

<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>September 15, 2024</b> <b>Sunday After the Exaltation</b> <b>of the Holy Cross</b>

**Intentions this Saturday:**

- ❖ For the peace, health, and salvation of Patricia Sylvester, who is suffering from cancer. Please Lord, provide Patricia with strength, courage, and comfort during this time of trial. Take her by the hand and guide and help her through Your love and compassion for this child of Yours. This Liturgy is requested by Kathleen Marie McCarthy, who is a long time friend of Patricia. Kathleen is Father Dennis’ loving sister. Kathleen devotes her life to the care of others. May God bless her abundantly!

**Intentions this Sunday:**

- ❖ For the peace, health, and salvation of Patricia Sylvester, who is suffering from cancer. Please Lord, provide Patricia with strength, courage, and comfort during this time of trial. Take her by the hand and guide and help her through Your love and compassion for this child of Yours. This Liturgy is requested by Kathleen Marie McCarthy, who is a long time friend of Patricia. Kathleen is Father Dennis’ loving sister. Kathleen devotes her life to the care of others. May God bless her abundantly!

**Saturday’s Divine Liturgy:** All the changeable proper parts are in the white booklet!

**Sunday’s Divine Liturgy:** All the changeable proper parts are below!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Antiphon**

**Troparion of the Resurrection:** Page 74

**Troparion of the Holy Cross:** In the white booklet on page 2

**Troparion of Saint Ann:** Page 19 in the yellow booklet

**Kondakion of the Holy Cross:** In the white booklet on page 4

**Hirmos:** In the white booklet on page 8

**Kinonkion:** In the white booklet on page 9

**After communion, do not sing “We have seen the true light...” Sing the Troparion of the Holy Cross in the white booklet on page 9**

**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.” **on page 35.**
- ❖ Instead of singing “Remember all men and women.” we will sing “Sanctify them, Lord, and protect all the faithful.” **on page 40.**

**NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Saturday Divine Liturgy:** Beginning Saturday, September 7, 2024, we will be resuming Saturday Divine Liturgy at 5:00 PM.

**Holy Rosary:** In September, we will pray on Wednesday, September 11, at 5:30 pm, and on Wednesday, September 25, at 5:30 pm.

**200 Club:** The next drawing is on Sunday, September 15, at Coffee Hour. August winners:

- \$50: Karen Jones
- \$25: Gloria Jeffords
- \$10: Gabriel Hajj
- \$10: Joe Zizik
- \$10: Roberta Zizik

The last drawing for the year will be on September 15, 2024. Our new year for the 200 Club begins in October. If you wish to participate please give your money to Pierre Hajj. It is \$60.00 for the year. We will need 21 people to sign up to break even.

**Remember Me in Your Kingdom Memorial:** This will occur at the end of Liturgy on Sunday, October 6.

**Religious Education for the youth:** It will begin on Saturday, September 21, at 3:30. Please contact Joumana Hajj, if you have questions.

**Religious Education for adults:** Beginning in November, we will have religious education for adults. This will be one hour beginning at 5:30 PM, and it will be held on the Wednesdays that we do not have the Rosary. The Rosary is prayed on the second and last Wednesday of each Month at 5:30 PM. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the church, if you will attend these classes.

**Parish Advisory Council:** We will have elections for the parish council, as we are overdue for that. We will need six positions. If you are interested in being on the council, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the church. The election will take place on the weekend of 21 and 22 September. Current Parish Advisory Council members are still eligible to sign up.

**Coffee Hour:** The list to provide snacks for Sunday coffee hour, after Liturgy, is on the table in the rear of the church.

**Hall Floor:** The Hall floor is going to undergo a face-lift. Don't worry; it is not costing the parish anything. The floor has not been attended to for at least 8 years, other than mopping and sweeping. We have a company that is going to strip the floor, encase it in a state of the art polymer, and then buff it. They will also come back in three months to maintain the shine. The four separate Alcoholics Anonymous groups, which we host, are paying \$ 1,700.00 towards the cost. Father Dennis and Lisa are donating \$500.00 towards the cost. The project will start on September 16 and end on September 19.

