



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	May 21, 2023 Sunday of the Fathers of Nicea I

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday Liturgy: For the healing of the divides in our society.

Sunday Liturgy: For the repose of the soul of Souad Hage, requested by her loving son, Pierre Hage and family. Also, for the repose of the soul of Lucia Habib, requested by her loving son-in-law Pierre Hage and family. May their memories be eternal! These remembrances are a week late due to an error by Father Dennis,

In addition, for healing in our Congress, the Judicial Branch, and Executive Branch of our government and that the people holding positions, in these area of our government, learn kindness, love, dignity and respect and do what is best for the country and not for themselves. May God give them the wisdom of Solomon to be able to determine what is best!

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, James Donkin, Janice Carthy, Richard Vining, Edward and Linda Zalonski

Liturgy: Saturday, June 17 at 5:00pm for the repose of the soul of Mary H. Murray, requested by Edward Weyant, her loving nephew. This will be the 55th anniversary of Mary's falling asleep in the Lord. May her memory be eternal!

Meditation of the Day: "For us Christians, the first virtue of Godliness is to honor our parents, to pay back the troubles of those who bore us, and give them whatever comforts we can give with all our strength. For, if we repaid them as much as possible, we could still never pay them back for the gift of life! Then they will enjoy the comfort we provide. And then won't our Father in heaven accept our good intentions, and judge us worthy to 'shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father?'"---Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Quote of the Day: "Prayer is the best preparation for Holy Communion. Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. When we pray, we go to meet Christ, Who is coming to us. If our Creator and Savior comes from heaven with such great love, it is only fitting that we should go to meet Him. And this is what we do, when we spend some time in prayer."---Saint Bernadine of Siena

Bible Verse of the Day: "The fear (awe) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."---Proverbs 9:10

What flower is named for Christ's passion? This striking bloom helped Spanish missionaries in their work! Spanish missionaries named the stunningly unique bloom we know as the Passion Flower. These missionaries traveled far from their homes, far from everything they knew, to bring the light of Christ to the peoples of the Americas. They met with every kind of hardship---from hunger to death to hardened hearts---but little by little, their work bore fruit and the Faith spread upon the new continents.

One of the things, which encouraged the missionaries in their work, was an elaborate, medium-sized flower they encountered. The flower clambered about on long, leafy vines. It spread a sweet fragrance in the air. It was primarily purple, with spiky filaments standing up on a little crown of anthers and stigma. Its leaves unfurled into three points.

The missionaries, seeing the flower, took heart. It reminded them of Christ's Passion and the compelling reason they were toiling about in the moist jungles, looking for souls. This is what they saw in the physical aspects of the flower and its plant:

- ❖ Purple: The color of penance and sacrifice
- ❖ Five sepals and five petals: The ten Apostles, who neither betrayed our Lord like Judas nor publicly denied Him like Peter (note: the missionaries were not trying to slur Peter—who, unlike Judas, repented and became a great saint!)
- ❖ Three stigma: The nails piercing Jesus' hands and feet
- ❖ Five anthers: Jesus' five wounds
- ❖ Circlet of corona filaments: The crown of thorns
- ❖ Three -pointed leaves: The Holy Trinity
- ❖ Vine: God's attachment to the earth

The missionaries used this flower to teach people about the Passion. They sent descriptions of the plant back home. The Spanish people came to know it as "The Flower of the Five Wounds". Since then, the flower's name, in almost every language, has reflected its beautiful representation of the passion.---From The Catholic Company website

Home Missions Collection: We raised \$649.00 for the Home Missions, which was sent to the Eparchy this week for distribution, of which \$500.00 was sent by our parish through its checking account. So, \$149.00 was collected from parishioners. Thanks to all who contributed! Father Dennis

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Altar servers for the main altar: Only one person took and completed the requirements of the course, Brayden Harper. Congratulations to Brayden! He will be the only server permitted on the altar at this time, other than the SubDeacons. Another course will be given in July.

Sanctuary Light for June: It will be illuminated for the repose of the soul of Gloria Massad. This is lovingly requested by Gloria Jeffords, her best friend, and Gloria’s husband, John Jeffords. May her memory be eternal!

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. 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: Sunday, June 4 after Liturgy!

200 Club: 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.

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. **There were no volunteers. The work is minimal. We still need two people.**

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.**

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 13 and 14	\$1,777.00	59 Adults and 6 children attended the Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$290 for candles, \$8 from Poor Box, and \$30 for Home Missions which is sent to the Eparchy for distribution.	

Financial update:

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ Guardian Pest Control: \$175.00 for quarterly rodent control, carpenter ant control, and termite prevention
- ✓ Frontier Communications: \$251.00 for internet, cable, and land line phone.
- ✓ Landscape and Facility Maintenance: \$490.00
- ✓ Cleaning: \$220.00 for (every three weeks) cleaning of the Hall, Hall foyer, Hall kitchen, Hall bathrooms, Hall floor, St Jude Shrine, entryway to the Church, the Church itself, conference room, conference room bathroom, and conference room foyer.
- ✓ Bishop Mandated Retreat for Priests in the Northeast: \$275.00: For Thursday June 14 to Saturday morning June 17 at Saint Basils in Methuen, Massachusetts. This pays for Father Dennis' food and lodging at St Basil, for the conference, and the stipend for the guest speaker.
- ✓ Poor: \$100 to a person in need
- ✓ Hoelk's Florist: \$337.00 for red carnations for Good Friday and white carnations for Easter Sunday.
- ✓ Hoelk's Florist: \$75.00 for Mother's Day carnations
- ✓ Lowes's: \$109.56 for Toilet Brush for Church Hall Bathroom, rags for staining the church entryway doors, spray adhesive for side church entry door, for Brasso to polish outside door handles, wood putty to repair outside doors, and for weed killer. Father Dennis uses his military service to obtain a 10% discount on all items at Lowe's
- ✓ Stop and Shop: \$116.99 for flowers for instructors at our Religious Education Graduation Ceremony
- ✓ Lowe's: \$17.02 for ammonia for cleaning, vinegar for cleaning, and hand soap refill for bathrooms
- ✓ Lowe's: \$146.49 plants for church grounds and 40% vinegar to kill grass in parking lot
- ✓ Lowe's: \$132.64 for mulch for landscape, fertilizer for lawn, and grub killer for lawn.
- ✓ Tractor Supply: \$35.97 for three Rose bushes in front of Blessed Mother statue in front of the barn

Total bills paid this week: \$2,481.67. Total collected this week: \$1,77.00. We had a deficit this week of \$704.67. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$7,707.88 in 36 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.