



**ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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<http://www.stannmelkitechurch.org> 860-442-2211

Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: abounadennis@gmail.com Cell phone: 860 287 0677	<b>January 1, 2023</b> <b>Circumcision of Our Lord;</b> <b>Commemoration of</b> <b>Saint Basil, The Great</b>
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**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

**Intentions this week:**

- **Saturday Liturgy:** On Saturday, December 31, for the peace, health, and salvation of all the living members of the Doro and Hage families, and also for all the departed of the Doro and Hage families, requested by Albert and Jamal Doro. May their memories be eternal!
  
- **Sunday Liturgy:** On Sunday, January 1, for the peace, health, and salvation of Marcelle Nohra, the loving sister of Dina Matar, requested by Dina and by the parishioners of St. Ann. Also, for the repose of the soul of Pope *Emeritus* Benedict.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including fuel and building. Fund.
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
December 24 and 25	\$3,044.00	73 adults and 17 children attended Divine Liturgy last weekend. <b><u>Why not 90 people every week?</u></b>	Included in the collection: \$152 for candles, \$75 for Flowers, \$300 for Building Fund, and \$22 for Fuel.	

**Please pray for:** Ron and Mary Talge, Marino De La Cruz, Nick Rahal, Daniel Conigliaro, George Abbiati, Jr, Sandy Flaherty, Tanios Karam, Anna Villani, Dee Porlidis, Marcelle Nohra, Joyce Whelan, Father Ed Kakaty, John and Gloria Jeffords, Betty and Alex Antipoff, Marie Antipoff, Irene McCarthy, Kathleen McCarthy, Sheila Burke, Billy Brown, Marcy Davis, Abroze Gharios, Lisa Brown, Dina Matar, Robert Lynch, Michael Mooradian, Edward Zalonski, Michael McCurdy, Tommy Brown, Bill Curtis

**Financial news:**

**Bills paid this week:**

- ✓ **Bartol Heating and Cooling, Inc:** \$3,730.00 for Heat Exchanger on unit that heats and cools the Church Hall. An unexpected expense.
- ✓ **Payroll:** \$2,370.10 for Father Dennis' December salary
- ✓ **Uncas Gas:** \$280.28 for propane that heats the Church and Church Hall.
- ✓ **City of New London Department of Public Utilities:** \$78.32 for water bill for September, October, and November 2022
- ✓ **Tan Books, Inc:** \$80.39 for Holy Cards for parishioners and the sick and dying
- ✓ **Total bills paid this week:** \$6,539.09. Total collected this week: \$3,044.00.00. We had a deficit this week of \$3,495.09. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have **a surplus now of \$3,703.04** in 16 weeks.

Memorial donations, funeral offerings, priest stole offerings, and baptism offerings are included in the regular collection totals.

Saturday morning at 9:34 a.m. in Rome, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reposed in the Lord. Born in Holy Week and Baptized on Holy Saturday, Pope Benedict leaves us on the feast of St Sylvester AND the eve of the Octave of Christmas. As a theologian, probably the greatest of the late 20th century, his works had a great impact on many long before he was elected to the papacy. May he Rest In Peace. On our parish website there is a prayer that we invite you to pray in charity for His Holiness

**NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**DONATION ENVELOPES:** Our regular supplier of donation envelopes failed to deliver the 2023 envelopes by the end of the year, even though they were ordered in June of 2022. They state that they have had staffing issues and envelope supply issues. We cancelled the order this and hired a new vendor, who will deliver a different version of our regular envelopes by this Thursday, January 4. We will have your packet ready by next weekend. In the meantime, please use the "Special Offering" envelopes on the usher's table in the rear of the church. Be sure to write your name on the envelope and identification number from your 2022 envelopes on it, if you remember it. Otherwise, your name is important so that you get credit for it for tax purposes.

**Feast of the Theophany:** This great feast of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist; will be celebrated along with the Blessing of the Water, on Friday, January 6, at 5:30 pm.

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** This meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8, after Liturgy.

**Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial:** This memorial will be conducted at the end of Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 1.

**200 Club:** The next drawing will be after Liturgy on Sunday, January 1.

**Meditation of the Day:** “If you would suffer with patience the adversities and miseries of this life, be a person of prayer. If you would obtain courage and strength to conquer the temptations of the enemy, be a person of prayer. If you would mortify your own will with all its inclinations and appetites, be a person of prayer. If you would know the wiles of Satan and unmask his deceits, be a person of prayer. If you would live in joy and walk pleasantly in the ways of penance, be a person of prayer. If you would banish from your soul the troublesome flies of vain thoughts and cares, be a person of prayer. If you would nourish your soul with the very sap of devotion, and keep it always full of good thoughts and good desires, be a person of prayer. If you would strengthen and keep up your courage in the ways of God, be a person of prayer. If you would uproot all vices from your soul and plant virtues in their place, be a person of prayer. It is in prayer that we receive the unction (anointing) and grace of the Holy Spirit, who teaches all things.”---Saint Bonaventure

**Quote of the Day:** “God has done everything; He has done the impossible; he was made flesh. His all-powerful love has accomplished something which surpasses all human understanding: the infinite has become a child, has entered the human family. And yet, this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door to Him.”---Pope Benedict XVI

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin.” James: Chapter 4, verse 27

In the great blizzard in Erie County, New York last week-- during the night, a man (Jay Withey) was stranded in his truck, as he tried to get to a friend who was stranded in a vehicle. Fearing for his life, he knocked on the doors of several houses, offering \$500 to be able to just sleep on the floor. He was denied entry at each house. He then broke into a heated school and then went back outside (a real life Good Samaritan) to save more than 20 people, by bringing them into the heated school. He said that if one of the several households had taken him in, he would not have saved those 20 people. Those households were willing to send the man into the blizzard and sure death, rather than to help him. As Joseph said to his brothers in the Old Testament, “You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good!” Always believe and have faith in God!

