



**ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: <a href="mailto:abounadennis@gmail.com">abounadennis@gmail.com</a> Cell phone: 860 287 0677	<b>February 5, 2023</b> <b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>
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**Intentions this weekend:**

- **Saturday Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Samira Hajj, the mother in law of Joumana Hajj on the anniversary of her repose. Also, for Samira’s husband, Boutros Hajj, requested by Joumana and Gabriel Hajj. May their memories be eternal!
- **Sunday Liturgy:** For the peace, health and salvation of Father John Azar, requested by Father Dennis

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 29 and 30	\$1,693.94	39 Adults and 9 Children attended Divine Liturgy	Included in the collection was \$120 for candles, \$450 for Hall Rental to Alcoholics Anonymous for February Rent, and \$3.94 from our antennae project.	

**Liturgy on Saturday February 25 at 5:00 pm:** For the repose of the soul of Abla Jabbour, on the anniversary of her repose. Abla is the loving mother of Joumana Hajj. Also for Joumana’s father, Elias, and her sister Jacqueline Jabbour Matta, requested by Joumana and Gabriel Hajj. May their memories be eternal!

**Liturgy on Sunday March 5 at 10:00 am:** For the repose of the souls of Albert, Mary, and Robert Dib, requested by Doctor William Kalosieh. May their memories be eternal!

**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:**

- ✓ **Bartol Heating and Cooling:** \$350.00 for preventive maintenance and repair of the Church Hall heating unit. These bills are from November and December, as we had a issue with the bills and did not pay until it was resolved.
- ✓ **Father Dennis’s Salary for January:** \$2,370.10
- ✓ **Laurence Candle Company:** \$805.50 for candles for the Church and St. Jude Shrine.

**Total bills paid this week:** \$3,525.60. Total collected this week: \$1,693.94. We had a deficit this week of \$1,831.66. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have **a surplus now of \$5,258.23** in 21 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:**

**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

**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

- **Sunday of Meat-Fare:** February 12
- **Sunday of Cheese-Fare:** February 19

**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. **Except on Friday, February 24 at 6pm we will pray with the parishioners of Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church at 569 George Street, New Haven, Connecticut in observance of anniversary of the start of the terrible war in Ukraine. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church if you need a ride and we will attempt to obtain one for you. Father Dennis has room for two more people in his car. He will be departing Saint Ann Church at 4:30 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:** If you stay united with Christ, each one of you will be able to do great things. That is why, dear friends, you must not be afraid to dream with your eyes open of important projects of good, and you must not let yourselves be discouraged by difficulties. Christ has confidence in you and wants you to be able to realize all your most noble and lofty dreams of genuine happiness. Nothing is impossible for those who trust in God and entrust themselves to Him.”---Pope Benedict XVI

**Quote of the Day:** “When one has nothing more to lose, the heart is inaccessible to fear.”---Saint Thodore Gurin

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry: ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”---Saint Paul’s Epistle to the Romans: Chapter 8, verses 15-17

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

**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 30, the Eparchy reports that they have received **\$5,698.23 from the Parish funds and 21 parishioners.** Thanks you all who have donated so far. Those who have not contributed, please do this week. I have enclosed 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. Thanks to the following who have donated so far:

1. Gerald and Cathy Egan
2. Andrea Hall
3. Father Dennis and Lisa
4. Sean and Samantha Donkin
5. Joseph and Roberta Zizik
6. Albert and Jamal Doro
7. Alex and Betty Antipoff
8. Brad Shakir
9. Marie Antipoff
10. Edmond Najim
11. Kevin Powers
12. David and Rose LaFleur
13. Paul Zalonski
14. Joseph Hage
15. Gabriel and Joumana Hajj
16. Joseph and Cindy Doro
17. Faouzi and Katia Hage
18. St. Ann Church
19. James and Karen Jones
20. Gerard and Laura Massad
21. Pierre and Saide Hage
22. Anthony Donkin
- 23.

**Note: If you gave and your name is not on the list, the list will be updated with the names that have donated after the final report from the Eparchy in mid-February.**

**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!

**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:

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

**Watch “The Chosen”:** A great 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. Additionally, it is **Free!**

**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.**

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

**Who was the resilient “Apostle of the North”?:** Saint Ansgar won the hostile Scandinavian region to the Catholic Faith. Ansgar was born in September of 801 A.D. Orphaned at a very young age, he grew up among the Benedictine monks near Corbie, France. Throughout his life, he was known for his holiness and asceticism.

When he was old enough, he joined the order and began preaching to the Danes. This task ended in the missionary’s expulsion from the country along with the Christian king, due to the king’s zealous impatience to convert his people.

Ansgar, however, did not return to his abbey. He went north to Sweden and began preaching there. He had toiled only a year and a half among the Swedes when he was appointed the Bishop of Hamburg and papal legate to the northern nations. He was only 30 years old when these appointments were conferred on him. He ministered to his diocese for 14 years. In 845, however, the pagan king Eric of Jutland sailed to Hamburg and destroyed the city.

Ansgar was forced to flee, but instead of fleeing from danger, he went straight to Denmark and Sweden and began preaching again. Eventually, King Eric ceased acting hostile and allowed Ansgar to bring his missionary priests to Denmark and Jutland.

Ansgar’s work in the northern countries flourished. He built churches, hospitals and schools. His only regret was that he had not gained a martyr’s crown.—The Catholic Company