

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501
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Website www.stbasilutica.org

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, March 3 & Sunday, March 4, 2018

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

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing members, including Lorraine Chanatry-Howell, Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Daniel Klockowski, and Rose Pawlinga. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection Feb 24/25: \$ 00.00 Funeral & Memorial Services: \$ 00.00
Syrian Cheese Sale: \$00.00 Fuel: \$ 00.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 3

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **Mary Machis**, By Mr. Alex Murad

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 4

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **Mary Machis**, By Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family

NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 10

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **Mary Machis**, By Mr. Alex Murad

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 11

† **Ida McHarris**, By Robert & Ann St. Jermain
† **Mary Machis**, By Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

1. Please join us for the St Basil Palm Sunday Luncheon, immediately following 11:00 AM Holy Liturgy on Sunday, March 25. St Basil’s original founders will be recognized during the festivities. Marcia Reesh will chair the event, and may be reaching out to you regarding set up, or food/beverage donations.

2. Our Syrian Braided Cheese is now available for purchase. Spread the word to all family and friends of St Basil. One braid for \$6, or two braids for \$10. Please call the Rectory at 315.732.4662.

3. St Basil Parish Advisory Council will meet on Monday, March 5 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.

CARRY UP YOUR CROSS

The Third Sunday in the Great Fast is the twenty-first day of the forty-day fast. We are half way to our Holy Week observance of the Lord’s passion and resurrection. At this mid-point the Church directs our attention to the holy cross and to Christ’s injunction, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Mk 8:34).

The cross, adorned with flowers, is brought forth for veneration as on September 14. While that feast commemorates the historical events of the finding of the cross by St Helena and its return to Jerusalem after the Persian invasion, today’s commemoration focuses on the meaning of the cross in our lives, especially during the Great Fast. We are encouraged to continue to “have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24) during the rest of this fasting season.

The Gospel of the Cross: The Gospel read at the Divine Liturgy today is part of a series of five vignettes in which we see Christ coming to the end of His earthly ministry. Describing the first part of this ministry, Mark emphasizes what has been called the “Messianic secret.” As Jesus teaches and performs miracles, people are regularly told to keep silent about what He has done.

First of all He must form His disciples to see Him as the Messiah, the Christ. Finally, as Jesus and His followers are walking from one village to another, “...He asked His disciples, saying to them, ‘Who do men say that I am?’ So they answered, ‘John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered and said to Him, ‘You are the Christ’” (Mk 6:27-29). With Peter’s act of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Church is born. The Lord then begins preparing His followers to see what kind of Messiah He really is.

Like many in those days, the disciples assumed that the Messiah would be a kind of Jewish Julius Caesar driving out the occupiers and restoring the kingdom to Israel. In the second vignette Jesus announces that as Messiah He will suffer, die, and rise again. “And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly” (Mk 8:31-32). There is no Messianic secret here. The disciples must be prepared for what is to come.

This is so far from the disciples’ expectation that Peter objects. “Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, ‘Get behind Me, Satan – for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men’” (Mk 8:32-33). Peter objects; he knows what victorious generals – the things of men – look like. This third vignette shows that he hasn’t a clue about the things of God.

“St. John Chrysostom teaches us that anyone can rule, but that no one but a king gives his life for his people, because he so identifies with his people that he has no existence, no life, no purpose but to serve them with all his life and if necessary with his death.” As Metropolitan Anthony Bloom once said, “The Lord has told us that in the Christian Church and in the Kingdom, a King is not one who overpowers others to exact from them unconditional and slavish obedience, but He is the one who serves and gives His life for others. Finally, we come to today’s Gospel selection: the fourth vignette in this sequence. My kingdom is not what you think. Its throne is the cross and whoever wants a place in this kingdom must accept a cross as well: the cross of self-denial.

(MarchLeaflets2018)