



|                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>41 Cross Rd, Waterford, CT 06385<br><a href="http://www.stannmelkitechurch.org">http://www.stannmelkitechurch.org</a> 860-442-2211 |                                                                       |
| Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy<br>Email: <a href="mailto:abounadennis@gmail.com">abounadennis@gmail.com</a><br>Cell phone: 860 287 0677                                            | <b>July 30, 2023</b><br><b>Ninth Sunday After</b><br><b>Pentecost</b> |

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy:** For the repose of Geraldine (Halaby) Kozmon, requested by her loving daughter Alexis. May her memory be eternal!

Also, for the peace, health, and salvation of Becky Yering Fraser, requested by her good friend, Jamal Doro. Becky is very ill at this time.

**Sunday 8:00 am Spanish/English Liturgy:** For the peace, health, and salvation of Irene McCarthy and Kathleen McCarthy, the loving mother and sister of Father Dennis; requested by Father Dennis and Lisa.

**Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Father Basil Samra, who fell asleep in the Lord, on the evening of Sunday, July 16, 2023. May God grant peace and rest to this wonderful priest. May his memory be eternal! Father Basil is the brother of Bishop Nicholas Samra, our great former Bishop.

**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, 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, Janice Carthy, Edward and Linda Zalonski, and William Brown.

**Meditation of the Day:** “We are the Holy Church. But I do not say ‘we’ as though to indicate only we who are here, you who have just been listening to me. I mean all of us who are here, by the grace of God, faithful Christians in the Church, that is, in this city, all those in this region, in this province, across the sea, all those in the whole world. Such is the Catholic Church, our true mother, the true spouse of so great a husband.”---Saint Augustine

**Quote of the Day:** “You are rewarded not according to your work or time but according to the measure of your love.”---Saint Catherine of Siena

**Bible Verses of the Day:** “Because he (you) cleaves to Me (The Lord) in love, I (the Lord) will deliver him (you). When he (you) calls to Me (The Lord), I (the Lord) will answer him (you), I (The Lord) will be with him (you) in trouble; I (the Lord) will rescue him (you) and honor him (you)” --- Psalm 91: 14-15 These Psalm verses are about God and you personally!

**Why John and James are called the “sons of thunder”.** Their fiery zeal and energy earned these bothers a nickname directly from Our Lord! Boisterous, bold, and brave, the Apostles James and John earned this dramatic nickname from our Lord through their, occasionally misplaced, zeal and passion. James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee. Although fishermen, these brothers immediately cast aside their nets when Jesus invited them to become “fishers of men”. This immediate, zealous reaction to drop everything to follow Christ is indicative of how these two men lived.

Just as their zeal led them to abandon their fishing nets, their fiery spirits could sometimes lead to extreme actions. These instances of the “thunderous” behavior occur throughout the Gospels. When James and John heard a man casting out devils in Jesus’ Name, they forbade him to do that. Later, when the Samaritans give Jesus a cold reception, James and John are furious. They ask Jesus, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?”

In both instances, Jesus rebukes them and demonstrates to these brothers the simple humility required to live out the message of the Messiah. Their faith and friendship with Jesus helped form them into zealous, but humble disciples of Christ.

To the Hebrew people, thunder was the voice of God. It was powerful and terrifying. Though it could mean destruction, it could also mean rain that caused life to flourish. Thunder still brings to mind great and mysterious strength. How appropriate for these two beloved saints, who became the voice of God, to receive the nickname “Sons of Thunder”.---From the Catholic Company website

**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. Please come and spend 40 minutes with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in Church! **In August, we will pray on the third Wednesday, August 16 due to Father Dennis’ vacation and on the last Wednesday, August 30, at 5:30pm**

**Sanctuary Light for July:** It will be illuminated for the repose of the soul of Geraldine (Halaby) Kozmon; requested by her loving daughter, Alexis Kozmon. May her memory be eternal!

