
Saint Ann Melkite Catholic Church

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Community of the Mother of God of Tenderness 203.794.1486

Vespers: Saturday @ 5:00 pm

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

Website: www.saintann.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DanburyMelkite/

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday After the Holy Cross - Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Zephaniah

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of Sue Cesca (Augie & Loretta DeLuca) and for the health and salvation of Carmen Balesh (Randa & Fredrick Antous & Family)

Epistle: Eph. 6:10-17 (Reader: Arabic, Nabil Takla + English, Rima Antous) Gospel: Luke. 18:35-43

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Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17: Brethren, be strengthened in the Lord and in the might of His power. Put on God's armor that you may be able to stand against the devil's wiles. For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness on high. Therefore, take up God's armor that you may be able to resist on the evil day and stand perfect in all things. Stand, therefore, wearing the belt of truth. And the breastplate of holiness and with your feet shod in the readiness of the Good News of peace, and in all things take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to put out all the flaming darts of the most wicked one. And take for yourselves the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word.

Gospel: Luke 18: 35-43: At that time when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the wayside, begging; but hearing a crowd passing by, he inquired what this might be. And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me!" And they who went in front angrily tried to silence him. But he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then Jesus stopped and commanded that he should be brought to him. And when he drew near, He asked him, saying, "What would you have me do for you?" And he said "Lord, that I may see." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you." And at once he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people upon seeing it gave praise to God.

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: Georgette Ayoub, Carmen Balesh, Marilyn Baiad, Jeffrey Davis, Nicholas & Elsie Fatse, Clara Kane, Doreen Parrella, Victoria Scalora, Claire Sirgy, and Alfonso & Laurene de la Vega. Please let Fr. Tom know of any others in need of prayer.

We have entered a time of special preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ. It is not only a liturgical time but one that permeates our lives. There is no better time to examine and deepen our personal relationships with the Messiah, with his Mother, and with one another. This week affords some unique opportunities to dive deeper into the spiritual life. **Wednesday, December 6th,** is the Feast of St. Nicholas. This link provides a brief introduction to the great saint and bishop: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-nicholas-of-myra-75>. On **Saturday, December 9th** we celebrate the Maternity of St. Ann, the same feast the Latin Rite celebrates one day earlier, December 8, under the title of the East of the Immaculate Conception. This link provides an excellent summary of the tradition and teaching of this great feast: <https://archpitt.org/the-immaculate-conception-the-conception-of-st-anne-when-she-conceived-the-holy-mother-of-god-according-to-the-ruthenian-tradition/>. We will celebrate this feast with the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, December 9, at 10:00 am.

Choir rehearsal will be held this Sunday, December 3rd, and again on Sunday, December 17th, at 9 am, under the direction of our Choir Coordinator, Dua Haddad. The most important thing we can lend to the sacrifice of Christ made present in the Diving Liturgy is our own offering of preparation through prayer, reading and study of the assigned Epistles and Gospels, and familiarity with and singing of the hymns by with we announce our salvation and our hope. Since we are entering the preparatory period for the Feast of the Nativity of the Christ, rehearsals will focus on the music for the upcoming Sundays and Christmas. Some references and links are provided below.

Troparion after the Great Doxology, two versions that alternate on successive Sundays.

Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 2 (12/3); Tone 3 (12/10); Tone 4 (12/17), and Tone 5 (12/14)

Tone 2: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/10-2nd-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Tone 3: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/16-3rd-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Tone 4: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/21-4th-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Tone 5: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/31-5th-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Kontakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord (12/3, 12/10, 12/17 & 12/24). <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/19-3rd-tone-the-pre-christmas-kontakion.mp3>

Troparion of the Forefathers (12/17): *Handout to be provided*; **Troparion of the Ancestors of Christ** (12/24): *Handout to be provided*; **Troparion of the Preparation** (12/24/23): *Handout to be provided*; **Antiphon Response of Nativity** (12/25): *Liturgy Book p. 146*.

Entrance Hymn of Nativity (12/25): <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/41-eisodikon-for-dec-25-nativity-tone-4.mp3>

Troparion of Nativity (12/25): *Liturgy Book p. 147*: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/27-4th-tone-troparion-of-nativity-dec-25th.mp3>

Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (12/25): *Liturgy Book p.148*: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/20-3rd-tone-kontakion-of-the-nativity-of-christ-dec-25th.mp3>

Trisagion of Christmas: *Liturgy Book p. 34: All of you who have been baptized*: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/12-all-of-you-who-have-been-baptized.mp3>

Hirmos of the Nativity (12/25): *Liturgy Book p. 150*: <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/42-hirmos-for-dec-25-nativity-tone-1.mp3>

Kinonikon of Nativity: <https://steliasmelkite.org/userfiles/pdf/1495553703.mp3>

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**Sunday, December 10, 2023 - Tenth Sunday After the Holy Cross
Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Mena, Hermogenes and Eugephus**

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of Ferdinand Randazzo (Nuhad Haddad) and for the health and salvation of Carmen Balesh (Randa & Fredrick Antous & Family)

Epistle: Col. 1:12-18 (Reader: Mirna Marji) Gospel: Luke. 13:10-17

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Sunday Collections:

11/5/2023	11/12/2023	11/19/2023	11/26/2023
Reg: \$1,722	Reg: \$966	Reg: \$845	Reg: \$625
Fuel/Elec: \$285; Spec Proj: \$5	Spec Proj: \$20; Fuel/Elec: \$15	Spec. Proj: \$70; Fuel/Elec: \$100	
Fundraising: \$90	Fundraising: \$90	Clergy Ret: \$50; Fundraising: \$300	

Please note that our Sunday collections have been lagging for the past several weeks. If you can offer an increase in your weekly donation, it would be most welcome. “Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:6-7. Thank you for your generosity to our church.

Special Project Honor Donors for 2023

Josephine Nassif

Selim & Linda Noujaim

Joseph & Daad Noujaim

Nabil & Hind Takla

Saba & Robina Marji

Edward & Olympia Stoller

Robert Hennessey

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+ Nazha Abdella Zowine

+ Joe & Rita Stankwitz

+ George & Alice Davis

+ Jim & Helen Hennessey

+ James L. & Gail Hennessey

+ 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: Contact Fr. Tom to arrange the required baptismal instructions.

HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING: Contact parish six months in advance to arrange for required interview & instruction.

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