

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

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS EXALTATION
Saturday, September 15 & Sunday, September 16, 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 Fred Ajaeb, Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Rose Pawlinga, and Lorraine Tedesco. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection September 8/9: \$ 00.00**      **Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 00.00**      **St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

† Mrs Rose Pastorella, By Robert Lalli

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

† Jannah Jbarah, By her Family

† Deceased members of the Cimbalo family, By Robert Lalli

NEXT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

† Joseph & Jennie Mardenly, By their Family Members

† Senator John McCain, By Robert Lalli

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

† Jannah Jbarah, By her Family

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. On **Wednesday, September 19**, St Basil will host a fund raising event at **Casa Too Mucha**, 13 Genesee Street, New Hartford. Please stop by for lunch or dinner and mention to your server that you're there in support of St Basil. A percentage of your sale will be donated to our beloved church. Thank you in advance for participating, and spread the word!!!

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

2. The St Basil **Second Fall Flea Market and Raffle** will be held on **Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29** at the Rectory Garage. Beginning on **Saturday, September 1**, **nearly new** or **slightly used** items will be accepted at the rectory using the back door. Virginia Reesh Lynch and Marcia Reesh will co-chair the event. Questions can be directed to the Rectory at 315.732.4662. Thank you.

3. A **PayPal** link is available on our website offering a safe, secure, and confidential option to donate to St Basil, Utica. Please go to [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org), click on the Donation Tab and follow the webpage instructions. Weekly Sunday Bulletins can also be found there; click on the Announcement Tab. Thank you for visiting our page!

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THANKS AND TRIBUTE

Many thanks to the Cheese Selling Committee Marcia Reesh, Virginia Lynch, Cheryl Kopyt, Janet George, Christina Marrero, Robert Zaloom, Tony Showa, Albert & Karen Casab for selling cheese at the Mediterranean Festival hosted by St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church last weekend. St Basil and the entire parish community deeply appreciates your sincere dedication. God bless you! Fr. Saba

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**BOSTING IN THE CROSS**

Boasting is not the first thing that comes to mind when we consider the cross of Christ. Some people are no doubt saddened by the thought of it, grieving at the sight of Christ suffering His passion. Some will be thankful that the Son of God offered Himself for us. But what does it mean to “boast” in the cross?

When we think of people boasting of their accomplishments, their children, or their vacations, we know that, first of all, these aspects of their lives are frequently in their thoughts and in their conversation. It may seem that they talk of nothing else. A person first boasts in his heart, then publicly for all to hear. No one can doubt how proud the boaster is of his life's joys.

How often are our thoughts focused on the cross? Our almost incessant making of the sign of the cross suggests that the cross is often on our Church's mind. There are other indicators as well. Every Wednesday and Friday, in the hymns appointed for the daily services, our Church “boasts” liturgically about the cross in words such as these: “The precious cross of the Savior is our unshakable wall, for all of us who put our hope in it will be saved” (Tone One Vespers).

The Church encourages us to fast on most Wednesdays and Fridays precisely because Christ was betrayed on a Wednesday and crucified on a Friday. Participating in these fasts is another opportunity to “boast” in the cross, acknowledging that Christ's death on the cross witnesses to an unparalleled display of divine love. The Divine Liturgy is our opportunity to be mystically present at the cross. While the deacon lifts up the holy gifts crosswise, the priest prays, “Remembering ... everything that was done for our sake: the cross, the tomb... we offer You Your own...” By joining Christ in this offering, we are exalting the saving power of His cross.

If these traditions are central to our personal spirituality, we would find it natural to boast about the cross in other ways as well. Publicly boasting about the cross can take many forms. The easiest is to publicly display the cross on our person or in our homes. Many people do this, however, without thinking about the meaning of the cross they are exhibiting. The cross witnesses that the death of the Son of God was a victory, not a defeat. By the cross Christ triumphed over death.

*(SeptLeaflets2018)*