

# 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

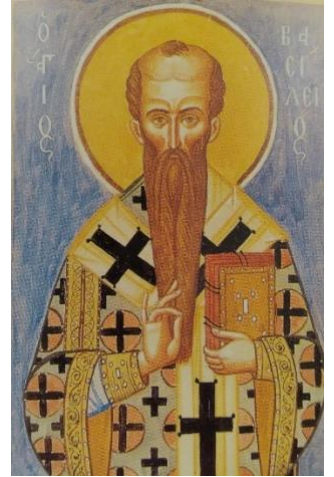
Rev. Thomas A. Moses

### 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



## Monthly Bulletin: February 2022

### Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

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

**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;

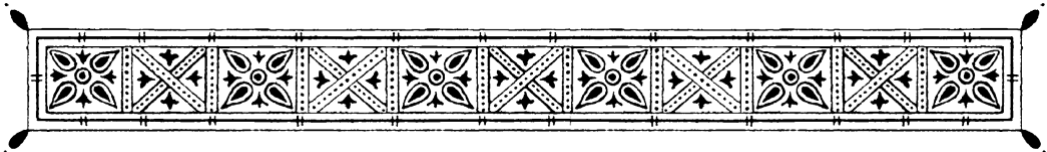
**HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING:** At least six months prior to the proposed wedding date, please contact the pastor to arrange for the required interview and sacramental preparation and formation;

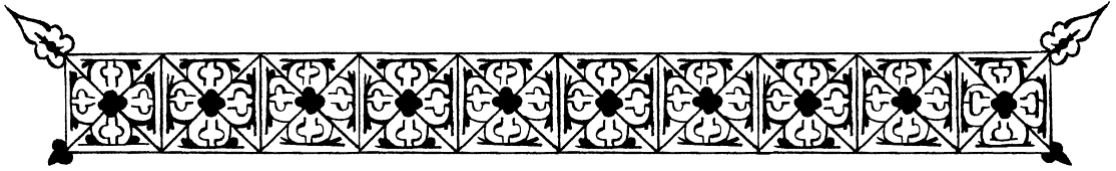
**HOLY MYSTERY OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please contact the pastor at any time when this sacrament is needed. The pastor will make attempt to provide himself or arrange for another priest to provide the sacrament of anointing;

**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, February 6, 2022**

**Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican**

**5th Day of Celebration of the Feast of the of the Presentation of our Lord**

**Commemoration of our Holy Father Boukolos, Bishop of Smyrna**

**and of Holy Martyr, the physician Elian of Emessa (Homs).**

**Antiphon of the Encounter**

O Son of God who were carried in the arms of Simeon the Just, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

1: Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One!

2: In Your splendor and majesty, ride triumphant in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice.

3: Your arrows are sharp; peoples are subject to You; the king's enemies lose heart. A tempered rod is your royal scepter.

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)**

See new Divine Liturgy book

**Troparion of the Encounter (Tone 1)**

Hail, O Woman full of grace, Virgin and Mother of God: from you has arisen the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who stand in darkness, In You too, O just Elder Simeon, rejoice, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, our Resurrection.

**Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)**

See Divine Liturgy book

**Kontakion of the Pharisee and the Publican (Tone 4)**

Let us shun the proud attitude of the boastful Pharisee and learn humility from the Publican's sighs; let us cry out to our Savior: "Have mercy on us, O You who alone are merciful!"

**Kondakion of the Encounter (Tone 1)**

O Christ our God who through Your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have now blessed the arms of Simeon, 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.

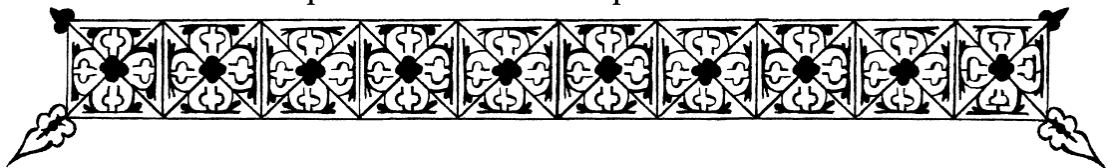
**PROKIMENON**

Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

**Stichon:** God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is His name.

**READINGS**

**Epistle:** 2 Tim. 3:10-15 **Gospel:** Luke 18:10-14



**Sunday, February 13, 2022**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**Commemoration of our Holy Father Martinian**

**Antiphon**

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)**

See Divine Liturgy book

**Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)**

**Kondakion of the Prodigal Son (Tone 3)**

When in my wretchedness I ran away from Your fatherly love, I squandered in wickedness the riches You had given me. And so now, like the Prodigal Son, I cry out to You: "I have sinned in your sight, O Merciful Father: receive me now that I repent and make me as one of your hired servants."

