



ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: abounadennis@gmail.com Cell phone: 860 287 0677	April 23, 2023 Sunday of the Ointment-Bearing Woman
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CHRIST IS RISEN!

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday Liturgy: For peace in the Sudan.

Sunday Liturgy: For peace in Ukraine and the Middle East.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
April 15 and 16 Sunday of Saint Thomas	\$1507.50	42 Adults and 4 children attended the Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$173 for candles, \$50 for Fuel, \$50 for the Building Fund, \$2.50 from Longview Antennae	

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

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ Kick plate: \$143.89. This was purchased to repair the side church door. It has not been delivered as yet.
- ✓ Calendars: \$180 paid to the Eparchy for our calendars
- ✓ Connecticut Business Systems: \$53.88 for photocopies for the quarter 1/11/23-4/10/23
- ✓

Total bills paid this week: \$377.77. Total collected this week: \$1,507.50. We had a surplus this week of \$1,129.73. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$11,450.74 in 32 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!

200 Club: The next drawing will be on Sunday, May 14, after Liturgy. Winners for April's drawing:

- ❖ Karen Jones: \$50
- ❖ Gerald Egan: \$25
- ❖ John Jalonski: \$10
- ❖ Tim Brooks: \$10
- ❖ George Homsey: \$10

The checks were mailed to your home addresses on Tuesday morning, April 18! Congratulations and thank you for your support of the parish!

Meditation of the Day: "What prevents us from receiving more abundant graces from God may be quite simply our not being sufficiently grateful and not thanking Him for the graces He has already given us. There is no doubt that if we thank God with all our heart for each grace received, especially for the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, He will grant us more."---Father Jacques Philippe

Quote of the Day: "Know that the greatest service that women and men can offer to God is to help convert souls."---Saint Rose of Lima

Bible Verse of the Day: "Everyone who acknowledges Me before others, I will acknowledge before My Heavenly Father. But whoever denies Me before others, I will deny before My Heavenly Father."---Matthew 10: 32-33

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!

YARD AND PLANT SALE: We will have our spring event on Saturday, April 29th 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 sign the roster on the table in the rear of the church, if you desire to participate. The cost is \$10 to rent a table or space. Please sign up for a table or tables on the sheet in the rear of the church this weekend so that we can plan properly.

Am I doing something wrong, if my prayer feels “dry”? Actually, you are being offered the opportunity of doing something right. Every soul experiences a feeling of “dryness” at various times in its prayer life.

Many of the Saints experienced these periods, called “spiritual desolation”, repeatedly with great intensity. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes the feeling as a time when “the heart is separated from God, with no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones”.

Sometimes God allows a soul this period of dryness as a chance to grow in spiritual strength. This might sound alarming, but do not worry! God never overtaxes a soul. He only permits tests that the soul is capable of overcoming, and which will help the soul grow closer to Him through virtue.

If we only experienced feelings of consolation and happiness during our prayer time, our imperfect souls would grow attached to those feelings, rather than to God. That means we would not really know or love Him for who He really is.

So dryness in prayer is often a means of spiritual growth and maturity by which we can develop unshakeable faith in God. Proving our faith takes total trust, perseverance, and love. It is difficult. It is a battle! It is “sheer faith, clinging to Jesus in His agony and his tomb”, as the Catechism expresses it.

When we push through dryness in prayer, we have to use the above-mentioned virtues consistently. By exercising all these virtues, we strengthen them and grow in them.

Think of how Our Risen Lord asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter had to keep replying, “Lord, You know that I love You”.

When we feel discouraged in prayer, God is gently asking, “Do you love Me? Will you pursue Me even when it is difficult, when I seem far away?” He wants to hear us answer again and again, like Peter, “Yes, Lord, I do love You!”

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: There will not be a meeting in April. A date will be set for May.

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Altar servers for the main altar: Our servers have done a good job serving on the altar, despite not having formal training. As a result, at times, the priest has to alert them during the Liturgy of what they need to do and when. This should not be occurring for a regular Divine Liturgy. When I was an altar server I had to go through extensive training, be able to read the Mass in Latin, and then had to serve as an assistant server to a main server for 6 months. It was a lot, but we knew what to do and helped the Mass flow smoothly, without distraction. Therefore, commencing next weekend, anyone wishing to serve on the altar will be required to attend 2 instructional sessions, of two hours each session, covering proper attire (shirt with a collar-no hoody sweatshirts), proper shoes (no sneakers but rather black dress shoes), the function of the altar server, the names associated with the various parts of the church, the different objects that are used in the Liturgy, the theological meaning and significance of which the server is participating, and many other items including the proper decorum for an altar server. To serve on the altar, the individual must take this course. Once completed, the individual will be presented a certificate and be permitted to serve in the Holy Place. Additionally, to serve on the altar, one is required to be vested. The only exceptions to having to take these classes are the Subdeacons. The classes will be held on Sunday, May 14 and 21 from 11:30 to 1:30. Lunch will be provided. All interested, please sign the sheet in the back of the church After next weekend, until the classes are completed, we will have no altar servers on the altar, except the Subdeacons. Thank you! Father Dennis

Thank You! A big thanks to James Lawrence and Gerard Massad for giving up their Friday morning to help Father Dennis move donated furniture from Madison, Connecticut to the church barn for the yard sale. Dr. Martin Grebel, and his daughter, donated the furniture and paid for the 20 foot U-Haul truck for us to move it. The furniture will be sold at the yard sale next Saturday, April 29. Parishioners can look at it this week and buy anything, before we display at the yard sale next Saturday.

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.

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.

May Pilgrimage: On Sunday, May 7, we will be going to Our Lady of Grace Monastery at 11 Race Hill Road, Guilford, CT. We will, celebrate the Annual May Crowning of the Theotokos at 3:00 p.m. There will be a Blessing of Roses, Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Solemn Vespers, Rosary, Benediction and Procession across the street to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. What better way to begin the Month of Mary. Please sign the sheet in the rear of the church by April 30, so that we can perhaps car pool and help those who cannot drive obtain transportation. The Homily will be given by Father Brian Mulcahy O.P. *O.P.* is an abbreviation for The Order of Preachers (Latin: *Ordo Praedicatorium*), also known as the Dominicans. The Dominican are a Mendicant Order which means that they tend to live within the community and follow a lifestyle similar to the Apostolic Orders.

- ❖ Apostolic Orders work within the community, outside the convent or monastery.
- ❖ Monastic Orders will follow the contemplative lifestyle.

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 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.**