



<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>April 9, 2023</b>  <b>HOLY PASCHA</b>

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

Intentions this weekend:

**Saturday Liturgy:** On April 8, for the repose of the soul of Kelly Anne Jones. This would have been her 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. She passed to her eternal reward on the day after her 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on April 9, 1995. May her memory be eternal!

**Sunday Liturgy:** For thanks and gratitude to God for saving us!

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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 1 and 2 Palm Sunday	\$1,866.00	71 Adults and 14 Children attended Divine Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday.	Included in the collection: \$35 for candles, \$125 for Easter Flowers, \$75 for Hall Rental from Alcoholics Anonymous, and \$100 for the Building Fund.	

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

**Remaining Schedule for Holy Week:**

- **Saturday:** April 8, Hajmet, Orthros of the Resurrection, at 7:00 pm (**change in time**)
- **Sunday:** April 9, Holy Pascha Divine Liturgy at 10 am

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

**Financial news:**

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ Tea Light Candles: \$7.00 for the Saint Jude Shrine.
- ✓ Miscellaneous: \$51.63 for flour for communion bread, spoons for coffee hour, cleaning supplies for church, toilet paper, and garbage bags.
- ✓ Total bills paid this week: \$58.63. Total collected this week: \$1,866.00. We had a surplus this week of \$1,807.37. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$9,096.27 in 30 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!

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

**Divine 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!

**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 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

**Meditation of the Day:** “Jesus Christ could have appeared among us, radiant with joy and encompassed by divine splendor, amidst the glitter and pomp of His sovereign majesty. He deemed it more worthy of His glory and more profitable to the salvation of women and men, to show Himself to them girt with a diadem (crown) of thorns, clothed in purple and stained with blood, His face bruised, the gaping grimace of death on His lips, bearing the bloody unction of the nails imprinted on His hands and feet. In uniting himself closely and suffering, Jesus Christ assuredly did not smooth all its severity and all its pangs; but He removed part of the bitterness, corrected and destroyed its poison, He made the chalice of His Blood fruitful. Like the brazen serpent set up by Moses in the desert, He implanted Himself in the center of the world as an inexhaustible instrument of mercy, life, and health. Owing to this transformation, His divine wounds, like fountains ever gushing, remain eternally open to all straying and fallen souls who are eager to escape from their coarse, sensual aspirations, wanting to immerse themselves anew in the joys of sacrifice and the honor of purity.”—Father Charles Arminjon

**Why did we carry palms last weekend? What is the significance of these particular tree branches?** Palm Sunday. A special blessing, a distribution, a procession. You grip the greenery in your hand. This frail spike is now a sword of protection and bearer of graces-but how did it become so special? Why were palms singled out to receive unique blessings? The answer lies back in the warm valleys of Jericho---3,000 years previous to the moment you held your blessed palm branch. Date palms were very important to the Jews as they traversed the land with household, tent, and livestock. The palms revealed the presence of a lush valley. This meant food, shelter, nearby water, and even building materials.

It is no surprise, then, that carrying a branch in one’s hand came to signify joy! In the book of Maccabees, in the Old Testament, the Jews who remained faithful to the Torah fought to regain Israel from the Greek pagans. When they liberated Jerusalem, the faithful Jews rushed to the palms and cut boughs from them. They entered Jerusalem holding the palms to express their jubilation. A sense of victory was therefore added to the joy symbolized in the palm branch. That is why the people of Jerusalem greeted Our Lord with palm branches and “Hosannas” when He came into the city of Jerusalem, (“*Hosanna*” is a one word prayer meaning Rescue! Save! Intervene!). He was their king, leader, their healer, their provider, and they rejoiced at his arrival. Since that time we have carried palms the week before Easter to welcome Jesus as our King! The palms are our proclamation of Him as a conquering hero, victorious over death itself.---From The Catholic Company Website

**Who was the mysterious Simon of Cyrene? Do we know much about the “passer –by” who helped Jesus carry His cross?** The Gospels say very little about the man who carried the cross to Golgotha with Jesus. In fact, only one sentence is dedicated to him in three Gospels. The fourth does not mention him at all. All we know of Simon from the Scriptures is that he was a native of Cyrene, a large city in northern Africa, and had sons named Alexander and Rufus. We learn more about him from one of the Church’s modern mystics and visionaries: Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich. Blessed Anne received visions of the Blessed Mother’s life and of Jesus’ passion. She says this about Simon: “At this moment, when Jesus fell under the weight of the cross and suffering tremendous blood loss, pain from the scourging, and dehydration-- Simon of Cyrene, a pagan, happened to pass by, accompanied by his children. He was a gardener, just returning home after working in a garden near the eastern wall of the city of Jerusalem, and carrying a bundle of branches.”

Blessed Anne explains that the Romans chose him to help Jesus because he was a pagan. The Roman soldiers did not want to risk offending any of the Jews by making them help, but a pagan could not refuse. Simon was disgusted with Jesus’ condition and tried to refuse. How could the Romans expect him, an honorable man, to walk with and assist a dirty, mutilated criminal? The Romans, however, forced him to take up the cross. Then everything changed. Simon has not carried the cross after Jesus any length of time before his heart was deeply touched by grace.

That is the last we hear of Simon himself, but Blessed Anne’s words leave us with the hope and expectation that he became a Christian. It is likely that he did. After all, it is believed that his sons became well known Christians, because Saint Mark mentioned them by name (Gospel of Mark, Chapter 15, verse 21).---From The Catholic Company Website

**A saint of whom you may not have heard!** Saint Columba is the patron saint of bookbinders, poets, and Ireland. Legend has it that around 560, Columba became involved in a war, which resulted in the deaths of many people. As penance, Columba went to Scotland to work as a missionary to convert as many people as he had killed in the battle. Columba reputedly wrote several hymns and more than 300 books in his lifetime. He died in 597, and although he spent much of his life in Scotland, he is one of the patron saints of Ireland, along with Saint Patrick and Saint Brigid.

**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.

**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 8: No class (**change to previous schedule**)
- ❖ April 15: Class
- ❖ April 29: Class
- ❖ May 6: Final class and Graduation Ceremony at the end of Liturgy

**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.**

**Quote of the Day:** "My prayer is that the good God may establish His absolute reign in your heart and in the hearts of all."---Saint Julie Billiart

**Bible Verse of the Day:** "I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord."---Psalm 40:1-3

**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