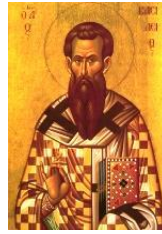


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY 11th AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, December 5 & Sunday, December 6, 2020

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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 28/29: \$ 00.00      Memorial Masses: \$ 00.00**  
**Bishop's Appeal: \$ 00.00**

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SPIRITUAL ADVICE OF THE DAY

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer”. (Timothy 4:4-5)

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**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

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

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By David & Janet George  
† **Aniseh Ayash**, By the Community of St. Basil

**NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By David & Janet George  
† **Bahia Chanatry, 50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Renee Yvette Kawam

**2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

**The Bishop's Appeal:** Blessed Saint Nicholas, whose feast we celebrate with joy today is the Patron Saint of charity and the inspiration for all images of Father Christmas and Santa Claus throughout the world. Let us imitate his loving generosity by making a special gift to the Bishop's Appeal for the support of our Melkite Church in America and for our suffering Christians in Beirut from the recent explosion. **Please give an end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Church** in America. Please give generously so the vital works of our Church can continue and grow. Appeal donation envelopes are available in the narthex. May God bless you for your generosity. Thank you for your generosity and for representing St. Basil, Utica.

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THE GREAT MARTYR ST. BARBARA

Everyone wants to claim St Barbara as their own. This is possible because she is not mentioned in any contemporary writings which have come down to us. She is first mentioned in a seventh-century Roman Martyrology, some 350 years after her death. The sources of what has been passed down about her were collected by St Simeon Metaphrastes (“the Translator”) in his tenth century lives of the saints, the Menologion.

Middle Eastern sources record that Barbara was from Heliopolis in present-day Lebanon. Some sources describe her as a native of Heliopolis in Egypt or of Nicomedia (in Turkey today). All the stories of this martyr say that she was the daughter of a rich pagan named Dioscoros who, after his wife's death, kept her locked in a tower to keep her from the eyes of strangers. After a certain time Dioscoros relented and allowed his daughter a measure of freedom. She became acquainted with the Gospel through some young Christian women who befriended her and through a priest fleeing persecution in Alexandria who ultimately baptized her. Dioscoros had commissioned the construction of a bath house on his estate. In his absence Barbara had altered the plans to include a third window, to represent the Trinity. When Dioscoros learned the reason for her actions he flew at her in a rage. She escaped but was later captured and severely beaten.

The last great persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire was in full swing. When Barbara would not renounce her faith, Dioscoros handed her over to the prefect of the city, Martian, who subjected her to public humiliation and torture. Juliana, a Christian woman in the crowd reproached Martian for his cruelty. In return he condemned Juliana to die with Barbara. Both were beheaded, Barbara (it is said) by her own father. A pious man named Galentain recovered the bodies of Barbara and Juliana, buried their remains and, when the persecutions ended, erected a shrine in their memory.

In the sixth century relics of St Barbara were brought to Constantinople. Six hundred years later a portion of them was brought to Kiev by Barbara, the daughter of the Byzantine emperor, when she married Michael, the Grand Prince of Kiev. Around the same time the Coptic church of St Cyrus in Old Cairo was rebuilt as the Church of St Barbara to house relics of this saint. She is venerated in all the Churches of East and West. Because of the lack of contemporary witnesses to her struggle, the Roman Church removed her name from their universal calendar. She is still venerated in local Western Churches, particularly in Europe.

In the Middle East her feast is observed by the preparation of sweets, including the “Barbara.” This is the traditional boiled wheat dish made for memorials of a saint or of the deceased. In this case it is sweetened with pomegranate seeds, raisins, anise and sugar. It is frequently brought to homes by children singing a traditional carol about this saint. They are often costumed to recall the disguises St Barbara used to elude her father.

(DecLeaflets2015)