**Holy Rosary:** The last Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm, unless we have a Feast Day Liturgy on that particular day. In January, it will take place on Wednesday, January 25, at 5:30 pm. We pray the Rosary with a Byzantine approach using, as our guide, a pamphlet by Kenneth Chrusch. We currently have only 2 to 6 people participate. Please come and spend 40 minutes with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in Church!

“And when He cometh unto His disciples, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, `What, could you not watch with me *one hour?* Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak’. Again, a second time, He went away, and prayed, saying: `My Father, if this cannot pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done’. And He came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And He left them again and went away and prayed a third time, saying again the same words. Then cometh He to the disciples, and saith unto them, ‘Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners’. ---Matthew: Chapter 26; verses 40 to 45, American Standard Version (ASV) of the Holy Bible

A couple of weeks ago, we heard the Gospel about the rich man who prepared a great banquet, yet the invited guests all had excuses as to why they could not attend. Don’t allow yourself to be like them. Make the effort and come and pray with us for the reason Jesus states above! You have plenty of time to put it on your calendar! We are constantly in spiritual warfare. Use the tools that God gave us to fight and win the battle against the evil one!

**Bishop’s Appeal:** Our parish has donated **\$1,786.23** to the appeal. Apparently, if you donate electronically, there is no easy place to indicate your parish. If possible make a note on your electronic submission that it is from St. Ann, **WATERFORD**, as there are four St. Ann parishes in the Eparchy. The enclosed paper submission form has a place for the parish name, but again, make sure you write St. Ann, **WATERFORD!** If we surpass our goal, the parish receives money back. I have asked the Eparchy for our goal, as I have not seen it in any of its correspondence. I will let you know, when I do. You can contribute until January 31, 2023. Please do! I have enclosed a sheet which shows all the parishes and what they have contributed as of December 31, 2022 and adjusted our numbers to be correct and up to date. I have, and will continue, to enclose in the bulletin a donation form. Please make your check out to the Diocese of Newton, and mail it to the address on the bottom of the form: Diocese of Newton, P.O. Box 630, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. Thanks for your generosity as this appeal funds the Eparchy, the Sophia Magazine, our clerical formation programs, and many other good deeds. If we meet or exceed our goal, Father Dennis gets promoted to the “Special Assistant to Pope Francis and will take up residence at the Vatican! Just kidding!

**Adopt a Family:** Thank you for your generous response! You have really made a great Christmas for this needy family. God will bless you for this. Just wait and watch—the blessing is coming!

**Food Drive:** Subdeacon Paul Zalonski, working with Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven, Connecticut, is organizing a food drive for the people of Ukraine. Items needed are limited to the following only: **dried soups, dried oatmeal like Quaker's High Protein Oatmeal, and high protein milkshakes like Carnation Breakfast Essentials. Please drop off your donations inside the entrance way to our Church in the food collection bin. Thank you!**

**Children's Religious Education Class Schedule for January.** Classes will be conducted on Saturdays at 3:30 pm. If you have questions, please contact Joumana Hajj. The schedule for January is:

- ❖ *Christmas break. Class resumes on January 7, 2023*
- ❖ *Jan 14: No class*
- ❖ Jan 21: Class
- ❖ Jan 28: Class

**From SubDeacon Paul:** Keep up with the faith, parish news, and each other! There are several ways to connect to the Saint Ann Melkite Community:

- **E-Blasts:** They keep the community informed about what is coming up in the parish or the Eparchy, and sometimes the One, Holy, Catholic Church at large. The **E-blast** is intended to be a quick look at the activities and events in the near term. If you are not receiving the **E-blasts**, please email Father Dennis at [abounadennis@gmail.com](mailto:abounadennis@gmail.com).
- **Our Parish Website:** This is a great place to see what is happening at our parish. Our site, which is maintained by SubDeacon Paul Zalonski, is the best Church Website in the entire Eparchy. It should win an award. There is much information here. You can access it at <https://stannmelkitechurch.org>
- **Our Facebook Page:** This is an online community you can join on Facebook, where parishioners can share photos, news, and ideas. You can like the page at <https://www.facebook.com/StAnnWaterfordCT> (@STAnnWaterfordCT)

**Announcement from the Eparchy:** The Victim Assistance private toll-free line for reporting of sexual abuse in the Eparchy of Newton has been established. This phone rings to and is answered only by the Eparchial Victim Assistance Coordinator. To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel, or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the coordinator of the Victim Assistance Office (1 800 479 5910). **From Father Dennis: You should also report this immediately to your local Police Department.**