



<b>ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 41 Cross Rd, Waterford, CT 06385 <a href="http://www.stannmelkitechurch.org">http://www.stannmelkitechurch.org</a> 860-442-2211	
Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: <a href="mailto:abounadennis@gmail.com">abounadennis@gmail.com</a> Cell phone: 860 287 0677	<b>February 19, 2023</b> <b>Sunday of Cheese-Fare</b> <b>Forgiveness Sunday</b>

**Intentions this weekend:**

- **Saturday Liturgy:** For the repose of the souls of all who died in Syria and Turkey in the earthquake and for all impacted by this disaster.
- **Sunday Liturgy:** For the peace, health and salvation of Marcelle Nohra, the loving sister of Dina Matar, requested by the parish.

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	
February 11 and 12	\$1,795.00	48 Adults and 11 Children attended Divine Liturgy	Included in the collection was \$31 for candles and \$300 for Fuel.	

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

**Liturgy on Sunday February 26 at 10:00 am:** For the repose of the loving father of Dina Matar, Georges Matar, requested by Dina Mater. May his memory 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 Dr. William Kalosieh. May their memories be eternal!

**Liturgy on Saturday, March 25 at 5 pm:** For the repose of the soul of Sabrina Walker (one year), requested by her loving mother, Gail Facas and family. May her memory be eternal!

**Sanctuary Lamp:** The Sanctuary Lamp is sponsored in March by John and Gloria Jeffords for the repose of the soul of Charles Facas, Sr. May his memory be eternal!

**Financial news:**

**Bills paid this week:**

- ✓ **Shepherd’s Care/ Earthquake Relief:** The parish sent \$500.00 to the Diocese from our checking account.

**Total bills paid this week:** \$500.00. Total collected this week: \$1,795.00. We had a surplus this week of \$1,295.00 For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have **a surplus now of \$6779.94** in 23 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:**

- **Next weekend bring an Icon from your home for the procession celebrating the Sunday of Orthodoxy.**
- **Abstinence and Fasting rules are in the supplement on the table in the rear of the church.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:** Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5 for Shepherd’s Care. All money goes to the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. So far between the parish and two parishioners we have given \$620.00. Shepherd’s Care Associated Charities 2023: Every Great Lent, parishes across the Diocese of Newton collect monetary donations to help charities in our local communities, the eparchy(diocese), and internationally . Please pick up a brochure in the rear of the church and a mite box. Bring your offerings during Holy Week or earlier if you prefer. This year’s efforts will be given to help earthquake victims. Please be generous earlier than most years as the need is now. You may mail a donation to the address below. The check should be made out to “Diocese of Newton, not St. Ann. In the memo portion of your check, write Earthquake Relief/St Ann **Waterford** so the parish gets credit for the donation. Mail to: Diocese of Newton Shepherd’s Care, 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132

**Schedule for Great Fast:** 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.

**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!

**Meditation of the Day:** "Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever, and this must be true or false. Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only seventy years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever." ---C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, page 74

**Quote of the Day:** "you will not see anyone, who is truly striving after spiritual advancement, who is not given to spiritual reading."---Saint Athanasius of Alexandria

**Bible Verse of the Day:** "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconsistency or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace."—James 3:16-18

**What are the nine choirs of angels?** God created the angels with a heavenly hierarchy. What is the structure of that hierarchy?

1. Seraphim: These angels are the ones closest to God. St. Bernard of Clairvaux says that "God, who is Love, has so drawn and assimilated them to Himself, so filled them with the ardor of affection that burns in Himself" that they seem to be one with Him.
2. Cherubim: The prophet Ezekiel describes them as having four wings and four faces. Their four-faced representation signifies God's omniscience. They have profound knowledge of divine secrets.
3. Thrones: They reflect God's power, stability, and judgment. Being subservient to their Lord, the Thrones display special characteristics of submission and peace, and are involved in judgments and decrees.
4. Dominations: They govern the cosmos and oversee the angels who are directly responsible for administering creation. They mediate God's supreme power over the universe, and appoint the things which are to be done according to his ministrations.
5. Virtues: This choir wields "raw power" over the physical elements of our world, creating what we perceive as miracles.
6. Powers: These angels protect God's creation from hostile forces; that is, they protect the very laws of creation from God's enemies. They repel hostile powers and constrain evil spirits.
7. Principalities: They guard people and nations and are believed to aid the spiritual life and structure of the Church.
8. Archangels: They protect countries, dioceses, religious communities and persons such as the Pope, who have monumental responsibilities.
9. Angels: This choir is the one most immediately engaged with the activities of human beings. The name "angel" means "messenger" or "one sent". Guardian angels come from this choir, though not every spirit in this choir is necessarily a personal guardian.

Taken from The Catholic Company website.

**Bishop's Appeal:** Thanks you all who donated. We surpassed our goal of \$6,000.00 by \$178.23!

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 Checking Account
19. James and Karen Jones
20. Gerard and Laura Massad
21. Pierre and Saide Hage
22. Anthony Donkin
23. John and Gloria Jeffords
24. Cash in second collection, not identifiable to any person or persons

**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 at the end of February.**

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** The March meeting will take place on Sunday, March 19, after Liturgy in the Church Hall.

**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, Lisa Brown-McCarthy

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

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

**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 book 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!

**This month it will be cancelled as we will celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, February 22 at 5:30 pm.**

**Church Etiquette: Below are listed some things that you should adhere to at church:**

1. Bathroom: Many people drive long distances or have little children. While not always possible, please use the conference room bathroom before Liturgy or after. It is a distraction to the Liturgy to have people walking through the sacristy. If you need to use the conference room bathroom, please use one of the church entrances/exits and enter by the church office door. The doors to the hall will be open during Liturgy, so folks can also use the hall bathrooms, if they can navigate the stairs. Also, the outside doors to the hall will be open for those who cannot navigate the stairs.
2. Please do not come into the sacristy area before Liturgy. If you need to tell something to the priest, email or call, otherwise wait until Liturgy is over. There are preparations going on for the service and people entering the sacristy causes distraction.
3. We are doing a good job of putting the booklets with the binders facing up in the pew holders. Please return all bulletins and papers that you are not taking home to the place you pick them up in the rear of the church.
4. If you are bringing bread for a memorial, please let Father Dennis know in advance so he will not have to prepare the antidiron. Also, please bring it no later than a half hour of the start of the Liturgy, so that there is not a rush to properly display it.
5. If we have a procession, it should be done silently and with reverence. There should be no talking.
6. For the Little and Great Entrances, please get the fans, candles, and crosses well before we start, so there is not a rush to get them, line up properly, and be ready when the priest comes out of the Holy Place to start.
7. When you enter the church before Liturgy, you should be silent. Socializing should take place after Liturgy. Be aware if anyone is trying to pray, and if so, please move the conversation after Liturgy outside or to the conference room.

Thank you for observing these guidelines. Father Dennis

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

- ❖ Feb 18: Class
- ❖ Feb 25: Class (Change to original schedule)
- ❖ March 4: No Class (Change to original schedule)
- ❖ March 11: Class
- ❖ March 18: Class
- ❖ March 26: Class