



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 29, 2023 The Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican
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Intentions this weekend:

- **Saturday Liturgy:** For the peace, health, and salvation of Irene McCarthy and Kathleen McCarthy, the mother and sister, respectively, of Father Dennis, requested by Father Dennis and Lisa.
- **Sunday Liturgy:** For the special intentions of Daniel Offutt.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
January 21 and 22	\$1,819.00	55 Adults and 8 Children attended Divine Liturgy	Included in the collection was \$62 for candles and \$95 for the Building Fund. Our second collection for the Bishop's Appeal resulted in \$62 (not included in the collection totals, it went straight to the Eparchy).	

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

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

Financial news:

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ **Ericka Sobanko:** \$220 for cleaning entire Church, Church Hall, St Jude Shrine, entranceway to church and all bathrooms.
- ✓ **U. S. Bank Equipment Finance:** \$148.03 for rental of copying machine.
- ✓ **American Seal Coating and Dumpsters:** \$392.80 for dumpster to clean out the barn. Jeff Jeffords contributed \$160 two months ago towards this cost.
- ✓ **BJ's:** \$184.69 for Poinsettias for Christmas.
- ✓ **BJ's:** \$158.00 for portable heaters to heat the Church Hall when the main heating unit was broken and we were having A.A. meetings every day.
- ✓ **Wine:** \$17.99 for wine for communion.
- ✓ **Amazon: Church Envelopes:** \$245.56 for donation envelopes for parishioners.
- ✓ **Dollar Tree:** \$10. 00 for cleaning supplies.
- ✓ **Amazon: Easter Candles and Holders:** \$49.87 for our altar Easter Vigil candles with candle holders.
- ✓ **U.S. Post Office:** \$12.00 for stamps.
- ✓ **Dollar Tree:** \$17.25 for paper products

Total bills paid this week: \$1,456.19. Total collected this week: \$1,824.00. We had a surplus this week of \$367.81. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have **a surplus now of \$7,094.89** in 20 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!**

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

New Floor: Please take some time in the Saint Jude Shrine to admire the new floor. This project was donated by parishioners, who wish to remain anonymous. The floor is of the highest quality and workmanship and will last for many, many years. The light color brightens up the shrine, is easy to clean, and adds to the beauty of the room. I want to deeply thank the parishioners who did this, as it was an expensive project. The more attractive the Shrine is, the more people come to pray. Father Dennis

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:** April 1, 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: Saint Thomas Aquinas's greatest teacher of all was Jesus Christ, the God-Man and the 'most excellent of teachers', who taught not through writings but in 'that manner of teaching whereby His doctrine is imprinted on the hearts of His hearers' and 'as one having power' through the words and deeds of His life. Thomas not only devoured the teachings of his human mentors but also digested, altered, corrected, and improved them at times, making the truths that they discovered his own through a life of thought and experience. It was his lifelong zeal as a student, along with the grace of God, that rewarded Thomas with the knowledge and wisdom that equipped him so well to teach others." From the book, *How to Think Like Aquinas* by Kevin Vost, Chapter 1

Quote of the Day: "In this life no one can fulfill his longing, nor can any creature satisfy man's desire. Only God satisfies, He infinitely exceeds all other pleasures. That is why man can rest in nothing but God."---Saint Thomas Aquinas

Bible Verse of the Day: "Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle in this life is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities (an order of angels, in this case evil angels), with the powers (another order of angels, in this case evil angels), with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits" Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians: Chapter 6: verses 10-12.

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.

Bishop's Appeal: Last chance to donate! The Eparchy will accept money until February 10 for this year's Appeal. Any money received after that will be credited to next year's 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. **Our goal is \$6,000.00.** As of January 28, the Eparchy reports that they have received **\$5,586.23 from the Parish funds and 18 parishioners.** Thanks you all who have donated so far. Those who have not contributed, please do this week. 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.

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!

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: The February meeting will take place on Sunday ,February 12, after Liturgy in the Church Hall.

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

200 Club: The next drawing will be after Liturgy on Sunday, February 5.

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

Holy Rosary: The last Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm, unless we have a Feast Day Liturgy on that particular day. 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! **Note: Sadly, we only had 3 parishioners attend on Wednesday evening. I guess many people were imitating the Apostles. However, we will keep scheduling it and we will pray that more parishioners will come to this beautiful service. In February, it will take place at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 22.**

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.**

God, a mob boss, and the power of grace: “One night in late October, 1935, a parish priest in New Jersey was called to the local hospital for an emergency. The hospital staff explained to him that a dying man had asked for a Catholic priest---but this was no ordinary plea for Last Rites. The man came from a Jewish family and was known all around New York, New Jersey, and the country as Dutch Schultz. He was a murderous gangster, who had quickly risen to wealth and infamy on the profits of illegal alcohol and gambling. Schultz had first turned to petty crime after his father abandoned his family. Crime was more lucrative than honest work, and Schultz excelled at it. Prohibition and gang wars made his career. That night in October, however, he had been shot by fellow mobsters in a bar. He was rushed to the hospital, but his wounds became infected and everyone in the hospital knew that the crime boss’s time was up. No one could imagine a man like Schultz having any relationship with God. Should they even bother calling a rabbi for him? Then the dying gangster astounded the doctors by urgently expressing his desire for reconciliation with God, but not through his birth religion of Judaism. He wanted baptism in the Catholic Church! That night, one of the most unlikely men was baptized and received into the arms of the Holy Church. Dutch Schultz’s tale is one of many among both famous and unknown people. These people, who surprised those around them by receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on their deathbeds, were often fugitives from God’s love. Many of them heard His call through the years and blindly resisted it, but before death they turned and opened their hearts to Him at last.—The Catholic Company