

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 BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS EXALTATION
Saturday, September 8 & Sunday, September 9, 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 September 1/2: \$ 404.00**      **Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 30.00**      **St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**

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† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

† **Alfred Chanatry**, 3rd Memorial Anniversary, By his family
† **Louis Chanatry**, 45th Memorial Anniversary, By Doris & Eugene Hutchinson
† **Albert Casab**, 42nd Memorial Anniversary, By their Children
† **Margaret Casab**, 13th Memorial Anniversary, By their Children

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

† **Dr. Rick Zoghby**, 7th Memorial Anniversary, By Lorraine Chanatry-Howell
† **Emeena Chanatry-Zogby**, By Lorraine Chanatry-Howell
† **Alfred Chanatry**, 3rd Memorial Anniversary, By his family

NEXT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

† **Mrs. Rose Pastorella**, By Robert Lalli

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family
† **Deceased Members of the Cimbalo family**, By Robert Lalli

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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!!!

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

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.

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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THANKS AND TRIBUTE

SYRIAN BRAIDED CHEESE: Let us all express our appreciation to the Cheese Making Committee, Janet George, Christina Marerro, Michelle Roth, Carol Chanatry, Barbara Ann Dunlevy, and Diana Kakaty for their help making our Syrian Braided Cheese. Great thanks to to Marcia Reesh for creating labels used to list ingredients on the braids. St Basil and the entire parish community deeply appreciates your sincere dedication. God bless you! Fr. Saba

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**GOD'S LIGHT**

THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT we read that light is somehow an apt description of God. Thus in St Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians we read: "*God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ*" (2 Cor 4:6). Elsewhere we read even more explicit statements such as this, from the First Epistle of John: "*God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all*" (1 Jn 1:5). We also hear Christ telling us, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*" (Jn 8:12). It is hard to imagine the apostles believing that light merely represents or symbolizes God. John, along with Peter and James, had witnessed Christ's transfiguration on Mount Tabor when Christ's "*...face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light*" (Mt 17:2). St Paul was on his way to Damascus, when "*suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him*" (Acts 9:3) and he was blinded at the appearance of the risen Christ. These were concrete manifestations of light, not simply poetic images.

The Church, reflecting on these Scriptures over the first millennium, struggled to understand how the immaterial God could "be" light. Fathers like St Gregory of Nyssa and St Gregory the Theologian affirmed that God is incomprehensible to us because He is so beyond our nature. God is an impenetrable darkness to us as "He whom the soul seeks transcends all knowledge, separated from every part by His incomprehensibility as by a darkness." These Fathers, occupied with more pressing doctrinal issues such as the Trinity and the Incarnation, did not resolve the dilemma: how could God be both darkness and light. It was only in the fourteenth century that St Gregory Palamas, the archbishop of Thessalonika, came to interpret the Fathers' teachings by making a distinction which would resolve this quandary.

**God as Essence and Energy:** St Gregory Palamas developed a patristic distinction between the **essence** of God, absolutely inaccessible to man, and His uncreated **energies**, which proceed from God and manifest His own Being, and by which He is present to us. In this way he affirmed that God is both knowable and unknowable, both light and darkness. We cannot know God as He is in Himself. As we read in the Gospel, "*No one has ever seen God*" (Jn 1:18). We can know God in His energies (to know what God does, and who He is in relation to His creation and to man), because God has revealed Himself to humanity.

*(SeptLeaflets2018)*