

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501  
Phone 315.732.4662 Email [stbasilsutica@gmail.com](mailto:stbasilsutica@gmail.com)  
Website [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org)



SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS  
Saturday, December 15 & Sunday, December 16, 2018

• HOLY LITURGIES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Monday, December 24, 4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Liturgy

Tuesday, December 25, 11:00 AM – Christmas Day Liturgy

Monday, December 31, New Year's Eve - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, January 1, 2019, New Year's Day - 11:00 AM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Anthony Louis Zalatan, Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, and Lorraine Tedesco. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection December 8/9: \$ 352.00 Syrian Braided Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00  
Memorial Services: \$ 63.00 Fuel Collection: \$ 30.00 Donation for the Children of Syria: \$ 130.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

**THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**

† William Chanatry, By Peter & Hanah Farwege  
† Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson  
† Ibrahim Khalil Barahmeh, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

† William Chanatry, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson  
† Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson  
† Thieb Rihani, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh  
† Josephine Zenzillo, By Edward and Carmela Nassimos

**NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22**

† William Chanatry, By Jeanette Farwege  
† Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson  
† Juliet Rihani-Haddad, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**

† Jannah Jbarah, By her Family  
† William Chanatry, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson  
† Dr. Nader Fayez, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. Our next PAC Meeting is scheduled for Mon Jan 3, 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room. Please join us, share your ideas, and become a St Basil Parish Advisory Council Member.

2. 2018 St Basil Christmas Party: Please join us on Sat Dec 15, following 4:30 PM Liturgy. Chairpersons for the event are Janet George, Michelle Roth and Christina Marrero. They have placed a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule to request food items, beverages, and paper products donations. A \$10 admission fee per person over 12 years old will be collected at the door for those who do not sign on sheet. Questions can be directed to the rectory at 315.732.4662. Santa will be attending to distribute gifts to the children; please bring a wrapped gift for your child with a value of \$20 or less, with their name clearly written on the tag.

3. IMPORTANT: This year, 50% of the Christmas Party collection will be offered to His Beatitude Patriarch Joseph to serve his charity program, which assists to feed, shelter, and clothe children of Syria who have lost their parents due to war. Please participate by making a generous donation to this program. Thank you. God bless you and grant you many years to come in good health, prosperity, happiness, and holiness. Fr. Saba

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL 2018

As we prepare our hearts and our homes to receive the Eternal Word of God let us remember our Melkite Church by which Christ comes to our families and loved ones. Please give a special end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton to support all the vital works of our Church in America.

THE UNIQUE HOLINESS OF MARY

All the Churches of East and West have always believed that the Virgin Mary was, from her conception, filled with every grace of the Holy Spirit in view of her calling as the Mother of Christ our God. This belief is even professed in Islam. Muslim lore records a *hadith* or tradition, which states that the only children born without the “touch of Satan” were Mary and Jesus, for God imposed “a veil” between them and Satan.

In the Middle Ages increasing devotion to the Mother of God in the West saw the rise of opinions on the holiness of Mary. Some came to believe that she was even conceived without human intercourse, as Christ was. Finally, in the 17th century, Pope Benedict XIV formally condemned this opinion. While it was generally believed that the Theotokos was filled with divine grace from her conception, there was no general understanding on how this happened. The Eastern Church calls Mary *achrantos* (spotless or immaculate), but has never defined exactly what this meant.

Following St. Augustine's thought on original sin, the Western Church gradually came to accept the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”

The Orthodox Churches rejected the dogmatic nature of this teaching pronounced by the pope as an act of piety on his own authority. Many also objected to it because it defines Mary's holiness in terms of a certain understanding of original sin. What does “all stain of original sin” mean? Was the Mother of God exempted from the consequences of the ancestral sin (death, corruption, the effects of sin)? Some Western Catholics still believe that Mary did not (in fact, could not) die, but this has never been taught by their Church.

(DecLeaflets2018)