



**ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**April 16, 2023**

**Sunday of Saint Thomas**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday Liturgy:** For the repose of the souls of Joumana Hajj's loving parents, Elias and Abla, and her dear sister Jacqueline Jabbour Matta, requested by Joumana and Gabriel Hajj and family. May their memories be eternal!

Proper Parts for today's Liturgy in on the usher's table in the back of the church!

**Sunday Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Hilda Zizik on Sunday, April 16, the anniversary of the day Hilda passed to her eternal reward in 2011. Also, the Liturgy will be said for Walter Zizik and Andrew Zizik-- the father and brother, respectively, of Joe Zizik. This Liturgy is requested by their loving son and brother, Joe Zizik and family. May their memories be eternal!

Proper Parts for today's Liturgy in on the usher's table in the back of the church!

**PERMANENT CHANGES TO LITURGY:**

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

**Meditation of the Day:** "God gives prayer growth precisely according to our degree of readiness for it. As we are more or less receptive, He bestows more or less communion with Him. In the same manner, if a hundred people in a parish church all hear the same sound waves during the homily they profit from it exactly as they are or are not disposed for the message. Jesus taught the same truth in His parable of the sower of seed: from the word of God some hearers yield nothing at all, while others yield thirty or sixty or a hundredfold."---Father Thomas Dubay

**Quote of the Day:** "Let each of us accept the truth of the following statement and try to make it our most fundamental principle: Christ's teaching will never let us down, while worldly wisdom always will. Christ said that worldly wisdom was like a house with nothing but sand as its foundation, while His wisdom was like building with a solid rock as the foundation."---Saint Vincent de Paul

**Bible Verse of the Day:** "Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on your doorposts of your house and on your gates." ---Deuteronomy 6:5-9

**Why is Easter also called "Pascha"?** "Pascha" means "Passover". It is the Aramaic word form of the Hebrew's "Pesach", the feast commemorating Israel's release from bondage in Egypt. Calling Easter "Pascha" brings home the reality of Christ as the Paschal Lamb.

At Passover, God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a pure lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood. Seeing the lamb's blood, the angel of death would skip their homes as he went throughout Egypt, slaying every firstborn male among man and beasts.

At Easter, Christ allowed Himself to be crucified and His Blood poured out. His Blood redeems us from eternal death, setting us apart from those who reject Him. It is no coincidence that this event occurred during the Passover feast. Easter, prefigured by the Passover, becomes a reality. Passover is fulfilled. Christ is the Paschal Lamb. His triumph over death releases us from the slavery of sin. We are freed to set out for the Promised Land-for heaven."---From the Catholic Company website

**NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Our Lady of Cedars Maronite Catholic Church, Jamaica Plain, MA:** On Sunday, April 30, a lavish breakfast will be served after both the 9:00am and the 11am Liturgies. Adults; \$25 and children under 12: \$15. The address is 61 Rockwood Street, Jamaica Plain, MA. The menu includes Foul Mdammas, Cheese Baladeh, Zataar and Meat Pies, Boiled Eggs, Veggies, Croissants, Deli Platter, Fruits, Desserts, Coffee, Juice, and more. For tickets call Karen Tannous Njeim at 857 222 9777 or Zeina Freiha at 781 789 0432.

**Memorial Service:** For the repose of the soul of Richard J. Vining, at the end of Liturgy on Saturday, April 29, requested by SubDeacon Paul Zalonski. May his memory be eternal!

**Thank you!** Thank you to our choir (Gus Hage, Joumana Hajj, Joe Doro--- and to Gerard Massad for leading and coordinating the organization of the choir) who made our Epitaphios and Hajmet services so beautiful by leading the singing. Thank you to Joe Hage, Greg Bliss, and John Brodeur for their help in setting up for the services. Thank you to Pierre Hage for doing the pre-service details that are necessary for everything to run smoothly. Thank you to Yolla El Khoury and family for making the beautiful Easter Bread and Easter Eggs. Finally, thank you to Joe and Susan Hage for providing the beautiful Arabic music before services. You all contributed to making Holy Week a great success! If I missed anyone, please let me know. ---Father Dennis

**Thank You!** Thank you to SubDeacon Paul Zalonski, who manages our social media, and he creates such a wonderful Website and Facebook experience! Many hours go into the creation and maintenance of this vital means of communicating to our parishioners and the world beyond our parish! ---Father Dennis

**Thank You!** Thank you to James Lawrence for doing all the landscaping around the church. He has done a wonderful job improving the grounds, so that they are more inviting for those attending services and visiting! ---Father Dennis

**YARD AND PLANT SALE:** We will have our spring event on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm, rain or shine. If it rains, we will set up in the Church Hall and Church Barn. To rent a table it will cost \$10 per table. Please bring a plant, used or new, and donate it to the church so that we can sell it for the church building fund. We will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs and soda.

**Bills paid this week:**

- ✓ Eversource: Electricity: \$823.54 for church, church hall, rectory and outside lights.
- ✓ Frontier Communications: \$252.11 for cable, phone, and internet.

Total bills paid this week: \$1,075.65. Total collected this week: \$2,310.49. We had a surplus this week of \$1,234.74. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$10,331.01 in 31 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!

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	
April 7: Good Friday Collection for Eparchy	\$360.00	42 Adults and 2 children attended		
April 8 and 9 Hajmet and Easter Sunday	\$2,310.49	82 Adults and 18 Children attended Divine Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday.	Included in the collection: \$11 for candles, \$48 for Easter Flowers, and \$175.49 from Clothing Shed.	

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** The April meeting date has yet to be determined.

**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

**200 Club:** The next drawing will be on Sunday, April 16, 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! In April, we will pray on Wednesday, April 26, at 5:30 pm.

**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:

- ❖ 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.**