

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501
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Website www.stbasilutica.org

SUNDAY 2nd AFTER PENTECOST
Saturday, June 2 & Sunday, June 3, 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, Rose Pawlinga, and Carol Young. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection May 26/27: \$ 00.00
Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00 **Memorial Services: \$ 00.00**
St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 2

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

THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 3

† **Arlene Lalli**, 20th Memorial Anniversary, by Robert Lalli
† **Jannah Jbarah**, by her Family

NEXT SATURDAY, JUNE 9

† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 10

† **Mary Machis**, by Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family
† **Jannah Jbarah**, by her Family

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

1. The next St Basil Parish Advisory Council will be held on Monday, June 4 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.
2. Our PayPal link is available on our website offering a safe, secure, and confidential option to donate to St Basil, Utica. Please go to 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!

FASTING AFTER PENTECOST

On the eighth day after Pentecost, Byzantine Churches traditionally begin the Fast of the Apostles. This fasting season lasts until June 28, the eve of the feast of the principal apostles, Peter and Paul. The Coptic Church begins its fast on Pentecost Monday, Syriac Churches have abridged it to last for thirteen days or less.

The first documented mentions of this Fast are from the fourth century. St Athanasius the Great described the practice in Alexandria in his letter to the Emperor Constantius: “*During the week following Pentecost, the people who observed the Fast went out to the cemetery to pray.*” The Spanish pilgrim to the Holy Land in the early 380s, Egeria, described the practice in Jerusalem: “*on the day following the feast of Pentecost, a period of fasting began*”.

In that era, the Western Church observed this Fast as well. The fifth-century Pope of Rome, Leo I, spoke of this Fast as a chance to make up for any excesses in celebrating the feasts: “*Today's festival, dearly-beloved, hallowed by the descent of the Holy Spirit, is followed, as you know, by a solemn Fast. ... ordained as a wholesome and needful practice, so that, if perhaps through neglect or disorder even amid the joys of the festival any undue license has broken out, it may be corrected by the remedy of strict abstinence, which must be the more scrupulously carried out in order that what was divinely bestowed on the Church on this day may abide in us*” (Sermon 78, On the Whitsuntide Fast).

None of these early documents connect this Fast to the apostles Peter and Paul. This Fast was practiced long before the Apostles’ feast came to be widely celebrated. In the earliest practice this Fast was connected instead to the celebration of Pentecost

Fasting and the Apostles: In later centuries the Fast was extended so that it would end on the eve of the apostles’ feast and came to be explained in light of their memorial. In the Middle Ages, St. Symeon of Thessalonica (+1429) explains: “*The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the Fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles.*” At that time, it seems, the Fast lasted only one week.

The Apostles were said to have fasted before they set out on their missionary journeys. The fourth-century *Canons of the Apostles*, a Syrian work, says that the Apostles “...continued to speak in the new tongues of the nations, in which they preached, and He [the Lord] told them what must be done by the congregations with regards to prayer, worship, and the laws, and they thanked God for this knowledge they received. They fasted for forty days, thanking God through it, and then Peter washed the feet of the disciples... then they departed to all the nations to call people to the faith.”

The canonical New Testament recalls one incident when early Christians fasted before going forth in ministry. It describes a certain gathering in the Church at Antioch: “*While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit... they proclaimed the word of God*” (Acts 13:2-5).

Fasting was again, an expected part of seeking the Lord’s will. Barnabas and Saul evangelized in Asia Minor, then retraced their steps to Antioch: “*So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed*” (Acts 14:23).

(JuneLeaflets2018)