



<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>October 1, 2023</b> <b>Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos</b>

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Matthew Brown-McCarthy, the loving son of Lisa and Father Dennis, on the date of his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 26. This is requested by the McCarthy and Brown families. May his sweet memory be eternal!

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

**Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy:** For the repose of the soul of Linda Abbiati, the loving mother of Laura Massad, on the first year of her anniversary of falling asleep in the Lord; requested by Laura and Gerard Massad. May her memory be eternal!

**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, William Brown, Rebecca and her son Karter, and Cindy, and Alexa Massad Powers

**Meditation of the Day:** “If you are thinking of becoming truly a committed Christian, I warn you, you are embarking on something which is going to take the whole of you, brains and all. But, fortunately, it works the other way around also. Anyone who is honestly trying to be a Christian will soon find her or his intelligence sharpened. One of the reasons why it needs no special education to be a Christian is that Christianity is an education itself.”---C. S. Lewis

**Quote of the Day:** “God loves those who thank Him even in suffering:”---Saint Arnold Janssen

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “It is He who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom, and by His understanding stretched out the heavens.”---Jeremiah 10:12

**Sanctuary Lamp:** The lamp will be illuminated in the month of October for the repose of the soul of Mary Facas, the loving mother of Gloria Jeffords; requested by Gloria and John Jeffords.

**What is the Miraculous Medal?** This medal, also known as the Medal of Our Lady of Graces, is a devotional medal, the design of which was originated by Saint Catherine Laboure, following the apparitions of the Theotokos in a chapel in Paris, France.

Saint Catherine stated that on July 18, 1830, she woke up after hearing the voice of a child calling her to the chapel. She heard the voice of Mary say to her, “God wishes to charge you with a mission. You will be contradicted, but do not fear; you will have the grace to do what is necessary. Tell your spiritual advisor all that passes within you. Times are evil in France and in the world”.

On November 27, 1830, Catherine reported that the Theotokos returned to the chapel. She displayed herself in an oval frame, standing on a globe. She wore many rings with gems that shone rays of light over the globe. Around her were appeared the words, in French, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee”.

As Catherine watched, the frame seemed to rotate, showing a circle of 12 stars, a large letter “M” surmounted by a cross and a stylized Sacred Heart of Jesus, crowned with thorns, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced with a sword. Asked why some of the gems did not shed light, Mary reportedly said, “Those are the graces for which people forget to ask”. Sister Catherine then heard Mary ask her to take the images to her father confessor, telling him that they should be put on medallions, and saying, “All who wear this medal will receive great graces”.

Sister Catherine did so, and after two years of investigation and observation of her ordinary, daily behavior, the priest took the information to his archbishop without revealing her identity. The request was approved and medals were designed by and produced through goldsmith Adrien Vachette.

Pope John Paul II used a slight variation of the reverse image of the medal as his coat of arms. It consisted of the Marian Cross, a plain cross with an “M” underneath the right hand bar (which signified the Blessed Virgin at the foot of the Cross when Jesus was being crucified). You, also, can take up Our Lady’s call to wear her medal, as Father Dennis will be giving blessed medals to all at the Liturgies this weekend.

**NO LITURGY on Saturday, November 11:** Father Dennis will be in Massachusetts concelebrating a wedding. Please attend one of our two Liturgies on Sunday, November 12.

**Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial:** This will occur at the end of 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, October 1.

## NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Grace Monastery, 11 Race Hill Road, Guilford, CT:** It will take place this Sunday, October 1 at 3:00pm. We will celebrate Vespers, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, and a short procession to the Fatima Shrine. The priest will be Father Brian Mulchay, OP. Join us for the trip. The intention for this Rosary Sunday in the Roman Catholic Church has been designated by Pope Francis for peace in Ukraine. Father Dennis has room for three pilgrims in his car. Please sign up in the rear of the church and indicate if you need a ride.

**Coffee Hour:** Many of our sister churches have a different family or individual family sponsor the coffee hour on Sundays. They simply bring in some food to the coffee hour; the coffee is made by Pierre Hage. This is a great way to share food at table, as Jesus did so many times. It does not have to be elaborate-some cookies or pastry and maybe some fruit. It should not turn into a competition trying to outdo the last week's efforts. Simple and easy is the key. I have put a signup sheet on the table in the back of the church. The coffee hour is extremely important. It allows us to gather after the Divine Liturgy and have fellowship, which is a desire of our Lord. If you attend one of our other Divine Liturgies, this should not stop you from sponsoring the coffee hour and attending the Sunday, 10 am Liturgy that day. This is a way to serve your church and your brothers and sisters, and it is so easy. Father Dennis and Lisa will start this off by sponsoring this Sunday, Oct 1. Please participate and have fun! Father Dennis

**Annual Fall Yard Sale:** Saturday, October 14 from 9:00am to 3:00 pm; rent a place on the lawn for a \$20 fee. We have tables available for those who may need one or two. Just set your items up and sell. You keep the profit. You would be surprised at what people will buy! Everyone in the parish has something they want to dispose of. Instead of putting it in the landfill, sell it! A signup sheet is on the table in the back of the church.

**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 September, we will pray on Wednesday, October 11, and Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30pm. We had a record 15 people at the Rosary on September 13!**

**200 Club:** Our last drawing for the year occurred on June 11. If you wish to participate in the October 2023 to September 2024, 200 Club year, the cost is now \$60. The prizes remain the same. These are the people who have joined for this year's drawings. If you wish to join, you still can. Our first drawing will take place on Sunday, October 8 after Liturgy.

1. John Jeffords
2. Gloria Jeffords
3. Bechara El Khoury
4. Alex Antipoff
5. Joe Doro
6. Paul Zalonski
7. Faouzi Hage
8. Katia Hage
9. George Homsey
10. Ed Najim
11. Tim Jones
12. Afif Hage
13. Joumana Hajj
14. Gabriel Hajj
15. Laura Massad
16. Gerard Massad
17. Father Dennis
18. Lisa
19. Karen Jones
20. Joe Zizik
21. Roberta Zizik
22. Ray Sobanski
23. Anna Sobanski
24. Gus Hage
25. Nicholas Moukawsher
26. Gerry Egan
27. Father Ed Kakaty

If you joined and your name is not on this list, please see Father Dennis.

**Financial update; Bills paid last week:**

- ✓ Eparchy \$6,126.30 for assessment, medical insurance, and retirement fund for August and September.
- ✓ Integrated Security Systems: \$408.00 for security/fire alarm system maintenance.
- ✓ Enders Island: \$60.00 for 3 people who were not in our original count.
- ✓ Landscaping: \$250.00 for fertilizer and mums.
- ✓ Maintenance: \$56.03 for cleaning supplies for church and church hall.
- ✓ Miscellaneous: \$70.14 for flowers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos and toilet paper and paper towels for church and church hall.
- ✓ Saint Elijah Day: \$130.00 for food and supplies for the barbeque.
- ✓ Eastern Christian Bulletin Service: \$94.00 for weekly bulletin covers.

Total bills paid the last week: \$7,194.47 Total collected last week \$1,125.00. We had deficit last week of \$6,069.47. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$3,584.47 in three 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.**

**Note: Gilbert Shasha donated \$1,000 last Sunday and Gil and his sisters, Mary and Judy, donated \$250 for Judy’s husband’s memorial Liturgy. Without their generosity, we would have only collected \$621.00, excluding candle donations. Please consider tithing. That way we will not need to rely on extra events to support our church. Thanks, Father Dennis.**

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	
September 23 & 24	\$1,987.00	31 Adults and 2 Children attended the Liturgies last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$96.00 for candles.	