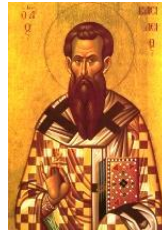


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica New York 13501
Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org



PALM SUNDAY - Sunday, March 28, 2021

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Thursday, April 1: Service of the Crucifixion Twelve Gospel @ 6:00PM
Holy Friday, April 2: The Lord's Burial @ 6:00PM
Holy Saturday, April 3: Saturday of Light (Hajmeh) @ 4:30PM
Holy Easter, April 4, Sunday Liturgy @ 11:00AM

HEALING PRAYERS NEEDED

Prayers needed for our friends Maggy Atallah, Jean Murad, MaryAnn Astour, 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.

RECENT RECEIPTS

Weekly Collection March 20/21: \$ 732.00 Memorial Services: \$ 225.00
Donation: \$ 500.00 Palm Sunday & Easter Offering: \$ 10.00
Fuel Contribution: \$ 40.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 28 - PALM SUNDAY

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By John & Anita Iannotta and Ralph & Denise Fusco
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Mary Rinko and Janet Chanatry & Family
† **Abdallah Ghryyeb**, By Hesham & Najwa Marji
† **Hazel Warren**, By Robert Lalli
† **John Gazzal**, By Edward & Carmela Nassimos and Keith & Kathy Williams

NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 3 - HOLY SATURDAY

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By John & Anita Iannotta
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Janet Chanatry & Family
† **Abdallah Ghryyeb**, By Hesham & Najwa Marji
† **Julia Nassimos**, 1st Heavenly Birthday, By Robert Lalli
† **John Gazzal**, By Edward & Carmela Nassimos

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 4 - EASTER SUNDAY

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By John & Anita Iannotta
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Bruce & Sally Hodsoll
† **Abdallah Ghryyeb**, By Ibrahim & Hanan Barahmeh
† **Fr. John Ghaby**, By Robert Lalli
† **John Gazzal**, By Keith & Kathy Williams

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

PALM SUNDAY & EASTER DONATIONS ~ Angela Elefante donated flowers for Easter Sunday ~ Monetary Donations: from the Astour Family in memory of Agnes, Andrew, James, Edward, Mary, and Rose Astour ~ Juan Thomas in memory of the deceased members of the Thomas and Testa Families ~ John Anthony Kawam ~ David & Janet George ~ Travis & Han Stern ~ Robert Lalli ~ Samantha Nassar
FUEL CONTRIBUTION ~ John & Michelle Roth in memory of Louis & Doris Zalatan, Edward & Margie Roth, and Anthony L. Zalatan ~ David & Janet George

Thank you and many blessings from the St Basil Community

THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSOVER: PESACH

The term Pesach refers to both the determining event in Jewish history and the festival which celebrates it. Sometime in the second millennium BC Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, was sold into slavery as a teenager by his own half-brothers (see Gen 37). Joseph was brought to Egypt and bought by Potiphar, an officer of the Pharaoh's guard. "*The LORD was with Joseph*" (Gen 39:2) and he eventually became the chief of Potiphar's household.

After a series of reversals, Joseph came to the attention of Pharaoh himself by correctly interpreting the king's dreams and averting a famine. In gratitude Pharaoh made Joseph overseer over his kingdom: "*You shall be over my house and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you*" (Gen 41:40). Joseph eventually brought his entire tribe to Egypt (see Gen 42-50) and they prospered there for several generations.

Then "*there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph*" (Ex 1:8) and saw his tribe as a threat to Egypt. This began their period of slavery in Egypt which culminated with the call of Moses to deliver his people from Egypt in the thirteenth century BC (see Ex 1-11). According to the Book of Exodus, "*Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt*" (Ex 12:40-41).

In commemoration of their deliverance the first Passover was celebrated: "*It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations*" (Ex 12:42). The Passover festival recalls how the children of Israel "passed over" from slavery to freedom.

The principal observance of the Jewish Passover to this day is the Seder, the ritual meal which begins the week-long festival. Through story, song, and ritual foods such as the matzoh (unleavened bread) and the bitter herbs this meal recalls the hardships the Israelites endured during the exodus as well as the protecting presence of God which delivered them. If the Jerusalem temple stood, the centerpiece of this meal was the Passover lamb, sacrificed in the temple and then consumed at the Seder. Ever since the temple was destroyed by the Romans, the Passover sacrifice has been symbolized by a roasted shank bone on the Seder plate.

Christ Our Passover: A few years after the death and resurrection of Christ St Paul would write from Ephesus to the Christians of Corinth, "*Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us*" (1 Cor 5:7). Paul, and perhaps others before him, saw Christ as the new Passover, the ultimate Passover delivering not one tribe but all mankind from slavery; and not from slavery to an earthly tyrant but from a universal tormentor: the power of sin and death. We find this Passover image echoed in the First Epistle of St Peter to the Christians of Asia Minor, which contrasts Christ's unique sacrifice of Himself with the material sacrifices that people offer: "*You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*" (1 Pt 1:18-19), qualities required in lambs destined for sacrifice at Passover.

(April2021Leaflets)