

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

SUNDAY 3rd AFTER PENTECOST
Saturday, June 9 & Sunday, June 10, 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, Rose Pawlinga, and Carol Young. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection June 2/3: \$ 1,551.00    Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 150.00    Memorial Services: \$ 65.00**

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**** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING HOLY LITURGIES DURING JULY ****

Fr. Saba will be absent from the parish between July 5 & July 30. Rev Richard Dellos and Rev Anthony LaFache will preside during Holy Liturgies during this time.

In case of funeral planning, please contact Tony Showa at 315-732-4662. Tony will contact the Diocese to provide St. Basil with Melkite priests.

- 1. THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY LITURGIES OFFERED BETWEEN JULY 5 & JULY 30.**
- 2. DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, THE HOLY LITURGYES WILL BE CELEBRATED EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM.**

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**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 9**

† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam  
† **Fr. Saba Rihani**, by Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 10**

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

**NEXT SATURDAY, JUNE 16**

† **Elias Chanatry**, by Lorraine Chanatry-Howell  
† **Nader Fayez**, by Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 17**

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

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. A 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](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!

2. Fr. Shofany & the Parish Advisory Council members have agreed to sell the antique organ located in the church, on the balcony. If you or someone you know has any interest, please call the rectory at 315.732.4662.

3. We are looking to form two Garage Sale Committees; one to organize the event, and one to provide labor to set-up and break down the event. Please see any PAC member to express you interest. Thank you.

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BEING CHRISTIAN TODAY

In our society today, we can be easily distracted from our more burdensome responsibilities by activities or objects we enjoy. Even the memory of past events, pleasant or painful, can intrude on us and deflect our focus from the task at hand. When these distractions take us away from our family obligations or our relationship with God, we have lost our way. At first, we may not feel lost, but over time the consequences of our choices will become clear.

Many people shook their heads in disbelief at the woman who expressed amazement when her daughter in college stopped going to church. "But we always took her to church," she reasoned, "if her soccer game was cancelled." This mother had let the "bright colors" of a good time distract her entire family from making a meaningful connection to God and the Church the focus of their lives.

We don't have to wonder what the Lord Jesus might have thought about such a situation; He tells us in the Gospel: the alluring distractions that attract us can so cloud our vision that the lamp of our eye goes dark. *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"* (Mt 6:22, 23)

What Clouds Our Spiritual Vision? We may attribute an inability to focus on our spiritual life on a number of causes. Some of them are completely beyond our control; others can be curbed by our free choice, once we recognize their effect on us. Among these influences are:

The Fall: We are told that Adam and Eve, for example, are distracted from God's way when they became convinced that *"the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise"* (Gen 3:6). They accepted the logic of the tempter and lost their previous intimacy with God. We inherit their naiveté and are easily tempted by similar false promises, making us spiritually weak.

The Passions: As a result of the Fall, we are at the mercy of certain impulses within us which dispose us to sin. Some passions involve normal needs which, out of control, can dominate our soul – a disordered appetite for food or drink (*gluttony*), for sexual activity (*unchastity*), or for money and what it can buy (*avarice*). Provided that they are kept within the proper bounds, desire for these things is normal. More spiritual passions include the need to dominate others (*anger*), to expect happiness as our right (*dejection, listlessness*), and to be egocentric (*vanity, pride and vainglory*). A person who values his or her feelings above all else will be subject to many if not all, of these passions. As St Maximos the Confessor noted, "[A person] errs when the irrationality of feeling is the only form of discernment. He is captured by pleasure and avoidance of pain."

(JuneLeaflets2018)