

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	June 25, 2023 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday Liturgy: For the repose of the souls of Peter and Samira Hajj, the loving father-in-law and mother-in-law of Joumana Hajj, requested by Joumana. May their memories be eternal!

Sunday Liturgy: For Stephen Wright, who has decided to stop dialysis after a long battle and is in hospice at Mayo Clinic, in Florida. May God grant Stephen a peaceful passing, free from worry and distress, and find joy and safety in the arms of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus the Christ. May the Lord send his angels to encamp around his loving wife, Theresa, and give her God’s grace and comfort during this difficult time. This Liturgy is requested by Kathleen McCarthy, a good friend of the family and Father Dennis’ sister.

Today’s Liturgy; Proper Parts:

1st Antiphon

Troparion of the Resurrection: Page 69

Troparion of Saint Ann: Page 19

Kondakion: Page 20

Prokimenon:

Reader: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

People: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Reader: All you peoples clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

People: Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

Reader: Sing praise to our God, sing praise!

People: Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

PERMANENT CHANGES TO LITURGY:

- ❖ Instead of singing “A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.” we will sing “Mercy and peace, a sacrifice of praise”.
- ❖ Instead of singing “Remember all men and women.” we will sing “Sanctify them, Lord, and protect all the faithful”.

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, Michael McCurdy, Tommy Brown, Bill Curtis, Bobby Moutron and his sister Helen, Lisa Brown-McCarthy, Gene Crowley, Janice Carthy, Edward and Linda Zalonski

Meditation of the Day: A sculptor, who wishes to carve a figure out of a block uses his chisel, first cutting away great chunks of marble, then smaller pieces, until the sculptor finally reaches the point where only a brush of hand is needed to reveal the figure. In the same way, the soul has to undergo tremendous mortifications at first, and then more refined detachments, until finally its Divine image is revealed. Because mortification is recognized as a practice of death, there is fittingly inscribed on the tomb of John Duns Scotus (A Scottish Catholic priest and Franciscan friar, university professor, philosopher and theologian. He died in 1308 and is one of the four most important Christian philosopher-theologians of Western Europe in the High Middle Ages, together with Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, and William of Ockham) the following in Latin: “*Bis Mortis, Semel Sepultus*”. This inscription’s translation is: “Twice died, but only buried once”. When we die to something, something comes alive; if we die to pride, service comes alive; if we die to lust, reverence for personality comes alive; if we die to anger, love comes alive. ---Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

Quote of the Day: “The ordinary acts we practice every day at home are of more importance to the soul than their simplicity might suggest.”---Saint Thomas More

Bible Verse of the Day: “Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my groaning. Harken to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to thee do I pray. O Lord, in the morning, thou dost hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for thee, and watch. For thou art not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not sojourn with thee.”---Psalm 5: 1-4

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Fast of the Apostles (Saints Peter and Paul Fast): Monday, June 19 to Wednesday June 28. We will celebrate Liturgy on Thursday, June 29th at 5:30 pm to commemorate the Apostles Peter and Paul. This is only a ten day fast, so most people can strictly observe it. The Fast honors the sacrifices and accomplishments of the Holy Apostles. Guidelines for the Fast are in the supplement on the table in the rear of the Church!.

NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL: The Eparchy has initiated a new communication tool called *Flocknote*. It allows the Eparchy and the parish to send emails and texts to everyone with just the click of “the mouse”. I will be passing around a document at Liturgy to make sure we have everyone’s current home address, email address and cell phone number. We will go live on July 1, officially, but you will see some test emails and texts from me before that. Please open them-they are not “spam”! Thank you! Father Dennis

Altar servers for the main altar: Only one person took and completed the requirements of the course, Brayden Harper. Congratulations to Brayden! I have modified the training and anyone who desires to serve can meet with me 15 minutes after Liturgy. I do not want to discourage servers. However, you must wear black or brown dress shoes, a shirt with a collar, and be vested. Thanks Father Dennis

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!

Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial: This will occur at the end of 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, July 2

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

200 Club: Our last drawing for the year occurred on June 11. The winners were: Lisa McCarthy \$50, Laura Massad \$25, Patrick Moukawsher \$10, Gerard Massad \$10, and Gail Facas \$10. If you wish to participate in the July 2023 to June 2024, 200 Club year, the cost is now \$60. The prizes remain the same. Please give your entry fee to Pierre Hage, Father Dennis, mail it to the church, or put it in the collection basket in an envelope with your name and “200 Club” written on it. We need 21 people to break even! This past year we had 41 people participate. Let’s see if we can get more this year. It is a fund raiser for the parish and you have a chance to win money every month! The money needs to be collected by July 2, so that we can have our first drawing of the new year on Sunday, July 9, after Liturgy. Thank you, in advance, for your participation! Father Dennis

Announcement: We are attempting to revise and revitalize the Saint Jude Women’s Club, which has served the parish and many charities and causes since its inception, through the dedication of many devout women. We are changing the name to the Saint Jude and Saint Rita Society. It will be open to both women and men and teenagers. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church for those who are interested. Our primary purpose will be to pray intercessory prayer for those who need prayer. However, faith without works is dead, so we will have a formational meeting to see what works of charity we can perform. A couple of ideas I have are to visit those in prison. Father Dennis visits Corrigan Correctional Prison in Montville every Wednesday. Also to visit our sick in nursing homes, hospitals, and those who are home bound. Impossible, no it is not with Saint Jude and Saint Rita interceding on our behalf to God. Saint Rita and Saint Jude are the Patron Saints of Lost Causes and what appears to us as impossible or not practical. Please sign up and help bring our faith to the streets. Coming to Liturgy is wonderful, but Gods asks

more of Christians. Our formational meeting to discuss this plan will occur on **Sunday, June 25**, after Liturgy in the Church Hall.

Holy Rosary: The second and 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 June, we will pray on Wednesday, June 14 **and** June 28, at 5:30 pm.

Sunday, June 18, at 8:00 AM: We celebrated our first Spanish/English Liturgy last Sunday. Although only one person attended, I am praying for God to send more. 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.***

Financial update:

Bills paid this week:

- ✓ **General Maintenance:** \$240.00 for door painting, cleaning out the barn in preparation of our renter moving in next week, sanding and painting the bench in front of the Blessed Mother Statue, and weeding of the gardens.
- ✓ **Eparchy:** \$2,306.63 for monthly assessment, medical insurance for priests and spouses, and retirement fund for priests. We pay this amount every month and it usually goes up every year.
- ✓ **U.S. Bank Equipment:** \$157.43 for copy machine. We pay this monthly.
- ✓ **Uncas Gas:** \$278.60 for propane to heat and cool the church and church hall.

Total bills paid this week: \$2,982.66. Total collected this week: \$6,586.00 We had a surplus this week of \$3,603.34. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$11,768.63 in 42 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! **“One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.” This is the word of God from**

Proverbs: Chapter 11, verse 24. Almsgiving is a very serious matter to God, and a basic obligation of all Christians.

All donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, priest stole offerings, and funerals are included in the collection total. Father Dennis does not personally accept money for the Sacraments!

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	
June 17 and 18	\$6,586.00***	35 Adults and 4 children attended the Liturgy on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$174.00 for candles, \$200.00 for Fuel, and \$145 for the Building Fund	

*** The collection included a \$5,000.00 check from one of our parish families. To date, besides their generous giving in the weekly collection, they donated another \$5,000.00 earlier this year. They are largely responsible for the \$11,768.63 surplus we have at the moment. They also wish to remain anonymous. I thank them sincerely for their dedication to supporting our parish! Father Dennis

Secret Giving: This family is practicing “secret giving”. Jesus’ message on giving is simple and clear. 1. Give. 2. Give purely. 3. Give purely to glorify God and to motivate others.

Rather than concern yourself with who knows about your giving, instead focus on who will be glorified by your giving and who you might inspire to join you in your generous giving! **Mathew 6:1-4:** “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father, who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.”