

<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>February 11, 2024</b> <b>Sunday of Cheese-Fare</b>

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy:** For the peace, health, and salvation Father Roger Boucher.

**Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy:** For the peace health and salvation of Father John Azar.

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

**2nd Antiphon**

**Troparion of the Resurrection:** page 70

**Troparion of Saint Ann:** page 19

**Kondakion of Cheese-Fare:** O You, who guide men towards wisdom, and give them intelligence and understanding. Instructor of the Ignorant and Helper of the Poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Lord! O Word of the God, grant that I may speak, for behold I will not keep my lips from crying out to You: "O Compassionate One, have mercy on me who have fallen!"

**Prokimenon:**

**Reader:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**People:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**Reader:** All you peoples clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

**People** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**Reader:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise!

**People:** Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**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:** 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

**Quote of the Day:** "Patience smoothes away lots of difficulties."--- Saint John Bosco

**Today's Meditation:** "Throughout Sacred Scripture, we find that when God's people fast, the power of their prayers is increased, especially when they are engaged in spiritual warfare. In the Old Testament, the Lord told Isaiah that a fast properly undertaken would 'loose the bonds of wickedness...undo the thongs of the yoke...let the oppressed go free' (Is 58:6). In the New Testament, we find that Jesus fasted for forty days and nights in the wilderness in preparation for His battle with Satan, who came to tempt Him (Luke 4:1-2). If prayer is a spiritual weapon, fasting is the whetstone on which it is sharpened. It's the spiritual muscle that , when exercised regularly, strengthens the thrust of that weapon to pierce the Enemy and drive him away."--- Paul Thigpen from his book *Manual for Spiritual Warfare*, page 42

**Bible Verse of the Day:** "My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ-the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not only our sins but for those of the whole world."--- 1 John 2: 1-2

**What is the first word in the rule of Saint Benedict? Saint Benedict urges us to do something we are not used to... listen!** Listen to the precepts of thy Master, and incline the ear of thy heart, and cheerfully execute the admonitions of thy loving Father..."

Listen!

From the beginning of his rule, Saint Benedict urges us to do something uncomfortable: to listen, to truly listen. Constantly inundated with noise through the news, social media, television, music, smart-phones and other things, we are always listening to something or other.

However, in his urgent plea to listen, Saint Benedict suggests a more radical approach to listening, not merely passive consumption of noise and words, but rather "inclining the ear of thy heart". This is active listening that can only happen in the silence of prayer.

Because of the drastic difference between these two modes of listening, one noisy and busy and the other quiet and still, they can counteract each other. When we fill our ears and minds with a constant stream of noise, we lose the ability to truly listen with ear and heart. Likewise, when we listen with ear and heart, the Word of God finds us, calms us, and guides us closer to Him. We find that we do not want the noise of the world to interrupt!

God is making the same call to each one of us every day. He desires to speak to us but needs us first to listen to His still, small voice. Quiet is also good for your health and well being. Psalm 46:10 tells us, “Be still, and know I am God”. Good advice for modern day people. *Edited from the Catholic Company by Father Dennis*

**What is the love of God like?** It is complete, total, selfless, and directed towards you! Saint Augustine wrote that, “God loves each one of us as if there were only us”. His words are both simple and profound. God’s love is desirous of each one of us completely. This is a beautiful thought in itself, but it becomes even more astounding when we consider the radical nature of God’s love.

His profound and total love is best captured in the Greek word, *agape*. *Agape* means a completely selfless love for another in which one seeks nothing back in return. It is a total gift of self.

In Greek, there are several words for love: *philia*, *eros*, *storge*, and *agape*. Each of these words emphasizes a different type of love: *philia* is a brotherly or friendly love; *eros* means romantic love; *storge* means a family oriented love; and *agape* is the highest type of love. It is a total, selfless, and unconditional love. Each of these words for love can be found in the New Testament. However, whenever the New Testament authors speak of God’s love, they specifically use *agape*.

This agape love is the love that unites the Trinity, it is the love by which God spoke creation into existence, and it is the love that God has for you, a love that overcomes any fault or failing. It is the love Jesus displayed when he died for you on the cross. *Edited from the Catholic Company by Father Dennis*

**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? The lengthy reasons are in last week’s bulletin, which you can find on our excellent website.

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

**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. **No Rosary during Lent as we will be celebrating Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays.**

**Coffee Hour:** A new signup sheet for the next quarter is on the table in the back of the church. On Sunday, February 11, the Pierre Hage family will host the coffee hour. On Sunday, February 18, Joumana and Mindy Hajj will host.

**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, March 3, 2024.

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

**Financial update; bills paid last week:**

- Eparchy: \$3,063.15 for February assessment, medical insurance, and priest retirement fund
- Uncas Gas: \$681.33 for propane for heating church and hall
- Frontier Communications: \$291.24 for cable, phone, and internet
- Candles for candle stands in the front of the Church: \$138.24
- Cream for Coffee Hour: \$2.92

This Weekend	Saturday Reader: <b>Paul Zalonski</b>	Sunday Reader: <b>Joumana Hajj</b>	Thanks to .....
Next Weekend	Saturday Reader: Volunteer	Sunday Reader: <b>Joumana Hajj</b>	

February 3 and 4	\$2,151.43.	48 Adults and 3 Children attended Liturgies last week.	Included in the collection: \$111.00.00 for candles, and \$165.43 from Clothing Shed for February. Donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, priest stole offerings, house blessings, and funerals are included in the collection total.	all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.
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Total bills paid the last week: \$4,176.77. Total collected last week \$2,151.43. We had a deficit last week of \$2,025.56. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023, we have a deficit of \$3,437.65 in 23 weeks.