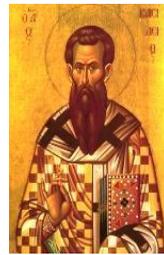


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY 8TH AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
Saturday, November 9 & Sunday, November 10, 2019

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**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

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Wael and his son Jordan Barahmeh, Michael Klockowski, Eugene Hutchinson, Maggy Attalah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, Jean Benoit and Fouad Marji. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection Nov. 2/3: \$ 331.00**  
**St. Pauly Textile: \$ 00.00**  
**Fuel & Heat Donation: \$ 460.00**  
**Memorial Offering: \$ 10.00**

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

† **Jackie Albright**, By Marchel & Christine Rawda

THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

† **Jackie Albright**, By Marchel & Christine Rawda

NEXT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

† **Karen Moore**, By Eddie and Carmela Nassimos

NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17

† **Jackie Albright**, By Marchel & Christine Rawda

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**\* ANNOUNCEMENT \***

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

**THE ANGELS**

A FEW YEARS AGO, a Greek pilot had this harrowing experience. In mid-air his plane experienced system failure. The instruments disengaged, the engines cut out and there was nowhere to go but down. Suddenly the pilot saw the holy archangel Michael appear beneath the wings, holding them aloft. He couldn't believe it. St. Michael guided the plane to safety, then vanished.

In our culture there is no room for incorporeal powers such as angels. We class them as myths, along with Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. Their tales may provide pleasantly distracting entertainment, but we "know" that only the corporeal, the physical is real.

The Church, based on the witness of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures, insists that incorporeal powers – angels – are very real, although generally unseen. They are created, as we are, but with none of the limitations our physical nature imposes on us. The angels are the invisible creation we mention in the Nicene Creed; yet they are not faceless forces: they are individuals differing according to their rank and function.

The great number of human beings who inhabit only this planet is nothing compared to the number of angels who inhabit the universe. As St Cyril of Jerusalem writes, "Imagine how great in number is the Roman people. Imagine how great in number are the other peoples who now exist and how many more must have died! Imagine how many have been buried in a century or in a thousand years. Imagine all mankind from Adam to the present day. Great is their number, but it is small in comparison with the angels."

We find the presence of angels recorded throughout the Old and the New Testaments. The prophet Isaiah saw seraphim before God's throne (Is 6:2) and the prophet Ezechiel saw the cherubim (Ez 10:8). The prophet Daniel saw a thousand thousand ministering to God with ten thousand times ten thousand standing before God (Dan 9 and 10). As we say in the Divine Liturgy, "There stand before You thousands of archangels and myriads of angels, cherubim and seraphim... singing, proclaiming, shouting the hymn of victory and saying 'Holy!'"

**The Archangel Michael:** The highest in rank of the heavenly powers who minister among us are the holy archangels Michael and Gabriel. Mentioned in several books of the Bible, they are referred to in our Church as the "captains" or "commanders" of the heavenly hosts. In the apocalyptic Book of Daniel Gabriel is described as coming to Daniel "*in rapid flight at the time of the evening sacrifice*" (Dan 9:21). He prophesied that in the last days Michael, "*the guardian of your people*" (Dan 12:1) would defend and deliver from their enemies "*everyone who is found written in the book.*" Thus in icons Gabriel is usually depicted as winged while Michael is clothed in a military uniform.

**The angel Gabriel** appears before Zechariah to announce the birth of John the Forerunner and before the Theotokos to announce the birth of Christ. There are angels at His birth in Bethlehem and at His tomb in Jerusalem. Angels populate the garden in the Book of Genesis (Gen 3:24) and the heavens in the Book of Revelation. We call on them in the psalms to protect and help us and to lead us in blessing the Lord.

**A Synaxis for the Heavenly Powers:** On November 8 the Byzantine Churches celebrate a synaxis (assembly) in honor of the assembly of the heavenly hosts: Michael, and Gabriel, along with all the heavenly powers. This feast was first observed in a church at the thermal baths of the Emperor Arcadius in Constantinople and spread from there throughout the Christian East as the principal commemoration of the incorporeal powers.

Another feast of St. Michael is kept on September 6 remembering the miraculous spring at Chonae in Asia Minor. A sanctuary dedicated to the Archangel had been erected by local Christians. Pagans sought to destroy it by diverting a stream from a nearby gorge against it; however a lightning strike split a massive rock diverting the stream again and preserving the shrine. Believers attributed the lightning to St Michael and considered the diverted waters forever sanctified. (*NovLeaflets*2014)