**PROKIMENON**

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in You.

**Stichon:** Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

**READINGS**

**Epistle:** 1 Cor. 6:12-20 **Gospel:** Luke 15:11-32

**Sunday, February 20, 2022**

**Sunday of Meat-Fare**

**Commemoration of our Father among the Saints Leo, Bishop of Catania**

**Antiphon**

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)**

See Divine Liturgy book

**Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)**

**Kontakion of Meat Fare (Tone 1)**

O God, when You shall come down upon earth in your glory, every creature shall tremble before You. A river of fire shall flow before your judgment-seat, the books shall be opened and all secrets revealed.

On that day, O Just Judge, deliver me from eternal fire and make me worthy to stand at your right!

**PROKIMENON**

My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

**Stichon:** The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

**READINGS**

**Epistle:** 1 Cor. 8:8-13; 9:1-2 **Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Sunday, February 27, 2022**

**Sunday of Cheese-Fare**

**Commemoration of our Holy Father Procopius the Decapolitan, Confessor**

**Antiphon**

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)**

See the Divine Liturgy book

**Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)**

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**READINGS**

**Epistle:** 1 Cor. 6:12-20 **Gospel:** Luke 15:11-32

**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.

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**UPCOMING SERVICES:**

Sat. Feb. 5	4:30 PM	<b>Vigil Divine Liturgy (40 Day Memorial):</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Sun. Feb. 6	11:00 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Sat. Feb. 12	4:30 PM	<b>Vigil Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Sun. Feb. 13	11:00 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Sat. Feb. 19	4:30 PM	<b>Vigil Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Philip Raczka
Sun. Feb. 20	11:00 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Philip Raczka
Sat. Feb. 26	4:30 PM	<b>Vigil Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Sun. Feb. 27	11:00 AM	<b>Divine Liturgy:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Sun. Feb. 27	6:00 PM	<b>Forgiveness Vespers (Beginning of Lent):</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Wed. Mar. 2	6:00 PM	<b>Presanctified Liturgy:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses
Fri. Mar. 4	6:00 PM	<b>Akathist:</b> Fr. Thomas Moses

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# LITURGY INTENTIONS

Please, email Fr. Thomas at [fatherthomasmoses@gmail.com](mailto:fatherthomasmoses@gmail.com)  
to request memorial services or prayer intentions for your beloved living or deceased.



