
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 10, 2023 - Tenth Sunday After the Holy Cross

Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Mena, Hermogenes and Eucraphos

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of Ferdinand Randazzo (Nuhad Haddad); Rock Antonios (Fr. Thomas); Richard, Edward & Louise Shaboo (Elizabeth Shaboo) and for the health and salvation of Carmen Balesh (Randa & Fredrick Antous and Family); Randa Antous (Fr. Thomas & Khouria Joanne); Sr. Victoria & Sr. Mary Ann (St. Ann Parish)

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Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18: Brethren, we thank God the Father who has enabled us to share in the saints in light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have deliverance, the remission of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, those in heaven and those on earth, the seen and the unseen, whether Thrones or Dominations or Principalities or Powers: all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things and in him all things hold together; and he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he may be first in all things.

Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17: At that time Jesus was teaching in one of their synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent over and utterly unable to look upwards. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, "Woman, thou art delivered from thy infirmity." And He laid his hands upon her, and instantly she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, addressed the crowd, saying, "There are six days in which one ought to work; on these therefore come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath. But the Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or ass from the manger, and lead it forth to water? And this woman, daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound, lo, for eighteen years, ought not she to be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And as he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame; and the entire crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by 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: Randa Antous, 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.

On December 10 we commemorate three saints who gave the full witness of their lives to Christ in Alexandria during the reign of Emperor Maximian (303-313): the **Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eucraphos**. Saint Menas was sent by the emperor from Athens to Alexandria to suppress riots that had arisen between the Christians and the pagans. Distinguished for his gift of eloquence, Menas instead openly began to preach the Christian Faith and he converted many pagans to Christ. Learning of this, Maximian sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saints on trial and to purge the city of Christians. Hermogenes, although he was a pagan, was distinguished by his reverent bearing. He was struck by the endurance of Saint Menas under torture and by his miraculous healing after cruel torments. He accepted baptism, embracing Christianity at a time of great danger. The emperor himself then came to Alexandria. Neither the astonishing stoic endurance of Saints Menas and Hermogenes under torture, nor even the miracles manifested by God in this city, mollified the emperor. Rather, they vexed him all the more. St. Eucraphos, who was the secretary of Saint Menas, also declared himself a Christian upon witnessing the endurance of Menas and Hermogenes. The emperor, enraged with hatred for the faith, personally stabbed St. Eucraphos and gave orders to behead Menas and Hermogenes. The relics of the holy martyrs were cast into the sea in an iron

chest but were afterwards found and transferred to Constantinople in the ninth century. The emperor Justinian built a church in the name of the Holy Martyr Menas of Alexandria. *By your words as an orator and your divine miracles, O Menas, you gained Hermogenes as a companion in your struggles. In joy, we celebrate you together with him and Eugraphos (from the Exapostilaria of December 10)*

Donations for Christmas Flowers are due no later than Sunday, December 17th. Please use the special envelope provide in the monthly packet, which includes space to indicate the names of those you would like to commemorate on Christmas Day.

Choir rehearsal will be held next Sunday, December 17, at 9 am. The best way to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity is through prayer, reading Sacred Scripture, and becoming familiar with the hymns by with we announce our salvation and our hope. Rehearsals will focus on the music for the upcoming Sundays and Christmas. References and links are provided below.

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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Liturgy Book, Tone 3, p. 23; Tone 4, p. 24; Tone 5, p. 25)

Tone 3 (12/10): <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/16-3rd-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Tone 4 (12/17): <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/21-4th-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Tone 5 (12:24): <https://saintann.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/31-5th-tone-resurrection-troparion.mp3>

Kontakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord (12/10, 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 at rehearsal*; **Troparion of the Ancestors of Christ**

(12/24): *Handout to be provided at rehearsal*; **Troparion of the Preparation** (12/24): *Handout to be provided at rehearsal*;

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 17, 2023 - Sunday of the Forefathers

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Daniel and of the Three Holy Children Ananias, Azarias and Mizael

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the health and salvation of Carmen Balesh (Randa & Fredrick Antous & Family)

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11 (Reader: Mary Hajj) Gospel: Luke. 14:16-24

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Sunday Collections:

11/12/2023	11/19/2023	11/26/2023	12/3/2023
Reg: \$966	Reg: \$845	Reg: \$625	Report to be
Spec Proj: \$20; Fuel/Elec: \$15	Spec. Proj: \$70; Fuel/Elec: \$100		provided next
Fundraising: \$90	Clergy Ret: \$50; Fundraising: \$300		week

Special Project Honor Donors for 2023

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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.