

St. Basil the Great

MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501

Telephone Number: 1 (315) 732-4662

Email: fatherthomasmoses@gmail.com

Website: stbasilutica.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

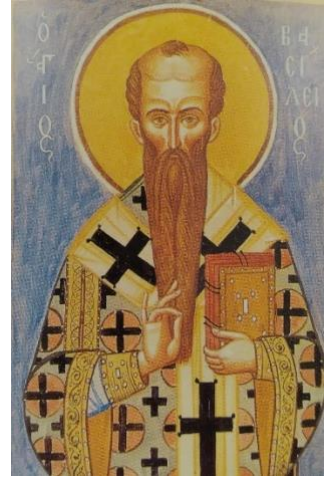
Rev. Thomas A. Moses

WEEKEND VISITING CLERGY:

Rt. Rev. Philip Raczka Rev. James Koury Rev. Oliver Black

"Enter the Church and repent ... for here is the physician, not the judge. Here one is not investigated, one receives remission of sins."

- St. John Chrysostom



2nd Edition Monthly Bulletin: January 2022

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

*Maryann Astour (Chair), Albert Casab, Janet George, Robert Lalli,
Michelle Roth, Anthony Showa, Robert Zaloom*

Parish Secretary: Marcia Reesh

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Before or after any service, or by appointment;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN ILLUMINATION: Please contact the pastor in advance to arrange for the required baptismal preparation and formation;

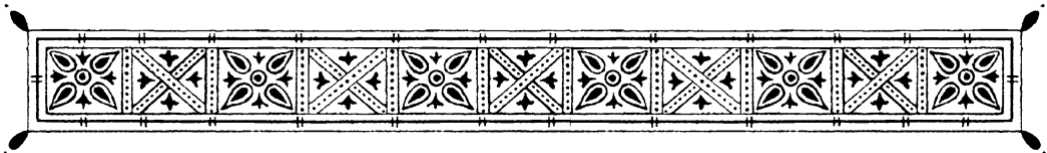
HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING: At least six months prior to the proposed wedding date, please contact the pastor to arrange for the required interview and sacramental preparation and formation;

HOLY MYSTERY OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the pastor at any time when this sacrament is needed. The pastor will make attempt to provide himself or arrange for another priest to provide the sacrament of anointing;

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: Anyone too infirm to attend our services may receive the Eucharist in their home or in a local hospital. Please advise the pastor when the sacrament is needed.

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES: Please contact the pastor to plan arrangements to provide a proper burial and honor the memory of our beloved departed.

Please remember to contact the pastor if a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from the priest. The hospitals do not always notify the church!



Sunday, January 16, 2022

Twelfth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and Illustrious Apostle Peter

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 1)

See new Divine Liturgy book

Troparion of Peter (Tone 4)

Without leaving Rome, you have come to us, you who preside over the Apostles by the power of the venerable chains you bore. While honoring them with faith, we beseech you that, through your intercession, God may grant us great mercy.

Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)

Kondakion of the Presentation of our Lord (Tone 1)

O Christ our God who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have now blessed the arms of Simon, today You have come to save us. O Lord, when wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our Public Authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the lover of Mankind.

PROKIMENON:

How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Stichon: *Bless the Lord. O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!*

READINGS:

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 **Gospel:** Luke 17:12-19

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Clement Bishop of Ancyra

and of the Holy Martyr Agathangel

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2)

See new Divine Liturgy book

Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)

Kondakion of the Presentation of our Lord (Tone 1)

O Christ our God who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have now blessed the arms of Simon, today You have come to save us. O Lord, when wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our Public Authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the lover of Mankind.

PROKIMENON:

The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace

Stichon: *Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.*

READINGS:

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 **Gospel:** Luke 17:12-19

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

**Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Hippolytus of Rome,
and of our Fathers among the Saints and Great Ecumenical Doctors Basil the Great,
Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom**

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)

See new Divine Liturgy book

Troparion of the 3 Hierarchs (Tone 1)

Let us all come together to honor with hymn and song the three great Satellites of the Holy Trinity, the Sun, enlightening the universe with the beams of their divine doctrine, flowing with honey-like rivers of wisdom, refreshing deserts with streams of God-knowledge: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John, the famous speaker, the Golden-mouthed. Let us sing in hymns our love for their teachings, for they are constantly interceding for us before the Holy Trinity.

Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)

Kondakion of the Presentation of our Lord (Tone 1)

O Christ our God who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have now blessed the arms of Simon, today You have come to save us. O Lord, when wars prevail, keep Your people in peace and strengthen our Public Authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the lover of Mankind.

PROKIMENON:

Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world their message.

Stichon: *The heavens declare God's glory and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.*

READINGS:

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 **Gospel:** Matthew 15:21-28

It is a great joy for priests and other clergy to work in company with Christ and see Him restore life to others in so many ways through their ministry, as we can imagine in the case of His disciples in the early Church. We are in great need for dedicated priests, deacons, subdeacons and readers to continue this same apostolic ministry and to be fathers and servants to the people of our parishes. Please pray for vocations and encourage any potential candidates you may notice.

