

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 9th AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, July 22, 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 July 15: \$ 00.00**      **Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 00.00**      **St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**

~~~~~  
**** 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.**

~~~~~  
† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

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

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

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

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

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

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

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

**SATURDAY AUGUST 11,** (Fr. Saba Shofany, Celebrant)

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

**\* 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 your 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.

~~~~~  
PROPHET ELIJAH

Elijah – whose name means “Yahweh is my God” – personifies the most important characteristic of the Hebrew prophets. He is described repeatedly as consumed by zeal for the LORD, devoted to observing and restoring the worship of the one true God in a spiritually feeble age. The commitment of the Israelites to their God would wax and wane over succeeding generations and other prophets would rise up to do as Elijah had done in his day to exalt the name of the one true God.

Elijah the Wonderworker: The Scriptures recount several marvels in the life of Elijah for which he is especially revered. The most dramatic involves the drought brought about by the prophet who warned the king, “*There will be no dew or rain except at my bidding*” (1 Kgs 17:1). The three-year long drought was ended at Elijah’s prayer, after the prophets of Baal had failed to do so, bringing about the conversion of the people to the LORD. “*When they saw this, all the people flung themselves on their faces and cried out: ‘THE LORD alone is God! THE LORD alone is God!’*” (1 Kgs 18:39).

A series of wonders took place in Zarephath, a village near Sidon. There Elijah multiplied flour and oil for a poor widow so that “*she and her household had food for a long time*” (1 Kgs 17:15).

Elijah also restored the widow’s son to life after a fatal illness had claimed him by prostrating himself three times over the child and praying, “*O LORD, let this child’s life return to his body*” (1 Kgs 17:21). St Ephrem the Syrian would see this triple prostration as an image of Christ’s triple descent (to becoming man, to death, and to Hades) to bring life to the human race.

Elijah the Ascetic: Monastics in the Christian East have long revered Elijah as a kind of proto-monk, a desert-dweller for the Lord. During the drought God sent Elijah east of the Jordan to Wadi Cherith, a secluded ravine out of Ahab’s reach where “*ravens brought him bread and meat morning and evening, and he drank from the river*” (1 Kgs 17:6). Modern commentators have noted that the original Hebrew text has no vowels and that the same consonants in the word *ravens* can also be read as *Arabs*. Perhaps Bedouin tribesmen brought food to Elijah in his wilderness retreat as their descendants would assist hermits in later centuries.

Monastics also identified with Elijah’s forty-day fast on his journey to Mount Horeb (see 1 Kgs 19:8). At the conclusion of this fast the LORD revealed His presence to Elijah in “*a still, small voice*” (1 Kgs 19:12). This they saw as an icon of the monastic life. The monk distances himself from the world through fasting and other ascetic practices to pursue communion with God (*theosis*). **Elijah and Mount Carmel:** Several events in the life of the prophet Elijah are connected with Mount Carmel, a promontory on the Mediterranean near the city of Haifa. Christians, Druze, Jews, and Muslims all revere this place for its connection with Elijah. Early in the spread of monasticism ascetics settled in the area, often living in caves on the outcropping. (JulyLeaflets2018)