

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. 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. 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.

SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AFTER EASTER  
Saturday, April 25 & Sunday, April 26, 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, 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 18/ 19: \$ 2090.00**      **Easter Flowers Donation: \$ 00.00**  
**Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 50.00**      **Memorial Offering: \$ 50.00**  
**St. Pauly Textile: \$ 294.32**

**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

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

**THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

**NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 2**

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

**NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 3**

† **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

**JOSEPH AND THE MYRRH-BEARERS**

In Mark 15:44-16:8, which is read at this Sunday's Liturgy, we see Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Council, arrange for Jesus' burial. St John Chrysostom observes, "This was Joseph, who had been concealing his discipleship. Now, after the death of Christ, he became very bold. For neither was he an obscure person nor unnoticed. He was one of the Council, and highly distinguished and, as we see, courageous. For he exposed himself to death, taking upon himself the enmity of all by his affection for Jesus. He begged for the body and did not desist until he obtained it. Not only that, but by laying it in his own new tomb, he actively demonstrated his love and courage" (Homily 88 on Matthew).

**Joseph:** In Jn 19:39 we are told that the seeker Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee, helped Joseph in this task. Their service is memorialized in the troparion sung on this day, itself drawn from the Gospel of St Mark: *The noble Joseph took down from the tree Your spotless body. He wrapped it in fine linen with aromatic spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb...*

**The Myrrh-bearers:** Mark notes that Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joses (whom John identifies as the wife of Clopas – Cleophas in the King James Bible – and a relative of the Theotokos) saw where Jesus had been buried and returned with others on Sunday morning with more spices. Mk 15:40 tells of a Salome, one of those who had witnessed the death of the Lord, who accompanied them. These women were among those whom Luke says provided for Jesus' needs during His ministry from their possessions. Others among them, according to Luke, were "*Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Suzanna, and many others*" (8:3). Mt 27:56 mentions "*the mother of the sons of Zebedee*" (i.e. James and John). Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, are included among them as well. As St John Chrysostom remarked, "They lamented over what had happened, beating their breasts. Meanwhile, the religious leaders were glorying in those very things for which the others were grieving, neither moved by pity nor checked by fear" (Homily 88.2 on Mt).

The Jews did not embalm the dead like the Egyptians. Rather they anointed a corpse and surrounded it with large quantities of spices to counteract the odor of decay. Jn 19:39 says that Nicodemus brought one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes for that purpose. When the women returned to the tomb at first light on Sunday morning, according to Mark and Luke, they brought more spices. The odor should have increased to such a degree that further masking would be needed if people were to visit the tomb. But the Lord did not need their spices; not subject to corruption, He had conquered Death and destroyed its hold over us. (*AprilLeaflets2020*)