



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	November 5, 2023 5th Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: The Divine Liturgy 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!

For the repose of the souls of Jacqueline Jabbour Matta, the loving sister of Joumana Hajj, on the 5 year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord. Also, this Divine Liturgy is offered for the repose of the souls of the dear parents of Joumana, Elias and Abla Jabbour. May all their memories be eternal! This is requested by Joumana and Gabriel Hajj and family.

Sunday 8:00 am Spanish/English Liturgy: For the repose of the souls of Jacqueline Jabbour Matta, the loving sister of Joumana Hajj, on the 5 year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord. Also, this Divine Liturgy is offered for the repose of the souls of the dear parents of Joumana, Elias and Abla Jabbour. May all their memories be eternal! This is requested by Joumana and Gabriel Hajj and family.

Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy: For the peace, health, and salvation of Irene McCarthy (mother) and Kathleen McCarthy (sister); requested by Father Dennis and Lisa.

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: “Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity, in those senses which made us use to sin. I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like. I, Sister Faustina, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of hell, so that I might tell souls about it and testify to its existence.”--- Saint Faustina Kowalska

Quote of the Day: “Never say, ‘What great things the Saints do.’ but rather “What great things God does in His Saints.”---Saint Philip Neri

Bible Verse of the Day: “Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth!” “The Lord of hosts (Sabaoth) is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge.”-- -Psalm 46: 10-11

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

2nd Collection: This weekend, November 4 and 5 we will have a second collection for the Catholic World Missions. Please be as generous as you can.

Divine Liturgy: Sunday, November 12, at the 10:00AM Liturgy, we will remember the Wedding Anniversary (November 16 is the actual date of the anniversary) of Longin and Anna Sobanski, requested by Raymond and Anna Sobanski.

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: November 19, after Liturgy

Sanctuary Lamp: The lamp will be illuminated in the month of November for the repose of the soul of Stephen Massad, requested by Gloria and John Jeffords. May his memory be eternal!

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 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. Please participate and have fun! Thanks to all who have volunteered. We have volunteers through December 31, 2023 .Only one day is open now, December 31. **The schedule for the next 4 weeks is: November 5-Karen, Larry, and Tim Jones; Nov 12-George and Bev Homsey; Nov 19- Habib, Sandra, and Serhan; Nov 26-Joe and Cindy Doro.**

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.

Seven Reasons Why the Saints are Important: In these challenging times, it is wise to “get back to the basics” and reflect on what a great gift we have as Christians. We have been given the examples and living intercession of the Saints. Let us consider just seven of the many.

1. **They are real!** Seeing a photograph of Saint Therese of Lisieux resting in a chair near the end of her life, some American parochial students surprised their teacher with the question: “You mean she was real?” The reality of the Saints is the place for us to start. These women and men and their stories and words are not legends, or some kind of religious equivalent of super heroes, or even two-dimensional historical figures, however inspiring. They really lived, and still live in the heavenly world.
2. **The Saints struggled with the very problems we do and some much worse.** When we are anxious about headlines, we should remember Saint Catherine of Sienna, who ministered lovingly to the sick, when the townspeople were dying in the streets from the Black Plague. When we are dismayed by the limitations placed on Christian worship and the evil talk cast on the Christian faith that we see today, we should remember Saint Lawrence the Martyr who, while being roasted to death on a grill, told his pagan torturers, “I am well done on this side. Turn me over!” When we are troubled by harmful thoughts, we should remember Saint Mary of Egypt, who struggled heroically and alone in the desert for decades; fighting the urge to return to the decadent life from which she had been called. The Saints know what we are going through and will respond with intercessory prayer to God when we ask for their help.
3. **The Saints are our heavenly helpers.** Many of us experienced for ourselves what millions of Christians have found during the long history of the church—that saints are ready to respond to our prayers, to bless, protect, heal, and help sanctify us. During their own earthly journey, the Saints themselves discovered this for themselves. Saint John Vianney continually turned toward the martyr Saint Philomena for her miraculous intercession. Saint Andre of Montreal found Saint Joseph to be a healer and helper in all troubles and Saint Andre counseled all he met to: “Go to Saint Joseph!” The little known contemporary Saint Pope Kyrillos VI made a third century martyr, Saint Mina, his miraculous helpmate in his difficult task of leading the Coptic Christians.
4. **The message of the Saints’ lives and teachings are timeless.** We may not face an emperor demanding we sacrifice to pagan gods, or a king requiring us to condone his adultery, but the supernatural courage and heroic examples of a Saint George or a Saint Thomas More are an inspiration for all time. They called evil what it was and fought, at the risk of lives, to combat it. How pertinent they are to our own struggles, as the Christians of today face a new degree and manner of persecution and lies from our politicians.
5. **The words and actions of the Saints are a sure guide and authority on how we should live.** In an age when many find celebrity more attractive than sanctity and virtue-signaling takes the place of real virtue, we need to move our focus from the ways of the world and turn to the saints for a guiding light. Why not use the very tools of this age to do this? You can find excellent videos on YouTube. Amazon is a great source for

biographies of the saints and books of their writings, many of which are out of print and only available from the many independent bookstores that list their inventory there.

6. **The Saints are the best role models for sanctity.** If we make remembrance of the Saints our constant companion and study, we will find their example becoming a measure of our own behavior. You become what you contemplate.
7. **Make friends with the Saints, and they will be with us and help us.** Christian tradition clearly shows us the way to open a window into heaven. If we place the icons of the Saints in our homes, honor and pray to them for intercession, especially on their feast days, and remember to always turn to them for guidance and help in every need, however great or small, we can experience for ourselves their blessed protection, healing, and intercession.---Edited in part from *The Catholic Company* website

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

Holy Rosary: On 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 November, we will pray on Wednesday, November 8, and Wednesday, November 29, at 5:30pm. We are getting between 12-15 people at the Holy Rosary. If you are not attending, please try to come. It is beautiful!**

Financial update; Bills paid last week:

- Transportation: \$74.30 for Father Dennis’s transport from the Detroit airport (round trip) to the Clergy Conference.
- U.S. Postal Service: \$1.83 for mailing a copy of a Baptism Certificate.
- Wine for Communion: \$31.12
- Fertilizer and Lime for the Church lawn: \$113.24
- Orkin Pest Control: \$186.11 for quarterly treatment for rodents and insects
- Frontier Communications; \$259.22 for cable, internet, and land line phone.

Total bills paid the last week: \$665.82. Total collected last week \$2,461.99. We had a surplus last week of \$1,796.17. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$5,264.12 in eight 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.

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.**

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 \$5,264.12 deficit in 8 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	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
October 28 & October 29	\$2,461.99	43 Adults and 5 Children attended the Liturgies last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$50.00 for candles, \$510.00 for the Church Hall rental from Alcoholics Anonymous, \$40.00 for the Building Fund, and \$40 for Fuel, and \$435.99 from Clothing Shed for 3 months.	