

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



THE THEOPHANY

SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF THE LORD
Saturday, January 11 & Sunday, January 12, 2020

WEEKLY SERVICES

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

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 Atallah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, Jean Benoit and Fouad Marji. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection Jan. 4/ 5: \$ 436.00 **Fuel Donation: \$ 335.00**
Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00 **Memorial Offering: \$ 100.00**

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

† **Philip Rahal**, By Larry & Rose Pawlinga
† **William Chanatry**, By Ibrahim & Hannan Barahmeh

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

† **Salwa Atallah- Hamati**, By Gloria Shaheen
† **Sliman Marji**, By Ibrahim & Hannan Barahmeh

NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

† **Joseph Nassimos**, By Anthony John Kawam
† **Joseph Kakaty**, 27th Memorial Anniversary, By his Children

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

† **Salwa Atallah- Hamati**, By Gloria Shaheen

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon February 3, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm

St Sopronios of Jerusalem on the Theophany: “Today the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came upon the waters. Today the unwaning sun has dawned, and the world is lit up with the light of the Lord. [...] Today the clouds refresh humanity with a rain of righteousness from above. Today the uncreated One is by His own will touched by the creature. Today the prophet and forerunner approach the Master, but pauses in awe, seeing God’s condescension towards us.

Today the waters of the Jordan are turned into healing by the presence of the Lord. Today all creation is watered by mystical waters. Today men’s sins are washed away in the waters of the Jordan. Today Paradise is thrown open to mankind, and the sun of righteousness shines upon us. Today the water that the people under Moses found bitter, is turned into sweetness at the presence of the Lord. Today we are free of the ancient grief, and like a new Israel have been redeemed.

Today we are delivered from the darkness and are bathed in the light of the knowledge of God. Today the world’s gloom is dispersed in the epiphany of our God. Today the entire universe is lit as by a heavenly torch. Today error is abolished and the coming of the Lord opens the way to salvation. Today the heavenly joins the earthly in celebration, and that which is below holds discourse with that which is above. Today the holy and vibrant assembly of the Orthodox rejoices. Today the Master hastens towards baptism in order to raise mankind to the heights. Today He who bends to none, bows before His own servant, so as to free us from bondage.

Today heaven has been deeded to us, for of the Lord’s kingdom there shall be no end. Today the earth and the sky have divided the world’s joy, and the world is filled with gladness. The waters saw You, O God, the waters saw You and were afraid. The Jordan reversed its flow when it saw the fire of divinity descending bodily and entering it. The Jordan turned back, seeing the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove and hovering about You. The Jordan turned back seeing the invisible become visible, the Creator made flesh, the Master in the form of servant. The Jordan turned back and the mountains leapt, seeing God in the flesh, and the clouds gave voice, marveling at the One present, light of light, true God of true God, who submerged in the Jordan the death of disobedience and the sting of error and the bond of Hades, giving to the world a baptism of salvation.”

St Proclus of Constantinople on the Theophany: A friend and disciple of St John Chrysostom, Proclus would succeed him as Archbishop of Constantinople in 434. His Discourse 7, On the Theophany, is read in both Eastern and Western Churches on this feast.

“Christ appeared in the world, and, bringing beauty out of disarray, gave it luster and joy. He bore the world’s sins and crushed the world’s enemy. He sanctified the fountains of waters and enlightened the minds of men. Into the fabric of miracles, he interwove ever greater miracles. For on this day land and sea share between them the grace of the Savior, and the whole world is filled with joy. Today’s feast of the Theophany manifests even more wonders than the feast of Christmas.

On the feast of the Savior’s birth, the earth rejoiced because it bore the Lord in a manger; but on today’s feast of the Theophany it is the sea that is glad and leaps for joy; the sea is glad because it receives the blessing of holiness in the river Jordan. At Christmas we saw a weak baby, giving proof of our weakness. In today’s feast, we see a perfect man, hinting at the perfect Son who proceeds from the all-perfect Father.

At Christmas the King puts on the royal robe of his body; at the Theophany the very source enfolds and, as it were, clothes the river. Come, then, and see new and astounding miracles: The Son of righteousness washing in the Jordan, fire immersed in water, God sanctified by the ministry of man. Today every creature shouts in resounding song: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is he who comes in every age, for this is not His first coming. And who is He? Tell us more clearly, I beg you, blessed David: ‘The Lord is God and has shone upon us. (*JanLeaflets*2020)