



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	April 30, 2023 Sunday of the Paralytic

Intentions this weekend:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

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

Sunday Liturgy: For the repose of the soul of Janice Carthy, requested by her loving husband, Thomas Carthy. May her memory be eternal! Also for the peace, health and salvation of Gene Crowley, the brother-in-law of Ray and Anna Sobanski.

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, Gene Crowley, James Donkin, Janice Carthy, Richard Vining, Gene Crowley.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
April 22 and 23 Sunday of Saint Thomas	\$1,005.00	29 Adults and 6 children attended the Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$51 for candles.	

Financial Report: No bills were paid this week. Total collected this week: \$1,005.00. We had a surplus this week of \$1,005.00. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$12,455.74 in 33 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!

Shepherd's Care Boxes: Thank you to Amanda Hajj, Gerry and Cathy Egan, Tim Jones, Branden Harper, Bryelle Harper, and an anonymous donor for contributing a total of \$43.00 in their boxes, which will be sent to the Eparchy this week. Our total for this drive including the second collection was \$1,052.00. Thank you to all for your generosity!

2nd Collection: There will be a 2nd collection next weekend for the Home Missions. Please be as generous as you can.

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

200 Club: The next drawing will be on Sunday, May 14, 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 May, we will pray on Wednesday, May 31, 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 Praedicatorum), also known as the Dominicans. The Dominicans 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.

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 a young 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, 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 hooded 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. 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. Doctor 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.

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.

Meditation of the Day: “Whenever that sacrifice of Christ is memorialized in the Church, there is an application to a new moment in time and a new presence in space of the unique sacrifice of Christ, Who is now in glory. In obeying His mandate, His followers would be representing in an unbloody manner that which He presented to His Father in the bloody sacrifice of Cavalry. After changing the bread into His Body and the wine into His Blood: He gave it to them (Mark 14:22). By that communion they were made one with Christ, to be offered with Him, in Him, and by Him. All love craves unity. As the highest peak of love in the human order is the unity of husband and wife in the flesh, so the highest unity in the Divine order is the unity of the soul and Christ in communion.”---Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Quote of the Day: “Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.”---Saint Brendan

Bible Verse of the Day: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.”---Lamentations 3; 22-23

We don’t know a word he said...but his actions speak louder than words. We don’t know when he was born. We don’t know when he died. We don’t know what he looked like. We don’t know a single word he said. He is accurately called “the hidden saint”. Yes, we are talking about Saint Joseph.

Even though we do not know much about him, we do know what he did, and as it is said, actions speak louder than words. Saint Joseph’s actions certainly speak volumes! He shows us that near-perfection is possible for us. After all, we are talking about the man God selected as His foster father! Saint Joseph’s virtues are second only to the Blessed Mother’s perfections.

The Scriptures mention Saint Joseph very minimally, but even from that little bit we can draw abundant examples of his many virtues. Unfortunately, it is not possible to delve into all those virtues, but let’s look at a few of the most apparent:

- 1. Obedience:** Saint Joseph is called a “righteous man”. He lived the spirit as well as the letter of the Law of Moses. In everything he did, he sought to accomplish God’s will. Even when he felt unworthy or did not understand, he performed God’s will without question.
- 2. Purity:** At a young age, he made a vow of chastity. Tradition tells us that when the priests were choosing a fitting spouse for Mary, they gave eligible young men wooden sticks to hold. God made Saint Joseph’s stick bloom into fragrant lilies, the ancient symbol of purity.
- 3. Silence:** Is silence a virtue? Yes! He is the perfect Martha-Mary combination, He worked hard at his profession of carpentry, yet silence enveloped him. Joseph’s silence reveals his deep prayer life. God would not have subjected Himself to the authority and care of someone who was not seeking to know Him in holiness.

Saint Joseph, pray for us! ---From the Catholic Company 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:

- ❖ May 6: Final class and Graduation Ceremony at the end of Liturgy

What is the “better part” that Mary, the sister of Lazarus chose? What is the meaning behind Jesus’ words to Martha? At first glance, we can all relate to Martha. When we have guests, we want to make sure they are comfortable. We get them drinks and prepare nice food and run around the house making sure everything is tidy and clean. It is harder to relate to Mary. Isn’t it rude to let your sister rush about, doing everything alone, while you relax and listen to the guests? Wouldn’t it be much better to help her and take some of the load off her hands?

It feels like a surprise each time we read that Jesus, instead of telling Mary to help, gently chides Martha. He does not blame either sister. He knows how necessary Martha’s work is, but He points out that Mary is putting her time to good use in choosing the “better part”. Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to him. She has turned all her thoughts to Jesus, hearing his voice and contemplating Him. This is what H means when he speaks of the “better part”, the “one thing needful” in all we do. He is pointing out that Mary acts with great love, while Martha performs her duties with worry and concern.

Jesus reminds us, through Martha, that whatever we do, whether working or resting, or praying or recreating, we should do all with love. Love is the “better part”, the “one thing needful” in all that we do. It is the love with which we perform our actions that make those actions fruitful and worthwhile. ---From the Catholic Company website

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. For the Little and Great Entrances, please get the fans, candles, and crosses ready well before the priest comes from the altar. This prevents the last minute rush and distraction.

Thank you, in advance for your cooperation! 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.***