

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Website www.stbasilutica.org

SUNDAY 7th AFTER EASTER
Saturday June 8, Sunday June 9, 2019



WEEKLY SERVICES

Daily Liturgy: Monday-Friday at 8:30AM

Holy Liturgy: Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM

Matins/Orthos: Every Sunday at 9:00AM

Holy Confession: Every Monday at 4-6PM

Vespers: Every Saturday at 3:00PM

Holy Rosary: Every Sunday at 10:30AM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Rt. Rev. Edward Kakaty, Archdeacon George Yanni, Jordan Barahmeh, Michael Klockowski, Lawrence Bleiberg, Maggy Attalah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, and Jean Benoit. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection June 1/2: \$ 450.00
Memorial Offering: \$ 30.00

Cheese Sale: \$00. 00
Baptism Donation: 200.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 8

† **William Chantry**, By Louis & Julie Shkane

† **James Edward Astour**, 54th Memorial Anniversary, By the Astour Family

† **Andrew Astour**, 17th Memorial Anniversary, By the Astour Family

† **Agnes Astour**, 9th Memorial Anniversary, By the Astour Family

THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 9

† **William Chantry**, By Louis & Julie Shkane

† **Fredrick Kopyt**, By Mary Ann Astour

† **Najeeb Barahmeh**, 17th Memorial Anniversary, By Ibrahim & Hanan Barahemh

NEXT SATURDAY, JUNE 15

† **Fredrick Kopyt**, By the Community of St. Basil

† **Arlene Lalli**, 21st Memorial Anniversary, B Robert Lalli

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 16

† **All the deceased Souls**, By Ibrahim & Hanan Barahemh

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon September 2, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm

EARLY CHURCH

SEVERAL HYMNS OF PENTECOST allude to promises made by Christ concerning the coming Holy Spirit. He would be “*another Paraclete*” (Comforter or Advocate), Jesus Himself being their first Paraclete. The Holy Spirit, being immaterial, would “*abide with you forever*” (John 14:15). He would be “everywhere present and filling all things,” as we say in the Hymn to the Holy Spirit which begins most of our services. The Lord Jesus took on our humanity to be like us in all things except sin. His earthly life, like ours would be limited to a certain time and a certain place so that we could be glorified like Him forever in His glory. According to Christ, the first work of the Holy Spirit would be to help Jesus’ followers understand God’s plan for us. “*He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*” (John 14:26). “*He will testify of Me*” (John 15:26), guiding you “*into all truth*” (John 16:12).

More than Understanding The Scriptures read at the Divine Liturgy on this feast show us another dimension of the Spirit’s presence among us. He would impart spiritual power to the Church by His presence. Before His ascension Christ promised His followers, “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). This power would give the courage to speak the Good News of Christ to men who, before the Spirit’s coming, had been hiding in an upper room for fear of the Jewish authorities. The Spirit’s presence brought clarity to their message as well as the boldness to transmit it to their disbelieving countrymen.

The Acts of the Apostles gives several instances of how the Holy Spirit’s power worked among the apostles. It lists:

The Gift of Tongues (Acts 2:4-11) – The ability to proclaim the Gospel and to be understood in a number of languages otherwise unknown to the speaker.

The Gift of Teaching (Acts 2:14-36) – The ability to express the mystery of the Gospel with clarity despite their humble background and lack of education.

The Gift of Healing (Acts 3:1-10) – The ability to heal the physical illness of people and even, as in the case of Tabitha, the ability to raise the dead.

The Gift of Discernment (Acts 4:36- 5:11) – The ability to distinguish between spiritual truth and delusion, as when Peter detected the deceitful hearts of Ananias and Sepphira.

The Gift of Passing on the Spirit (Acts 8:14-17) – The ability to confer the Gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying-on of hands.

The Gift of Exorcism (Acts 16:16-18) – The ability to drive out evil spirits.

All these gifts have been manifested throughout the life of the Church over the centuries with the exception of the first of these gifts, the multiplicity of tongues. According to St Augustine and St John Chrysostom, the purpose of the gift of tongues was to affirm “that the Gospel of God was to be proclaimed over the entire earth in all languages” (St Augustine, Homily on 1 John 6:10). That universal proclamation began almost immediately, fulfilling the purpose of the gift of tongues which ceased.

Other gifts were bestowed upon the growing Church, as described in the Epistles of St. Paul. Some of them are celebrated in a hymn repeated frequently during this feast: “The Holy Spirit provides every gift: He inspires prophecy, perfects the priesthood, grants wisdom to the illiterate, makes simple fishermen become wise theologians, and establishes perfect order in the organization of the Church. Wherefore, O Comforter, equal in nature and majesty with the Father and the Son, glory to You!”

Releasing the Spirit’s Power: The fruit of these gifts have been with us for centuries. The result is often that we take them for granted and fail to see the power in them. The Lord does not try to scare us into faith by brandishing these gifts in our faces. Rather He beckons and waits for us to seek a relationship with Him in the Holy Spirit. Then the power in these gifts will be revealed. (*JuneLeaflets2019*)