

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, September 19 & Sunday, September 20, 2020

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday 8:30AM      **Holy Confession:** Every Monday 4-6PM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 11:00AM      **Vespers:** Every Saturday 3:00PM  
**Matins/Orthos:** Every Sunday 9:00AM      **Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday 10:30AM

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Mary Murad, Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Rose Pawlinga, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection Sept 12/13: \$ 630.00**      **Memorial Masses: \$ 460.00**  
**Maintenance Donations: \$ 20.00**      **Beirut, Lebanon Donations: \$ 50.00**

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SPIRITUAL ADVICE OF THE DAY

“My son, ... let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So, you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:1-35)

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**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Anthony & Sandra Showa

**THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Gloria Shaheen  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Robert Lalli

**NEXT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Anthony & Sandra Showa

**NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Gloria Shaheen  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Robert Lalli  
† **Mae Nassar, 12<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary**, By Robert Lalli

**GOD PROVIDES FOR US**

HOW MANY TV CHANNELS can you access – 300, 400, more? How many do you use? How fast can your car travel; 150 mph? How fast do you drive? Does your Smartphone have more apps than you will ever use? Manufacturers design their products based on the conviction that people want more than they really need. As humorist Will Rogers said back in the 1920s, “Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want to impress people they don't like.”

This dynamic, called consumerism, has been known for over 100 years. As more people became financially able to buy more, do more, and travel more “conspicuous consumption” became a way of life for an increasing number of people, particularly in Europe and America. The great symbol of this phenomenon, at least in the U.S. has been “Black Friday,” the day after Thanksgiving, when people descend on stores in a Christmas Shopping frenzy to grab the latest thing before it’s sold out.

Pope Francis has repeatedly denounced a way of life devoted to conspicuous consumption, contrasting it to a Christ-centered way of life. “The encounter with the living Jesus, in the great family that is the Church, fills the heart with joy, because it fills it with true life, a profound goodness that does not pass away or decay. “But this experience must face the daily vanity, the poison of emptiness that insinuates itself into our society based on profit and having (things), that deludes young people with consumerism,” he said before thousands in St Peter’s Square.

“Young people are particularly sensitive to the emptiness of meaning and values that surrounds them. And they, unfortunately, pay the consequences.”

Critics have accused the pope of introducing socialism or even Marxism into Church teaching. In fact, the anti-consumerism he espouses may be found in the New Testament and even in pre-Christian philosophers.

**How God Provides:** St Paul sets forth his “Christian economics” in 2 Corinthians 9:8 – “*God can make every gift abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work*”. The first plank in his three-fold approach is to recognize that **God can provide for us**. We often emphasize our own contribution to life, forgetting that our talents, our abilities, our very existence comes from God. As we read in the Epistle of James – and repeat regularly in the Divine Liturgy – “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights...*” (Jas 1:17). We are, to be sure, co-creators with Him by virtue of our creation in His image; but there is nothing good wrought by our hand apart from Him.

Secondly, God provides for us in a specific manner. He provides for us *all sufficiency in all things*. In other words, He guarantees that we have **everything we truly need**. Third, He guarantees us **an abundance**, over and above what we need, but for a specific purpose: *for every good work*. We have enough for what we require and even more, for the purpose of doing good.

**What Do We “Need?”** St Paul’s economics are easy to understand in principle, but we find ourselves with a lot of questions when we try to apply his teaching. When does “need” – I must have – become “excess” – I can use, or I want? And is it good for me to have everything I want and can afford?

We recognize the negative effects on our body if we eat or drink to excess. But there are even more serious effects on our soul. Our physical cravings can lead to a psychological dependency: the feeling that I can’t live without X, Y or Z. Overeating leads to overweight, physical discomfort and illness; overdependence on material things leads to psychological unhappiness and spiritual emptiness.

Epictetus, One of the Stoic philosophers Himself born into slavery, had so freed himself from dependence on the material that he reportedly said in AD 55 that, “*Contentment comes not so much from great wealth as from few wants.*” These pagan philosophers would likely have agreed with the Lord when He said, “*It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man [i.e. one dependent on his material wealth] to enter the kingdom of God.*” (Mk 10:25; Lk 18:25).  
*(SeptembertLeaflets2020)*