**Saturday February 5, 2022, 4:30 PM:**

**For the repose of the souls of**

**William Chanatry**

By Janet Chanatry

**Jeanette Farewege**

By Beverly and John Sageer

**Pierre Kawam**

By Lorraine Kawam

**Henry George Murad**

**40 Day Memorial**

By Jack and Claire Murad

**Dorothy Salerno and Louis Lalli**

By Robert Lalli

**Rev. Saba Shofany**

By Olga Shofany and Family

**Sunday February 6, 2022, 11:00 AM:**

**For the repose of the souls of**

**Julia Nassimos & John Gazzal**

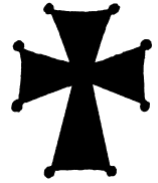
By Mary Nassimos

**Joanne Pecheone**

By Robert Lalli

**Rev. Saba Shofany**

By Olga Shofany and Family



**Saturday February 12, 2022, 4:30 PM:**

**For the repose of the soul of**

**Rev. Julien Elaine (11<sup>th</sup>)**

By Robert Lalli

**Jeanette Farewege**

By Beverly and John Sageer

**Sunday February 13, 2022, 11:00 AM:**

**For the repose of the souls of**

**Rev. Julien Elaine (11<sup>th</sup>)**

By Robert Lalli

**Julia Nassimos & John Gazzal**

By Mary Nassimos

**Saturday February 19, 2022, 4:30 PM:**

**For the repose of the soul of**

**Jeanette Farewege**

By Melanie Meyers

**Rev. Saba Shofany**

By Olga Shofany and Family

**Sunday February 20, 2022, 11:00 AM:**

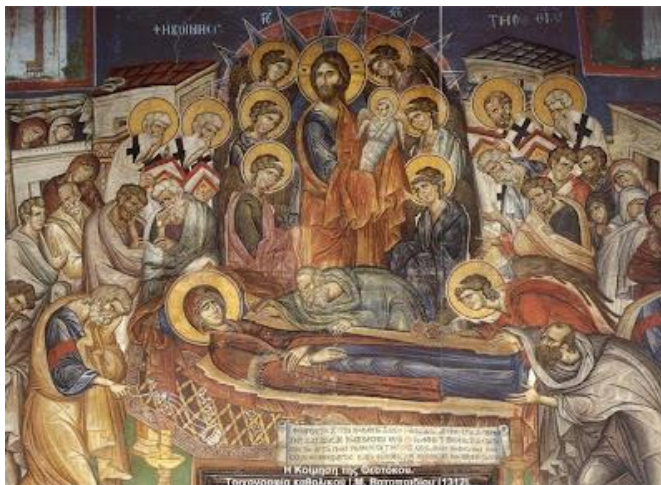
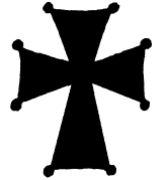
**For the repose of the souls of**

**Julia Nassimos & John Gazzal**

By Mary Nassimos

**Rev. Saba Shofany**

By Olga Shofany and Family



## **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](mailto:fatherthomasmoses@gmail.com).

### **Parish Advisory Council Meeting**

Please join us on Monday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for a Parish Advisory Council Meeting. All are welcome! Fr. Thomas is looking for folks with finance or building maintenance experience to help advise future work.

Please contact Fr. Thomas if you are willing to serve on a financial or building maintenance committee.

### **Melkite Liturgical Services Livestream at St. George in Birmingham, AL**

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

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

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

### **Lenten Prayer Group**

During Lent, beginning on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, a prayer group will meet on Zoom weekly. Meetings will take place on Tuesday nights at 6:00 pm, on Zoom. The prayer group will help encourage each other in our fasting, share prayer intentions for the week, read and pray some of the readings and prayers from the Lenten weekday services, and to sing some of the beautiful hymns of the Great Fast. Meetings will last about 20 or 30 minutes. All are encouraged to attend. All that is needed is either a smart phone or a computer. Please email Fr. Thomas to sign up or if you need help download and using Zoom.

Note: If preferred by all in attendance, Facebook Messenger is another option for meeting.

### **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 if you would like to contribute to the projects.

### **Thank You:**

**Maryann Astour** for helping Fr. Thomas arrange for the state inspection of the parish furnaces (We passed inspection!).

