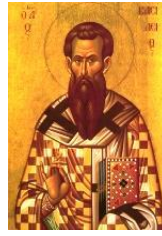


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY 10th AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, November 28 & Sunday, November 29, 2020

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

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

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Jeanette Farewege, 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 Nov 21/22: \$ 581.00      St Basil Website Donation: \$ 290.70**  
**Bishop's Appeal: \$ 25.00      Memorial Masses: \$ 40.00**

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SPIRITUAL ADVICE OF THE DAY

Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. (Proverbs 28:26)
If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (James 1:5) Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

**THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & her Family  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By David & Janet George

**THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

† **Julia Nassimos**, By Peter & S. Ann Murray  
† **Theron Warren**, By Robert Lalli  
† **Bryan McLoughlin**, By Robert Lalli  
† **Aniseh Ayash**, By Samia Marji and Family

**NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza S. Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By David & Janet George

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza S. Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By David & Janet George

**2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

**The Bishop's Appeal:** Do not be like the Rich Young Fool in today's Gospel. Our Lord tells us not be sad and downcast, worrying about our earthly riches, but to be generous and joyful of heart, storing up treasure in Heaven and being rich in the things of God. If our Lord has blessed us with riches, He does so not only for ourselves and our families, but for the good of His Church. Offer your gratitude to God by giving a generous gift to the Bishop's Appeal today. Appeal envelopes are available in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity and for representing St. Basil, Utica.

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THE THEOTOKOS FEAST

“WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?” This question is posed by a young Jewish leader whom Jesus meets on His way to Jerusalem. At first glance it seems a reasonable inquiry, one that many people would still ask today. “Tell me what prayer to say, what shrine to visit, what project I can take on which will guarantee that I'll get to heaven.”

Church Fathers, however, saw this as a trick question, seeking to trap Jesus into setting some new requirement not in the Law. The Lord does not give the young man another thing to do, adding to the list of precepts which devotees of the Torah felt set forth God's will for them. Rather Jesus says that to be perfect you must “sell all you have” and commit yourself completely to Him. Perfection does not come from performing this or that isolated action, however good it may be. Perfection comes from entrusting one's whole life to Christ.

In the Pastoral Epistles we see some consequences of this life in Christ as it was perceived in the apostolic Church. The “*elect of God*” (Col 3:12) have died to the world, been buried in Baptism and are now alive in Christ. Their way of life is to be Christ's, embodying the compassion and forgiveness of Christ Himself. They are to bear with one another (after all, others are putting up with them). They are to build up one another's faith “*with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*” (Col 3:16), thankful for the grace filling their hearts. This is certainly in stark contrast to the way of the world, where self-love, resentments, grudges, and slanderously tearing others down is the norm for many.

One of the first qualities of someone dead to the world mentioned in Colossians is *humility*, a virtue most associate with monasticism rather than life in the world. In fact, as the Church grew, perfection came to be associated increasingly with some kind of ascetic life. At first people like the “sons and daughters of the covenant” in the Syriac Church lived in the world, but somewhat apart from others, devoting themselves to prayer and good works. By the third century ascetics like St Antony and the Desert Fathers lived as hermits in the wilderness, completely apart from others. Monasticism brought like-minded people together to live in a community, where they could commend themselves and one another and their whole life to Christ God while being apart from the world at large. But the Gospel is not addressed simply to monks and nuns; it is meant for all believers. How does a Christian in the world “sell all” and follow Christ? Is there a way for a believer to live in the world but not be of the world, as Christ enjoins? It is not wearing some distinctive dress that says “I am different.” It is rather living by a different set of principles, given by Christ. The popular book, *Way of the Ascetics* by Tito Colliander, affirms that humility is rather a matter of not always putting forth one's own will. Colliander teaches that following the Church's tradition for fasting is the most basic school for obedience. We fast *when the Church says to*, we do not fast when the Church says not to. We fast not to be “righteous,” but to be obedient. Ordinary life provides countless other occasions for us to develop a humble spirit through obedience. Colliander notes, “Your wife wants you to take your raincoat with you: do as she wishes, to practice obedience. Your fellow-worker asks you to walk with her a little way: go with her to practice obedience. A novice in a cloister could not find more opportunity for obedience than you in your own home. And likewise, at your job and in your dealings with your neighbor” (p.44) (*NovLeaflets2020*)