

<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>March 3, 2024</b> <b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b>

**Intentions this weekend:**

**Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy:** The Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the souls of Elias and Abba Jabbour and Jacqueline Jabbour Matta, the loving parents and sister of Joumana Hajj. This is requested by Joumana. May their memories be eternal!

**Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy:** The Liturgy will be offered for and a Memorial Service will take place at the end of Liturgy for the repose of the souls of Dina Matar's sister Marcelle (one year) and her father Georges (six years). May their memories be eternal! This is requested by their loving daughter and sister, Dina.

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

**Antiphon:**

**Reader:** O Lord, let the light of your countenance shine upon us.

**People:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

**Reader:** O Lord, for those who fear You, You have raised a banner to which they may flee out of the range of arrows.

**People:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

**Reader:** You have ascended on high, taken captives, and received men as gifts.

**People:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

**Reader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

**Troparion of the Resurrection:** page 63

**Troparion of the Holy Cross:** O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting peace to Your world; and protect Your community by the power of Your Cross.

**Troparion of St Ann:** First yellow page after page 12

**Kondakion of the Annunciation:** Second yellow page after page 12

**Instead of the Trisagion:** We sing: "We bow in worship..." on the gold page after page 14.

**Prokimenon:**

**Reader:** O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

**People:** O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

**Reader:** To You, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

**People:** O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

**Reader:** O Lord, save your people

**People:** and bless your inheritance!

**After Communion:** Troparion of the Holy Cross

**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, Joseph Perry

**Jesus' Words from the Cross:** On the Third Sunday of Lent, we contemplate the beautiful words our dying Lord spoke to His mother and to Saint John, the beloved disciple: "When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." (John 19: 26-27).

It might seem strange that Jesus calls His mother "Woman", which, to our ears, sounds rather disrespectful. But in the Jewish culture at that time, "Woman" was actually a dignified form of address, conveying honor and respect.

Moreover, let's think about where else in Scripture we've heard someone called "woman". In Genesis 3:15, God curses the serpent for his deception: "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed..." God is proximately referring to Eve, whom the serpent deceived; but more importantly, He is referencing the Theotokos, whose seed, Jesus Christ, will destroy the power of the serpent. So when Christ calls His mother "Woman", He is evoking her role as the new Eve, through whom the promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled.

When Jesus says, “Behold your son.”, He is referring not only to Saint John, but to all of us. The timing of this address is critical. Remember that Jesus is dying. He says these words as He is literally being sacrificed for our redemption. He speaks as He is opening the doors of the Kingdom, as he is making us sons and daughters of God again.

In a concurrent way, He is also referencing mankind’s newfound unity with Himself. The Church is His Mystical Body, made so through His suffering and death; and just as the Theotokos is His mother, so she is the mother of His members.

By addressing both His mother and Saint John (that is, us), Jesus is not just assigning titles. He is establishing a relationship. We are Mary’s children now. She is truly our mother. She will care for us, teach us, and protect us as we grow spiritually and journey towards Heaven.

But a relationship goes two ways. We can’t call Mary our mother and then treat her as an afterthought. Rather, we are called to love and honor her. Bring her your joys, sorrows, and problems. Ask for her guidance and wisdom in every path you take. Thank her for her unending “yes” to God.

**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.

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:**

**Lenten Schedule:** 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, March 3, Dina Matar will host. **No one else is signed up for the open dates. Of the nine Sundays this year, one parishioner has provided snacks for three Sundays, and another family for two of those Sundays. It does not cost much for some cookies and fruit to provide for the fellowship of the coffee hour. Anything you can do will be much appreciated and blessed by God.**

**Readers of the Epistle:** A signup sheet 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.

**200 Club:** Our next drawing will be on March 3 for February, after Liturgy at Coffee Hour.

**Shepherd’s Care Second Collection:** This will occur on Saturday, March 16 at the 5:00pm Liturgy and on Sunday, March 17 at the 10:00 am Liturgy.

**Sanctuary Lamp for March:** For the repose of the soul of Charles Facas, Sr., the loving father of Gloria Jeffords, requested by Gloria and John Jeffords. May his memory be eternal!

**Spaghetti Dinner:** This will be held on Saturday April 6 at 6:00 pm. There is a signup sheet on the table in the back of the church and a flyer with details. So far only 4 families have signed up. As you can see, we have a deficit of \$1,879.32 for the first half of this fiscal year. These fund raisers become necessary, because we do not collect enough money on weekends to meet our financial needs. Please support your church through supporting our fund raising efforts. **We have about 40 people who give on a regular basis. If those parishioners gave just \$5.00 more than they usually do per week, we would have another \$10,400 per year in donations. Please pray on this and follow where God is leading you in the support of His church. Thank you for all that you give. Father Dennis**

**Divine Liturgy:** On Sunday, March 10 will be offered for the repose of the soul of Elias Gharios (10 years). This is requested by his loving wife Abroze and family. May his memory be eternal! It will also be offered for the peace, health, and salvation of Kristen Sobanski (her birthday). This is requested by her loving parents, Anna and Raymond Sobanski; and for the repose of the soul of Mark Bliss (birthday March 7), the loving father of Greg Bliss. May his memory be eternal! This is requested by Greg Bliss.

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

- Father Dennis’ Salary for February: \$2,383.22
- Copy Machine Rental: \$163.81

Total bills paid the last week: \$2,547.03. Total collected last week \$2,122.00. We had a deficit last week of \$425.03. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023; we have a deficit of \$1,879.32 in 26 weeks.

This Weekend	Saturday Reader: Volunteer	Sunday Reader: Volunteer	Thanks to
Next Weekend	Saturday Reader: Volunteer	Sunday Reader: Volunteer	

February 24 and 25	\$2,122.00	48 Adults and 6 Child attended Liturgies last week.	Included in the collection: \$145.00 for candles, and \$500.00 from Friends of Remember Me In Your Kingdom. 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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