**January’s Collection:** *Will be included in the next edition*

**The Sunday envelope donation for January:** *See Above*

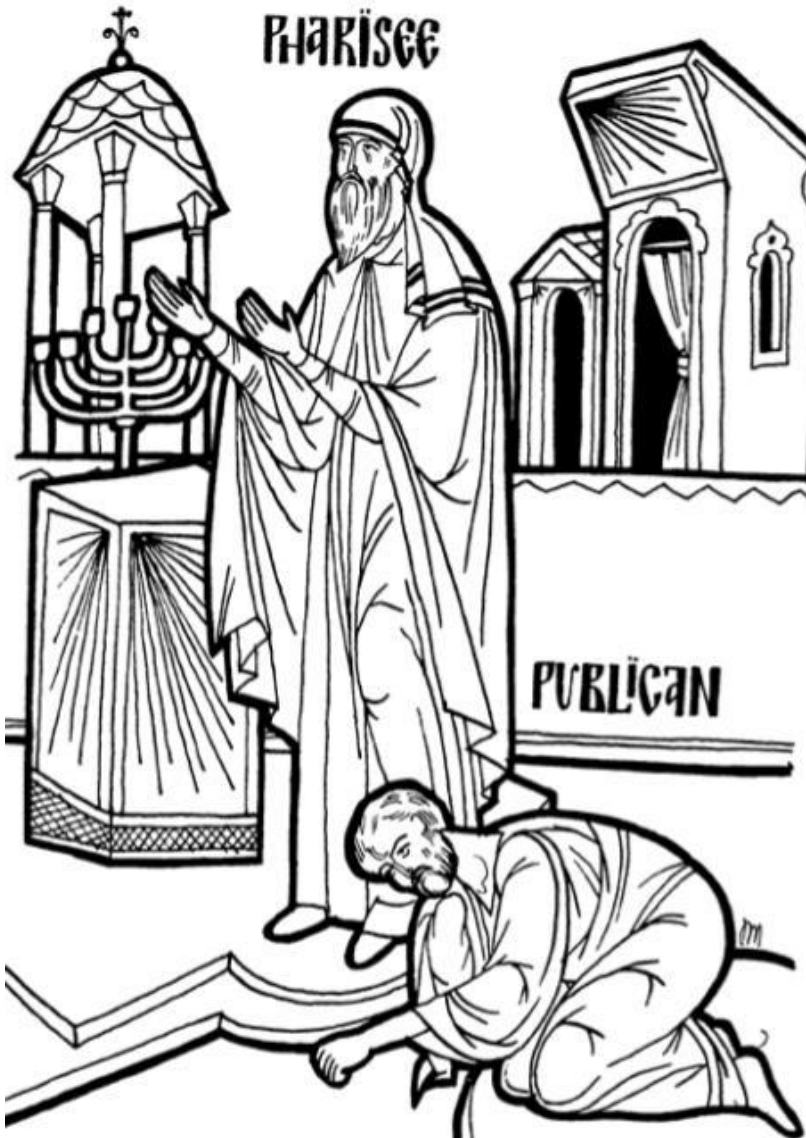
#### ***December’s Liturgy Attendance:***

Saturday January 1: 22	Sunday January 16: 4
Sunday January 2: 21	Saturday January 22: 19
Saturday January 8: 22	Sunday January 23: 13
Sunday January 9: 14	Saturday January 29: 17
Saturday January 15: 19	Sunday January 30: 14

## Kid's Corner:

### “The Pharisee and the Publican”

Coloring Page and Reading



### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 18:9-14

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be [d]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



## Reading Corner: **LENT IS APPROACHING!**

The Great Fast, also known as Lent, is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter or Pascha, the day of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. For Melkites, Lent begins at Vespers on Forgiveness Sunday rather than Ash Wednesday; this year the beginning of the Great Fast falls on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. We will begin the Great Fast with a service called Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please read through the following explanation of the weeks of preparation for the Great Fast as well as an explanation of fasting more generally.

Please keep in mind, we are all at different places in our “ascetical” life. This means we are all more or less accustomed to the exercises, training and disciplines of our Melkite tradition. Each person is called to embrace fasting according to their ability, zeal, health, and circumstances. Please see Fr. Thomas if you would like to discuss your plans for observing the Great Fast this year.

### **The Pre-Fast Weeks**

Documents from the sixth through the eighth centuries attest to a growing custom in the East of observing one week in preparation for the Great Fast. Today this pre-Fast period in the Byzantine Churches consists in the following:

- Two Sundays in which the Gospel readings at the Divine Liturgy invite us to reflect on humility (Pharisee and Publican) and God’s ever-welcoming love (Prodigal Son).
- A ***Fast-Free Week*** between these two Sundays in which we are told *not* to fast, lest we take pride in our efforts like the Pharisee.
- ***Meat-Fare Week***, the last time meat is eaten before Pascha. This week includes a Saturday of the Dead in which we make a general commemoration of all who have gone before us.
- ***Cheese-Fare Week***, the last time dairy products are eaten before Pascha. Cheese-Fare Week ends with Forgiveness Sunday and the ultimate preparation for the Fast: mutual forgiveness.

