



<b>ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>	
41 Cross Rd, Waterford, CT 06385	
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Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: <a href="mailto:abounadennis@gmail.com">abounadennis@gmail.com</a> Cell phone: 860 287 0677	<b>October 15, 2023</b> <b>Fathers of the</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council</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. This is requested by the McCarthy and Brown families. May his 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 peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

**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, Alexa Massad

**Meditation of the Day:** “The vow of poverty is a generous renunciation and detachment from the heavy burden of temporal things. It is an alleviation of the spirit, it is a relief afforded to human infirmity, the liberaty of the noble heart to strive after eternal and spiritual blessings. It is satiety and abundance, in which the thirst after earthy treasures is allayed and the sovereignty and ownership, in which a most noble enjoyment of all riches is established. All this, and many other blessings are contained in voluntary poverty, and all this people of the world are ignorant and deprived of, precisely because they are lovers of earthly riches and enemies of this holy and opulent poverty.”--- Venerable Mary of Agreda

**Quote of the Day:** “No one can make excuses, because anyone can love God; and He does not ask the soul for more than to love Him, because He loves the soul, and it is His love.”--- Blessed Angela of Foligno

**The Serenity Prayer:** “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”—Reinhold Niebuhr

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “We know that we belong to God, and the whole world is under the power of the evil one. We also know that the Son of God has come and has given us discernment to know the One who is true. And we are in the One who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal.”--- 1 John 5:19-20

**What does “*memento mori*” mean?**

- We are all going to die
- Every single one of us.
- And, over time, so will all those whom we love and know.

The reality can strike fear in the heart of even the most faithful Christian. Yet, if we are pursuing holiness and conformity to God’s will, we need not fear what the future has in store for us. It is heaven and union with the Lord, which is the source of our joy.

Christ already died for each of us, and if we have been baptized, then we have died to the world through our baptism in Him. If we understand and believe these truths of our faith, we can live freely in the light of His love for us. We can let go of our lives seeking his will and aspiring only for His will to be done. We can let go of our fear of death and embrace the unique mission He asks of us in our finite time on earth.

Fear is a natural part of our humanity, but it is not the better part. The better part is to fix our gaze confidently on God, Who desires all to be saved. Instead of focusing on the unfamiliar, uncontrollable aspects of bodily death, God calls us to rejoice in the gift of our immortal souls, and to embrace the hope and the promise implicit in bodily death.

This is the grace of the practice of *memento mori*, which is Latin for “Remember your death”. To take this concept to heart is to remember our own deaths, and to live each day so that we are prepared to see the Face of God. The practice of *memento mori* is essential, as it keeps the reality of our mortality present in our minds so that we may best live in a manner that will grant us heaven upon our death. How powerful to ready ourselves in the here and now, which is fleeting, for the gift of eternity with Jesus Christ.

This is precious. Every moment is a gift and mystery. One day, at the hand of death, we will look upon the One Who we know loves us. His kingdom and our relationship to Him will endure into eternity, when we have left all we know of this world behind us.”---The Catholic Company website

**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, November 5.

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

**Bishop Francois’ visit:** The Bishop will visit us for services on Saturday, October 21, and Sunday, October 22. He wants to meet with all parishioners and the Parish Council after Liturgy. We will have a meal on Sunday after Liturgy in the church hall. There is no cost to parishioners for the meal; of course, with our present fiscal deficit, donations will be welcome. Please attend and meet our Bishop and ask any questions you may have. Father Dennis

**Divine Liturgy:** In honor Saints Cosmas and Damien, we will have a Liturgy on their Feast Day and an anointing service. This will occur on November 1 at 5:30 pm. This day is also the seven year anniversary of death of Lisa and my son, Matthew. This idea was proposed to me by Subdeacon Paul. Father Dennis

**A Call for Prayer and Fasting:** The Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries in the Holy Land issued a document asking for a day of prayer and fasting on this Tuesday, October 17. We will celebrate Akathist at 6:00 pm at the church. Please join us.

**Parish Advisory Council Meeting:** October 29, after Liturgy

**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.

**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 sign-up 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. Please participate and have fun! Father Dennis

**200 Club:** 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. If you wish to join, you still can. Our first drawing took place on Sunday, October 8 after Liturgy. The winners:

- \$50: Father Dennis
- \$25: John Jeffords
- \$10: Bechara El Khoury
- \$10: Alex Antipoff
- \$10: Roberta Zizik

Our next drawing will be on November 12 after Liturgy at Coffee Hour.

**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 October, we will pray on Wednesday, October 18, and Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30pm. This change is due to Father Dennis being in Detroit from October 9 to 13, for the annual Clergy Conference.**

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

- Dumpster Rental: \$350
- Father Dennis’ September Salary: \$2,383.22

Total bills paid the last week: \$2,733.22. Total collected last week \$1,100.00. We had a deficit last week of \$1,633.22. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$4,967.85 in five weeks. **A bad start to the fiscal year!** 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.

**Please consider tithing. That way we will not need to rely on extra events to support our church. For example, if you make \$50,000 per year, the tithe would be \$5,000. If you gave 5%, you would contribute \$2,500 per year. Thanks, Father Dennis.**

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
October 11 & October 12	\$1,100.00	37 Adults and 4 Children attended the Liturgies last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$43.00 for candles, and \$75.00 for Hall Rental from Alcoholics Anonymous.	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.