

**ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501  
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Website [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org)

**SUNDAY 5th AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Saturday, June 23 & Sunday, June 24, 2018**

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:00AM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM  
**Matins/Orthros:** 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 all of our convalescing friends, including Nancy Gazzal, Edgar Hallak, Rose Pawlinga, and Carol Young. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection June 9/10: \$ 459.00**  
**Memorial Services: \$ 30.00**  
**Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 120.00**  
**St. Pauly Textile: \$ 53.92**

**\*\* IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING HOLY LITURGIES DURING JULY \*\***

Fr. Saba will be absent from the parish between July 5 & July 30. Rev Richard Dellos and Rev Anthony LaFache will preside during Holy Liturgies during this time. In case of funeral planning, please contact Tony Showa at 315-732-5411. Tony will contact the Diocese to provide St. Basil with Melkite priests.

- 1. THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY LITURGIES OFFERED BETWEEN JULY 5TH & JULY 30TH.**
- 2. DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, HOLY LITURGIES WILL BE CELEBRATED EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM.**

**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

† **George Kawam**, by his wife Renee Kawam

**THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 24**

† **Jannah Jbarah**, by her Family  
† **Asaad Shofany**, by Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**NEXT SATURDAY, JUNE 30**

† **Antoinette Murad, 2nd Memorial Anniversary**, by Alex Murad

**NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 1**

† **Mary Machis**, by Mr. & Mrs. Henry George Murad and Family  
† **Jannah Jbarah**, by her Family

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \***

1. A PayPal link is available on our website offering a safe, secure, and confidential option to donate to St Basil, Utica. Please go to [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org), click on the Donation Tab and follow the webpage instructions. Weekly Sunday Bulletins can also be found there; click on the Announcement Tab. Thank you for visiting our page!

2. Fr. Shofany & the Parish Advisory Council members have agreed to sell the antique organ located in the church, on the balcony. If you or someone you know has any interest, please call the rectory at 315.732.4662.

3. We are looking to form two Garage Sale Committees; one to organize the event, and one to provide labor to set-up and break down the event. Please see any PAC member to express your interest. Thank you.

**ST JOHN THE FORERUNNER**

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR remembers many events in Christian history: martyrdoms, ecumenical councils, miracles, and even earthquakes. There are only three births celebrated, however: that of the Theotokos (September 8), the Nativity of Christ Himself (December 25) and the birth of St John the Forerunner (June 24).

We do not know where or when this feast was first observed, but it is mentioned in writings of fourth- and fifth-century Fathers in both East and West (Saints Ambrose, Augustine and John Chrysostom). The oldest shrine of the Forerunner, at Ain-Karem, home of his parents Zachariah and Elizabeth, was destroyed during the fifth-century revolt of the Samaritans against Byzantine rule. In the sixth century the French Council of Agde (506) declared this feast a “holyday of obligation” – not surprising, considering the esteem in which Christ Himself considered John (see Mt 11:11).

**John’s Conception Foretold:** The Gospel story of John’s conception and birth, which is the Biblical basis of this feast, is found in Luke 1. We read that John’s father, Zachariah, was a priest “of the division of Abijah” (Lk 1:4). According to the custom of the day, priests were enrolled in various groupings or divisions which took turns serving in the temple for two weeks at a time. The Gospel says that, while Zachariah was offering incense in the temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and announced that Elizabeth, Zachariah’s wife, would bear him a son, who was to be named John.

Zachariah could not understand how this could be, as both he and his wife were up in years. Because of his reluctance to believe, Zachariah was told by the angel, “*Behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time*” (Lk 1:20). And so it happened.

**John and Elijah:** The angel tells Zachariah that his son would go before the Lord “in the spirit and power of Elijah, to ‘turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Lk 1:17). In this promise we find an echo of the following prophecy from the Book of Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophetic books. “*Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse*” (Mal 4:5-6). In some arrangements of the Bible, these are the last words of the Old Testament, pointing it forward to the Messianic Age to come. Believing Jews held that Elijah would come to prepare the way for the Messiah. Many saw John as “Elijah,” the fulfillment of that prophecy, foretelling to all the coming of Christ. As the Lord Himself said about John, “*If you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come*” (Mt 11:14). Clearly, John is not some kind of reincarnation of the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC prophet, but he is said to have come “in the spirit and power of Elijah.”

*(JuneLeaflets2018)*