

<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: abounadennis@gmail.com m Cell phone: 860 287 0677	<b>November 12, 2023</b> <b>8th Sunday After the</b> <b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy:** No Liturgy. Father Dennis is at a wedding in Massachusetts.

**Sunday 8:00 am Spanish/English Liturgy:** No Liturgy. Father Dennis is at a wedding in Massachusetts.

**Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy:**

For the repose of the soul of, Florence Lawrence, the loving mother of James Lawrence (November 6, 2020). This is requested by James. May her memory be eternal!

Also, 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.

**Today's Liturgy, Proper Parts:**

**2nd Antiphon**

**Troparion of the Resurrection:** page 73

**Troparion of Saint Ann:** page 19

**Kondakion of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin:** page 77

**Prokimenon:**

- **Reader:** The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.
- **People:** The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.
- **Reader:** Give to the Lord you sons and daughters of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

- **People:** The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.
- **Reader:** The Lord will give strength to His people;
- **People:** the Lord will bless His people with peace.

**PERMANENT CHANGES TO LITURGY:**

- ❖ Instead of singing “A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.” we will sing “Mercy and peace, a sacrifice of praise”.
- ❖ Instead of singing “Remember all men and women.” we will sing “Sanctify them, Lord, and protect all the faithful”.

**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”.

**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 English word “sin” represents a condition which is opposed to the divine likeness as a death is to life, darkness to light, or illness to health. While the Scriptures use a number of images to describe this condition, such as death, lawlessness, deviation or hatred, the principal word used in the Bible to describe it is *hamarartia*, a Greek word which means to ‘miss the mark’, to fail; like an archer missing the target. Sin, then, can never be seen

simply as a vacuum, the absence of some expected good, but denotes a falling, a disintegration, a corruption. An arrow shot at a target does not simply stop, if it misses the target, but goes beyond it and can be lost, or cause damage.” From the book: *Shown to Be Holy* by God with Us Publications, page 27-28

**Quote of the Day:** “If you become Christ’s, you will stumble upon wonder upon wonder, and every one of them is true.”---Saint Brendan

**Bible Verse of the Day:** “And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life.”---1 John 5: 11-12

**Which saint’s own father refused to acknowledge him?** With a dark complexion and distinct features, he inherited from his mother, a freed slave of African or Native American descent, Saint Martin de Porres’s mere existence was upsetting to his father. a wealthy Spanish gentleman.

Not only did Martin’s father abandon Martin and his mother to poverty, he refused to even acknowledge his son’s existence. Left with physical suffering inflicted by poverty, Saint Martin was also left with deep psychological suffering from the abandonment and neglect of his father.

Yet, despite these unimaginable pains, Saint Martin did not grow bitter. Rather, he became a young man of great compassion, caring deeply for those suffering poverty alongside him. Although initially apprenticed as a barber and medical practitioner (Yes, in Peru in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, these trades were often practiced together!), Saint Martin’s love for his Faith and profound compassion for others led him to enter a life of service. Following God’s call, Saint Martin applied to the Dominicans to be a “lay helper”, not feeling worthy to be a religious brother.

The wounds of his abandonment and neglect still shaped Martin, convincing him that he would always be “lesser”...unworthy. The Dominican brothers, he worked with, not only recognized his inherent dignity, they recognized his deep and abiding holiness. After nine years, the example of his prayer, penance, charity, and humility led the community to request him to make a full religious profession.

Saint Martin was instrumental in founding an orphanage, took care of slaves brought from Africa, and managed daily alms of the priory with practicality as well as generosity. He would regularly experience ecstasies that lifted him into the air and light would often fill the room where he prayed. He also possessed the gifts of bi-location (being in two places at the same time), miraculous knowledge, and instantaneous cures.

Saint Martin put his whole life in God’s hands. Beginning with the difficult circumstances of his birth and childhood, he humbly surrendered everything to the will of God. God chooses the

lowliest for some of His greatest blessings! Saint Martin, pray for us! From *The Catholic Company* website

## NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS:

**2nd Collection:** On November 4 and 5 we will had a second collection for the Catholic World Missions. We collected \$223.00, which was sent to the Eparchy on Monday, November 6, 2023. Thank you to all who contributed. This money, combined with what other Catholic Churches collected, will help the poor in the United States and around the world. Those who gave money are following Jesus’ command, not a request, to aid the poor. Those, who did not contribute, missed out on obeying the Lord. These types of things are opportunities to actually live your faith. Do not let them pass by. Store up treasure in heaven and not on earth! This is where the “rubber meets the road”. Practice your faith at every opportunity.—Father Dennis

**Divine Liturgy:** Liturgy on Sunday, November 19, 10:00 AM 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!

**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 3 weeks is: November Nov 12-George and Bev Homsey; Nov 19- Habib Serhan and Sandra Youness; Nov 26-Joe and Cindy Doro.**

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

**Divine Liturgy:** Monday, December 4 at 5:30 PM: Saint Barbara’s 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.

**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**

**Church Etiquette: Below are listed some things that you should adhere to at church:**

1. Bathroom: Many people drive long distances or have little children. While not always possible, please use the conference room bathroom before Liturgy or after. It is a distraction to the Liturgy to have people walking through the sacristy. If you need to use the conference room bathroom, please use one of the church entrances/exits and enter by the church office door. The doors to the hall will be open during Liturgy, so folks can also use the hall bathrooms, if they can navigate the stairs. Also, the outside doors to the hall will be open for those who cannot navigate the stairs.
2. Please do not come into the sacristy area before Liturgy. If you need to tell something to the priest, email or call, otherwise wait until Liturgy is over. There are preparations going on for the service and people entering the sacristy causes distraction.
3. We are doing a good job of putting the booklets with the binders facing up in the pew holders. Please return all bulletins and papers that you are not taking home to the place you pick them up in the rear of the church.
4. If you are bringing bread for a memorial, please let Father Dennis know in advance, so he will not have to prepare the antidoron. Also, please bring it no later than a half hour of the start of the Liturgy, so that there is not a rush to properly display it.
5. If we have a procession, it should be done silently and with reverence. There should be no talking. For the Little and Great Entrances, please get the fans, candles, and crosses ready well before the priest comes from the altar. This prevents the last minute rush and distraction.

Thank you for your cooperation, 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. 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:**

- Eversource: \$548.05 for electricity for Church, Driveway Lights, Barn, Conference Room heat, Outside Church Lighting for month of October 2023.
  - Eastern Christian Bulletin Service: \$106.00 for bulletins for period November 12,2023 to February 11, 2024
  - Salucca Dumpster Company: \$375.00 to clean out rectory garage and anteroom in the garage, attic, and complete the cleaning of the barn.

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	
November 4 & November 5	\$2,690.00	54 Adults and 7 Children attended the Liturgies last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$23.00 for candles and \$1,000.00 for church maintenance from one parishioner.	

Total bills paid the last week: \$1,029.05. Total collected last week \$2,690.00. We had a surplus last week of \$1,660.95. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$3,603.17 in nine 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 \$3,603.17 deficit in 9 weeks of the new fiscal year is not sustainable! We are not a poor parish. Note: An anonymous parishioner gave \$1000.00 for the repair of the urinal and the men’s restroom and the repair of the stove in the Church Hall Kitchen. We greatly thank this generous person for the donation.**