

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Website www.stbasilutica.org

2nd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15, 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 all of our convalescing friends, including Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Daniel Klockowski, and Rose Pawlinga. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Easter Collection April 7/8: \$ 1,391.00 Syrian Braided Cheese Sale: \$ 20.00
Memorial Services: \$ 10.00 Fuel: \$ 75.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 14

† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam
† **Louis & Victoria Tehan**, by Richard & Joanne Tehan and Family

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 15

† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, by his wife Teresa Chanatry
† **Mary Machis**, by Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family

NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 21

† **Mary Machis**, by Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family
† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 22

† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, by his wife Teresa Chanatry
† **Albert & Elvira Chanatry**, by Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

St Basil Parish Advisory Council will meet on Monday, May 7 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.

*Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen!
He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen!
Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen!*

WHEN WE THINK about Christian ministry, it is the liturgical ministry of priests or deacons, readers or chanters that most readily comes to mind. But in the Church’s tradition, ministry has a much broader meaning. The ministry of Christians includes many forms of service, all in imitation of “*the Son of Man [who] did not come to be served, but to serve*” (Mt 20:28).

In one sense, every baptized Christian is called to ministry because we all share in the priesthood of Christ through the mystery of chrismation. “*You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*” (1 Pt 2:5, 9).

The *purpose* of our ministry as sharers in Christ’s priesthood is to “*proclaim the praises of Him*” who brought us to eternal life through baptism: to glorify God in word and deed. The *means* by which we exercise this ministry is by offering up “*spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*” In fact, everything can be done in a godly manner, offered as a spiritual sacrifice to proclaim the glory of God.

The Apostolate of the Laity: In the past century, it has become customary to call the ministry of those believers who are not clergy “the apostolate of the laity.” It was particularly extolled at the Second Vatican Council in its Decree *On the Apostolic Activity of God’s People*, affirming that “The apostolate of the laity derives from their Christian vocation and the Church can never be without it” (AA 1).

The goal of Christian ministry, according to the Fathers of this Council, is that “the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ” (AA 2). Everything in the Church is oriented to this goal in one way or another and everyone in the Church is called to work for this goal. As the Council Fathers went on to say, “No part of the structure of a living body is merely passive but has a share in the functions as well as life of the body: so, too, in the body of Christ, which is the Church.”

It is for this reason that the Council Fathers make this, perhaps their most daring assertion: “The member who fails to make his proper contribution to the development of the Church must be said to be useful neither to the Church nor to himself”. A baptized Christian who does not contribute to building up the Body of Christ is, the Fathers insist, a useless Christian!

Scriptural Patrons of the Lay Apostolate: The Biblical figures commemorated on this Sunday point to a principal way of exercising: using one’s resources to build up the Kingdom of God. Two of them made sizeable contributions in accordance with their stations in life. Joseph of Arimathea, described in the Gospel as “*a rich man*” (Mt 27:57) and “*a prominent member of the Sanhedrin*” (Mk 15:43) used his influence with Pilate to obtain the crucified body of the Lord Jesus and donated his own tomb that the Lord might be buried, as Chrysostom said, “not as a criminal, but magnificently, after the Jewish fashion, as some great and admirable one” (Hom. on Matthew).

Along with “the noble Joseph,” as our troparion calls him, Nicodemus, “a ruler of the Jews” brought a one-hundred-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes – worth thousands, by some estimations. Both these men made significant donations to cover the cost of Jesus’ burial.

In the history of the Eastern Churches there have been many people who gave significant donations to the Church, building churches, schools, hospitals, or clinics for the poor. The countryside in places like Greece or Lebanon is dotted with small chapels build by donors to honor their patron saints or in thanksgiving for favors received.

In our society, the equivalent is often an endowment given to the Church. The investments generated by such endowments contribute over the years to the cause specified by the donor. An endowment by the late Father Allen Maloof has helped make possible the publication of *Sophia*, the journal of the Eparchy of Newton, for over forty years.

(AprilLeaflets2018)