

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY 3rd AFTER THE HOLY CROSS EXALTATION
Saturday, October 6 & Sunday, October 7, 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 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 29/30: \$ 378.00**      **Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 519.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 20.00**      **Garage Sale/Bake Sale: \$ 1,681.00**

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† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

† **Carol Giannotti**, By Mariellen S'Doia

THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

† **David F. Godkin, Jr, 11th Year Memorial Mass**, By Marcia Reesh

† **Mae Raser, 10th Memorial Anniversary Mass**, By Robert Lalli

NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

† **Carol Giannotti**, By Mariellen S'Doia

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

† **Jannah Jbarah**, By her Family

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. The next **PAC Meeting** is scheduled for Mon Nov 5, 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room.
2. 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!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST BASIL COMMUNITY!!!**  
**THE 2ND ANNUAL ST BASIL GARAGE SALE**  
**WITH BAKE SALE AND SYRIAN BRAIDED CHEESE SALE**  
**HELD ON FRI SEP 28 & SAT SEP 29 WERE HUGE SUCCESSES!**

Special recognition & many thanks to Marcia Reesh & Virginia Reesh Lynch for co-chairing the Garage Sale Event, with help from Cheryl Reesh Kopyt, Fred Kopyt, & Mike Lynch. Thank you to the Bake Sale helpers, MaryAnn Astour, Nadia Casab, Shirley Casab, Janet George, and Michelle Roth. Many thanks to those who donated baked goods for the sale! Thank you to the Cheese Making Committee, who made fresh Syrian Braided Cheese, Virginia Lynch, Nadia Casab, Michelle Roth, MaryAnn Astour, Barbara Dunlevy, and Carol Chanatry. Thanks to the Cheese Selling Committee Chair Marcia Reesh, with special thanks to Nadia Casab for making Syrian Cheese Cookies to enhance the Cheese Sale! Your dedication & commitment to St Basil is recognized & greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

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IMITATING CHRIST

Christ regularly encouraged His disciples to imitate God's way rather than man's. God's way is, of course, the way of mercy and compassion. God "*does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities, for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him*" (Ps 103:10, 11). While the Jews were long encouraged to trust in God's mercy, it was Christ who taught us to imitate that compassion in the way we treat others.

The Lord Jesus urged His disciples to strive for perfection in their spiritual lives and He pointed to love for one's enemies as exemplifying that perfection. Anything less, He identified with the spirit of the scribes and Pharisees. In St Matthew's Gospel the following injunction concludes and sums up the Sermon on the Mount "*If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*"

Perhaps the most striking example of love for one's enemies in the Gospels is the prayer for His killers which Christ offered while hanging on the cross. "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*" (Lk 23:24). Arrested for preaching in Christ's name some years later, the first martyr, St Stephen, used his last breath to imitate Christ's love for His enemies, praying: "*Lord, do not hold this sin against them*" (Acts 7:60) as he was being stoned by his killers: God, and those who follow His way, do not let themselves be conditioned by the wickedness of others. Even when forgotten or rejected, they continue to be faithful to loving others.

Forgiving through the Holy Spirit: Imitating God in this way isn't easy. Some say it isn't even in our power but is an attitude that can only be the fruit of grace, given by the Holy Spirit. This is why St. Silouan the Athonite writes, "The soul that has not known the Holy Spirit does not understand how one can love one's enemies and does not accept it." The ability to love one's enemies is also closely bound to humility. Almost all the difficulties we encounter in loving our enemies are linked with pride: it is from pride that flows the affliction that follows upon insults, hatred, bad temper, spite, the desire for revenge, contempt for one's neighbor, refusing to forgive him and to be reconciled with him. Pride excludes the love of enemies and love for one's enemies excludes pride. When we think of asceticism, we may consider prayer vigils, fasting, or making numerous prostrations. The most challenging ascetical feat, however, is to practice love for one's enemies.

(SeptLeaflets2018)