



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	March 5, 2023 Sunday of The Holy Relics and St. Gregory Palamas 2nd Sunday of Lent
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Intentions this weekend:

Saturday Liturgy: For the repose of the souls of Albert, Mary, and Robert Dib, requested by Doctor William Kalosieh. May their memories be eternal!

Sunday Liturgy: For the repose of the soul of Marcelle Nohra, requested by the parishioners. May her memory be eternal!

Today's Liturgy, Changeable Parts:

Third Antiphon:

Troparion of the Resurrection: page 62

Troparion of the Holy Relics: "Victorious witnesses of the Lord, blessed is the earth that received your blood, and holy are the heavenly places that opened your souls. You have vanquished the enemy in battle and proclaimed Christ with courage. We beg you to intercede with Him Who is all good, that He may save our souls."

Troparion of our Holy Father Gregory Palamas: "O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, pride of Thessaloniki and preacher of grace; pray without ceasing for the salvation of us all".

Troparion of St Ann: First yellow page after page 12

Kondakion of the Annunciation: Second yellow page after page 12

Prokimenon:

Reader: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

People: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

People: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Reader: You, O Lord, will keep us

People: and preserve us always from this generation.

PERMANENT CHANGES TO LITURGY:

- ❖ **On page 25**, instead of singing "A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise." we will sing "Mercy and peace, a sacrifice of praise".
- ❖ **On page 33**, instead of singing "Remember all men and women." we will sing "Sanctify them, Lord, and protect all the faithful".

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 25 and 26	\$1,663.00	54 Adults and 14 Children attended Divine Liturgy	

Financial news:

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ **Cleaning of the Church:** \$220.00 for monthly cleaning of the church hall, hall entranceway, hall kitchen, hall bathrooms, hall floor, hall tables, Saint Jude Shrine, church entranceway, church itself, Sacristy, conference room, office foyer, and conference room bathroom.
- ✓ **Uncas Gas:** \$494.46 for propane to heat church and church hall.
- ✓ **Wages:** \$2,370.10 for Father Dennis for February salary

Total bills paid this week: \$3,084.56. Total collected this week: \$1,663.00. We had a deficit this week of \$1,421.56 For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have **a surplus now of \$4,697.92** in 25 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:

- **Abstinence and Fasting rules are in the supplement on the table in the rear of the church.**
- **Pot Luck Farewell Lunch:** Juan and Katrina Gomez will be transferring in March to the west coast. Juan is about to complete an intensive submarine training program, and will be assigned to his new duty station in the United States Navy. It has been a joy to have them, and their wonderful children (Maria-Sophia, Anastasia, Athanasio, and baby Elias), as part of the parish community for the brief time that they have been here in Groton, so we want to wish them well and celebrate the joy that they have given us. The lunch will take place after Liturgy on Sunday, March 5. We will be churching their new baby, Elias, at the Liturgy. **Please bring a dish or dessert for the lunch!**
- **2nd 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 four parishioners we have given \$870.00 (we do not know who has given directly to the Diocese). 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 (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
- **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.

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: “It is undoubtedly true that each of us, women and men, irresponsible and thoughtless as we often are, hold within our hands the happiness and sorrows of others. We cannot help it or escape from it. The power is in us inalienably, almost from birth to death. We are responsible for the use we make of it. Indeed, so mysterious is this power that the very presence of a person, who does not realize his or her responsibility, is often the keenest pain of all. The failure to exercise the power to give happiness to others is not merely negative in its results; it is also the source of the most suffering of all. Thus, there is no escape from the responsibility involved in the possession of this power. Not to use it, where it is due, is to destroy happiness. It is a strange power, indeed, to be committed to such weak and unworthy hands.”---Father Basil W. Maturin, *Christian Self-Mastery*, page 149

Quote of the Day: “The fast of Lent has no advantage to us, unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding gossip, lying, and swearing. To abstain from these things—herein lies the true value of the fast.”---Saint John Chrysostom

Bible Verse of the Day: “Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance but, as He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

Do you know what “intercessory prayer” really means? There are various forms of prayer. The best known form, and what most people mean when they say “prayer”, is petitionary prayer. Petitionary prayer is the act of asking for gifts or graces from God. That is why

our Protestant brethren are scandalized when we say we pray to the saints. They say it is wrong to pray to saints, because it treats them as though they were God and had the power to grant gifts or graces. Put in this way, the Protestant argument is correct. It would be wrong to pray to the saints if we thought that praying to saints meant that a saint was using their own, self-derivative powers to bring about grace, or if prayer was identical with worship, which is for God alone. That is not, however, the sense we are using when we Catholics pray to the saints. The word “prayer” means “to ask”, not “to worship”. As the *Catholic Encyclopedia* clarifies: “When we pray to the saints, it is to ask for their intercession in our behalf, not to expect that they can bestow gifts on us of their own power, or obtain them in virtue of their own merit”.

This is what we mean by intercessory prayer. The saints intercede for us to God. James 5:16 states that “The prayer of a righteous person has great power in its effects”. So we ask them to turn to God on our behalf and ask Him to bestow the proper graces and gifts upon us. Though our prayers are far less perfect than those of the saints, we can and should intercede for each other as well. This is what is happening when we promise to pray for someone else---we are practicing intercessory prayer!--- The Catholic Company Website

Bishop’s Appeal: Thanks you all who donated. We surpassed our goal of \$6,000.00 by \$178.23! The names of all who donated will be in next week’s bulletin.

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, 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 12. We will especially remember Marcelle Nohra, at the request of her loving sister, Dina Matar.

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

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 4: No Class (Change to original 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 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

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.**