

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY 11TH AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
Saturday, November 30 & Sunday, December 1, 2019

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:30AM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM  
**Matins/ Orthos:** Every Sunday at 9:00AM  
**Holy Confession:** Every Monday at 4-6PM  
**Vespers:** Every Saturday at 3:00PM  
**Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday at 10:30AM

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Wael and his son Jordan Barahmeh, Michael Klockowski, Eugene Hutchinson, Maggy Attalah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, Jean Benoit and Fouad Marji. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection Nov. 23/24: \$ 619.00**  
**Fuel Donation: \$ 50.00**  
**Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**  
**Memorial Offering: \$ 00.00**

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THANK YOU FOR BEING GREAT MEMBERS OF ST. BASIL

Thank you ALL for the wonderful & successful Luncheon Event held on Sun Nov 24, in honor of our Bishop Nicolas Samra's visit to the Parish. St Basil is proud of his children for their devotion, dedication, and participation in the event. In the name of our community, we should thank the Parish Pastoral Council members for dedicating all their energy in putting up this event and a great appreciation to the MC of the Luncheon: Janet George & Michelle Roth and those who prepared the delicious food. Great appreciation to all those who tried to make this event a successful family assembly.

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

**THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

† **Margaret Makames**, 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary, By Robert Lalli

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

† **Rt. Rev. Joseph Francavilla**, By the Community of St. Basil

**NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

**NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 8**

† **Kathleen Southworth**, By Robert Lalli

**SAINT NICOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

The earliest written source on the life of St Nicholas that we have comes from the early to mid-ninth century, almost 500 years after his death. There was at least one earlier written life which no longer exists. Earlier testimony to this saint is found in icons, prayers and the existence of churches dedicated to him. St Nicholas is also mentioned in some earlier writings.

According to the ninth and tenth century lives we have, Nicholas was born to wealthy Christian parents in Patara, on the southwest coast of the Roman province of Lycia in Asia Minor. He was orphaned in an epidemic while he was still young and raised by his uncle, the bishop of Patara.

Of a religious disposition, Nicholas was tonsured as a reader by his uncle while quite young and eventually was ordained a priest. Obeying Christ's words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his own inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

As a prominent Christian, Nicholas was imprisoned during the persecutions of Diocletian and Galerius, but freed when the persecutions ended in 311. In response to his deliverance, Nicholas traveled to the Holy Land on pilgrimage. While there, he reportedly lived with a group of monks in what is today Beit Jala. However, Nicholas was not called to the monastic life and returned to Patara. On the return voyage, the ship was threatened by a powerful storm. The terrified sailors were amazed to see the storm suddenly subside at Nicholas' prayers. This gave rise to the custom of praying to St Nicholas as protector of seamen.

In 317 Nicholas was chosen as archbishop of Myra, the provincial capital of Lycia. He was neither a great ascetic nor a martyr. His reputation rests on his pastoral concern for the people under his care, particularly the poor and the defenseless.

The tenth-century life of St Nicholas by Simeon Metaphrastes ("the Translator") tells of secret gift-giving to save an impoverished man's daughters from penury. St Nicholas secretly left money to provide a dowry for each of the daughters in turn. These stories and more became known in the West, and Nicholas became a favorite saint and gift-giver throughout Europe.

In 325 Nicholas reportedly attended the First Ecumenical Council called by the emperor to combat the Arian schism prevailing in parts of the empire. Always a firm opponent of Arianism, Nicholas reputedly opposed Arius personally at the council. As John the Deacon described it, "Animated like the Prophet Elias with zeal for God, he put the heretic Arius to shame at the synod not only by word but also by deed, smiting him on the cheek." Nicholas, the account continues, was deposed as a result. His omophorion and Gospel book, signs of his office, were confiscated and he was imprisoned.

During the night the Lord Jesus and the Theotokos appeared to Nicholas in prison, restoring the items taken from him. Icons of St Nicholas often depict this vision of Christ and the Theotokos returning his omophorion and Gospel. Nicholas became an increasingly influential public figure later in his episcopate. He died in Myra on December 6, 343 and was buried in his cathedral. After the Seljuk Turks conquered the area, Italian merchants in Venice and Bari sought to "rescue" the saint from the Turks. In 1087, seamen broke into Nicholas' tomb and spirited away the saint's body to Bari where it was enshrined in a great basilica built in his honor. Today pilgrims still visit Bari to pray at Nicholas' tomb. (*DecLeaflets*2019)