



ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH	
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Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: abounadennis@gmail.com Cell phone: 860 287 0677	October 22, 2023 6th Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

We welcome our father and Most Reverend Bishop Francois Beyrousti to Saint Ann’s this weekend! May God grant him many years!

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: For the repose of the soul of Rita Jalonski, the loving wife of John Jalonski This is requested by John Jalonski. May her 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 peace, health, and salvation of Raymond and Anna Sobanski on the celebration of their 45th Wedding Anniversary (October 7). Congratulations Ray and Anna!

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: “Exterior silence is an ascetic exercise of self mastery in the use of speech. First of all, it may be helpful to recall what asceticism is. This word is not praised to the skies by our consumer society; far from it! Asceticism is a means that helps us remove from our life anything that weighs us down, in other words, whatever hampers our spiritual life and, therefore, is an obstacle to prayer. Yes , it is indeed in prayer that God communicates His Life to us and manifests his presence in our soul and prayer is essentially silence.”--- Robert Cardinal Sarah, page 141 of his book *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*.

Quote of the Day: “Faith and love are like the blind man’s guides. They will lead you along a path unknown to you, to the place where God is hidden”.---Saint John of the Cross

Bible Verse of the Day: “When they take you before rulers and authorities, do not worry about how or what your defense will be or about what you are to say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you, at that moment, what you should say.”---Luke 12: 11-12

What exactly are icons? Prayerful and powerful, icons demonstrate the essential role art plays in our Faith! Since the earliest centuries of the Church, Christians have used artistic imagery to depict the theological truths of our Faith. Because God created us as creatures who learn through our senses, visual art is essential to our spiritual life. In fact, sacred art can function as its own prayer language. This is most clearly evident in the ancient Christian tradition of iconography.

The Church has always been confident in the use of material objects for worship because Christianity itself is inherently incarnational: Jesus became incarnate and freely used the material world to teach, heal, and sanctify His human creatures.

With icons, the truths of the Christian Faith are transmitted through a specific and regulated way. That is why icons are described as being “written” as though they were a true language, and not merely “painted” as a form of art. Each symbol and color has a special significance that is intended for prayerful contemplation, so that the icon can serve as a window into heaven.

Icons have been an essential part of Christian prayer and worship since the early Church. Known as the first “icon writer”, Saint Luke the Evangelist is said to have written the first icons of the Theotokos from life.

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

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 for the meal; of course, with our present fiscal deficit, donations will be welcome and will be presented to the Bishop for the suffering people of the Middle East. 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

Divine Liturgy: The Divine Liturgy on Saturday October 28 at 5:00 PM will be offered for the repose of the soul of Francis Kozmon. This is requested by Alexis Kozmon, her brothers, and family. May Frank’s memory be eternal!

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 Tuesday, October 17. We celebrated Akathist and Compline. We had 12 people attend. Thanks to all who participated. It was a beautiful service.

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: October 29, after Liturgy

Coffee Hour: Many of our sister churches have a different family or individual 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! Thanks to all who have volunteered. We have volunteers through December 31, 2023. We have two available dates that are not covered. Father Dennis

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.

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: \$3.57 Last week’s bulletin stated \$350 when total cost was \$353.75
- Sewer Bill: \$366.50 for the period 5/31/23 to 9/2/23
- Eparchy:\$3,063.15 for monthly Assessment, Medical Insurance for Father Dennis and Lisa, and the Priest Retirement Fund.
- Property Insurance: \$500.00. We still owe \$1,000.00 due by the end of the year

Total bills paid the last week: \$3933.22. Total collected last week \$2,024.00. We had a deficit last week of \$1,909.22. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$6,877.07 in six 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. A \$6, 877.07 deficit in 6 weeks of the new fiscal year is not sustainable! We are not a poor parish. Please consider tithing or something close to that. Thanks, Father Dennis.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer	Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer	Sunday: Volunteer	
October 14 & October 15	\$2,084.00.00	52 Adults and 5 Children attended the Liturgies last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$40.00 for candles,\$50.00 for the Building Fund, and \$185.00.00 profit from the Yard Sale.
			Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.