
Saint Ann Melkite Catholic Church

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Community of the Mother of God of Tenderness 203.794.1486

Sunday Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 am. Confession: Sunday @ 9:15 am or by appointment

Website: www.saintann.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DanburyMelkite/

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Commemoration of our Holy Father Poemen

Scripture Readings: *Epistle: 1 Cor. 16:13-24 (Reader: Jeanine Antonios) Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42*

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of: ✠ Marie Karam Nehme (Joseph & Daad Noujaim), and for the health and salvation of Norma Bravo & Raphael (Fr. Thomas)

Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel may be interpreted as a metaphorical presentation of salvation history, told through the parable of the vinedressers. It is God's plan of restoration of his family, distorted by the fall. Creation is the landowner's planting of a vineyard, and the preternatural graces of Adam and Eve are represented by the hedge and tower which protect the vineyard. The landowner's absence is a loss of his presence, an apt description of the effect of original sin and the fall from grace. There came in time the election of the chosen people, which may be seen in the leasing out of the vineyard, a rich image that recalls Isaiah 5:7 where the vineyard is "the house of Israel." The servants sent to receive the first fruits are the prophets. The landowner's son is the Messiah, who will be seized, cast out of the Holy City, and killed upon the ignoble hill. One result of his rejection will be the outreach to all the nations, the universalism of the Church, plainly foretold by the answer given when Jesus asks what the landowner will do when he returns - he "will lease the vineyard to other vinedressers." The evocative final expression is a proverb drawn from Psalm 118, verses 22-23: "The Stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone; by the Lord this has been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes." What is insignificant to some, even that which is rejected, has become great through divine election. In context, the casting out of the landowner's son is the precursor to redemption - the one cast out has become the cornerstone of our salvation.

St. Ann Prayer List. The new format for the weekly bulletin, with a separate *Order of Liturgy* providing the list and pagination of Hymns, Antiphon, Prokimenon, and text of the Epistle and Gospel Readings, allows space for one of our most important duties: prayer for the sick, the suffering, and those in need of our spiritual aid. Please join us in fervent supplication for the servants and handmaids of God: Clara Kane, Georgette Ayoub, Marylin Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Doreen Parrella, Nicholas & Elsie Fatse

Planning for Thanksgiving. Many have expressed a desire to reach out to the Danbury community more actively and offer the service of charity that is so distinctively Christian. One possibility is a Thanksgiving dinner served up at the church hall to those in the greater Danbury area who have no one to celebrate the holiday with. To assess the realistic possibility of such a plan a meeting will be held at the church hall on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 pm.** Please join us if this idea interest you.

A Hafli Report with final totals will be published next week.

Be Careful Out There! We expect some construction work around the cell tower in the near future with earth moving equipment and other machinery. An additional tenant (DISH Network) is expected to be on the cell tower by the end of October. Please exercise caution around any such activity.

Early Autumn is also when **Seal King Sealcoating of Bethel** will undertake an important maintenance and repair project, sealing the many cracks in the parking lots and driveway and excavating and replacing asphalt in front to the refuse dumpster. In anticipation of that work we have already had several trees removed from the south end of the lower lots where root spread threatened to break through the paved surface.

Baking for the Bazaar is underway. Donations of flour, butter, sugar, and nuts are most welcome. The baking schedule will be typically on Thursdays after work and Saturday mornings. For specific times and dates or for information on donations, please see Mary Hajj.

A Bazaar Committee is needed to plan and coordinate the Annual St. Ann Holiday Bazar. Many ideas have been suggested to change some aspects of the usual format and even to move the date. **A planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19 @ 6:00 pm in the church hall.**

The Byzantine Liturgical Year begins on September 1st, calling several matters to mind.

- **Annual Icon and Liturgical Lamp sponsorships are available for renewal.** Current donor's lamps are reserved for renewal until September 7th, after which all lamps not renewed will be available on a first come/first serve basis. Lamp sponsorships are
 - \$500 for the Seven Branch Lampstand behind the Holy Table
 - \$250 for the Icons adorning the Eastern wall in the Holy Place
 - \$100 for the Icons of the Iconostasis
 - \$50 for the Icon Lamps for Extreme Humility and Nativity located in the Holy Place
 - \$50 for the Great Feasts and other Icons in the Nave and Narthex
- **The Parish Council and the Finance Council** will meet jointly in the church hall each quarter during the Liturgical Year on the following dates @ 6:00 pm: **October 3, January 2, April 2, July 2.**
- **The Great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God** is Friday, September 8. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 5:30 pm

Friday, August 25, was the Sixtieth Wedding anniversary of Raymond and Najlah Antous. Please join us in offering them congratulations and heartfelt admiration.

Next Sunday, September 3, is the Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost and the Commemoration of Hieromartyr Anthimos, Bishop of Nicomedia, and of Father Theoctistos. **The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of: ✘ The Deceased Members of Saint Ann Parish (Father Thomas); ✘ William Munerantz (1 year) (Khouria Joanne & Fr. Thomas)**

Epistle: 2 Cor. 1:21-24; 2:1-4 (Reader: Arabic Randa Antous + English: Hala Hourani) Gospel: Matt 21:33-42

Sunday Collections:

7/30/2023	8/6/2023	8/13/2023	8/19/2-23
Reg: \$1,252	Reg: 1,877	Reg: \$907	Reg: \$660
Fuel/Elec: \$5	Spec. Proj: \$30	Spec. Proj: \$165	Spec. Proj: \$215
Fundraising: \$50	Clergy Ret: \$92		

Special Project Honor Donors for 2023

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|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Josephine Nassif | Robert Hennessey | + Nazha Abdella Zowine |
| Selim & Linda Noujaim | Carol Hennessey | + Joe & Rita Stankwitz |
| Joseph & Daad Noujaim | Alessandra Advani | + George & Alice Davis |
| Nabil & Hind Takla | Matteo Advani | + Jim & Helen Hennessey |
| Saba & Robina Marji | Rima Antous | + James L. & Gail Hennessey |
| Edward & Olympia Stoller | | + George & Mary Antous |

Special Projects Honor Donors make a one-time donation of \$1,000 or more to fund special projects.

Sacramental Guidelines

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Before or after any service, or by appointment.

HOLY MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION: Please contact the parish in advance to arrange the required baptismal instructions.

HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING (Marriage): Please contact the parish six months in advance to arrange the required interview and instructions.

HOLY MYSTERY OF ANOINTING (and Communion) OF THE SICK: Please contact Fr. Tom to arrange a home or hospital visit.