

ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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## ST. PAUL IN ATHENS

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AFTER PENTECOST  
Sunday, August 4, 2019

### WEEKLY SERVICES

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday at 8:30AM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday at 4:30PM, Sunday at 11:00AM  
**Matins/Orthos:** 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 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 July 27/28: \$ 846.00**  
**Cheese Sale: \$ 200.00**  
**Home Blessing: \$ 50.00**  
**Memorial Offering: \$ 00.00**

† MEMORIAL MASSES †

**THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 NO DIVINE LITURGY**

**THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 FR. RICHARD DELLOS CELEBRANT**

† **Frederick Kopyt**, By John & Dana Ata

† **Anthony Louis Zalatan**, By Michelle Zaltan- Roth and Family

**NEXT SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 NO DIVINE LITURGY**

**NEXT SUNDAY AUGUST 11 FR. RICHARD DELLOS CELEBRANT**

† **Frederick Kopyt**, By John & Dana Ata

**\* ANNOUNCEMENT \***

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

WHEN WE READ the Acts of the Apostles, we may feel that the Apostles had success after success. That wasn't always the case. St Paul had the following experience in Athens, the intellectual capital of the Greek world, recorded in *Acts* 17:16-34. He was waiting for Silas and Timothy to rejoin him and continue their journey when, as the Scripture says, "...his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there" (v. 16, 17).

There, we are told, he encountered some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. "And some said, 'What does this babbling want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,' because he preached to them Jesus and the Resurrection" (v.18). Epicureans believed in a form of materialism, denying any kind of "divine intervention" in the world. Stoics believed that the universe itself is God and its principles can be discerned by human reason.

These philosophers took Paul "...and brought him to the Areopagus [public square], saying, 'May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean.' For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing" (v.19-21).

**The "Unknown God":** The Scripture reports what Paul told them: "Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: To the unknown God. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you' (v. 22, 23). Were the Athenians afraid of not honoring some god and thereby incurring his or her wrath? It seems that with this altar they were covering their bases.

Paul then tried to present the Gospel to them by refuting idolatry. "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

"Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising" (v.24-29). Many Greeks would have agreed with Paul, seeing images of the gods as symbols at best. But he soon lost them when he said, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.'

"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, 'We will hear you again on this matter. "So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them" (v.30-34).

**The Wisdom of the Wise:** Paul was not very successful in Athens. When he had tried to use "wisdom of words" with the Greek philosophers, he had not succeeded. Perhaps it was the memory of this experience which prompted St Paul to write to the Corinthians, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect" (1 Cor1:17) . (AugustLeaflets2014)