



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	April 28, 2024 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Intentions this weekend:

Saturday 5:00 pm Liturgy: In memory of Anna (Machnicki) Sobanski and Richard Sobanski, the mother and brother, respectively, of Raymond Sobanski, on the occasion of their birthdays, April 29. Also, the Liturgy is offered in memory of Eugene Crowley, on the one year anniversary of his death. Eugene is the brother in law of Anna and Raymond Sobanski. These intentions are requested by Anna and Raymond Sobanski.

Sunday 10:00 am Liturgy: For the peace, health and salvation of Irene McCarthy and Kathleen McCarthy, the mother and sister of Father Dennis, requested by Father Dennis and Lisa

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 for your intentions. It is a tradition in our Church.

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: “The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.”---Saint John Chrysostom (Please read Father Dennis’s note on “Donations” below.)

Meditation of the Day: “Every human person consists of both body and soul. Just as our body needs things to grow, such as oxygen, water, food, etc., so our soul needs things as well, such as faith, hope, and love. These spiritual longings point to the truth that every human person has a natural desire for God. The human person is a spiritual person, and we all interiorly desire the relationship that God offers to us. In our lives and in our culture, we can find several apparent goods to try and fill the *capax Dei*, which is our capacity for God, oftentimes simply called the “God hole” within us. But, try as we might to fill it with other things, this interior desire can only be completely fulfilled by a relationship with God, and by acts of religion that bind us to Him.”--Father Jeffrey Kirby, STL, from his book *Lord Teach Us to Pray*, page 4

Bible Daily Verse: “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who has the power to cast into Gehenna (Hell), yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one.”---Luke 12:4-5

What is the “Radical Prayer”? **Don’t pray this prayer, if you want to live according to the world’s expectations!** Jesus is radical! Being a Christian must therefore be pretty radical! You may ask, “What, we are called to be radical?” Well, the answer is YES. We are called to reject the things of this earth, which is quite radical in today’s world. This is a challenging task, not meant for lukewarm Christians. Saint Ignatius of Loyola left us with some good guidance and a few powerful tools to accomplish this feat. One of these tools is the Suscipe Prayer, also known as the Radical Prayer:

“Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. Whatever I have or hold, You have given me; I restore it all to You and surrender it wholly to be governed by Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace, and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.”

This prayer is not just a petition but a total offering of oneself to the divine will, an unconditional surrender of ourselves, our powers, and our plans to God. It cultivates humility and detachment by acknowledging that all gifts come from God and are to be used according to His divine purpose (please see the note on the state of donations below). It is a total surrender that, paradoxically, does not cause fear or worry. It actually brings a spirit of peace and contentment that stays strong regardless of external circumstances.

This “radical” offering is a cornerstone for those seeking a deeper relationship with God, because it fosters a profound union with Him and a deliberate spirit of cooperation with His will.

For help and guidance on this radicalism, try reading *The Spiritual Exercises* by Saint Ignatius!--This section is from *The Catholic Company website* and edited by Father Dennis.

NOTES, UPCOMING EVENT:

Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Ascension: Thursday, May 9, at 5:30PM

Yard Sale and Car Wash: This will be held on May 11th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at our church. We are partnering with Cavalry Chapel of Uncasville, a Protestant; Christ centered church that does wonderful work in the community. Their profits from their portion of the yard sale and car wash are funding teenage missionaries to the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

Coffee Hour: A new signup sheet for the next quarter is on the table in the back of the church. , On Sunday, April 28, Gus and Katia Hage will host.

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, May 5.

200 Club: The next drawing is on Sunday, May 12, at Coffee Hour. Winners from our April drawing last Sunday are:

- ❖ \$50: Nicholas Moukawsher
- ❖ \$25: Gloria Jeffords
- ❖ \$10: Joe Yovakim
- ❖ \$10: Hendrick Facas, Jr
- ❖ \$10: Roberta Zizik

Checks were mailed to your homes on Thursday morning.

Picnic at Waterford Beach: Mark your calendars! It will be on Saturday, July 13 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. There will not be a Saturday Liturgy on that day. More information will be forthcoming.

Ender’s Island: Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God annual Divine Liturgy and Picnic on August 15. Liturgy will be at 5:00 pm, followed by the picnic. We only have room for 60 people. More information will be forthcoming.

Financial update; bills paid last week:

- Selection.com: \$26.50 for mandatory background check on religious education instructors.
- Plant Fertilizer: \$41.09 for lawn plants and trees
- Cleaning: \$150.00 for cleaning of church, church hall, stairway to hall, hall bathrooms, hall kitchen, hall foyer, Saint Jude Shrine, church foyer, conference room, conference room bathroom, conference room foyer.
- Landscape: \$60 for weeding of gardens, gravel bed, grapevine pruning, and cutting of vines off trees surrounding the lawn.
- Grub Killer: \$265.98 for organic grub killer. Grubs were destroying large portions of the front lawn.
- Gasoline: \$24.00 for gas for lawnmowers
- Wine: \$26.98 for wine for communion
- Pavilion Rental: \$60 for two pavilion rentals for picnic at Waterford Beach on July 13. Another \$60 is due.
- Father Dennis’s April Salary: \$2,383.22

Total bills paid the last week: \$3,037.77. **Total collected** last week \$1,527.00. We had a deficit last week of \$1,510.77. For the Fiscal Year, which began September 1, 2023; **we have a deficit of \$4,210.26 in 34 weeks.**

Donations: 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. We are not a church of poor people. Everyone can afford another \$5.00 per week. Thank you for all that you do give. For transparency, I donate \$60.00 to the collection per week, and do not take a food allowance, accept reimbursement for Social Security and Medicare Tax, my car tax, car insurance, and car registration fee which, by Eparchy Financial Regulations, should be reimbursed to me. For 4 years, I did not take a salary from the church. It is not a healthy thing when the priest is the biggest contributor to the financial security of the church. I am not a wealthy man and could certainly use this money. Lisa and I do not own a house, but we want to see this church survive. When I retire, the next priest will probably expect all reimbursement that the Eparchy allows. We have to really think about what this church means to us and to make a financial commitment to make sure it exists into the future. Many people are giving the same amount per week as when I started here in 2017. We all know how the price of living has increased. It has for this church, also. I hate asking for money, but what I am asking, I believe, is very reasonable. Father Dennis

This Weekend	Saturday Reader: Volunteer		Sunday Reader: Volunteer	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.
Next Weekend	Saturday Reader: Volunteer		Sunday Reader: Volunteer	
April 20 and 21	\$1,527.00	43 Adults and 2 Child attended the Divine Liturgies last weekend	Included in the collection: \$270.00 for candles, and \$50.00 for the Building Fund. Donations for memorials, baptisms, marriages, priest stole offerings, house blessings, and funerals are included in the collection total.	