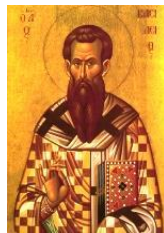


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501
Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org



****IMPORTANT GUIDELINES****

SUNDAY 5TH AFTER EASTER
Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17, 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, Kathleen Zelesnikar, Brian Sagrestano. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

~~~~~  
**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection May 9/ 10: \$ 925.00**      **Easter Flowers Donation: \$ 00.00**  
**Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**      **Memorial Offering: \$ 00.00**  
**St. Pauly Textile: \$ 200.17**

~~~~~  
† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, MAY 16

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

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 17

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 24

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Tom Moran

~~~~~  
**\* ANNOUNCEMENT \***

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

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.

~~~~~  
FRATERNAL CORRECTION IN THE CHURCH

John's Gospel tells the story of another hapless woman: one caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-8). The scribes and Pharisees claimed that, according to the Law, she was to be stoned. They were right. The Law prescribed, "*If a man be found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die – the man that lay with the woman and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel*" (Dt 20:22).

In response, Jesus did not criticize the woman, her accusers, or the Law. To the accusers He simply said, "*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first*" (v.8). He trusted that no one would dare to claim to be sinless, and He was right. They began drifting away, leaving Jesus and the woman together.

Daily during the Great Fast we say the Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian, asking for the same spiritual insight these accusers were brought to remember. We pray, "Grant that I may see my own sins and not judge my brethren." We must know sin when we see it, but not in a way that is judgmental of others.

The Lord did not criticize the woman caught in the act, but neither did He say, "I do not condemn you either. It's all good." She had sinned – she knew it and so did He. His response was, "*Go and sin no more*" (v. 11). Fraternal Correction in the Church: The Lord expected His disciples, the leaders of His new community, to deal with sin in its midst. He told them, "*Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sin against you seven times a day, and seven times in a day returns to you saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him*" (Lk 17:3, 4). Confronting sin in the community was as much part of their job as was extending forgiveness to the repentant.

Sometimes church leaders turn a blind eye to the unchristian behavior of members of their flock so as to keep them in the congregation. The Apostles were more concerned with helping their people avoid sin, even to the point of discussing it publicly. These are some of their directives found in the Epistles:

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself" (Gal 6:1-5). "*Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning*" (1 Tm 5:20). "*My brethren, if any one among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins*" (Jas 5:19, 20). "*On some have compassion, making a distinction, but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh*" (Jude 1:22, 23). (MayLeaflets2020)