



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 22, 2023 The Sunday of Zacchaeus

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 peace, health, and salvation of James Donkin, the loving Father of Sean Donkin, requested by a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous. For the repose of the soul of Rose Ann Ragonese-Manier, the sister of Laura Massad’s first cousin Ray Karasevicz’s wife, Ginny. May Rose Ann’s memory be eternal!

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 14 and 15	\$1,301.00	41 Adults and 4 Children attended Divine Liturgy	Included in the collection was \$58 for candles.	

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

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

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, February 2, at 5:30 pm.

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

Financial news:

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ **Anytime Fuel:** \$708.01 for a full tank of Fuel Oil for heating of the Rectory and Father Dennis’s Office
- ✓ **Uncas Gas:** \$427.35 for propane to heat church and church hall
- ✓ **Connecticut Business Systems:** \$74.67 for copying machine paper copies.
- ✓ **Eastern Christian Publications:** \$275.00 for ten copies of the *Byzantine Rosary Companion* for our monthly parish Rosary, and for two copies of the Euchologian (priest copies of the blessings and prayers for the sick and dying)
- ✓ **Total bills paid this week:** \$1,485.03. Total collected this week: \$1,301.00. We had a deficit this week of \$184.03. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$6,727.08 in 19 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!**

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.

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Schedule for Great Fast(Lent): It begins with Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday, February 19 at 5:30 pm.

- **Every Wednesday:** Holy Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 5:30 pm
- **Every Friday:** Compline and Akathist at 5:30 pm
- **Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy:** Saturday, March 25 at 5:00 pm
- **Lazarus Saturday:** Divine Liturgy at 5:00 pm
- **Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy:** Sunday, April 2 at 10:00 am
- **Holy Week:** Various services everyday from Monday, April 3 to Friday April 7. Details to follow.
- **Hajmet:** Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 pm
- **Holy Resurrection (Pascha/Easter):** Sunday, April 9, Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am.

Meditation of the Day: “And let me make it quite clear that when Christians say the ‘Christ-life’ is in them, they do not mean simply something mental or moral. When they speak of being ‘in Christ’ or of Christ being ‘in them’, this is not simply a way of saying that they are thinking about Christ or copying Him. They mean that Christ is actually operating through them; that the whole mass of Christians are the physical organism through which Christ acts—that we are his fingers and muscles, the cells of His body. And perhaps that explains one or two things. It explains why this new life is spread not only by purely mental acts like belief, but by bodily acts like Baptism and Holy Communion. It is not merely the spreading of an idea; it is more like an evolution—a biological or super biological fact. There is no good trying to be more spiritual than God. God never meant man to be a purely spiritual creature. That is why He uses material things like bread and wine to put new life in us. We may think this rather crude and unspiritual. God does not. He invented eating. He likes matter. He invented it.---C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, page 64

Quote of the Day: “I do not seek to understand in order that I believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand.”---Saint Anselm of Canterbury. This brings to mind the man who said to Jesus, “I believe Lord, help my unbelief!”

Bible Verse of the Day: “Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”---Proverbs: Chapter 30 verse 5

Bishop’s Appeal: Our parish has donated **\$3,836.23** to the appeal (this is as of January 12). 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, our religious publications, 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, this weekend for the Bishop’s Appeal.**

Youssef Macary Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship is offered to graduating 2023 high school students who are going to an institution of higher learning and are of Lebanese descent. Information can be found at www.macary.net. The deadline for application for this scholarship is May 28, 2023!

A thought on giving: When I was in the United States Marine Corps, “leadership by example” was always stressed. Our Drill Instructors told us that when we pinned on the gold bars of a Second Lieutenant that “a thousand eyes will be watching every move you make and every word you speak”. I have always remembered that, although have not always set a great example. In relation to the Bishop’s Appeal, I decided to put my money where my mouth is. Lisa and I have contributed \$1,000 to the Appeal. We gave \$500 in December and mailed a check for another \$500 on Tuesday, January 17. I am telling you this not out of pride or to brag but rather to “lead by example”. Additionally, I believe that we need to support our Eparchy (Diocese) and the work that our Bishop performs. Every Catholic Church has an annual Bishop’s Appeal, so our church is not unique. We have 54 parishioners, who give to this church, some sporadically-some every week. To date only 13 people have contributed. As I said in my sermon last weekend, no one in this parish, which I know of, is destitute. We have a great tradition of being very generous in giving to food drives, to donating clothing to our clothing shed, to donating food in our collection bin, to giving warm clothes to the people of Ukraine, to making a needy family’s Christmas one of joy and plenty, to special collections, to assisting the poor and those in need. Won’t you continue to give in this tradition to the Bishop’s Appeal? A gift of at least \$52 would be appropriate. That averages only \$1.00 per week over the next 52 weeks. Surely, all can afford that. Lent is fast approaching. Make this a gift to God for Lent. If the remaining 41 people, who have not given, contribute at least \$52, we will be able to send another \$2,132, which will bring our total to \$5,968.23---only \$31.77 short of our goal. If some people give more than \$52, we will easily attain our goal. Two months ago, I gave every parishioner a booklet on “giving”. I hope that you read it. Please read it again, and then make your decision concerning the Bishop’s Appeal. I would love to go to the Clergy Conference, at the beginning of February, and let the Bishop know that our Parish met the goal! We can do it together. This is not for us, but for our Bishop, who is appointed by God, through our bishops and our Pope, to lead this Eparchy in the work of God Almighty! Thank you for considering this message. Please pray about it. –Father Dennis

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

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!

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, James Donkin, Bobby Moutron and his sister Helen.

200 Club: The drawing was held on January 8, after Liturgy. Winners for January: \$50: Joumana Hajj, \$25: Joe Doro, \$10: Paul Zalonski, \$10: Gloria Jeffords, \$10: John Jeffords. The checks were mailed to your homes on Thursday, January 19. Congratulations to our winners and thank you for your support of the parish! The next drawing will be after Liturgy on Sunday, February 5.

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!

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. More to come on this event!

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!**

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

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

- ❖ Jan 21: Class
- ❖ Jan 28: Class
- ❖ Feb 4: Class
- ❖ Feb 11: Class
- ❖ Feb 18: Class
- ❖ Feb 25: **No Class**

Watch “The Chosen”: A great mini- series on Jesus and the Apostles. This is a wonderful preparation for Lent. This drama will hold your attention and give you insight about all the events of Jesus’ ministry, and make the Apostles memorable to you. You will find yourself “binge-watching” it, once you start! You can access it on your computer or smart phone. Simply type in: The Chosen.

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.**