

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

4th SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS
Saturday, March 10 & Sunday, March 11, 2018

HOLY LENT LITURGICAL/ PRAYERS 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
Great Compline: Wednesday at 6:00PM **Akathistos:** Friday at 6:00PM

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 March 3/4: \$ 370.00 Syrian Braided Cheese Sale: \$10.00
Fuel: \$ 55.00 Easter Flowers: \$ 120.00

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 10

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

THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 11

† 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

* 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.

* ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED *

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, April 8 @ 6:30 PM in the Rectory.

2018 EASTER FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to the following parishioners for their monetary donations toward the purchase of St Basil's 2018 Easter Flowers: MaryAnn Astour in memory of Agnes Astour, Andrew Astour, James Edward Astour, and for all the Deceased Members of the Astour Family; Anthony and Sandra Showa in honor of the Showa Family and the Tebsherany Family; Eleanor Steppello in memory of Norman & Sadie Stamboly, James Steppello and Basil Stamboly; Robert & Laura Zaloom; Robert Lalli; Anthony John Kawam. The entire St Basil Community appreciates and recognizes your generosity. Thank you, and God bless you.

THE HIGH PRIEST

During the Israelites' exodus from Egypt Moses' brother Aaron was chosen to be their first High Priest (see Ex 28). The High Priest served, first, in the portable sanctuary which accompanied the Israelites in their travels. When Jerusalem became the center of Israel, its temple replaced the portable sanctuary. From then on, the High Priest was associated with the Jerusalem temple. When the Romans finally destroyed the temple in AD 70 and forbade the Jews from living around Jerusalem (AD 135), the office of High Priest ceased.

The most important role of the High Priest was to serve in the temple on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the holiest day of the Jewish year. The High Priest first offered a bull in sacrifice for his own sins and those of his household. Then he entered the inner sanctuary of the temple alone. After offering incense, he sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed bull around the inner sanctuary. Then he would offer a goat to be sacrificed for the sins of the priests. Returning to the inner sanctuary, he would sprinkle it with the blood of the goat. In the Epistle to the Hebrews, Christ's death would be both compared to and contrasted to this ritual.

Christ as High Priest: In this epistle, there are a number of times that Christ is compared to the High Priest of the Jewish temple. The first of these is that both are selected by God: *"no one takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was"* (Heb 5:4). Two psalm verses are then cited as witnesses to Christ's call, the first being Ps 2:7 – *"You are My Son, today I have begotten You."*

This verse does not seem to refer to priesthood until we recall that the Israelite high priesthood was held by the descendants of Aaron, passing from father to son. If Christ was to be considered High Priest, it was important to know who His Father was.

The second psalm verse cited in Hebrews is Ps 110:4 – *"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."* This verse refers to the priest-king of Salem who greeted Abram after his victory over the Elamites (Gen 14). Later in the epistle, Melchizedek is described as *"without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life"* (Heb 7:3), a very Semitic image of an unceasing priest and, therefore, *"made like the Son of God."*

The epistle thus presents Christ as Son of God and eternal High Priest, without human genealogy or descendants. Yet, He is also described as a very human High Priest, one who can sympathize with our weaknesses because He *"was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin"* (Heb 4:15).

Priesthood and Sacrifice: A second point of comparison between the Lord Jesus and the High Priest of the Jewish temple is that both are appointed to offer sacrifices for sins. In the temple, sacrifices were offered each day, year after year, morning, and evening, usually by the priests who were delegated to do so. Livestock, grain, meal, wine, and incense were offered in sacrifice to God as *qurban*, or oblations. (*MarchLeaflets2018*)