



ST. ANN MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH	
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Pastor: Father Dennis McCarthy Email: abounadennis@gmail.com Cell phone: 860 287 0677	
February 4, 2024	
Sunday of Meat-Fare	

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: For the peace, health, and salvation Father Roger Boucher, requested by the parish; also, for the repose of the souls of Samira and Boutros Hajj, the in-laws of Joumana Hajj. This is requested by Joumana. May their memories be eternal!

Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy: For the peace health and salvation of Connie Donkin, the mother of Sean Donkin, and his sister, Leslie Bubello. This is requested by Sean Donkin and family; also for the repose of the soul of David S. Massad, the father of Anna, Gerard, and Thecla. This is requested by Anna Sobanski. May his memory be eternal!

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, 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, the Tillman Brown Family, Father Roger Boucher, Ron Abraham

Bible Verse of the Day: “He who keeps his mouth and his tongue quiet, keeps himself out of trouble.”--- Proverbs 21:23

Lighting candles: We have two candle stands in the front of the church. I would like to encourage everyone to light a candle before Liturgy. Why? In spirit and truth, Eastern Christians should know the meaning of everything they do in Church. Below are twelve symbolisms of lighting candles in Church. Six are from saint Symeon of Thessalonica and six from Nicodemus the Athonite:

Saint Symeon gives us these six explanations:

- ❖ The candle symbolizes the purity of the soul, because it is made from pure beeswax.
- ❖ Since we can carve anything into a candle, the candle symbolizes how our soul can be easily imprinted with good or bad.
- ❖ The candle symbolizes God’s grace, as wax is made from blooming flowers that give forth fragrance.
- ❖ Just as the candle gives food to the flame, so by Theosis (deification or divinization-the process of a worshiper being united with God, beginning in this life and later consummated in bodily resurrection), our nature is made into flame that burns sin and gives light.
- ❖ The candle symbolizes the light of Christ, which gives light in the darkness.
- ❖ The candle symbolizes the light and peace that every Christian must have. When the candle burns, it enlightens and comforts mankind giving light to the darkness.

Our Holy Father Nicodemus gives us these six explanations:

- ❖ We light candles for the glory of God, who is the true and only light that enlightens every man.
- ❖ We light candles to disperse the darkness of the night to comfort ourselves from the fear of darkness.
- ❖ We light candles to show the joy in our hearts.
- ❖ We light candles to honor Saints and Martyrs of our Faith just as early Christians lit candles at the graves of the Saints and Martyrs.
- ❖ We light candles to symbolize our good works, as the Lord says, “Thus let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father, who is in the heavens.
- ❖ We light candles for the forgiveness of sins of both those who light the candle and of those for whom the candles are lit.

Please light a candle every week, if possible. A donation of \$1.00 per candle is requested to cover the cost of the pure beeswax candles and to allow the church to make a small profit on them. Thank you---Father Dennis

Quote of the Day: “By reason of His immensity, God is present everywhere; but there are two places where He dwells in a particular manner. One is in the highest heavens, where He is present by that glory which He communicates to the blessed; the other is on earth—within the humble soul that loves Him.”--- Saint Alphonsus Liguori

Today’s Meditation: “What made the holy apostles and martyrs endure fierce agony and bitter torments, except faith, and especially faith in the resurrection? What is it that today makes true followers of Christ cast luxuries aside, leave pleasures behind, and endure difficulties and pain? It is living faith that expresses itself through love. It is because of faith that we exchange the present for the future.”--- Pope Benedict XIV

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Great Fast (Lent): It begins on February 12.

Lenten Schedule: We begin with Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday, February 11 at 5:30 pm.

We will celebrate Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm and Great Compline and Akathist on Fridays at 5:30 pm. The Rosary schedule will be announced next weekend.

Coffee Hour: A new signup sheet for the next quarter is on the table in the back of the church. On Sunday, February 4-the El Khoury family will host the coffee hour.

Readers of the Epistle: 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, February 4, 2024.

200 Club: Our next drawing will be on February 21, after Liturgy at Coffee Hour.

Financial update; bills paid last week:

- Cleaning of Hall and Church: \$100.00
- Coffee and Trash Bags: \$43.00
- Father Dennis’ January Salary: \$2,383.22

Total bills paid the last week: \$2,526.22. Total collected last week \$1,856.13. We had a deficit last week of \$670.09. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023, we have a deficit of \$1,412.09 in 21 weeks.

This Weekend	Saturday Reader: Joumana Hajj		Sunday Reader: Gerard Massad	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.
Next Weekend	Saturday Reader: Joumana Hajj		Sunday Reader: Volunteer	
January 27 and 28	\$1,856.13	31 Adults and 2 Children attended Liturgies last week.	Included in the collection: \$62.00 for candles, \$450 for Hall Rental for Alcoholics Anonymous, and \$3.13 for antennae. Donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, priest stole offerings, house blessings, and funerals are included in the collection total.	