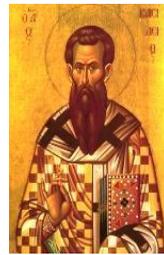


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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THE FAST OF THE APOSTLES

The Fast of the Apostles, which we have just completed, leads up to two festivals in our Church: the Feast of the Prime Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) and the Synaxis of the Apostles (June 30). On this second day we assemble for another gathering (synaxis) in honor of the Twelve, the companions of Christ who became the core group around whom the early Church was built. As St Irenaeus of Lyons wrote, “We have learned from none others the plan of our salvation, than from those through whom the Gospel has come down to us, which they did at one time proclaim in public, and, at a later period, by the will of God, handed down to us in the Scriptures, to be the ground and pillar of our faith” (A.H.3.1.1).

The New Testament records that the first Christians sought to replace Judas who had fallen away. St Peter outlined the qualities required for an apostle: “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection” (Acts 1:21, 22). To become one of the Twelve, then, one had to have witnessed the entire ministry of the Lord Jesus and His resurrection. Two men were proposed who met these requirements, “Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias” (v23). Neither of these men are mentioned by name in any of the Gospels. They were presumably among the Seventy, the second rank of the Lord’s followers, whom our Church remembers with a synaxis on January 4.

Twelve or More? Six of the Twelve are mentioned in all four Gospels as well as Acts: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, and Thomas. Several others are mentioned in some of these writings: Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus surnamed Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite (the Zealot), Judas the son of James, Nathaniel, and Levi the tax collector. In addition, St Paul is listed among the Twelve although his witness was to the risen Christ (see Acts 9:1-9).

Some commentators have said that some of the “extra” names are alternate names for the same people, such as the tax collector Matthew/Levi and Judas (Jude)/ Lebbaeus surnamed Thaddaeus. Many Jews at the time had Greek or Latin names as well as their family names which were Hebrew or Aramaic in origin. Others have said that Twelve was a symbolic number in the culture which produced the Scriptures, representing perfection or completion. Still others give the following explanation: the Twelve were in fact the witnesses to the Twelve Tribes of Israel while Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles.

What Is Apostolic Succession? The ancient Churches sought to guarantee the apostolic origin and authority of their preaching by using the term *Apostolic Succession*. Basically, this meant that a particular Church or group of Christians taught what the Apostles taught and practiced what the Apostles did. In a similar way, the connection of a local Church with the Apostles was manifested by the connection of its bishop with the person of the Apostles.

At first this meant that the bishop knew and/or was taught by an apostle. As Irenaeus wrote about St Polycarp in the second century, “Polycarp also was not only instructed by Apostles, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, but was also, by Apostles in Asia, appointed bishop of the Church in Smyrna, whom I also saw in my early youth, for he tarried [on earth] a very long time, and, when a very old man, gloriously and most nobly suffering martyrdom, departed this life, having always taught the things which he had learned from the Apostles, and which the Church has handed down, and which alone are true. To these things all the Asiatic Churches testify, as do also those men who have succeeded Polycarp down to the present time” (A.H., 3:3:4). (*JuneLeaflets2019*)

SUNDAY 4TH AFTER PENTECOST Saturday July 6, Sunday July 7, 2019

WEEKLY 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

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Rt. Rev. Edward Kakaty, Archdeacon George Yanni, Jordan Barahmeh, Michael Klockowski, Eugene Hutchinson, Lawrence Bleiberg, Maggy Attalah, Nancy Gazzal, Rose Pawlinga, and Jean Benoit. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: THANK YOU!

Weekly Collection June 29/30: \$ 765.00 **Memorial Offering: \$ 70.00**
Donation for Candles: \$ 328.00 **Pay-pal donation: \$ 290.70**

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

THIS SATURDAY, JULY 6

† **Frederick Kopyt**, By John & Dana Ata
† **Kristin Brown**, By Anthony & Sandra Showa
† **Dr. Francis Chanatry, 7th Memorial Anniversary** By Eugene & Doris Hutchinson

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 7

† **Frederick Kopyt**, By Eddie & Carmella Nassimos
† **Kristin Brown**, By Robert Lalli
† **Deceased Members of the Stamboly Family**, By Lorraine Tedesco

NEXT SATURDAY, JULY 13

† **Kristin Brown**, By Anthony & Sandra Showa

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 14

† **Frederick Kopyt**, By Eddie & Carmella Nassimos
† **The Deceased Members of the Stamboly Family**, By Lorraine Tedesco

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Mon September 9, 6:30 PM, Rectory Meeting Rm