### **Fasting and Our Renewal**

The preparation for the Great Fast in the Byzantine Churches focuses to a great extent on fasting. Why is fasting so emphasized if the purpose of this season is the renewal of our life in Christ?

In the Scriptures the great “icon” of our communion with God is “*Eden, the Garden of God*” (Ez 28:13) where God walked with Adam and Eve. That communion was broken by eating the so-called forbidden fruit. Eating became the sign of choosing one’s own will over the will of God. This is why the first way in which the devil tempted Christ concerned food. Fasting – not eating – is thus a symbol of putting aside our own will in order to recover our communion with God. In our society, where food is so abundant, eating is an even more fitting symbol for doing our own will. We can choose to eat whatever we feel like. We can pass up foods which don’t please us. We

throw away food without a second thought. We may not be able to indulge our lust for power or wealth very easily; we can always reach for another piece of cake.

Many people prepare for Lent by deciding what they will give up. Fasting in the Christian East is not a matter of personal choice, but of surrendering one's will to the Church which determines when and how to fast. This does not mean that the fasting rules are unchangeable, but one should have the blessing of one's spiritual guide before excusing oneself from the fast. The heart of the fast is putting aside one's ego.

In the Great Fast we refrain from eating for at least part of each day (until noon, or mid- afternoon or until we receive the Eucharist) for 40 days. This number recalls the 40-day fasts of Moses before receiving the Ten Commandments (see Ex 34:27-29) and of Elijah before encountering God on Mount Horeb (see 1 Kgs 19:8-12). For Christians, of course, the Lord Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness after His baptism stands out as the foremost example of fasting and communion with God.

### **Why Animal Products?**

Again, let us return to the Garden of God. In the book of Genesis, we read that God said to our first parents, "*See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food*" (Gen 1:29). Fruits and vegetables, nuts and grains made up the diet of humanity both before and after the fall (see Gen 3:18). It was only after the flood, when the earth had been laid waste, that God tells Noah, "*The fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you*" (Gen 9:2, 3). In abstaining from animal products, then, we are returning to the "food of paradise," the diet of the first created, to symbolize our desire to recover the communion with God for which they were made.

### **Homily 45 by St Theodore the Studite**

Brethren: fasting is the renewal of the soul, for the Apostle says that as the body weakens and withers from the ascetic labor of fasting, then is the soul renewed day by day. It is made beautiful and shines in the beauty which God originally bestowed upon it. And when it is purified and adorned with fasting and repentance, then God loves it and will live in it as the Lord has said: "*I and the Father will come and make Our abode with him*" (Jn 14.23). ... Now at the beginning the Fast seems laborious, but if we shall apply ourselves from day to day with ardor and discipline, then with the help of God it will be made easier. At the same time, if we desire that the Fast be true and acceptable to God, then together with abstaining from food, let us restrain ourselves from every sin of soul and body, as the sticheron instructs us: "Let us keep the Fast not only by refraining from food, but by becoming strangers to all sinful passions" (Aposticha at Vespers, First Tuesday in the Great Fast).

## Abouna's Kitchen

### **Peanut Butter Balls**

This is a quick fasting snack that is protein packed. We love making these peanut butter balls during the Great Fast.

1 cup Rolled Oats  
3 tsp. Chia Seeds  
1 Tb. Flaxseeds  
¼ cup Raisins  
6 tsp. Mini Dark Chocolate Chips  
½ tsp. Salt  
¼ cup Honey  
½ cup Peanut Butter



#### Directions:

1. Combine all dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl.
2. Add honey and peanut butter.
3. Roll into small balls and place on a cookie sheet.
4. Place cookie sheet in the refrigerator to set.
5. When storing in a container in the refrigerator, separate layers with wax paper.

## 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/>

*Season of Repentance: Lenten Homilies of St John of Kronstadt*

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/season-of-repentance-lenten-homilies-of-st-john-of-kronstadt/>



***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, Rt. Rev. Ed Kakaty, Mary Nassimos, John Roth, Karen Zalatan, Robert Zaloom.

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***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](http://www.melkite.org) or [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org).

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**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](http://www.Godwithusonline.org)

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**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.

His 40 Day Memorial is scheduled for Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

***“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.***