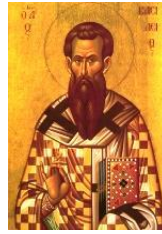


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT- SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
**Saturday, March 6 & Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**PARISH SERVICES**

**Holy 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

**HEALING PRAYERS NEEDED**

Prayers needed for our friends 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.

**RECENT RECEIPTS**

Weekly Collection Feb 27/28: \$ 000.00  
Fuel Collection: \$ 25.00  
Memorial Services: \$ 55.00  
Palm Sunday & Easter Offering: \$ 80.00

**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Kathrine Cummins  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Janet Chanatry & Family  
† **Eileen Agnes Hajdasz**, By Jeanette, Louise, & Michael

**THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Ralph & Denise Fusco  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Francis Roy  
† **Abdallah Ghryeb**, By the Ibrahim & Hanan Barahmeh

**NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 13**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Ralph & Denise Fusco  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Janet Chanatry & Family  
† **Lloyd Copp**, By Robert Lalli

**NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 14**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Ralph & Denise Fusco  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Francis Roy  
† **Abdallah Ghryeb**, By Wael & Olga Barahmeh

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

- **PALM SUNDAY & EASTER DONATION** by the Astour Family for their monetary donations in memory of Agnes, Andrew, James, Mary, and Rose Astour.
- **FUEL CONTRIBUTION** by John & Michelle Roth.

Thank you and many blessings from the St Basil Community.

**REPENTING IN OUR HOLY LITURGY**

Repenting to one another has an important place in our liturgical tradition, based on the injunction of Christ that wrongs should be righted before coming to worship God: *“Therefore if you are bringing your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift”* (Mt 5:24).

In the Divine Liturgy, having brought our gift before the altar, we are reminded, “Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess the Father, the Son...” At this point the greeting of peace would be exchanged: priests with priests, deacons with deacons, and laypeople with one another. These days, the greeting is generally exchanged only among the clergy. In some churches you may still see people moving without ostentation through the congregation, asking forgiveness before approaching the holy mysteries! In other churches the greeting “Christ is in our midst – He is and ever shall be!” is exchanged without any accompanying gesture. A moving response to Christ’s injunction is observed as we begin the Great Fast every year. The first service of the season climaxes with the rite of forgiveness. People approach the priest one at a time and each asks the other’s forgiveness for any way they may have offended each other during the year. The worshippers then ask one another’s forgiveness, forming a large a circle around the church until all the members have expressed their repentance to one another. Not surprisingly, this service has come to be known as “Forgiveness Vespers.”

**Repentance Calls for Forgiveness:** As difficult as directly expressing our repentance might be, extending forgiveness to others may be even more demanding for even committed church members. Offenses, whether real or imagined, can prey on one’s mind for years; grudges nursed for decades. Yet the words of Christ in the Gospel could not be clearer, *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* (Mt 6:14, 15). “Yes,” you may say, “but you don’t know what she did to me!” Other people’s sins may seem unforgivable, but once we take a step toward forgiving them, well who knows what might happen.

In 1944, the Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko’s mother took him from Siberia to Moscow. They were among those who witnessed a procession of twenty-thousand German war prisoners marching through the streets of Moscow: “The pavements swarmed with onlookers, cordoned off by soldiers and police. The crowd was mostly women – Russian women with hands roughened by hard work, lips untouched by lipstick, and with thin hunched shoulders which had borne half of the burden of the war. Every one of them must have had a father or a husband, a brother or a son killed by the Germans. They gazed with hatred in the direction from which the column was to appear. “At last, we saw it. The generals marched at the head, massive chins stuck out, lips folded disdainfully, their whole demeanor meant to show superiority over their plebian victors. ““They smell of perfume, the bastards,’ someone in the crowd said with hatred. The women were clenching their fists. The soldiers and policemen had all they could do to hold them back. “All at once something happened to them. They saw German soldiers, thin, unshaven, wearing dirty blood-stained bandages, hobbling on crutches or leaning on the shoulders of their comrades; the soldiers walked with their heads down. The street became dead silent -- the only sound was the shuffling of boots and the thumping of crutches.

*(March2021Leaflets)*