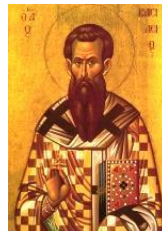


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica New York 13501
Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org



SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN
Saturday, January 23 & Sunday, January 24, 2021

WEEKLY SERVICES

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

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Jeanette Farewege, John & Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Rose Pawlinga, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS. THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection Jan 16/17: \$ 310.00 Christmas Donation: \$ 300.00
Memorial Mass Offerings: \$ 10.00

SPIRITUAL ADVICE OF THE DAY

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Kevin & Ameena Copeland
† **Anthony Thomas**, By the Thomas Family
† **Joseph Kakaty, 20th Memorial Anniversary**, By his Children

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Mary Nassimos
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Cheryl Kopyt & Family

NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Olga Hutchinson Byrne & Family
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Janet Chanatry & Family

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Kevin & Ameena Copeland
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Anthony John Kawam

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

Anthony the Great (January 17), the “father of monks” whose life was written by his contemporary, St Athanasius the Great, Archbishop of Alexandria. This work was soon translated into numerous languages and spread the fame of St Anthony and of the ascetic life throughout the Churches of East and West. **“Sell all that you have...”**

Anthony (c. 251-356) was the son of landowners from the village of Coma on the Nile, south of Alexandria. When he was 18 years old, his parents died, leaving his unmarried sister in his care. A few months later he had what we might call a “Conversion Experience” while attending the Liturgy in the village church. He heard the Gospel passage quoted at the start of this article and, as St Athanasius tells it, “As though God had put him in mind of the Saints, and the passage had been read on his account, Anthony went out immediately from the church, and gave the possessions of his forefathers to the villagers—they were three hundred acres, productive and very fair—that they should be no more an obstruction to himself and his sister. And all the rest that was movable he sold and having got together much money he gave it to the poor, reserving a little however for his sister's sake.” Soon after he felt called to a more ascetic way of life. Placing his sister in the care of “known and faithful virgins,” Anthony began living in solitude outside his village, visiting any nearby ascetics and studying their way of life. When he was about 35, he settled among the tombs at the edge of the Western Desert, giving himself over to prayer and fasting. A friend bringing him bread one day found him collapsed outside the tomb and brought him back to the village. St Athanasius says that Anthony had a divine visitation in which he was told, “since you have endured, and have not been overcome, I will always help you, and will make your name known everywhere.” Having heard this, Anthony arose and prayed, and received such strength that he perceived that he had more power in his body than formerly.”

20 Years at Deir al-Meimun: As soon as Anthony recovered he headed further into the desert, settling in the ruins of an abandoned fort in the mountains on the other side of the Nile. Friends would come to bring him food but he would not leave the fort, speaking to them through a slit in the wall. St Athanasius says that these friends often heard him beset by demons and that they “used often to come expecting to find him dead, and would hear him singing, ‘Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, let them that hate Him flee before His face. As smoke vanishes, let them vanish; as wax melts before the face of fire, so let the sinners perish from the face of God;’ and again, ‘All nations compassed me about, and in the name of the Lord I requited them.’” Anthony’s reputation spread over the years and people increasingly came to see him, hoping to imitate his way of life. After twenty years “Anthony came forth, as from a shrine, initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God. Then for the first time he was seen outside the fort by those who came to see him. And they, when they saw him, wondered at the sight, for he looked as he had years before. He was neither fat, like a man without exercise, nor lean from fasting and striving with the demons. He was just the same as they had known him before his retirement.” Anthony now encouraged others to settle nearby and adopt his way of life. The numbers so increased that, as Athanasius says, “cells arose even in the mountains, and the desert was colonized by monks.”

Forays to Alexandria: Although other monks leaved nearby, Anthony still lived in seclusion for most of the time, coming together with them for occasional worship and instruction. He first left this place of solitude in 311, during the persecution of Maximinus when Christians were being rounded up and taken to Alexandria. He presented himself publicly in the city but no one dared touch him. He spent some time ministering to the suffering Christians there. When the persecution ceased, he then returned to his cell. As the years progressed more and more people came to live the monastic life in Anthony’s shadow. His fame even reached Emperor Constantine and his sons who wrote to him seeking guidance. Anthony lived to be 105. His body was placed in an unmarked grave, as he directed. *(Jan2021Leaflets)*