *hope* is equated with wishing or feeling that something might be true, or might happen. There is nothing wishful about Christian hope, however. It is based on the witness of the apostles to Christ's death and resurrection and their understanding that we are meant to share in the eternal life He had purchased for us by His blood. In St Paul's words, "*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable*" (1 Cor 15:19).

Christian hope, then, is a firm confidence in the witness of the apostles affirmed by the Church ever since.

The Fear of Eternity: Strange as it may seem, many people are afraid of endless life. Apeirophobia – the fear of eternity – afflicts more people than we can imagine. The thought of an impersonal existence that goes on forever amounts to torture. It appears to some to resemble life in prison without parole.

As we know from studying Christ's sacrifice and the Divine Liturgy, there is no earthly time with God, no succession of tomorrows, only an eternal now. In Christ's words, "*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent*" (Jn 17:3). The Christian faith depicts eternity as an endless now, knowing the truly existing One, the inexhaustible cup of life. The life we now share is but a shadow of life in and with God; if earthly time went on forever it would be something to fear. But our hope is not that earthly time would stretch out endlessly, but that an eternal now in the presence of Christ would truly transform us in ways we can but imagine. "... *it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*" (1 Jn 3:2). (*MarchLeaflets2018*)