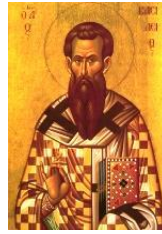


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
901 Sherman Drive, Utica New York 13501  
Phone 315.732.4662 Email [stbasilsutica@gmail.com](mailto:stbasilsutica@gmail.com)  
Website [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org)



SUNDAY OF THE FORFATHERS  
Saturday, December 12 & Sunday, December 13, 2020

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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Daily Liturgy:** Monday-Friday 8:30AM      **Holy Confession:** Monday 4-6PM  
**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 11:00AM      **Vespers:** Saturday 3:00PM  
**Matins/Orthos:** Sunday 9:00AM      **Holy Rosary:** Sunday 10:30AM

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**SPEEDY RECOVERY**

Please continue to pray for our convalescing friends, including Archdeacon George Yany, Maggy Atallah, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Jeanette Farewege, John and Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Rose Pawlinga, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FOR DEC 5-11; THANK YOU!**

**Weekly Collection: \$ 665.00      Memorial Masses: \$ 00.00**

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**SPIRITUAL ADVICE OF THE DAY**

“With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:2-3)

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† **MEMORIAL MASSES** †

**THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By David & Janet George  
† **Bahia Chanatry, 50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary**, By Doris Hutchinson & Family

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza S. Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Renee Yvette Kawam

**NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Michael & Naima (Kawam) Egan  
† **Angela (Yany) Mazzone, By the Community of St. Basil**

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

† **Eugene Hutchinson**, By Remza Abbadessa  
† **Julia Nassimos**, By Louis & Virginia Degironemo

**2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

As we travel with the Virgin to Bethlehem where she will give birth to the Only-Begotten Son of God, let us not forget our Melkite Catholic Church by which Christ comes to our families and loved ones. **Please give an end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Church** in America to help our Church in countless ways. Help produce the *SOPHIA* magazine, assist in the faith education of our young people, support the training of new priests and deacons, expand our missions and start new ones, give support to our elderly priests. Please give generously so these vital works can continue and grow. Appeal Pledges are available in the narthex. May God bless you for your generosity.

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**THE GREAT MARTYR ST. BARBARA**

BEGINNING STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM or other disciplines involving research are taught the importance of the “Five WAYS” in compiling information. Factfinders must be able to answer the following questions on any subject they are investigating: **Who** (was involved)? **What** (happened)? **When** (did it take place)? **Where** (did it take place)? And **Why** (did that happen)?

In reflecting on the incarnation of the Word of God, we focus on the last question: *why* did Christ become man? Our answer is that the reason He assumed our human nature – His incarnation – is to change us by making us partakers of the divine nature (theosis). As the Church Fathers never ceased to repeat, God became human so that man might be deified. But the answer to that question brings us to ask another one: *how* do we become deified? The Scriptures give us a two-part answer: our deification results initially from being united to Christ at baptism. We maintain this gift of our deification by “*putting on the Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom 13:14) in the way we conduct our lives.

**We Have Put on Christ in Baptism:** The hymn sung repeatedly at baptisms – drawn from St Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians – affirms the teaching that we “put on” Christ at our baptism. As the Incarnation began with a concrete, physical act, the conception of the Lord Jesus, so our deification begins with the concrete, physical act of baptism. In this mystery, the earthly humanity of a believer is joined to the divinized humanity of Christ. The believer is organically united to Christ, immersed in Him, just as he or she is immersed into the water. The believer has clothed himself with Christ, a spiritual reality symbolized by the white baptismal garment. St Paul frequently reminds his readers how their likeness to God has been restored in baptism through the image of “putting-off” and “putting-on.” He tells the Ephesians, “... *you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness*” (Eph 4:24). He tells the Colossians, “*you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*” (Col 3:10). Their divinization is a restoration of their likeness to God which was lost in Eden.

According to the Scriptures, that “putting-on Christ” also connects us to the eternal God in a new way. As St Paul says, “*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (Gal 3:26, 27). A person renewed in baptism is, in fact, no longer simply related to God as creature to Creator; the baptized is now an adopted child of God. Because of our baptism it is realistic to call God “Father.”

We Must Put on Christ in Our Actions “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*” (Phil 2:5-11). (DecLeaflets2020)