**Dormition Fast:** August 1-14.

**Feast of the Transfiguration:** We will celebrate the Feast on Sunday, August 6 at 10 am.

**The Lebanese saint who unites Christians and Muslims:** Saint Charbel Makhoul is known in Lebanon for the miraculous healings of those who visit his tomb to seek his intercession---both Christians and Muslims. “Saint Charbel has no geographic or confessional limits. Nothing is impossible for his intercession and when people ask for something, he answers,” Father Louis Matar, coordinator of the Shrine of Saint Charbel in Annaya, Lebanon, told the Catholic News Agency.

Father Matar said that the shrine receives approximately 4 million visitors a year. Father Matar is responsible for archiving the thousands of medically verified healings attributed to the intercession of Saint Charbel. He said that many miraculous cures have been obtained by Muslims.

Since 1950, the year the monastery began to formally record the miraculous healings; they have archived more than 29,000 miracles. Prior to 1950, miracles were verified only through the witness of a priest. Now, with more advanced medical technology available, alleged miracles require medical documentation demonstrating the person’s initial illness and later, their unexplainable good health.

One of the miracles documented by Father Matar at the end of December 2018 was that of a 45 year old Italian woman. Suffering from a neurological disease, she was hospitalized after a suicide attempt by ingesting acid. The doctors discovered that the damage to her esophagus and intestines was so extensive, “the last way possible to help her was believing in God and praying,” Father Matar commented.

The woman’s parents began to pray, inviting others to pray with them. A Maronite nun heard about the prayer request and gave them holy oil from the shrine. After they spread the oil on the suffering woman, she was cured. This was just one of seven miracles archived that month, Father Matar said, calling each one “a phenomenon”.

Deeply devoted to God’s Eucharistic presence, Saint Charbel suffered a stroke while celebrating the Divine Liturgy on December 16, 1898. He died on Christmas Eve. This is from an article written by Hannah Brockhaus of the Catholic News Agency.

Saint Charbel, pray for us!

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

**SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:** We collected \$91.00 for the Pope’s Charities, which will be sent to the Diocese this week. Thanks to all who gave!

**Missionary Work:** Gregory Bliss, one of our parishioners, is devoting himself to missionary work on college campuses. He needs to self fund his 2 year commitment, which costs \$25,000 per year. He is trying to raise money from different sources. Please contact Father Dennis or Greg on how to help fund him as he works for FOCUS Ministries.

**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. Please read these messages when they arrive! They are not “spam”!

**NOTE: There will not be a Saturday Liturgy at 5:00 pm on August 5 nor a Sunday 8:00am Liturgy on August 6. There will be a Sunday 10 am Liturgy celebrated by Father Thomas Moses on August 6. This is due to Father Dennis being on vacation from August 5 to August 12, and having no priest to cover those times. Father Elias Dorham will celebrate Liturgy on Saturday, August 12 at 5:00 pm and will concelebrate, with Father Dennis, the baptism of Kateri Brodeur prior to Liturgy on August 13. Father Dennis and Father Elias will celebrate the Liturgy together at 10am on Sunday, August 13. There will not be a Spanish/English Liturgy on Sunday, August 13 at 8:00 am due to the Baptism.**

#### **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

**Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial:** This will occur at the end of 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, August 13th

**Enders Island:** We will observe the Dormition of the Mother of God at Enders Island at 5:00pm, Tuesday, August 15, followed by our annual picnic on the island. We may have a few spots left but will not know until July 31, as Saint Basil’s, in Rhode Island, is bringing 29 people by bus.

**200 Club:** Our last drawing for the year occurred on June 11. 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 August 1. 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 formational meetings to see what works of charity we can perform. We will have our second meeting on Sunday, August 20, after Liturgy in the Church Hall

**Financial update:**

**Bills paid this week:**

- ✓ Cleaning of Church and Church Hall: \$100.00

Total bills paid this week: \$100.00 Total collected this week: \$1,813.50. We had a surplus this week of \$1,713.50. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2022, we have a surplus now of \$16,754.93 in 47 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                                                                                     |                                                                                           |
| July 22 and 23 | \$1830.50                   | 51 Adults and 8 children attended the Liturgies on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend. | Included in the collection: \$52.00 for candles, \$4.50 from our antennae, and \$240.00 for 200 Club. |                                                                                           |

