

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	August 23, 2026 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Intentions:

Saturday, Divine Liturgy: For the repose of the soul of Father Alam Alam. Funeral services will be held at Saint Joseph Melkite Catholic Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts on August 24 at 11: 00 AM. May his memory be eternal!

Sunday, Divine Liturgy: For the repose of the soul of Dorothy Ann Rose, the loving mother of Father Justin Rose, our Melkite priest in Birmingham, Alabama. May her memory be eternal!

NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sanctuary Lamp: The lamp is lighted for the month of August for David Facas. This is requested by John Jeffords and his loving wife, Gloria, who has passed to her eternal reward. May David’s and Gloria’s memories be eternal!

Prayer Request: Please pray for the peace, health, and salvation of Father Edward Kakaty.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Worcester, MA: The annual Middle Eastern Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2026, from 12-6pm. Please see the flyer on the back table of the church.

Attendance: For the Liturgies last weekend, we had 51 adults and 8 children attend.

Financial update: The following is a summary of income and expenses over the last week.

Income:

- Candles: \$157.00
- Hall Rental: \$225.00
- Regular Collection: \$1,130.00
- Total: \$1,512.00

Expenses:

- No bills were due last week.

200 Club: The next drawing will be on Sunday, August 23.

Thank you: Father Dennis would like to thank all who arranged all the details for the Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6. He was on vacation and Father Bryan McNeil came to celebrate the Liturgy. Without all the help, this could not have happened.

Who first called the Church “Catholic”? If you ever wondered where the word *Catholic* came from, you are not alone. Many Christians today use the term, but few know its origin, or how early it was used to describe Christ’s one, true Church.

The first recorded use of *Catholic* to describe the church comes from Saint Ignatius of Antioch, a bishop, martyr, and disciple of Saint John. In 107 A.D., while being sent to Rome for execution, Ignatius wrote letters to Christian communities. In one letter, he wrote: “Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.”

This was just a few decades after the death of the last original apostle. The early Christians did not invent new denominations or start separate churches. They were part of one, visible, united Church, led by bishops and rooted in the teachings of the Apostles.

The word *catholic* comes from the Greek word *katholikos*, meaning “universal” or “according to the whole”. From the beginning, this Church was not local or tribal. It was for everyone, everywhere, offering the fullness of truth handed down by Christ Himself. Saint Ignatius’ use of the word shows something powerful: from the earliest days, the Church understood itself as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. That is not just a line in the Creed, it is a historical reality.

The next time you identify yourself as *Catholic*; remember that you are part of God’s Church that has been called by that name since the 1st Century. It is the Church founded by Christ, spread by the Apostles, and still proclaiming to the world the truth.

Also, by your Baptism, you are true temples of the Holy Spirit, so act that way in all you do!