

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS- ST. GREGORY PALAMAS
Saturday, March 7 & Sunday, March 8, 2020

SEASON OF LENT - 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
Great Compline: Wednesday at 6:00PM
Holy Confession: Every Monday at 4-6PM
Vespers: Every Saturday at 3:00PM
Holy Rosary: Every Sunday at 10:30AM
Akathistos: Friday at 6:00PM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Nadia Casab, Wael and his son Jordan Barahmeh, Maggy Atallah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, Julia Nassimos, Jean Benoit and Brian Sagrestano. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection Feb. 29/ March 1: \$ 346.00
Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 000.00
Fuel Donation: \$ 00.00
Memorial Offering: \$ 000.00
Sacramental Docs. Donation: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 7

† **Joseph Nassimos**, By Julia & Mary Nassimos
† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By John Anthony Kawam

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 8

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Debbie Gillihan
† **All victims of U. S. mass shootings**, By Robert Lalli

NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 14

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Debbie Gillihan
† **Donna Ferenti**, By Robert Lalli

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

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

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

The annual Bishop's Appeal is an essential way in which our parish fulfills its duty to our larger Melkite family throughout the U.S. Our Father and Shepherd, Bishop Nicholas asks every Melkite household in the U.S. to give **at least \$100-\$200 each year** to support our Eparchy in America. By contributing to the Appeal, each of us responds to Christ's call to support our Church and helps to fund its vital works, such as: publishing *SOPHIA* magazine; supporting our seminarians for the Priesthood and Diaconate; providing for our elderly priests; teaching the Faith to our children and young adults; establishing/supporting new missions and outreaches.

Those who give a gift of \$1000 or more will be automatically enrolled in the Order of Saint Nicholas, the charitable society of our Eparchy. It is the holy obligation of every member of our parish to support our Church as you are able. Please send your gift today. May God bless your generosity.

NATHANIEL SEES GOD

Nathaniel and his friend Philip were both disciples of St John the Forerunner. They had responded to John's announcement that One was coming "*whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loosen*" (Jn 1:27). The Lord Jesus had gone to the Jordan where John was baptizing, and it is there that John identifies Jesus as the Awaited One. "*Again the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said 'Behold the Lamb of God!'*" (vv. 35, 36). Philip may have been one of those who heard John's testimony, so that when Jesus invited Philip to follow Him, he responded positively. In turn, Philip goes to his friend Nathaniel with the news, "*We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph*" (v. 45). Nathaniel replies laconically, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" (v. 46) The Fathers approached this passage differently, saying that Nathaniel meant the exact opposite: that, if Jesus was the Awaited One, then He could not have come from Nazareth. St John Chrysostom, for example, suggested that Nathaniel "thought within himself that Philip was probably mistaken about the place" and that Jesus was not from Nazareth" (Homily 20 on Jn).

In any case, Philip responds with the same words that Jesus earlier said to Andrew, "Come and see." When **Nathaniel finally meets Jesus**, the Lord utters another cryptic remark, "*Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit! Nathaniel said to Him, 'How do you know me? 'Jesus answered and said to him, 'Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you'*" (vv. 47, 48) '.

What was Nathaniel doing under the fig tree? Again, many suggestions have been offered; none of them are attested in the Scripture, so we cannot know for sure. One possibility upheld by many in our Tradition is that Nathaniel was praying at that time: *O God of our fathers, send us the One whom You have promised. Send us the Messiah, the Savior.* Faith in the promise of a Savior is what marks out a true Israelite. The Lord, they say, saw him at prayer and He saw Nathaniel's heart. Nathaniel's response marks him as one of the first disciples of Christ, whom He called before His ministry in Galilee.

"*You are the Son of God! You are the king of Israel!*" (v. 49) Nathaniel sees that Jesus is the Messiah and acclaims Him with the traditional titles of a royal Messiah: "son of God" and "king of Israel."

At the end of His public ministry, Jesus' followers would affirm their faith in His heavenly origin: "*See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God*" (Jn 16: 29, 30). But it would only be after His resurrection, when the risen Christ was manifested to the disciples, that the full force of Jesus' words to Nathaniel would be realized: "*Most assuredly I say to you: hereafter you shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man*" (Jn 1:51) (*FebLeaflets2020*)