

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501
Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilsutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org

SUNDAY 2ND AFTER EASTER
Saturday, May 4, Sunday, May 5, 2019



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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:30AM      **Holy Confession:** Every Monday at 4-6PM  
**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

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, and Jean Benoit. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection April 27/28: \$ 343.00**      **Cheese Sale: \$ 10. 00**  
**Memorial Offering: \$ 00.00**      **PayPal- Donation: 000.00**

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† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, MAY 4

† William Chanatry, By the Misses Julia & Mary Nassimos
† Peter A. Farewege Sr., 25th Memorial Anniversary, By his Family

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 5

† William Chanatry, By Gloria Shaheen
† Peter A. Farewege Sr., 25th Memorial Anniversary, By his Family

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 11

† William Chanatry, By Gloria Shaheen
† Joann Colutier, By Carol Chanatry

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 12

† William Chanatry, By Gloria Shaheen
† Adel & Bahejeh Giaingi, By Their Children

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENT \***

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon May 6, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm

**CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF LIVING WATER**

In Jn 7:14-30, read at the Liturgy on this feast, we hear how Jesus taught in the temple “*about the middle of the feast*” of Tabernacles (v. 14) and confronted the Jewish leaders who challenged Him. This event may have prompted the choice of this day to celebrate His teachings. The heart of His teaching on this occasion, however, would only come as the feast was concluding: “*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified*” (Jn 7:37-39). In this passage Christ proclaims – and on this feast we celebrate – several connected aspects of the divine plan for our salvation:

- “*Rivers of living water*” are meant to flow from the hearts of those who believe in Christ.
- This would happen when believers receive the Spirit.
- This would only take place when Jesus was “glorified.”

In the theology of St John’s Gospel, the idea of “exaltation” or “glorification” is used to describe Christ’s death and resurrection. This is drawn from Christ’s words at Bethany predicting His passion: “*The hour is come, that the Son of Man should be glorified*” (Jn 12:23). What would appear to be His humiliation would actually be His glorification. This truth is proclaimed in our icons of the crucifixion where the charge against Christ dictated by Pilate (“King of the Jews”) is replaced by the proclamation “The King of Glory.” The image of “living [that is, running] water” used to describe the power of the Holy Spirit and the Lord as its source is drawn from the prophecy of Jeremiah: “*O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be put to shame...because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters*” (Jer. 17:13). This image was still powerful in the minds of early Christians who thus preferred that baptism be given in running (“living”) water.

**Christ is proclaimed as the Source of this living water in the troparion of the feast:** “At the middle point of this festive season give my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship, for You called out to all men, ‘Whoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.’ O Christ God, Fountain of life, glory to You!” Christ as the Source of living water is a central theme in the Gospel of John which we read on three Sundays in the Paschal seasons. Christ heals the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda (see Jn 5:1-15). He heals the blind man at the pool of Siloam (see Jn 9:1-38). He tells the Samaritan woman, “*whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life*” (Jn 4:14). All these passages, as well as the reading on Mid-Pentecost, would have been particularly meaningful to those newly baptized in living water at Pascha.

**Conduits of the Spirit:** Christ’s words, “*He who believes in Me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water*” (Jn 7:38) point to another important element in His teaching. Believers are not meant to receive the Holy Spirit as if they were closed vessels. Rather they are meant to be channels by which the grace of the Spirit touches others. Thus, when St Seraphim of Sarov showed Nicholas Motovilov what happens when a person acquires the Holy Spirit, he insisted, “This is not given to you alone but through you it is for the whole world!” If a believer has truly received the Holy Spirit, others are affected. As St Seraphim phrased it, “Acquire the Spirit of peace and thousands around you will be saved.”

**Icon of the Feast:** The icon of this feast shown here depicts the Gospel scene of the adult Christ teaching in the temple during the Jewish festival. Often, however, the icon venerated on Mid-Pentecost depicts the twelve year old Jesus “*in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions*” (Lk 2:46), indicating that at all times and in every way Christ is the Source of wisdom, the Illuminator of our souls. (*MayLeaflets2019*)