



ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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December 24, 2023

Sunday Before the Nativity of the Lord

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: For the peace, health, and salvation of William Brown, the brother of Lisa and brother in law of Father Dennis.

Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy: For the peace, health, and salvation of Father John Azar, requested by the parish.

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, 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, Father John Azar

Quote of the Day: “Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you? He burns with desire to come into your heart.”---Saint Therese of Lisieux

Today’s Meditation: “In that first Blessed Christmas night, Joseph became the patron, the vicar, and patriarch of the whole Catholic Church. It is certain, Saint Athanasius tells us, that the stable where Jesus was born is a ‘figure of the Church, whose altar is the manger, whose vicar is Joseph, whose ministers are the shepherds, whose priests are the angels, whose great High Priest is Jesus Christ, and whose throne is the Blessed Virgin’”.--- Edward Healy Thompson, from his book *The Life and Glories of Saint Joseph*, page 233

Bible Verse of the Day: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”---Hebrews 13:8

Who are the Fourteen Holy Helpers? They are fourteen saints that are collectively invoked against various ailments and dangers. Devotion to these saints began in the 14th Century Germany, which was suffering from the bubonic plague. Called the *Nothelfer* or “Helpers in Need” in German, devotion to them eventually spread to other countries. Their feast is kept in some places on August 8. Theses saints are mostly drawn from the ranks of the early Church martyrs. Each one is invoked against a particular affliction, often related to the means of their martyrdom.

- ❖ Saint Acatius: 4th Century captain in the Roman Army. Some say he was crowned with thorns and beheaded. Invoked against headaches.
- ❖ Saint Barbara: 3rd Century martyr killed by her own father. Lightening struck him as punishment. Invoked against lightening and fire.
- ❖ Saint Blaise: 4th Century martyr-bishop. Cured a child choking on a fishbone. Invoked against throat ailments.
- ❖ Saint Catherine of Alexandria: 4th Century Egyptian martyr famous for her learning. Invoked by lawyers and against diseases of the tongue.
- ❖ Saint Christopher: “Christ Bearer”. 3rd Century martyr who carried the Christ Child across a stream. Invoked against travel dangers and sudden death.
- ❖ Saint Cyriacus: 4th Century Roman deacon martyr. Cured Emperor Diocletian’s daughter, possibly of blindness. Invoked against eye diseases.
- ❖ Saint Denis: 3rd Century missionary to France. Bishop of Paris. Martyred by beheading. According to legend, he picked up his head and walked, hence he is often pictured with his head in his hands. Invoked against demonic attacks and headaches.
- ❖ Saint Erasmus (Elmo): 4th Century Italian martyr bishop. Tortured by having his intestines pulled out. Namesake of “Saint Elmo’s Fire”, an electric phenomenon that precedes some storms at sea. Invoked against stomach ailments and a favorite saint of sailors.
- ❖ Saint Eustace: 2nd Century General in Trajan’s army. Saw a stag with a cross between its antlers. Converted wife and children. Burned alive in an oven. Invoked against fires.
- ❖ Saint George: 4th Century soldier under Diocletion.Saved a princess. Died a martyr. Invoked against skin diseases and palsy.
- ❖ Saint Giles: 7th Century Athenian monk. Founded Benedictine community in France. Told Charles Martel to go to confession. Invoked against crippling diseases.
- ❖ Saint Margaret of Antioch: 4th Century martyr. Converted by her holy nurse. A shepherdess. Invoked by women in childbirth an against kidney diseases.
- ❖ Saint Pantaleon: 4th Century doctor employed by the emperor. Nailed to a tree then beheaded. Blood, preserved in Ravello, Italy, liquefies every year. Invoked by doctors and midwives, and against lung diseases.
- ❖ Saint Vitus: 4th Century Sicilian. Converted by his Christian nurse and her husband. All three martyred together. Invoked against paralysis, nervous disease, and epilepsy.

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sanctuary Lamp: The lamp will be illuminated during the month of December for the repose of the souls of Charles Facas, Jr. and Mary Jane Facas, requested by Gloria and John Jeffords. May their memories be eternal!

Coffee Hour: The schedule for the next 2 weeks is: Dec 24- Fidel Alvarez and Carlina Portocarero; Dec 31-Bechara and Yolla El Khoury.

Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial: This will occur at the end of 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Christmas Schedule:

- ❖ Saturday, December 23, at 5:00 PM, regular Saturday Liturgy
- ❖ Sunday: December 24, at 10:00 AM; regular Sunday Liturgy
- ❖ Sunday: December 24, at 5:00 PM; Feast of The Nativity of the Lord (**Change in time**)
- ❖ Monday: December 25, at 10:00 AM; Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Theophany of Our Lord: Celebrated at Saturday, January 6 Liturgy at 5:00pm.

200 Club: Our next drawing will be on January 14, after Liturgy at Coffee Hour. Winners for December are:

- \$50: John Jeffords
- \$25: Joe Zizik
- \$10: Gloria Jeffords
- \$10: Gerard Massad
- \$10: Paul Zalonski

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. **In December, we will pray on Wednesday, December 13, and Wednesday, December 27, at 5:30pm. We are getting between 12-15 people at the Holy Rosary.**

Financial update; bills paid last week:

- No bills were due last week.

Total bills paid the last week: \$0.00. Total collected last week \$2,445.00. We had a surplus last week of \$2,445.00. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023 we have a deficit of \$2,354.09 in 15 weeks.

All donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, priest stole offerings, and funerals are included in the collection total.

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		
December 16 & December 17, 2023	\$2,445.00	44 Adults and 7 Children attended Liturgy last weekend.	Included in the collection: \$15.00 for candles, \$40.00 for flowers, \$45.00 for the Building Fund, \$40.00 for Fuel, and \$261.00 for Christmas Offerings.		