



ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 Sherman Drive, Utica NY 13501
Fr Saba Shofany, Pastor
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SUNDAY OF THOMAS

Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, April 23, 2017

WEEKLY SERVICES

Holy Liturgy: Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM **Vespers:** Every Saturday at 3:00PM
Matins/Orthos: Every Sunday at 9:00AM **Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday at 10:30AM
Great Compline: Wednesday at 6:00PM **Akathestos:** Friday at 6:00PM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please pray for our convalescing members: **MaryEllen Busa, Carol Chanatry, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Anne Cragolin, Edgar Hallak, & Mary Machis.** Notify Fr. Saba in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Easter Sunday Collection April 15/16: \$ 1,569.00 Donations: \$ 250.00
Memorial Services: \$ 80.00 Funeral Service: \$ 200.00 Restaurant Fundraising: \$ 425.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

This Saturday, April 22, 2017

† **Antoinette Murad**, By Alex Murad
† **Ida Jweid**, By Samuel Jweid
† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, By his wife Teresa Chanatry

This Sunday, April 23, 2017

† **Ida Jweid**, By Samuel Jweid
† **Albert & Elvira Chanatry**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
† **Basil Stamboly**, By Joseph Zaloom

Next Saturday, April 29, 2017

† **Ida Jweid**, By Samuel Jweid
† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, By his wife Teresa Chanatry
† **Basil Stamboly**, By Astour Family

Next Sunday, April 30, 2017 –

† **Eugene Nassar**, By Mr & Mrs David George
† **Fred & Gladys Farwege**, By their cousins

**** ANNOUNCEMENTS ****

➤ **Parish Advisory Council (PAC) meeting will be held on Monday, May 1 at 6:30 PM.**

➤ **Warmest thanks to our diners and donors of St Basil Day at Casa Too Mucha, held on Thursday, April 6. We are happy to report that because of your generosity and dedication, as well as the support from owner Patty Rizzo, a total of \$350 from dining, plus \$75 in donations were collected from this event.**

2017 EASTER FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following parishioners for their monetary donation toward the purchase of 2017 Easter Flowers for St Basil. The entire St Basil Community appreciates and recognizes your generosity: **Lorraine Kawam, John Anthony Kawam, Mary Nassimos, Andrew & Robin Astour, Robert & Laura Zaloom, Carol Chanatry, Nadia Casab, Frederick & Cheryl Kopyt in honor of the deceased members of the Reesh & Kopyt families, MaryAnn Astour in honor of the deceased members of the Astour family, Anthony & Sandra Showa in honor of the deceased members of the Showa & Tebsherany families, Robert Lalli in honor of Alene Lalli, Rose Cimbalo, Violet Gentile, Joseph Cimbalo, & Nestor Lalli, Mr & Mrs William Chanatry in honor of their deceased family members, Anne Nassar in honor of her father Eugene Nassar.** Thank you, and God bless you.

CHRIST IS RISEN

The Newly-Illumined: On Pascha our regular Saturday evening vespers is combined with the first Divine Liturgy of the feast. Since the Hajme and Divine Liturgy during the night are so popular in our parishes, it became common to serve the Vesper-Liturgy earlier in the day. As a result, many people never see this extraordinary service.

The Vesper-Liturgy includes fifteen Old Testament readings instead of the usual three. Since the catechumens are taken out at this point in the service to be baptized, these additional Scripture passages would be read until the baptisms were completed. Then the newly-baptized would be brought into the congregation during the singing of “All of you who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, Alleluia.” Their first full participation in the Liturgy would be on this blessed night of their baptism.

Laurel Is for Victory: The Epistle reading at this Liturgy is not followed by the usual Alleluia. Instead Psalm 81/82 is chanted with verse 8 as its refrain: “Arise, O God and judge the earth, and You shall inherit all the nations.”

In the liturgical symbolism of our Church Holy Saturday recalls the time Christ’s body lay in the tomb while His spirit was among the dead in what the Greeks called Hades. In singing this Psalm the Church is calling on Christ to rise from the dead and destroy the power of death, freeing people of every race and nation from its control. As we sing in one of the hymns at this service: “Today Hades sighs and cries aloud: “My power is destroyed! I received a mortal as if He were merely one of the dead, but I was powerless to hold Him; and, along with Him I shall lose those over whom I ruled, I held the dead from all ages; but behold, He is raising them all!”

In the Greek tradition, the priest strews bay laurel leaves and flower petals throughout the church during this Psalm. In the ancient world laurel was a symbol of victory or achievement. Wreaths of laurel were awarded to the victors in athletic games; that practice continues at the Grand Prix races to this day. In our liturgy, the laurel leaves represent Christ’s victory over death, the fruit of His death and resurrection.

In the silence that speaks volumes when the psalm is finished, we see the church floor covered with the “shattered gates and broken chains of Hades.” Then the Gospel of the Resurrection is proclaimed: “*He is not here; for He is risen, as He said*” (Mt 28:6).