

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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****IMPORTANT GUIDELINES****

1. Take all precautionary measures according to the directives issued by medical and local authorities.
 2. All Faithful of the Eparchy are dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday and Holy Day Divine Liturgies.
 3. All Melkite churches must follow the restrictions of the local government and Latin dioceses in which they are located, i.e. if the local Latin diocese has cancelled Mass, then cancel Liturgy, at least until the end of April. Public Lenten Services and parish dinners are suspended.
 4. Funerals should be served only with the immediate family members of the deceased. A date can be chosen later for a public memorial service when the pandemic subsides.
 5. Each parish may celebrate a Sunday Divine Liturgy with two or three present and *live stream* it to the parish members.
 6. Lenten week-day services (Presanctified, etc.) may also be celebrated in the church with two or three and *live streamed*.
 7. Churches may be open at designated times after the *live streamed* Liturgy for those who wish to receive the Eucharist.
- These guidelines remain in effect till further notice.

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, 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 April 11/ 12: \$ 00.00 **Easter Flowers Donation: \$ 00.00**
Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00 **Memorial Offering: \$ 00.00**
St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 18

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Carol Chanatry and Family

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 19

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 25

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Carol Chanatry and Family

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 26

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

*** ANNOUNCEMENT ***

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon May. 4, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm

CHRIST IS SOURCE OF LIVING WATER

The central theme of the Pentecostarion is that, through the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon the Church to transform the world. This extraordinary gift was expressed by Christ Himself in the image of living water, when He celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem with His disciples. “*On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified*” (Jn 7:37-9).

This passage, read at the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost, sets forth the Paschal Mystery as a three-stage process. The first step is *the glorification of Jesus*, by which the Gospel means His saving death on the cross. The cross was hardly glory in the world’s eyes, but the eyes of faith sees Christ’s humbling Himself to death as His glory, as Christ said before His arrest, “*Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him*” (Jn 13:31). This is why the inscription on the cross in Byzantine churches is not the one placed there by Pilate (“the king of the Jews”) but rather “the King of Glory.”

The world sees glory in terms of wealth, power, and ostentatious display. There is none of that in the cross. Christ’s “glory” is found in the depths to which He would go to take on our humanity, embracing even rejection, humiliation and death. This is why St Paul would say, “*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*” (1 Cor 1:18, 23-25).

The second stage in the Gospel exposition of the paschal mystery is the *bestowal of the Holy Spirit*. This was possible only because of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, His resurrection and His ascension. We look again to Christ’s words here: “*If I do not go away, the Helper [Paraclete] will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you*” (Jn 16:7). “Going away” here means Christ’s return to the Father upon the completion of His earthly ministry. The Holy Spirit would remain with the Church forever, according to Christ’s promise: “*I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him*” (Jn 14:16-17). (AprilLeaflets2020)