

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

1st SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Saturday, April 7, and Sunday, April 8, 2018

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:00AM      **Holy Confession:** Every Monday at 4-6PM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM      **Vespers:** Every Saturday at 3:00PM  
**Matins/Orthros:** Every Sunday at 9:00AM      **Holy Rosary:** Every Sunday at 10:30AM

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for all of our convalescing friends, including Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Daniel Klockowski, and Rose Pawlinga. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

Easter Collection March 31 & April 1: \$ 1,597.00      Syrian Braided Cheese Sale: \$ 30.00  
Memorial Services: \$ 60.00      Oneida Mission: \$ 194.00

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 7

† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam
† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, by his wife Teresa Chanatry

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 8

† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, by his wife Teresa Chanatry

NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 14

† **Mary Machis**, by Mr & Mrs Henry George Murad and Family
† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 15

† **Col. Fred Chanatry**, by his wife Teresa Chanatry

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENT \***

St Basil Parish Advisory Council will meet on Monday, April 9 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.

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Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen!
He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen!
Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Christ is risen!

THE APOSTLE THOMAS

WHY WOULD THE APOSTLE THOMAS, who moments before had refused to accept the other apostles' witness to Christ's resurrection, suddenly proclaim that Jesus is "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28)? This question has been discussed since the Gospel of John was written. A Multiple-Choice question on the words of St Thomas when he saw the risen Christ might look something like this:

What did St Thomas mean when saying, "My Lord and my God"?

- A. A simple exclamation (like OMG)
- B. That Jesus was God (the Father)
- C. That Jesus was the Son of the Father
- D. That Jesus was a god

Each of these answers has been offered by serious authors to explain the meaning of Thomas' words. By themselves, this phrase could mean any of these things; in the context of John's Gospel and the Church of its day, however, the answer becomes clearer.

St John's Gospel, the only one to contain this narrative, is the last of the canonical Gospels to be written. In its final form it dates to the end of the first century AD, and manuscript fragments dating to c. AD 125 still exist. The author's purpose in writing this Gospel is clearly stated in Jn 20:30, 31: "Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

The aim of John's Gospel, then, is to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God. In line with this aim, Thomas' words here are not presented as an ordinary exclamation, but as an act of faith in Jesus as the Messiah. This rule out Answer A, above.

We are left, however, with another question: What might John have meant by calling Jesus "the Son of God"? This was not an unusual title for the Messiah – or for other important figures. It did not necessarily mean, however, what we mean by it. It was often a way of saying that the Messiah (or King or High Priest) was especially beloved or set apart by God.

When we look at the beginning of John's Gospel, however, we see that John has a higher vision of Christ as Son of God. The Gospel begins with this famous passage: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth... No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (Jn 1:11-4, 14, 18). John describes the eternal Word of God, His only-begotten Son, as having become flesh and dwelt among us. He is clearly depicting the Lord Jesus as divine, eternally existing, and uniquely in the bosom of His Father.

We find similar statements in St Paul who describes the genealogy of Christ in this way: "...from them [the Israelites], according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen" (Rom. 9:5). From the time of the Apostles and Evangelists, Christians recognized Jesus as the unique and divine Son of God. John expressed this belief more firmly and unequivocally than other Scriptural authors.

St Jerome (c. 347-420) taught that John wrote when those who denied the unique person of the Lord were gaining a hearing in the Church. "Gospels" were being written, purporting to contain the "secret" wisdom of Jesus, which resembled Egyptian philosophy rather than the Word of God. John's work is a clear rejection of these other "Gospels."