



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	December 31, 2023 Sunday After the Nativity of the Lord

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: For the repose of the souls of Halim and Souad Hage, and also for Malek and Wadad Malek. This is requested by Jack and Alia Hage. May their memories be eternal!

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

Today’s Meditation: “What can you do to strengthen your resolutions and make them succeed? There is no better means than to put them into practice. But you say that you are still so weak, that, although you often make strong resolutions not to fall into the particular imperfection of which you want to cure yourself, no sooner does the occasion present itself then down you go. Shall I tell you why you are so weak? It is because we will not abstain from the food that does not agree with us. It is as if a person, who wished to be free from pains of the stomach, were to ask a physician what he should do. The doctor tells him not to eat the foods that bring you pain, and yet the person will not abstain from them. We are the same. For example, we should like to love reproof and yet we obstinately cling to our own opinions. That is foolishness. You will never be strong enough to bear reproof courageously while you are nourishing yourself with the food of self-esteem. I wish to keep my soul recollected, and yet I will not restrain from all sorts of idle thoughts. The two things are incompatible. Ah! How much I wish I could be steadfast and regular in my religious exercises; at the same time I wish not to find them so trying. In fact, I want to find the work done for me. That cannot be in this life, for we shall always have to labor.”--- Saint Francis de Sales

Quote of the Day: “Remember the sufferings of Christ, the storms that were weathered... the crown that came from those sufferings which gave new radiance to the faith. All saints give testimony to the truth that without real effort, no one ever wins the crown.”---Saint Thomas Becket

Bible Verse of the Day: “So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin.”---James 4:17

Why do we call the Holy Innocents martyrs? Christmas is all things beautiful: consolation, awe, gratitude, and joy. Yet during this happy time of the year, the Church invites us to ponder and remember the violent deaths of some of our most glorious martyrs: the Holy Innocents.

Today, in the midst of our Christmas joy, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 30), also known as Childermas. This feast commemorates the children slaughtered by the barbaric King Herod, whose goal was to kill the Christ Child and preserve his own power. The Holy Innocents died in Christ’s stead so that He could die in ours.

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was furious, and he sent his soldiers to kill all the male children in Bethlehem and in the entire region, who were two years old or under. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

A voice was heard in Ramah,
Wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children,
she refused to be consoled,
because they were no more.

Although they were too young to proclaim Christ with their voices, they proclaimed Him with their lives. When they sacrificed their lives for a Name they did not know, they shed their blood just as He would later in his life. The Holy Innocents died because of Him and for Him. They gave their precious lives so that God’s plan could be fulfilled in Him.

Although these innocent children were not baptized Christians, nor able to enter martyrdom willingly, they are considered martyrs through Christ. Just as Christ makes saints of babies in water baptism every day, He gave the Holy Innocents the grace of becoming saints and martyrs.

While our Christmas joy is tinged with sadness on this day, we celebrate theses children’s glorious place in heaven and their incredible gift to us all.

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: Dec 31-Bechara and Yolla El Khoury. A new signup sheet for the next quarter is on the table in the back of the church.

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

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

200 Club: Our next drawing will be on January 14, after Liturgy at Coffee Hour.
Parish Advisory Council Meeting: Sunday, January 14, after Liturgy in the Hall.

Divine Liturgy: On Sunday, January 14, for the repose of the soul of Cora Massad, the loving mother of Anna, Thecla, and Gerard. This is requested by Anna Sobanski. May Cora’s memory be eternal!

Bishop’s Appeal: It has commenced and ends January 31. Please be generous.

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 January, we will pray on Wednesday, January 10, and Wednesday, January 31, at 5:30pm. We are getting between 12-15 people at the Holy Rosary.**

Financial update; bills paid last week:

- City of New London: \$86.01 for quarterly water bill.
- Eparchy: \$3,063.15 for monthly payment for assessment, medical insurance, and priest retirement fund.
- Father Dennis’ December Salary: \$2,383.22

Total bills paid the last week: \$5,532.38. Total collected last week \$4,940.00. We had a deficit last week of \$592.38. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023, we have a deficit of \$3,946.47 in 17 weeks. All donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, priest stole offerings, and funerals are included in the collection total.

This Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Sean Donkin		Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building. Fund.
Next Weekend	Saturday: Reader: Volunteer		Sunday: Volunteer		
December 23,24, & 25 2023	\$4,940.00.	100 Adults and 18 Children attended Liturgies last week.	Included in the collection: \$16.00 for candles, \$450.00 for Hall rental to Alcoholics Anonymous, \$650.00 for Fuel, and \$1,151.00.00 for Christmas Offerings.		