UPCOMING SERVICES:

Sat. Jan. 15	5:00 PM	Roman Catholic Mass: Fr. Boutros El Hachem
Sun. Jan. 16	11:00 AM	Roman Catholic Mass: Fr. Boutros El Hachem
Sat. Jan. 22	4:30 PM	Vigil Divine Liturgy: Fr. Bryan McNeil
Sun. Jan. 23	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: Fr. Bryan McNeil
Sat. Jan. 29	4:30 PM	Vigil Divine Liturgy: Fr. Philip Raczka
Sun. Jan. 30	11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy: Fr. Philip Raczka

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Please, email Fr. Thomas at fatherthomasmoses@gmail.com
to request memorial services or prayer intentions for your beloved living or deceased.

Saturday January 15, 2022, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of the souls of

William Chanatry

By Janet Chanatry

Jeanette Farewege

By Michael & Louise Fultz

Pierre Kawam

By Lorraine Kawam

Dorothy Salerno and Louis Lalli

By Robert Lalli

Sunday January 16, 2022, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of the souls of

Julia Nassimos & John Gazzal

By Mary Nassimos

Joanne Pecheone

By Robert Lalli

Saturday January 22, 2022, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of the soul of

Rev. Jean Ghaby

By Rev. Thomas Moses

Sunday January 23, 2022, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of the souls of

Julia Nassimos & John Gazzal

By Mary Nassimos

Saturday January 29, 2022, 4:30 PM:

For the repose of the soul of

Jeanette Farewege

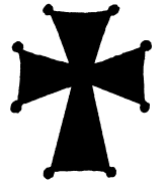
By Michael & Louise Fultz

Sunday January 30, 2022, 11:00 AM:

For the repose of the souls of

Julia Nassimos & John Gazzal

By Mary Nassimos



Announcements:

Please, email Fr. Thomas to request prayer intentions and memorials or to discuss information and “thank you” notes to be included in future bulletins: fatherthomasmoses@gmail.com.

New Divine Liturgy Books Printed

With permission from Fr. Philip, we were able to print temporary Divine Liturgy books. Note that some of the music has changed. With a little practice we will slowly incorporate the new music.

Please visit <https://www.steliasmelkite.org/music/> to access recordings!

Melkite Divine Liturgy Livestream: St. George in Birmingham, AL

Also, if you are homebound, unable to attend Divine Liturgy at St. Basil’s, or would like to participate in weekday feast day services, please participate by praying with our Melkite brethren in Birmingham, AL, led by Fr. Justin Rose on the parish Facebook livestream:

<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeMelkite/>

Call Fr. Thomas at the parish phone line if you need help navigating the recordings or livestream.

2022 Offertory Envelopes Available

In the back of the Nave (main space of the Church) please look for the offertory envelope box with your name on the label. Thank you for your generosity and your support for the parish!

If you would like to contribute using the envelope system, but don’t see your name, please email Fr. Thomas to make arrangements for a box of envelopes.

Memorial Gift for Fr. Saba

Father Thomas would like to commission an icon for the adornment of the baptistry, and Maryann Astour is arranging for a memorial plaque to be included with St. Basil’s departed pastors, both in memory of Fr. Saba Shofany. Please contact Fr. Thomas for more information.

Thank You:

Michelle Roth, Angel and Christina Barahmeh, and others, who tended to and watered the poinsettias that decorated the Church for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ.

Ibrahim and Hanan Barahmeh for baking the bread for the Eucharist, called “prospora,” the “offering,” and for baking the memorial bread for Lorraine Stamboly Tedesco’s memorial prayers.

December’s Collection: \$ 5989

The Sunday envelope donation for December: Average: \$74 Median: \$25

December’s Liturgy Attendance:

Saturday December 4: 27	Sunday December 19: 22
Sunday December 5: 20	Friday December 24: 42
Saturday December 11: 26	Saturday December 25: 17
Sunday December 12: 21	Sunday December 26: 22
Saturday December 18: 30	

Reading Corner:

Deeper Into the Desert: Imitating St. Antony the Great

Feast Day on January 17th

The movement to, and guarding of, a radical solitude as found in the Life of St. Antony appears incompatible with the daily circumstances most of us find ourselves in. St. Antony the Great is one of the earliest founders of monasticism as practiced in the deserts of fourth century Egypt. At the call of God, heard through the Scriptures in the context of the liturgy, St. Antony sought the perfection of the Christian life through prayer, simplicity, solitude and silence. Although his lifestyle is far removed from the culture and circumstance of most of us, St. Antony's monastic wisdom, displayed in his attitudes, teachings, and practices, can be adapted humbly and reasonably to our daily life if we frequently enter deeper into the desert of our interior life.



