

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
 Monday, December 24 & Tuesday, December 25, 2018

HOLY LITURGIES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Monday, December 24, 4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Liturgy
 Tuesday, December 25, 11:00 AM – Christmas Day Liturgy
 Monday, December 31, New Year’s Eve - 4:30 PM
 Tuesday, January 1, 2019, New Year’s Day - 11:00 AM

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Anthony Louis Zalatan, Maggy Attalah, Nadia Casab, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, and Lorraine Tedesco. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

- † Jannah Jbarah, By her Family
- † William Chanatry, By Fr. Saba & Family
- † Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † The Deceased members of the Astour Family, By the Astour Family
- † The Deceased members of the Szczepanski Family, By the Astour Family
- † Dr. Nader Fayez, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh
- † Raymond & Bahia Chanatry and Deceased Children, By Doris & Eugene Hutchinson

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

- † William Chanatry, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † Edgar Hallak, By Mrs. Elizabeth Chanatry
- † NYPD Officer David Barahmeh, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

- † William Chanatry, By David & Janet George
- † Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † J.A.F Lieutenant Najib Barahmeh, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- † William Chanatry, By Phil Cittadino
- † Edgar Hallak, By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson
- † Ibrahim Khalil Barahmeh, By Michael & Christine Barahmeh

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection December 22/23: \$ 00.00 Syrian Braided Cheese Sale: \$ 00.00
 Memorial Services: \$ 00.00 Fuel Collection: \$0.00 Donation for the Children of Syria: \$ 00.00
 Christmas donation for flowers: \$ 00.00

THE PROPHETS READ IN THE CHURCH

At the time of the Hebrew kingdoms (the six or seven hundred years before Christ), prophets arose, periodically calling the people back to trust in God despite the troubles of their nation. Despite conflicts with the Philistines or the Assyrians, and even in the midst of defeat and exile by the Babylonians and occupation by the Romans, the Prophets encouraged the people to trust in God who would provide a deliverer.

After the death and resurrection of Christ, the Apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, understood these prophecies as fulfilled in a definitive way by Jesus Christ, who delivers all mankind – not just the Jewish people – from its ultimate enemies, sin and death. Fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies of a deliverer, Christ Jesus was preached by the Apostles as the true Messiah (Anointed One) and Savior. What we call the Old Testament was the Bible for the early Church, as well as for Judaism, and its prophecies were fulfilled in the Incarnation of Christ God in the New Testament. As the following quotations show, the Apostles believed these prophecies were fulfilled in Christ Jesus:

- *His Conception* (Isaiah 7:14, cited in Mt 1:23) - “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son.”
- *The Place of His Birth* (Micah 5:2, cited in Mt 2:6) - “Bethlehem...out of you shall come a ruler...”
- *The Flight into Egypt* (Hosea 11:1, cited in Mt 2:15) - “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
- *The Slaughter of the Infants* (Jeremiah 31:15, cited in Mt 2:18) - “A voice was heard in Ramah...”
- *His home in Nazareth* (possibly Judges 13:5, cited in Mt 2:23) - “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Other prophecies also point to Jesus as the Messiah:

- Numbers 24:17 - “a star shall come forth out of Jacob...”
- Isaiah 11:1 - “There shall come forth a shoot from the root of Jesse...”
- Isaiah 60:5-6 “...they shall bring gold and frankincense”

While there are no verbatim quotations of prophecies in Luke’s infancy narratives, there are many allusions to Old Testament scriptures throughout. In Luke 1:17, for example, John the Baptist is described by the angel as going “before him in the spirit and power of Elijah.” This alludes to Malachi 4:5-6: “Behold I am sending to you Elijah the Thesbite before the great and notable day of the Lord comes.”

These allusions, and others throughout the Gospels, reflect the early Church’s belief that the entire Old Testament leads us to Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Myriad of graces & blessing from our Lord Jesus Christ and from his Holy Family Joseph & Mary be upon you in this Holy Christmas. May the God of love fill all of you with joy, peace and trust in Him, so that you may overflow this coming year with hope and power by the Holy Spirit.

*Parish Council Committee
 Fr. Saba Shofany & the Family*

