



ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH
 41 Cross Rd, Waterford, CT 06385
<http://www.stannmelkitechurch.org> 860-442-2211

Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: abounadennis@gmail.com Cell phone: 860 287 0677	January 15, 2023 Twelfth Sunday After the Holy Cross
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Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Intentions this week:

- **Saturday Liturgy:** For the repose of the souls of Alice Hage, Nicholas Hage, and George Hage, the beloved mother, father, and brother, respectively, of Jamal Doro, requested by Jamal and Albert Doro. May their memories be eternal!
- **Sunday Liturgy:** For the special intentions of Daniel Offutt. For the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: O Lord you said, "To whom much is given, much will be required." We now also pray for Your departed servant Benedict. Forgive him all of his voluntary and involuntary sins. In your abundant mercy, graciously receive him into Your heavenly kingdom. We pray You, hear us and have mercy!

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	
January 7 and 8	\$1,991.65	48 adults and 9 children attended Divine Liturgy last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$303 for candles, \$110 for Hall rental by Alcoholics Anonymous, and \$120.65 from the Clothing Shed.	

Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial: This memorial will be conducted at the end of Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 5.

House Blessings: If you would like your house blessed, please contact Father Dennis.

Financial news:

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ **Frontier:** \$237.22 for cable, telephone. and internet services.
- ✓ **Waterford Utility Commission:** \$174.00 for sewer use from 10/1/22 to 12/31/2022
- ✓ **Eversource:** \$836.00 for electricity. The bill was higher than usual this month, as the heater for the Hall was broken for a period of time and we had to use space heaters for the A.A Meetings, which occur every day.
- ✓ **Guardian Pest Control:** \$175.00 for maintenance treatment of Church, Hall, and Barn for rodents and carpenter ants.
- ✓ **Total bills paid this week:** \$1,422.22. Total collected this week: \$1,991.65. We had a surplus this week of \$569.43. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have **a surplus now of \$6,911.11** in 18 weeks. **Our spectrum of donations on a regular basis runs from \$3.00 per week to \$160.00 per week. The parishioners giving toward the higher end of the range are not necessarily the wealthiest, but they have made a commitment to God to give back a larger portion of their finances. It all belongs to God anyway. God says in Proverbs; Chapter 3, verse 9: "Honor the Lord with thy substance, of all thine increase, and with your first fruits". This is a command, not a request, from God!**

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

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Divine Liturgy: Sunday, January 22 and January 29 for the special intentions of Daniel Offutt.

DONATION ENVELOPES: The 2023 envelopes are on the table in the rear of the church. If you do not find an envelope packet with your name and donation number on it, please contact Father Dennis.

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

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: The February meeting date has yet to be determined.

200 Club: The drawing was held on January 8, after Liturgy. Winners for January: \$50: Joumana Haggi, \$25: Joe Doro, \$10: Paul Zalonski, \$10: Gloria Jeffords, \$10: John Jeffords. The checks will be mailed to your homes on Wednesday, January 18. Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your support of the parish! The next drawing will be after Liturgy on Sunday, February 5.

Bishop's Appeal: Our parish has donated **\$3,336.23** to the appeal (this is as of January 12). Thus far, only 13 people have donated. 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. **Our goal is \$6,000.00.** You can contribute until January 31, 2023. Please do! 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. The Parish Advisory Council voted to contribute \$1,000 from our account to the effort. The check was mailed on Thursday, January 12. **There will be a second collection, at each Liturgy, next weekend for the Bishop's Appeal.**

Clothing Shed: Saint Pauly Textile, Inc., the company that operates our clothing shed, sent the following to us concerning calendar year 2022:

- ❖ 38,081 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed
- ❖ This was enough clothing to clothe an estimated 7,015 people in the United States and around the world.
- ❖ Based on this volume of clothing, Saint Ann Church received \$1, 523.23

Thanks to Rose and David LaFleur, who maintain the shed, and thanks to you all for donating and the countless people who donate their items!

Meditation of the Day: “Why? Why do you need more? Sometimes this is the result of not trusting in God to meet our needs. But just as food can't bring enduring peace to our bodies, money can't bring a similar kind of peace to our soul.”---Matthew Fradd, from his book: *How to Be Happy, Saint Thomas' Secret to a Good Life*, page 44

Quote of the Day: “If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master's presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole hour but bring your heart back and place it again in Our Lord's presence, though it went away every time you brought it back, your whole hour would be well employed.”---Saint Francis de Sales

Bible Verse of the Day: “Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock will be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”---From the Prophet Habakkuk; Chapter 3, verses 17-18

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 few 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!

Prayer for Our Most Reverend Bishop Francois: Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Your servant Francois, our Eparchial Bishop, and direct him, according to Your loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Your gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing to you and may he accomplish it with all his might. Lord, help your servants, in this parish, through the Bishop's Appeal, send money so that Bishop Francois has the resources to fulfill your will for the Church he shepherds in Your Holy Name. Amen!

Prayer for the Dead: Into your hands, O Our Father, we humbly entrust our sisters and brothers. In this life, you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest. The old order has passed away! Welcome them into paradise, where there is no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with You, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Prayer of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that you are fully present in the Holy Eucharist. I love You above all things and desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen!

Think about this as you prepare to receive the Holy and Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ! “How many are there that say: ‘How much I wish to see Christ’s fair form, His figure, His clothes, His very shoes.’ Why? Here you see Him; you touch Him, you consume Him. And while you are longing to see his clothes, He gives you Himself, not only to look at, but to touch and to eat and to receive within you. For it was not enough for Him to become man, nor to even be buffeted and slain. He ever mingles Himself with us His Body--- not by faith alone, but in very truth and reality. That, which the Angels behold with trembling and dare not gaze on with fear because of the radiance that beams from Him, with That we are fed!”---Saint John Chrysostom

Miracle of Lanciano, Italy: The miracle, which the Roman Catholic Church deems authentic, is as follows. In the city of Lanciano, Italy, then known as Anxanum, sometime in the 700’s, a Basilian hieromonk (also called a *priestmonk*, a monk who is also a priest in the Eastern Orthodox Church and Eastern Catholic Churches) was assigned to celebrate Mass at the monastery of Saint Longinus. Celebrating in the Roman Rite and using unleavened bread, the monk had doubts about the Catholic doctrine of real presence. During the Mass, when he said the Words of Consecration, the priest saw the bread change into living flesh and the wine change into blood, which coagulated into five globules of different shapes and sizes. In November 1970, the Vatican authorized to have them subjected to medical/scientific analysis. The examination revealed that the relics were human heart muscle tissue and human coagulated blood.

Our Parish Christmas Tree: You will notice that the tree is still up, decorated, and lighted! Why? The secular Christmas season is over, and people are back to their routines. The glory of the Incarnation of Christ is already forgotten by most of the world. OK, that’s over-what next! The mind’s attention is now on paying the bills for all the presents. Though a secular symbol, the tree certainly grabs your attention, when you walk into the Church. I am keeping it up this weekend, to remind us of the excitement and anticipation of the birth of Jesus that we so recently experienced. We should think of that miracle and carry it with us every day in our hearts and souls. The tree will be taken down this week, and all outward vestiges of the season will be stored until next year. Please store the beauty of God’s entry into the world in your whole being every day of the year. ---Father Dennis

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

Ender’s Island: Our annual Liturgy and Picnic at Enders Island will take place on Tuesday, August 15, 2023---The Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. Liturgy will begin at 5:00 pm with the picnic immediately following. Please save the date on your calendars.

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.
- **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.**