St. Antony “devoted himself...to the discipline [asceticism]... giving heed to himself and patiently training himself” (Life, 3). For both the ancient monk living in the desert and the contemporary layman living in the world, asceticism and solitude are valuable tools for treading the narrow way of virtue into the Kingdom of God.

As did the other early monastics, St. Antony, “wishing to give attention to his life, disciplined himself in isolation” (Life, 3). Since it is impossible for most of us to withdraw for long periods of time into physical solitude, because of our obligations to our families, jobs, and communities, we must find another way to enter into the arena of the spiritual struggle. In order to achieve a greater freedom for selfless love, many of us would greatly benefit from frequent short retreats into solitude, in the midst of our hectic calendars, to give attention to our interior life and prayer.

St. Antony gave himself perpetual opportunity for mental and spiritual discipline through radical solitude, a continual retreat deeper into the desert. In the desert, in order to give heed to himself, St. Antony “prayed constantly,” took “control of his thoughts,” and encouraged others to “carefully keep watch” (Life, 3, 9, 21). We too can imitate St. Antony by setting aside short amounts of time each day, an hour or two, of silence, reading, reflection, and an accounting of our own inner universe. We may wake up before the sun rises, while the world is still asleep. Or we may do this late in the evening after the children have gone to bed. This daily retreat may prove invaluable for long-term health and stability.

In the midst of the desert, despite radical solitude, St. Antony also encountered many other virtuous monastics. He recognized that though he would live primarily in solitude, he could greatly benefit from the wisdom and experience of others: if St. Antony “heard of some zealous person anywhere, he searched him out like the wise bee” (Life, 3). As life gets busy, learning through

reading and thoughtful conversations can become less important than attending to the constant responsibilities right in front of us. But, with attention to our priorities, keeping in mind our eternal purpose, we may find time for fruitful spiritual discourse, not stunting our growth in the spiritual life. Like St. Antony, we can carry an attitude that never ceases to learn from others or to recognize their gifts and virtues. And like a wise and busy bee, we will travel from flower to flower picking up gems of wisdom from our neighbor, from the saints and Church Fathers, and from the liturgical life and Sacred Scriptures of the Church.

St. Antony jealously guarded his solitude. But, because of the needs of the people and his obligation to love his neighbor, St. Antony also tended to the suffering crowds that sought his attention. When he “saw the crowd, he was not annoyed any more than he was elated at being embraced by so many people. He maintained utter equilibrium, like one guided by reason and steadfast in that which accords with nature” (Life, 14). So too, we will often be drawn out of our interior desert, out of ourselves, to tend to the needs of our families, friends, and communities. We may become annoyed at the demands of the “needy” among us, or swell with pride at the flattering words of our admirers. But, watchful over our thoughts, engaged in the spiritual life through prayer, accustomed to a humble disposition, we can imitate the reason-guided equilibrium of St. Antony in response to the needs of our neighbor.

St. Antony attained the perfection of the Christian life, the Kingdom of God, through radical solitude. His way of life was radically different than the way of life reasonably expected from most twenty-first century Christians. Nonetheless, the principles are the same: attend to the interior life and discipline the body in order to enter the Kingdom of God through the narrow way. Many of us, by humbly and appropriately adapting the monastic wisdom of St. Antony, can benefit from and imitate the saint’s attitudes, teachings, and practices.

Book Recommendations

Beginning to Pray by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/beginning-to-pray-metropolitan-anthony-bloom/>

The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality by Kyriacos Markides

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/the-mountain-of-silence-a-search-for-orthodox-spirituality/>

Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/our-thoughts-determine-our-lives/>



Please remember to pray for the health and protection of our Bishop Nicholas and his reverend clergy, the faithful in this city of Utica and every surrounding country place, the government and the armed forces that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, the parish community of St. Basil the Great Melkite Greek Catholic Church, and for all of the intentions of her faithful, for Dillan, Jordan Barahmeh, Maryangela Fiorentino, Mary Nassimos, John Roth, Rose Shaheen, Karen Zalatan, Robert Zaloom, and Charles Zelows.

If you are visiting our church, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Please give us the chance to get to know you. If you would like to know more about the Melkite Catholic Church, please visit www.melkite.org or www.godwithusonline.org.

God With Us Online Presents:
A Live Webinar
ORTHODOXY & HETERODOXY
The History of the Ecumenical Councils

Wednesdays: January 12-26 & February 9-16 at 8-9 PM ET

Join us as Rev. Christiaan Kappes leads us through the breathtaking story of the battle of the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils to preserve the integrity of the faith against heresy in the decisive first centuries of Church history.

Register at: www.Godwithusonline.org

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the departed servant of God

Henry George Murad who was buried on December 27, 2021 from Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Maclean, VA.

And Doreen Gigliotti-Balls who reposed in the Lord on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022, on the Feast of the Synaxis of the Seventy Disciples.

***“With the Saints grant rest, O Christ God, to the souls of your servants,
in a place where there is no pain, no grief, no sighing, but only everlasting life.”
May their memory be eternal.***