
Saint Ann Melkite Catholic Church

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Rev. Thomas Davis, Pastor pastor@saintann.org

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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 31, 2023 - Sunday Before the Theophany

Holy Joseph, James and David; Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord;

Commemoration of the Venerable Melany the Roman

The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of (Pope Benedict XVI – 1 year) Fr. Thomas; Mitch Hilow (Ray & Najlah Antous); Ferdinand Randazzo (Ray & Najlah Antous) and for the health and salvation of Carmen Balesh (Ray & Najlah Antous); The Parishioners of Saint Ann Parish (Fr. Thomas)

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Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8: My son Timothy be watchful in all things, bear with tribulation patiently, work as a preacher of the Good News, fulfill your ministry. As for me, I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have completed the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me on that day: yet not to me only, but also to those who love his coming.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8: The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, *“Behold, I send My messenger before you, who shall prepare Your way, the voice of one crying in the desert, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight His paths,’”* there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and all were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, *“One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

Saint 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, Jadwiga Czarnecki, Marek Czarnecki, Jeffrey Davis, Nicholas & Elsie Fatse, Clara Kane, Doreen Parrella, Victoria Scalora, Claire Sirgy, and Alfonso & Laurene de la Vega.

The 53rd National Melkite Convention will be in Boston, July 4-7. This is the first time we have been able to hold the annual convention since 2020 when COVID interrupted our annual event. Pray, Learn, Celebrate. It is especially significant since Patriarch Youssef Absi has announced 2024 as a special Jubilee year to celebrate the restoration of the full Communion with Rome. For details and registration visit this link: <https://melkiteconvention.flocknote.com/signup/148976>

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is underway. Bishop François’ letter regarding the appeal may be viewed here: <https://melkite.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-10-23-Bishop-Appeal-Letter.pdf>. Online donations may be made here: <https://melkite.org/donate>. I encourage all to support for the appeal. Fifty percent of donations that exceed our parish target will be returned to the parish.

The 2024 Liturgical Calendar is available in Narthex. It provides the liturgical reading citations for each day, names the feast or saint commemoration for each day, identifies the fasting days, and provides insightful commentary each month. Please take a copy of this informative and useful resource home.

Monday, January 1st is the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord and the commemoration of Saint Basil the Great. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Readings of the day: Epistle: Col. 2:8-12; Gospel: Luke 2:20-22, 40-52.

January 2, 2024 @ 6 pm: Parish Council and the Finance Council meeting in the church hall.

January 6 is the Great Feast of the Theophany. Vespers will be celebrated on Friday, January 5th at 5:00 pm along with the Great Blessing of the water. **The Great Blessing of the Water will also be celebrated on Saturday, January 6 @ 10:00 am at Candlewood Town Park, 36 E Hayestown Road, Danbury, CT, on the beach directly across the street from the Police Athletic League parking lot.** If you are able, please join us for the Blessing of the Waters at Candlewood Lake as we pray divine grace upon creation.



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Sunday, January 7, 2024: Sunday After the Theophany; Holy Synaxis in honor of the Prophet and Glorious Forerunner John the Baptist. The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of Ferdinand Randazzo (Sonia Massery). Epistle: Acts 19:1-8 (Reader: Rima Antous); Gospel: John 1:29-34

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Sunday Collections:

12/3/2023	12/10/2023	12/17/2023	12/24/2023	12/25/2023
Reg: \$2,457 Clergy Ret: \$211 Bazar: \$265	Reg: \$879; Bazar: \$169 Christmas Offering: \$20 Christmas Flowers: \$402 Fundraising: \$5,000	Reg: \$769 Spec. Proj: \$120 Christmas Flowers: \$210 Fundraising: \$1,300	Reg: \$796 Spec. Proj: \$11 Fundraising: \$2000 Christmas flowers: \$50	Reg: \$1915

Special Project Honor Donors for 2023

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Special Project Honor Donors for 2024

Theodore Haddad

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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.