



<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	March 26, 2023 Sunday of Mary of Egypt

Intentions this weekend:

**Saturday Liturgy:** Memorial Service, 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!  
 Also, for the repose of the soul of John Stanislaus Jalonski, the loving father of John Jalonski. He passed to his eternal reward on March 13, 1994, 3 weeks before his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 1. He was born in Pennsylvania of parents from Poland. He resided in Maryland, where John Jr. was born. He was a great dad, who worked hard all his life to provide for his family. May his memory be eternal! This is requested by his loving son John Jalonski, Jr.

**Sunday Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Marcelle Nohra. She passed to her eternal reward at the age of 62, after battling cancer for 4 years and had 4 surgeries. She leaves behind a grieving husband, 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 2 sisters, and 2 brothers. She was a great wife and an amazing mother. She never complained when asked how she was doing and always answered “Thank God, I am doing well”, even though her family knew she was suffering. May her memory be eternal! This is requested by her loving sister, Dina Matar. Also, for the repose of the soul of James Donkin, the loving father of Sean Donkin. May his memory be eternal! This is requested by Sean Donkin and family.

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	
March 18 and 19	\$1,857.00	48 Adults and 5 Children attended Divine Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday.	Included in the collection were \$33 for candles and \$200 for fuel. Not included in the collection was a \$5,000 gift for the Building Fund by a parish family, who wishes to remain anonymous.	

**Financial news:**

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ Catholic Mutual Group: \$2009.00 for quarterly church property insurance.
- ✓ Anytime Fuel: \$658.58 for heating oil for the rectory
- ✓ Maintenance: \$60.00 for sanding and painting last candle stand in St. Jude Shrine and clearing and pruning the grape vine on the left side of the church.
- ✓ Miscellaneous: \$78.34 for paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags, plastic cups, and supplies for coffee hour.
- ✓ Gomez Farewell Party: \$122.45 for pizza, cups, table cloths, and soda
- ✓ Gifts to Anytime Fuel Staff: \$31.90 for flowers and candy for giving us discounted prices on oil.
- ✓ Maintenance: \$23.97 for paint for rectory screen door and sand paper.
- ✓ Total bills paid this week: \$2,984.25. Total collected this week: \$6,857.00. We had a surplus this week of \$3,872.75 due to the \$5,000.00 Building Fund donation. Without that, we would have had a deficit. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$9,699.22 in 28 weeks. Our spectrum of donations on a regular basis runs from \$3.00 per week to \$100.00 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.

**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!

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** The March meeting will take place on Sunday, March 26, after Liturgy in the Church Hall.

**200 Club:** The winners for March: \$50: Nicholas Moukawsher, \$25: Laura Massad \$10: Betty Antipoff , \$10: John Jalonski \$10: Paul Zalonski

The checks will be mailed to your homes this week. Congratulations to our winners! The next drawing will be on Sunday, April 16, after Liturgy.

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 Gharios, Lisa Brown, Dina Matar, Robert Lynch, Michael Mooradian, Edward Zalonski, Michael McCurdy, Tommy Brown, Bill Curtis, Bobby Moutron and his sister Helen, Lisa Brown-McCarthy

#### NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

#### Schedule for the remainder of Lent and Holy Week:

- This Wednesday: Holy Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 5:30 pm
- This Friday: Compline and Akathist at 5:30 pm
- Lazarus Saturday: April 1, Divine Liturgy at 5:00 pm
- Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy: Sunday, April 2 at 10:00 am
  
- **Monday:** April 3, Bridegroom Service at 5:30 pm
- **Tuesday:** April 4, Anointing Service at 5:30 pm
- **Wednesday:** April 5, Last Supper Service at 5:30 pm
- **Thursday:** April 6, Passion Gospels at 5:30 pm
- **Friday:** April 7, Descent from the Cross at 12 noon
- **Friday:** April 7, Funeral Service of Christ (Epitaphios Service) at 7:00 pm
- **Saturday:** April 16, Hajmet, Orthros of the Resurrection, at 8:00pm
- **Sunday:** April 17, Holy Pascha Divine Liturgy at 10 am

**Meditation of the Day:** “Mary does not remain locked in her initial troubled state at the proximity of God in His angel, but she seeks to understand. So Mary appears as a fearless woman, one who remains composed -- even in the presence of something utterly unprecedented. At the same time, she stands before us as a woman of great interiority, who holds heart and mind in harmony and seeks to understand the context, the overall significance of God’s message. In this way, she becomes an image of the Church as she considers the word of God, tries to understand it in its entirety and guards in her memory the things that have been given to her.”

---Pope Benedict XVI

**Quote of the Day:** “Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we can get to heaven.”---Saint Rose of Lima

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “Teach me Thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in truth; unite my heart to fear Thy name. I give thanks to Thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Thy name forever. For great is Thy steadfast love towards me; Thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.”---Psalm 86:11-13

**What feast is called the “Feast of the Swallows” in Central Europe?** Every year in late March, an ancient annual event coincides with the Feast of the Annunciation. During the Middle Ages, when the date for Christmas was settled, the date of the Annunciation Feast, a growing devotion at the time, was also fixed. It was set for March 25<sup>th</sup>, nine months prior to Christmas. In Austria and Germany, the feast took on the affectionate name “Feast of Swallows”. The little birds had migrated in the same pattern since time began, flying south for the winter and returning to central Europe just as the buds began to swell in late March. Legendarily, the swallows spent the winter in Nazareth. The medieval people quickly noted that the swallows’ punctual return occurred close to the feast day. Surely, it could be no coincidence that the feast occurred at the time the little swallows returned to build their nests on churches and homes. In vivid, quick medieval imagination, the swallows symbolized the virtues of the Theotokos. They looked at the docile little birds peeking from their mud houses and thought of the purity and obedience and humility of the Blessed Virgin. The “Feast of Swallows” meant all that one Abbot Gueranger put into words centuries later: “She, the humble maid of Nazareth, is to have the ineffable happiness of becoming the Mother of God, and yet the treasure of her Virginité is to be left to her! Mary bows down before this sovereign will, and says to the heavenly messenger: ‘Behold the Handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.’ The Blessed Mother’s eager obedience reminds and inspires us to do as God asks with equal willingness.—Taken from *The Catholic Company* website

**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 Thursday, March 30, at 5:30, as Father Dennis is going to see a movie on March 28 at the Mystic Cinemas, about the great pilgrimage of El Camino de Santiago in Spain The pilgrimage route winds its way to the Cathedral which houses the remains of the Holy Apostle, St. James. Father Dennis has one free ticket available, if you want to join him. First come, first served! More information is on our Website.

## **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 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.**