

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilsutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org



SUNDAY 3RD AFTER EASTER
Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3, 2020

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**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

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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, Kathleen Zelesnikar, Brian Sagrestano. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection April 25/ 26: \$ 00.00**      **Easter Flowers Donation: \$ 00.00**  
**Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**      **Memorial Offering: \$ 00.00**  
**St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, MAY 2

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

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 3

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 9

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

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENT \***

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon June. 8, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm

**\*\*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.

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SPIRITUAL PARALYSIS

As more philosophically minded Greeks accepted Christ, they identified the signs of spiritual paralysis in terms of the classical passions: gluttony, lust, greed, anger, envy, sloth, pride and vainglory. Someone who is focused on personal comforts (through food and drink, sex or material possessions) will find it difficult, if not impossible, to center on the spiritual life. If they attend church at all, they find their mind wandering back to the object of their passion.

A story is told about St Basil, the revered Fool for Christ, who confronted Tsar Ivan the Terrible one day, because he was not at the Liturgy. Ivan protested that he was indeed in church for the service. Basil replied that the emperor's body was in church, but his mind was on the Vorobiev hills (where he was having a palace built). When Basil died in 557, the Tsar acted as one of his pallbearers.

It would be even harder for people ruled by their pride or vanity to look beyond themselves to God or others. Their piety dries up "like baked clay" (Ps 21:16), withered like a plant with too much sun and no water. This is why combating the passions has been seen as fundamental to a committed Christian life, since the dawn of monasticism in the third century.

In his Homily 37 on the Gospel of John, St John Chrysostom discusses the spiritual medicines necessary to combat the passions and other distractions from the Christian life. "The divine Oracles [the Scriptures] are a treasury of all manner of medicines, so that whether it be needful to quench pride, to lull desire to sleep, to tread underfoot the love of money, to despise pain, to inspire confidence, to gain patience, from them one may find abundant resource." The Scriptures held the medicine; the illnesses were the passions.

The Church as Healer: While the Scriptures portray the incarnate Christ as Healer of the man at Bethesda, it depicts the Body of Christ, the Church, as the source of Aeneas' recovery. The Church is meant to be a therapeutic community in which Christ continues His healing work in our midst.

"Yesterday you were flung on a bed, exhausted and paralyzed, and you had no one to put you into the pool when the water should be troubled. Today you have Him, who is in one person God and Man. You were raised up from your bed, and even carried your bed, publicly acknowledging the benefit. Do not again be thrown on your bed by sinning, in the evil of a body paralyzed by its pleasures. As you now are, so walk, mindful of the command, 'See you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you'" (Jn 5:14). If you prove yourself bad after the blessing you have received. You have heard the loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (St Gregory the Theologian, Oration on Holy Baptism, XI, 33) (*MayLeaflets2020*)