
Saint Ann Melkite Catholic Church

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Rev. Thomas Davis, Pastor pastor@saintnn.org

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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, September 24, 2023 - First Sunday after the days of Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the Commemoration of the Holy Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thecla.

DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF ✝Donald Lestage (Sr. Victoria & Sr. Mary Ann), **AND FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF Clara Kane** (Michel and Hala Hourani)

Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:16-18; 7:1: Brethren, you are the temple of the living God, as God says, I will be their God and they shall be My people. Wherefore, come out from among them, be separated, says the Lord, and touch not an unclean thing; and I will welcome you in, and will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord almighty. Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the body and of the spirit, perfecting sanctity in the fear of God.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11: At that time Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats moored by the lake, but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. And getting into one of the boats, the one that was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And sitting down, he began to teach the crowds from the boat. But when he had stopped speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and lower your nets for a catch." And Simon answered and said to him, "Master, the whole night through we have toiled and have taken nothing; but at your word I will lower the net." And when they had done so, they caught a great number of fishes, but their net was breaking. And they called to their comrades in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord," For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had made; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all and followed him.

St. Ann Prayer List. Please remember in your prayer the sick, the suffering, those isolated and alone, those in prison, and the forgotten, and especially for the servants and handmaids of God: Clara Kane, Georgette Ayoub, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Doreen Parrella, Nicholas & Elsie Fatse, Alfonso & Laurene de la Vega, and Victoria Scalora

Theology on Tap at the Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Center, 6 Lake Avenue, Danbury, CT on **Thursday, September 28 @ 7:00 pm.** A cold beer, a glass of wine, or an evening cocktail lightens the atmosphere for a conversation about the only things that really matter: Who are we? What are we doing? Where are we going? Fr. Tom will be the guest speaker for Q & A encounter about your questions, concerns, and curiosities. The Irish Center also has a Pub Menu for those interested in dinner.

Adult Formation/Catechesis/Bible Study: Monthly on the last Saturdays of the month at 3:30 pm. First session on Saturday, September 30th will be a study of the Divine Liturgy and how to use our current Liturgy Book.

The Annual Bazaar will be held on Nov 10-11. Donations of flour, sugar, and butter are much appreciated by the pastry bakers. Please see **Mary Hajj** to coordinate donations for baking. Many volunteers will be needed to prepare to the event, serve food, staff the bar, and promote attendance. Please give generously of your time for this important parish signature event. To sign up for volunteer time serving food, please see **Mirna Marji**. To volunteer at the bar, please see **Hoda Riachy**.

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.**

Children's' Faith Formation: parents, grandparents, godparents – please take notice. We are prepared to offer a children's catechetical program centered on the Divine Liturgy, Sacred Scripture, Byzantine spirituality, and age-appropriate fun activities. A meeting to assess interest and needs will be held on **Sunday, October 1st**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Annual Icon and Liturgical Lamp sponsorships are available. Please see Fr. Tom for further information.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Hala Hourani and team are planning a St. Ann Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2024. Please provide your input as to preferred dates and itinerary. A Holy Land pilgrimage is a lifechanging experience – it also requires a great deal of advance planning. Please contact Hala for more information.

Registration with St. Ann: Registration forms are in the Narthex. If you regularly worship at St. Ann but do not receive envelopes by mail or the bulletin by email, you are not registered. Hall usage without fee is reserved for registered members. Monthly Divine Liturgy is also offered for the health and salvation of all parishioners and registration allows out parish staff to track birthdays, anniversaries, donations (and annual year-end tax letters), and assure home and hospital visits for the sick and the homebound.

Vespers is returning to St. Ann on Saturdays at 5:00 pm beginning with September 30. It is the best way to begin the Lord's Day. "Evening came, and morning followed - the first day." *Genesis 1:5*

Choir: *Beginning this Sunday, September 24, choir rehearsal will be held following coffee hour twice each month.* Attendance at the rehearsals is essential for the choir. Anyone who would like to join rehearsal, even if not joining the choir, is welcome. Our music is recorded and on our website. Please visit <https://saintann.org/music-st-ann/>. Additional recorded music is available at <https://steliasmelkite.org/music/>

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Next Sunday, October 1, 2023, is the Second Sunday After the Holy Cross, the Celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Commemoration of Apostle Ananias and of Romanos the Melodist

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the souls of the deceased parishioners of St. Ann Parish (Fr. Thomas) and for the health and salvation of the members of St. Ann Parish (Fr. Thomas).

Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:1-10 (Reader: Arabic, Jeanine Antonios + English, Nabil Takla). Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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Sunday Collections:

8/27/2023	9/3/2023	9/10/2023	9/17/2023
Reg: \$1,494	Reg: \$ 1,132	Reg: \$1,219	Reg: \$1,247
Spec. Proj: \$20	Fuel/Elec: \$160	Spec. Proj: \$15	Spec Proj: \$171
	Fundraising: \$500	Fuel/Elec: \$25	Fuel/Elec: \$120
		Icon Lamp: \$300	Icon Lamps: \$100

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 |
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| 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 Fr. Tom 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.