

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 14th AFTER PENTECOST
Saturday, August 25 & Sunday, August 26, 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 Fred Ajaeb, Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Rose Pawlinga, and Lorraine Tedesco. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection August 18/19: \$ 574.00**      **Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 90.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 20.00**      **St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

† **Elias & Catherine Chanatry**, 85th Wedding Anniversary, By Lorraine Chanatry-Howell
† **Joseph Reesh**, 36th Memorial Anniversary, By his Family
† **Alfred Klockowski**, By his Children

NEXT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. On **Wednesday, September 19**, St Basil will host a fund raising event at **Casa Too Mucha**, 13 Genesee Street, New Hartford. Please stop by for lunch or dinner and mention to your server that you're there in support of St Basil. A percentage of your sale will be donated to our beloved church. Thank you in advance for participating, and spread the word!!!

2. The St Basil **Second Fall Flea Market and Raffle** will be held on **Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29** at the Rectory Garage. Beginning on **Saturday, September 1, nearly new** or **slightly used** items will be accepted at the rectory using the back door. Virginia Reesh Lynch and Marcia Reesh will co-chair the event. Questions can be directed to the Rectory at 315.732.4662. Thank you.

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

3. 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!

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CHRISTIAN INITIATION

St Paul wrote two epistles to the first Christians in Corinth which have become part of the New Testament. The Corinthian believers were divided among themselves over rival teachers and practices. Before addressing any of these issues, he reminded the Corinthians of their baptism! The relationship we have with God in Christ should be our basis for dealing with any practical matters. What may surprise us is that he makes no mention of water at all, or even of baptism in the name of the Trinity. Rather he emphasized the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the time of the apostles, Christian initiation already included a rite for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. The Acts of the Apostles records that, ever before the conversion of St Paul to Christ, baptism was not considered complete until the Spirit had been given. We read in Acts 8 how Philip, a deacon, preached the Gospel in Samaria and baptized many people there. The passage continues: *“When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 8:14-17).

The Samaritans' baptism was not a complete Christian initiation until they received the Holy Spirit. The rite which the apostles employed was prayer, with the laying-on of hands.

St Paul, on the other hand, describes the bestowal of the Spirit in terms of anointing and sealing: *“He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come”* (2 Cor 1:21, 22). The anointing was a visible mark, attesting that the new believer belonged to Christ. This bestowal of the Spirit is what we call the Mystery of Chrismation.

The second image in this brief description is the mention of the Holy Spirit as a kind of “Deposit” or down-payment, guaranteeing the divinizing presence of the Spirit in us. This presence would be fulfilled in the life of the world to come, *“so that God may be all in all”* (1 Cor 15:28).

The Wedding Banquet: Even more sacramental allusions are found in the image of the wedding banquet of the king's son. This portrayal of a future when God is all in all is at the heart of Christ's parable of the wedding banquet (Mt 22:1-14). A similar parable is found in Lk 14:15-24. In Luke Christ tells this parable in response to this praise of the kingdom to come by one of His hearers, *“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God”* (Lk 14:15).

In Matthew, this feast is described as celebrating the union of the king's son with his bride, which represents the Messiah becoming one with his people. It is the long-awaited union of the Lord and His beloved. St John Chrysostom explains the wedding imagery in this parable and connects it with similar expressions in other Scriptures.: *“You may ask, ‘Why is it called a marriage?’ – That you may learn God's tender care, His yearning toward us, the cheerfulness of it. There is no sorrow there: all things are filled with spiritual joy. This is why John also calls Him a bridegroom and Paul says, ‘I have espoused you to one husband’ and ‘This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.’* Those who are invited, however, do not see the eternal significance of this event. They are busy with the things of this age – their view of reality was limited to their business interests.

(AugustLeaflets2018)