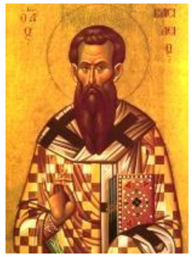
ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
901 Sherman Drive, Utica, New York 13501
Phone 315.732.4662 Email stbasilsutica@gmail.com
Website www.stbasilutica.org



SUNDAY THIRTEEN AFTER THE HOLY CROSS EXALTATION
Saturday, January 26 & Sunday, January 27, 2019

≈≈

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 our convalescing friends, including Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, , and Jean Benoit. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

≈≈

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection January 12/13: $ 299.00 **Fuel Collection: $ 20.00**
Funeral and Memorial Masses offering: $ 260.00 **Syrian Cheese Sale: $40.00**
Confirmation offering : $25.00

Weekly Collection January 19/20: $ 00.00 **Fuel Collection: $00.00**
Funeral and Memorial Masses offering: $ 00.00 **Syrian Cheese Sale: $00.00**

≈≈

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

† **William Chanatry**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
† **Edgar Hallak**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

† **Pierre Kawam**, 16th Memorial Anniversary, By his wife Lorraine Kawam
† **William Chanatry**, By Richard Szuba
† **Edgar Hallak**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

NEXT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

† **William Chanatry**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
† **Edgar Hallak**, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUAY 3

† **William Chanatry**, By Mr. & Mrs. Amy Jweid
† **Joseph Anthony Reesh**, By his Daughters

*** ANNOUNCEMENT ***

The next Parish Advisory Council meeting will be held on Mon Feb 5, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm.

≈≈

REPENTANCE

Repentance: Warm-up to the Spiritual Life: We have all seen runners stretching their leg muscles before beginning a run. Their stretches are a warm-up in anticipation of the effort ahead. Similarly, there is a warm up necessary at the start of a spiritual effort. Repentance is the necessary prerequisite to any effective spiritual effort, whether it is the encounter with Christ in the Liturgy or any of the mysteries, the Great Fast, or any spiritual work which we pray may be fruitful. Ignoring our personal spiritual state before undertaking any of these practices borders on presumption. Even world-class athletes, whether physical or spiritual, always begin each contest at the beginning, with a warm-up.

The Gospel story of Zacchaeus' conversion (Lk 19:1-10) offers some valuable insights into repentance. His spiritual journey begins with an encounter with Christ. At first Zacchaeus is moved by a kind of curiosity to climb the tree and see who this Jesus is. Then Christ calls him personally and they go off to Zacchaeus' house. True repentance always involves both our work and the Lord's. If He calls and we are not even curious, nothing will happen. If we seek Him in an inappropriate way – such as only coming to Him when we want something – He may remain silent.

Zacchaeus' repentance is not mere sentiment; it has concrete exterior manifestations. One is the desire to repair any wrongs he may have done to others. "…*if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore it fourfold*" (v. 8). We cannot move ahead unless we correct what we can of our past sins. When material things are at the heart of our sin it is relatively easy to make restitution. But how does anyone restore a broken relationship, heal a damaged childhood or re-establish another's reputation which we have smeared? The one we have harmed may demand something from us or our spiritual guide may offer alternative acts of reparation. But something concrete must be done.
Zacchaeus does not only look back, he also looks ahead. *"I give half of my goods to the poor…"* (v.8) Zacchaeus actually does something to fulfill the Lord's precept to love in a concrete way. This dynamic was explained most clearly by St Diadochos, the fifth-century Bishop of Photiki in northern Greece: "*When a man begins to perceive the love of God in all its richness, he begins also to love his neighbor with spiritual perception. This is the love of which all the Scriptures speak*." (*On Spiritual Knowledge and Discernment*, 15).

In the Church calendar the story of Zacchaeus is read as a "herald of the Triodion," before we open that guide to repentance and the Great Fast. As we recall the movements of Zacchaeus' repentance, we should be led to ask ourselves about the quality of our love for God. To what concrete action are we being led to perform during the coming Fast? What tangible form will love take in our lives as we look to the celebration of Pascha? And what past offenses to others which have yet to be righted hang over us and taint our intentions for this season? Like Zacchaeus we are called to begin our spiritual exercise with the "warm-up" of repentance in deed as well as in thought. *(JanLeaflets2019)*