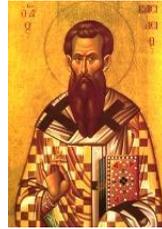


ST BASIL GREEK MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
901 Sherman Drive, Utica New York 13501  
Phone 315.732.4662 Email [stbasilsutica@gmail.com](mailto:stbasilsutica@gmail.com)  
Website [www.stbasilutica.org](http://www.stbasilutica.org)



SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> AFTER PENTECOST  
Saturday, July 3 & Sunday, July 4, 2021

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**PARISH SERVICES**

**Holy Liturgy:** Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 11:00AM      **Holy Rosary:** Sunday 10:30AM

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**HEALING PRAYERS NEEDED**

Prayers needed for our friends MaryAnn Astour, Nazmie Barahmeh, Jean Benoit, Nadia Casab, Jeanette Farewege, Nancy Gazzal, Daniel Klockowski, Jean Murad, Rose Pawlinga, John Roth, Brian Sagrestano, and Karen Zalatan. Please notify Fr. Shofany in case of illness.

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**RECENT RECEIPTS**

Weekly Collection June 26/27: \$ 520.00      Memorial Services: \$ 60.00

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**SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

Prayers and intentions to Father Saba Shofany & his family. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant them many years to come in health, prosperity, happiness, and holyness. Amen.      Offered by Anthony & Sandra Showa

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**† MEMORIAL MASSES †**

**THIS SATURDAY, JULY 3**

† Julia Nassimos, By Russell Cerminaro  
† John Gazzal, By George & Penny Kunkel  
† John Kakaty, By Janet Chanatry and family

**THIS SUNDAY, JULY 4**

† Julia Nassimos, By Joseph & Evelyn Aiello  
† John Gazzal, By David & Janet George  
† John Kakaty, By Alex Murad  
† Deib Rihanni, By Wael & Olga Barahmeh

**NEXT SATURDAY, JULY 10**

† Julia Nassimos, By Joseph & Evelyn Aiello  
† John Gazzal, By George & Penny Kunkel  
† John Kakaty, By Janet Chanatry and Family

**NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 11**

† Julia Nassimos, By Selma Smith  
† John Gazzal, By David & Janet George  
† John Kakaty, By Alex Murad

**CHRIST FORGIVES SINS**

We read in Matthew 9: 1-8 that, when people brought a paralyzed man to the Lord Jesus, He healed the man's paralysis, but not before telling him, "*Your sins are forgiven*" (Mt 9:2). The bystanders' initial thought that Jesus had blasphemed was replaced by wonder. As Matthew described it, "*they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men*" (Mt 9:8).

When the glorified Christ appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He told them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained*" (Jn 20:22, 23). The Church was to extend the presence of Christ in the world both physically and spiritually by imparting the forgiveness of sins to those who came to it in faith.

The first place where the Church bestows forgiveness of sins is in the mystery of baptism. When we are buried with Christ in baptism, we rise to a newness of life marked by deliverance from the power of sin. Infants brought for baptism, of course, have no sins of which they may be guilty; adults who receive baptism with repentance are freed from their past sins. As the priest announces at the eighth day removal of the baptismal garments, "you have been baptized, enlightened, Chrismated, sanctified and cleansed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

- **The "Second Baptism":** The early Church recognized that believers might fall into serious sin, particularly when threatened with imprisonment and death during the Roman persecution of Christians. It began using its ability to forgive sin in a new way. Those guilty of serious sin would be reconciled to the Church after confessing their sin and undergoing a period of repentance – what came to be called the Mystery of Repentance.

Today we express repentance and experience the forgiveness of sins through the Church in a number of ways:

- **Daily prayer of repentance** – For a member of Christ's Body, the Church, prayer is the most basic way to experience God's forgiveness. As St John of Kronstadt said, "Often during the day I have been a great sinner, and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest justified and whiter than snow by the grace of the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy in my heart" (*My Life in Christ*, Part 1).
- **Regular Self-Reflection** – Periodic, even daily self-examination helps us to see the direction of our lives. Our entire existence should be lived in the light of the Holy Spirit. We examine our actions, thoughts, and feelings, affirming our true selves in Christ who has taught us to live for God's glory and discerning where we have let sin draw us away from our true goal.
- **A Relationship with a Confessor/Spiritual Father** – Each person is in a different place in his or her journey. We may on occasion find thoughts in the Scriptures or the Fathers that touch our hearts, but finding someone who knows you and knows the ways of Holy Tradition is like taking a giant step in the Christian life. The fullest dimension of spiritual guidance involves sharing our thoughts and yearnings, not just our sins with this spiritual guide.
- **Receiving the Eucharist** – Several times during the Divine Liturgy we are reminded that the Eucharist is given to us "for the remission of sins." To receive this gift, we must approach "discerning the Body," as St Paul says: sensing the depth of this Mystery and our unworthiness to take part in it. And so before receiving we say the prayer "I believe, Lord, and profess" specifically asking for the pardon of our offences – the deliberate and the indeliberate, whether committed knowingly or inadvertently – so that we may receive the remission of sins and eternal life in this Mystery.
- **Observing the Church's Fasts** - The Fasts are another liturgical expression of repentance. Rearranging our lives in obedience to the Church's weekly and seasonal fasts is a most practical way of affirming our commitment to life in Christ, a daily reminder that "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*" (Mt 4:4).  
(July2021Leaflet)