

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501
Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilsutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org

5th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2018

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**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

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for all of our convalescing friends, including Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Daniel Klockowski, Rose Pawlinga, and Carol Young. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection April 28/29: \$ 436.00**      **PayPal Donations: \$ 484.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 10.00**      **Fuel: \$ 20.00**

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, MAY 5

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

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 6

† **Mary Machis**, by Mr & Mrs Henry George Murad and Family
† **Catherine Chanatry**, by Lorraine Chanatry-Howell

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 12

† **James Chanatry**, by Lorraine Chanatry-Howell
† **Margaret Casab**, by Shirley Casab
† **Rose Marie Korrie**, by Shirley Casab

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 13

† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam
† **Jannah Jbarah**, by her family

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. The next St Basil Parish Advisory Council will be held on Monday, May 7 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.  
2. A PayPal link is available at our website, offering a safe, secure, and confidential option to donate to St Basil, Utica. Please go to [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org), click on the Donation Tab and follow the webpage instructions. Weekly Sunday Bulletins can also be found there, click on the Announcement Tab. Thank you for visiting our page!

**THANKS AND TRIBUTE**

**SYRIAN BRAIDED CHEESE:** Let us all express our appreciation to the Cheese Making Committee - Nadia Casab, Renee Kawam, Carol Chanatry, and Karen Jweid - for their help making our Syrian Braided Cheese. Great thanks to Marcia Reesh for creating labels used to list ingredients on the packaging for the braids. St Basil and the entire parish community deeply appreciate your sincere dedication. God bless you! Fr. Saba

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JESUS CHRIST PREACHING

Jesus' Approach to Individuals: When the Lord was trying to lead people to recognize their own sinfulness and repent, His approach was very different. He was not aggressive or condemnatory, but He was not timid either. When He was dining on the Sabbath with a leading Pharisee, a man with dropsy (edema) was brought before Him. The Gospel says that Jesus answered the (unasked) question of the onlookers by asking them a question, "*Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?*" (Lk 14:7) His questions forced people to examine their own beliefs or attitudes, opening a way for them to see their own errors and repent.

Something similar happened in the case of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at Jacob's Well. Like Zacchaeus, her way of life was already well-known and she was probably not welcome among the local women. This explains why she had come to draw water at the height of the midday heat. Yet Jesus did not bring up the matter of her multiple marriages; He innocently asks her to call her husband. When she tells Him, "*I have no husband,*" (Jn 4:17) then He responds, "*You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly*" (vv. 17, 18). Jesus led her to raise the irregularity of her marital situation herself so that He could reveal His mysterious knowledge of her past and lead her to repentance.

Both Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman (Photini, in some accounts) responded to Jesus' presence by revealing their embarrassing secrets. They could not deceive Jesus into thinking them upright. They could not pretend an untruth in the face of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

John's Gospel contains the story of another hapless woman: one caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-8). The scribes and Pharisees claimed that, according to the Law, she was to be stoned. They were right. The Law prescribed: "*If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel*" (Dt 20:22).

In response, Jesus did not criticize the woman, her accusers or the Law. To the accusers He simply said, "*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first*" (v. 8). He trusted that no one would dare to claim to be sinless, and He was right. They began drifting away, leaving Jesus and the woman together.

Daily during the Great Fast we say the Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian, asking for some spiritual insight these accusers were brought to remember. We pray, "Grant that I may see my own sins and not judge my brethren." We must know sin when we see it, but not in a way that is judgmental of others.

The Lord did not criticize the woman caught in the act, but neither did He say, "I do not condemn you either; it's all good." She had sinned – she knew it and so did He. His response was, "*go and sin no more*" (v.11).

Fraternal Correction in the Church: The Lord expected His disciples, the leaders of His new community, to deal with sin in its midst. He told them, "*Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent, 'you shall forgive him*" (Lk 17:3,4). Confronting sin in the community was as much part of their job as was extending forgiveness to the repentant.

The apostles were more concerned with helping their people avoid sin, even to the point of discussing it publicly. These are some of their directives found in the Epistles:

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. (Jude 1:22).

(MayLeaflets2018)