**Important Fact:** Let us assume you are awake for 16 hours a day. You sleep for 8 hours. We have 52 weekends a year, where we celebrate the Divine Liturgy and 13 Holy Feast Days. Each Liturgy lasts about an hour and fifteen minutes. Should you attend every weekend Liturgy and every Feast Day Liturgy, you will spend 81 hours in church for the year. That amounts to only 3.38 days that you will spend in church. That amounts to only .01% of your time. This is not even close to 1% of your time that the church asks you to devote to God. It is hard to justify that one does not have enough time to attend services.

**Bishop's Appeal:** The 2024 Bishop's Appeal drive has begun. Our goal this year is \$7,500.00. In 2022, our goal was \$6,000.00. We exceeded our goal by giving \$6,328.00. In 2023, we never received our goal. We collected \$720.00. Our goal for 2024 is \$7,500.00. Father Dennis and Lisa have already mailed their check for \$500.00 to the Eparchy. That leaves us with needing to collect another \$7,000.00. We have 40 people in the parish who donate on the weekend on a regular or semi-regular basis. If those people donated \$175.00, we would achieve our goal. The appeal ends on December 31, 2024. If you give \$43.75 in September, October, November, and December we will reach our goal. Weekly, starting next week, that would amount to \$12.50 per week over the 14 week period. You will soon receive a letter from the Bishop, which explains all.

When you send money, make sure you put in the memo portion of your check: Saint Ann, Waterford, CT.

**An Inspiring Encounter:** On Monday, September 9, I walked out the front door of the church to check the Clothing Shed in the early evening. I saw to my left in the garden area (the one with the purple leaved tree) a man working there finishing up his weeding of the garden and a huge pile of weeds on the sidewalk. I had been meaning to weed that area, but just have not had the time to do it. His name is Wayne and he attends our Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, which we host in our Hall. I thanked him profusely and he just said, "No problem, it is the least I can do". I asked him what he meant and why he took the time and effort to weed a garden at a church he does not even attend. He looked at me, with sweat dripping down his face and said, "This church provides a safe place for many recovering alcoholics. I park right next to this garden almost every day, while I attend meetings. I found a new life here and I bring struggling people to the meetings in the hall. This place brings me peace and I want it to look good. The garden was a mess and it was driving me crazy, so I weeded it!" Incidentally, Wayne was raised Catholic, but stopped believing many years ago. When he heard that I walked the Camino de Santiago in June, he asked me many questions about my experience. I was surprised when he told me he had booked his Camino. Upon his return, I asked him what it was like for him. He told me he could not explain it, but something moved him deeply. He is considering attending Mass at his old church, Saint Joseph, in New London. Thank you Wayne for the work on our garden, and may God move you to come home to the Catholic Church---Father Dennis

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

- No bills were paid last week.

We spent \$00.00 last week. Total income was \$ 1,636.00. That leaves us with a surplus for the new fiscal, which began on September 1, 2024, of \$80.25. We have, however, some major costs coming up by the end of September.

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

Sept 7 and 8	\$1,580.00 donated in the two Liturgies	46 adults and 0 children attended.	We also collected: \$66.00.00 from candles, and Father Dennis paid, from his own checking account, \$500.00 towards the Hall Floor upkeep directly to the contractor. Donations for Memorial Liturgies, Baptisms, Weddings, Priest Stole Offerings, Blessing of Homes, and Funerals are included in the collection total, as these are private matters.	Thanks to all who always make up their missed envelope, including Fuel and Building Fund.
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**Last fiscal year, which began on 9/1/2023 and ended on 8/31/2024 left us with a deficit of \$5,931.98. We spent more money than we collected. This is not a good economic fact.**