



**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>March 12, 2023</b> <b>Sunday of The Holy Cross</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
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**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday Liturgy:** For the repose of the souls of Thomas John McCarthy and Matthew Brown-McCarthy, the loving father and son, respectively, of Father Dennis, requested by Father Dennis and Lisa. May their memories be eternal!

**Sunday Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Elias Gharios, the beloved husband of Abroze Gharios and for Edward Doro, her beloved brother, requested by Abroze Gharios and family. May their memories be eternal! Also, for the repose of the soul of Marcelle Nohra, requested her loving sister, Dina Matar. May her memory be eternal!

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This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
March 4 and 5	\$1,836.06	10 Adults and 0 Children attended Divine Liturgy on Saturday. The ushers did not get a count for Sunday.	Included in the collection was \$148 for candles, \$60 for Hall Rental by Alcoholics Anonymous, \$20 from the Poor Box, \$79.06 from St. Pauly Clothing Shed. Not included in the total was \$139 from the Sunday second collection for Shepherd's Care. The ushers did not do a second collection on Saturday night.	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.

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

**Financial news:**

**Bills paid this week:**

- ✓ Assessment to the Eparchy: \$250.00
- ✓ Medical Insurance to the Eparchy: \$1,356.63
- ✓ Retirement Fund for Priests to the Eparchy: \$700.00

**Total bills paid this week:** \$2,306.63. Total collected this week: \$1,836.06. We had a deficit this week of \$470.57. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$4,227.35 in 26 weeks. Our surplus has been steadily decreasing. **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:**

- **Abstinence and Fasting rules are in the supplement on the table in the rear of the church.**

**NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE ANY LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY**, as Father Dennis needs to visit his ailing mother in Florida. Lisa will remain here if you need anything. Father Dennis will return late Friday night. If you need to contact Father Dennis, please call his cell 860 287 0677 and not the church. Thank you.

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

- **Every Wednesday:** Holy Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 5:30 pm (not this week)
- **Every Friday:** Compline and Akathist at 5:30 pm (not this week)
- **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.

**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, 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 Gharos, 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

**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., the loving father of Gloria. May his memory be eternal!

**Meditation of the Day:** “Temptation to a certain sin, to any sin whatsoever, might last throughout our whole life, yet it can never make us displeasing to God’s Majesty provided we do not take pleasure in it and give consent to it. You must have great courage in the midst of temptation. Never think yourself overcome as they are displeasing to you, keeping clearly in mind the difference between feeling temptation and consenting to it.”---Saint Francis de Sales

**Quote of the Day:** “When an evil thought is presented to the mind, we must immediately endeavor to turn our thoughts to God, or to do something which is different. But the first rule is, instantly to invoke the names of Jesus and Mary and to continue to invoke them until the temptation ceases. The person who trusts in themselves is lost. The person who trusts in God can do all things.”---Saint Alphonsus Liguori

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; but rather those who observe the law will be justified.”---Romans 2:13

**Bishop’s Appeal:** Thanks you all who donated. The names of all who donated will be posted once we received the delayed final report from the Eparchy.

**Holy Rosary:** The last Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm, unless we have a Feast Day Liturgy on that particular day or a Lenten Service 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! In March we will pray on Tuesday, March 28, at 5:30.

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

**Who is the patron saint of Eastern Europe’s Catholic bastions?** Saint Casimir! He was the champion of politics and prayer. You had to be careful when you crossed the Krakow, Poland square at night, especially in bad weather. There was no telling what might be concealed in the darkness. For instance, you might bump into the Prince and disturb him while he prayed! The Prince, named after his father, King Casimir IV, had been noted for his piety from a very young age. Under the care of his priest and tutor, the boy’s faith leaped and bounded far above his peers and probably of most people in the kingdom. Casimir was born in Krakow, Poland in 1458, the second son of the king. His father taught him about the affairs of politics and ruling, and Casimir showed a special talent for these things. By the age of 13, his father evidently considered him quite able to rule on his own, for Casimir IV, heading a group of Hungarians dissatisfied with Casimir IV rule, urged the boy to take the crown to preserve the peace of the kingdom. The attempt was not successful and young Casimir returned to his native Poland. A few years later, however, Casimir displayed his kingly abilities by ruling Poland as regent while his father was away in Lithuania. But that is where Casimir’s princely duties ended. He was not interested in marriage. He was not ambitious to have his own kingdom. He was totally devoted to Jesus and Mary. That is why he spent hour praying in front of the church in all types of weather. He performed great fasts and he disliked the softness and luxury of palace life. His real work began after his death at the age of 25. So many miracles occurred at his tomb that he was canonized a saint, just 40 years after his death. Poland and Lithuania claim him as their patron saint. Saint Casimir had a special devotion to the Theotokos. He most likely knew and loved the devotion to our Lady of Czestochowa (her icon and the story of it is hanging in our Saint Jude Shrine). Countless miracles have been granted by God through Our Lady’s intercession through this famous icon. If only more politicians and world leaders would imitate Saint Casimir’s example, our world would be a better place. Saint Casimir, pray for us! ---From the Catholic Company Website

**200 Club:** The next drawing will be on Sunday, March 19, after Liturgy.

**Children’s Religious Education Class Schedule for Remaining Classes for the Academic Year:** Classes will be conducted on Saturdays at 3:30 pm. If you have questions, please contact Joumana Hajj. The schedule:

- ❖ March 11: Class
- ❖ March 18: Class
- ❖ March 26: Class
- ❖ April 1: Class
- ❖ April 8: Class
- ❖ April 15: Class
- ❖ April 29: Class
- ❖ May 6: Final class and Graduation Ceremony at the end of Liturgy

**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 antidoron. 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

**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.**