

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501  
Phone 315.732.4662 Email [stbasilsutica@gmail.com](mailto:stbasilsutica@gmail.com)  
Website [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org)



THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS  
Saturday, January 5 & Sunday, January 6, 2019

~~~~~  
**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 friends, including Anthony Louis Zalatan, Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, Lorraine Tedesco, and Jean Benoit. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

~~~~~  
**WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!**

Weekly Collection December 29/30: \$ 388.00      Fuel Collection: \$ 160.00

-----  
New year Feast December 31/Jan 1, 2019: \$ 517.00      Syrian Cheese Sale: \$ 40.00

~~~~~  
† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

**THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 5-THEOPHANY EVE**

- † William Chanatry, By Mary Ann Astour
- † Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † N.Y.P.D Officer David Barahmeh, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh
- † Olga Massei, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

**THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 6-THEOPHANY DAY**

- † William Chanatry, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † Dr. Nader Fayez, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

**NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**

- † William Chanatry, By Mary Ann Astour
- † Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**

- † William Chanatry, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † Guy Cimbalò, By Robert Lalli
- † Lena Rowe, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her birth, By Robert Lalli

**\* SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THE HEALING\***

Our prayers and special intentions go to Mrs. Jean Benoit. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant her many years to come in good health, prosperity, happiness, and holiness. Amen.

~~~~~  
**THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST ENLIGHTEN THE HUMANITY**

**The Theophany feast has for its origin the Baptism of Christ**, the True Light that lightens everyone who comes into the world, and effects my purification...” These words, which begin St Gregory the Theologian’s homily “On the Lights,” reflect what was already a well-known custom when he spoke them (AD 381). They also point to the reason why this is an especially appropriate term for this feast of the Theophany.

It has been suggested that the feast was introduced in third century Alexandria, where January 6 was One explanation, mentioned in some synaxaria, is offered by Severian, Bishop of Gavalon. He remarks that in the Church there was great abundance of light on this feast day because the Christians carried lighted candles. The same is mentioned by Ephraim the Syrian in his hymn on the Epiphany (9th verse). The ceremony in Jerusalem, as described by the fourth-century pilgrim Egeria, began with a procession during the night from Bethlehem to the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. They enter the church before daybreak “where an exceedingly great number of lights are already burning.”

**The theme of light represents the divine in the Scriptures.** The most evocative use of this image for Christians is found in the Gospel of John where the Lord says “*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life*” (Jn 8:12). St Gregory in his homily links a number of the Scriptural verses on light. “Therefore, listen to the Voice of God, which sounds so exceeding clearly to me, who am both disciple and master of these mysteries, as would to God it may sound to you: ‘*I am the Light of the world*’ [Jn 8:12]. Therefore ‘*approach Him and be enlightened, and let not your faces be ashamed,*’ [Ps 33:5, LXX] being signed with the true Light. “This is a season of new birth, let us be born again. It is a time of reformation, let us receive again the first Adam. Let us not remain what we are but let us become what we once were.

**In the light of Christ we concur darkness:** ‘*The Light shined in darkness,*’ [Jn 1:5] in this life and in the flesh, and is chased by the darkness, but is not overtaken by it (I mean the adverse power leaping up in its shamelessness against the visible Adam, but encountering God and being defeated) in order that we, putting away the darkness, may draw near to the Light, and may then become perfect Light, the children of perfect Light.”

**Christ is said to enlighten mankind by what He has revealed to us:** He has shown us God in His own person (“*Then Jesus cried out and said, ‘He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness*” – Jn 12:44-46).

**In Christ we see God as compassionate,** long-suffering of our weaknesses and willing to take on our take on our sufferings Himself to restore our likeness to Him.

**Christ also enlightens us by showing us – again in His own person – what a human being is:** What He taught in words, He also taught by His way of life: “*Love one another as I have loved you... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many... I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life... If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*” He shows us that the way to glory is to empty oneself and take up the cross of the sufferings of others just as He did. (*JanLeaflets2019*)