



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 19, 2023 9th Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: For the repose of the souls of Thomas McCarthy and Matthew Brown-McCarthy, the father of Father Dennis and the son of Lisa and Father Dennis respectively. May Thomas’ and Matthew’s memories be eternal! This is requested by Lisa and Father Dennis

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

Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy: The Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of Victor Antipoff, the loving father of Alex Antipoff. This is requested by Alex and Betty Antipoff and family. May Victor’s memory be eternal!

Also, for the repose of the soul of Joseph Yameen (4 months), the loving father of Yolla El Khoury. This is requested by Yolla and Bechara El Khoury and family. May Joseph’s memory be eternal!

Please pray for: Peace in the Ukraine, Middle East, and anywhere in the world where there is armed conflict, hunger, and abuse. Pray that all leaders of the world have a spiritual awakening to dispose of their self-interest and care for their people, as Christ would want them to. Let them become peacemakers. As the priest prays on page 40 of our yellow booklets...”for our public servants, for the government, and for all who protect us. O Lord, grant them peaceful rule that we too, in their tranquility, may lead calm and quiet life in all virtue and honor”.

Nativity Fast: In Melkite observance, this fast begins at sundown on December 10 and continues until sundown on December 21.

Good News: Adam Bridges Contracting put a new storm door on the rectory entrance and donated the door and labor ! Thank you Adam!

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 Moore and her son Karter Moore, Alexa Massad

Meditation of the Day: “The story of Christ’s life and ministry cannot be told without giving due space to Satan’s activity. The Gospel writers carefully distinguish between cases of mere physical ailments and cases of demonic character, both of which Jesus cures. Jesus frequently refers to the devil in his parables and other teachings, and the devil himself tempts Jesus in the desert and returns again later to engineer Jesus’ betrayal (John 13:2). This Gospel motif teaches us an undeniable, if uncomfortable lesson: the devil is real, and he is interested in counteracting the work of grace. In one sense, accepting the fundamental truth, and keeping it always in the back of our minds, can comfort us tremendously. It helps us make sense of all the unpleasant influences at work in and around us. We are not crazy, we are not failures, we are simply engaged in a spiritual battle. If we believe in Jesus Christ, we must also believe in the devil. Doomed as he is, he would love to take as many souls as he can along with him.” --- From the book: *The Four Gospels* by Father John Bartunek, page 350.

Quote of the Day: “The person who enters into the secret place of his or her own soul passes beyond themselves and does, in very truth, ascend to God. Banish, therefore, from thy heart the distractions of the earth and turn thine eyes to spiritual joys, that thou mayest learn at last to repose in the light of the contemplation of God.”---Saint Albert the Great

Who is the only female saint called “the Great”? This saint was known for her great humility. Saint Gertrude was born in Germany in 1256. At the early age of five, she was sent to live with the Benedictine sisters. She was an obedient, amiable, and profoundly humble child, and those who knew her were impressed by her virtues. When she was old enough, she entered the order and gave herself to intense study.

She was twenty-six when Our Lord first appeared to her, showing her His Sacred Heart. From this time on, she frequently received visions concerning the Sacred Heart. The visions were so engrossing that she would be utterly insensible to anything around her. In her great humility, she begged Our Lord that no outward sign would reveal her as a visionary to others.

Inflamed by the visions , Gertrude gave up all other studies and devoted herself to theology. She wrote numerous spiritual works and worked to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart. Her final years were marked with illness and pain, which she bore with sweetness and love. You can read more about her in the beautiful book, *Life and Revelations of Saint Gertrude the Great*. Her Feast Day was November 16th.

Bible Verse of the Day: “As you do not know how the Spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God Who makes everything.”---

Ecclesiastes: 11-5

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS:

Divine Liturgy: Holy Feast: Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple: This important Feast Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 21 at 5:30 PM. This is a **major** Feast Day, and as a Catholic, you should attend. If work prevents you from being here, employers have a legal obligation to make reasonable accommodations to allow employees to attend religious observances. Unless you are sick, there is no excuse not to attend.—Father Dennis

Parish Advisory Council Meeting: November 19, after Liturgy

Sanctuary Lamp: The lamp will be illuminated during 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: Nov 19- Habib Serhan and Sandra Youness; Nov 26-Joe and Cindy Doro, Dec 3- Joumana and Gabriel Hajj; Dec 10-Dina Matar.**

Reader List: There is a sign-up list on the table in the back of the Church for those who would like to read the Epistle on particular days. Father Dennis will teach you how to do it, if you need a refresher.

Christmas Schedule:

- ❖ **Sunday: December 24, at 8:00 AM; regular Spanish/English Liturgy**
- ❖ **Sunday: December 24, at 10:00 AM; regular Sunday Liturgy**
- ❖ **Sunday: December 24, at 7:00 PM; Feast of The Nativity of the Lord**
- ❖ **Monday: December 25; at 10:00 AM; Feast of the Nativity of the Lord**

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 December 16 after Liturgy at Coffee Hour. The winners for November are: \$50 Nicholas Moukawsher; \$25 George Homsey; \$10 Gloria Jeffords; \$10 Amanda Hajj; \$10 Father Dennis. Congratulations to our winners. The checks will be mailed to your homes this week.

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!**

Divine Liturgy: Monday, December 4 at 5:30 PM: Saint Barbara’s Day. We will light sparklers at the end of Liturgy outside. Saint Barbara is the patron saint of artillerymen and women, among others. This would be a fitting way to celebrate her Feast Day!

Divine Liturgy: Sunday, December 10 at 10AM: Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, will visit us and will give coins and gifts to the children at the end of Liturgy.

Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial: This will occur at the end of 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, December 3.

Financial update; bills paid last week.

- Landscaping to Joan Van Ness: \$565.00 for lawn mowing, planting, trimming, fertilizing, and weeding for the months of September and October.
- Cleaning: \$240.00 to Michael Taptick for cleaning of the Church, conference room, conference room foyer, conference room bathroom, Church hall and bathrooms, Church hall kitchen, and Church hall foyer for September, October, and November.
- Parking: \$100.00 for transportation to Providence Airport and back for Father Dennis’ trip to the Clergy Conference in Detroit
- Bishop’s Dinner: \$328.81 for food and supplies.

Total bills paid the last week: \$1,233.81.00. Total collected last week \$2,276.24. We had a surplus last week of \$1,042.43. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$2,560.74 in ten 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 \$2,560.74 deficit in 10 weeks of the new fiscal year is not sustainable! We are not a poor parish.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer	
November 11 & November 12	\$2,276.24	38 Adults and 2 Children attended Liturgy last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$246.00 for candles, \$240.00 for the 200 Club, and \$162.24 from the Clothing Shed.	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.