



<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>May 14, 2023</b> <b>Sunday of the</b> <b>Man Born Blind</b>

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**Happy Mother's Day**

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Ernie Reyes, on the anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, requested by his loving family. May his memory be eternal!

**Sunday Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of John and Virginia Colwell and John and Alice McCarthy, the grandparents of Father Dennis, requested by the McCarthy family. May their memories be eternal!

**Feast of the Ascension:** Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30 P.M.

**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, Edward and Linda Zalonski

**Meditation of the Day:** "Prayer brings our mind into the brightness of divine light, and exposes our will to the warmth of divine love. Nothing else can so purge our mind from its ignorance, and our will from its depraved affections. It is a blessed fountain which, as it flows, revives our good desires and causes them to bring forth fruit, washes away the stains of infirmity from our soul, and calms the passions of our heart."---Saint Francis de Sales

**Bible Verse of the Day:** "Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."---Matthew 6:19-21

**The Secret Weapons of Padre Pio (Fatima, Surrender, and the Rosary):** We all know that Padre Pio was famous for miraculous healings of others, but did you know, that when he was near death, a particular saint can be credited with interceding with God to heal him? Padre Pio was the spiritual Father of the World Apostolate of Fatima and had a profound devotion to Our Lady.

In 1959, he was very ill with pleurisy, pneumonia, and a tumor that required chemotherapy. For nine months he could not leave his bed and many worried that he would die. The Fatima Pilgrim statue arrived in town by helicopter and he was able to get up and venerate it. As the statue left on the helicopter he cried out to Mary, "Madonna, since you have come to Italy, I have been laid low with sickness! Are you going to leave me this way?" The helicopter came back and circled the monastery and Padre Pio felt something surge through his body, curing everything! He let everyone know that he was healed and resumed his normal duties!

The Fatima message of prayer, penance, and sacrifice was central to the life of Padre Pio. It was written on his hands and his feet. It was lived in his daily Rosaries and sufferings. It achieved its perfection in his total surrender to Jesus, **"O Jesus, I surrender to you, take care of everything!"**

Padre Pio learned these words from his dear friend, Father Dolindo Ruotolo, and prayed them often. Jesus gave Father Dolindo a novena for those who carry heavy burdens. Jesus told Father Dolindo, "Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I perform miracles in proportion to your full surrender to me. I sow treasure in troves of graces, when you are in the deepest poverty".

Padre Pio and Father Dolindo pray for us!

Taken from The Catholic Company website.

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

**May Pilgrimage:** On Sunday, May 7, **twelve of our parishioners** attended Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Guilford, CT. We celebrated the Annual May Crowning of the Theotokos at 3:00 p.m. There was 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. The beautiful and inspiring homily was 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.

It was wonderful to see 12 parishioners take their Sunday afternoon and drive 80 miles round trip to honor Mary. In addition, our own Sub Deacon Paul Zalonski, who works at the Monastery and was the Master of Ceremonies, did a great job. The other Pilgrims were: Joumana Hajj, Suzan Jabbour Nemer, Faouzi Hage, Katia Hage, Maria Hage, Father Dennis, Saide Hage, Joseph Hage, Susan Hage, Habib Younes, and Sandra Younes. I am sure that Jesus will send you special graces for honoring his beloved Mother!

**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

**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

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** A date will be set for June.

**200 Club:** We had our drawing last Sunday rather than this Sunday, because of Mother's Day: The winners were:

- \$ 50 Ray Sobanski
- \$ 25 Kevin Powers
- \$ 10 Joe Doro
- \$ 10 Jeff Jeffords
- \$ 10 John Dorunda

The checks were mailed to your homes on Wednesday. Congratulations to our winners! Our next drawing will be on Sunday, June 11, 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.

**Children's Religious Education Class:** We held a graduation ceremony prior to last Saturday's Liturgy. The children receive beautiful "mustard seed" necklaces, courtesy of Joumana Hajj. The children received beautiful graduation certificates, also. The graduates are: Brayden Harper, Jaxon Hajj, Sydney Cummings, Bryelle Harper, and Kazmiera Hajj. Assistant instructors were Brayona Harper, who mentored little Kazmiera, and Amanda Hajj. Our Director of Religious Education, Joumana Hajj, did another outstanding job of educating our children every Saturday from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. The instructors received beautiful flower bouquets in sincere thanks for their dedication!

**Quote of the Day:** "Put your heart at His feet. It is the gift he loves most!"---Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

**2nd Collection:** There was supposed to be a second collection for Home Missions last weekend. On Sunday the collection was taken, on Saturday it was not. So this Saturday we will collect it. Thanks!

**Announcement from the Bishop:** The Eparchy has undertaken a review of the entire Eparchy’s legally required mandates and determined that certain reforms are warranted. These reforms will include the addition of two non-voting lay members to the Eparchy’s governing body, typically called the “Board of Directors”. These individuals will be active participants in the deliberations of the governing body and will bring to it the voice of the laity. You must be over the age of 21 and 1) canonically Melkite, 2) regularly participate in the liturgical life of the parish, and 3) ready, willing, and able to serve as lay members of the governing board. This is a great opportunity. If interested, please complete the form on the table in the back of the church and give to Father Dennis no later than Thursday, May 18, 2023. Thank you!

**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.**

**Bills paid this week:**

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**Total bills paid this week:** \$581.98. Total collected this week: \$2,133.40. We had a surplus this week of \$1,551.42. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$8,412.55 in 35 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!

All donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, and funerals are included in the collection total.

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	
May 6 and 7	\$2,133.40	52 Adults and 8 children attended the Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$61 for candles, \$50 for fuel, \$25 for yard sale, \$3.59 for Longview Antennae, \$166.81 from clothing shed, and \$119 from second collection for Home Missions (this is sent to the Eparchy).	