

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

SUNDAY 8th AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, July 15, 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 July 8: \$ 00.00**      **Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 00.00**      **St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**

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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 315-732-5411. Tony will contact the Diocese to provide St. Basil with Melkite priests.

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

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

**THIS SUNDAY, JULY 15** (Fr. Richard Dellos, Celebrant)

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

**NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 22** (Fr. Richard Dellos, Celebrant)

- † **Jannah Jbarah**, by her Family

**SUNDAY, JULY 29** (Fr. Richard Dellos, Celebrant)

- † **Jannah Jbarah**, by her Family

**SATURDAY AUGUST 4** (Fr. Saba Shofany, Celebrant)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 5** (Fr. Saba Shofany, Celebrant)

**\* 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.

4. St Louis Taste of Lebanon: St Basil will sell Syrian Braided Cheese at the Taste of Lebanon again this year. We are looking for folks to cover the booth during the event; Fri Aug 3 from 5-9 pm, Sat Aug 4 from 1-9 pm, and Sun Aug 5 from 11 am to 4 pm. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet to assist at this event.

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RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Roman Christians' moment of choice, according to St Paul, was in the past: they had made the commitment at their baptism. This is why St Paul could speak of them as "having been set free from sin" (*Rom* 6:18).

There are two distinct but complimentary movements at our baptism. The first involves our choice. We reject the dominion of sin and choose to unite ourselves to Christ. The second is the work of God who immerses us into the death and resurrection of Christ. Through this two-fold process we are freed from the power of sin and death. We are called to ratify our baptism every day by choosing righteousness as a way of life. This is sometimes a struggle, but we know it is possible for us because of our union with Christ.

When we are buried with the Lord in baptism, we are granted the joy of His new resurrected life. When we live conscious of His life in us our lives take on a heavenly and uplifted spirit. To paraphrase St. John Chrysostom, if we believe the Lord is risen, we should believe it about ourselves as well.

In the Gospel, when the Lord was asked about freedom, He replied "*Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*" (*Jn* 8:34-36). If, then we have been made free by our union with the Son of God who delivered is from the eternal power of sin and death, why does St Paul say that we should be slaves, rather than sons?

The answer is expressed clearly in the epistle: "*I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh*" (*Rom* 6:19).

When St Paul began forming new Christians by speaking of freedom, he was often misunderstood. People thought they were no longer bound to any standards of behavior – they were "free." Paul did not dare tell people they were free – they were too immature to hear it. As he told the Corinthians, "*I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able*" (*1Cor* 3:2). St Paul then began using a different approach, as is evident in Romans. He does not contrast slavery and freedom, but contrasting their former slavery to sin to their Christian dependence upon God. Later Christian writers spelled out St Paul's distinction of spiritual milk and solid food in a systematic way. At the earliest stages some believers relate to God as slaves to a master: they fear God and seek to avoid His punishment by keeping His commandments. Believers at a later level of spiritual maturity relate to God as an employee to an employer. They seek to please God and thereby gain a reward. They expect their devotion to be paid off in heaven.

The most mature believers are the children of God. They know the love God has for all mankind – indeed, for all creation - and they love Him as their Father. These are the believers who know that God calls them to communion with Him and they strive to become one with God. They are the "sons" who abide forever. (*JulyLeaflets2018*)