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**Saint Ann Melkite Catholic Church**  
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Rev. Thomas Davis, Pastor [pastor@saintann.org](mailto:pastor@saintann.org)  
Rev. Deacon Nicholas Bourjaili [nb4012@yahoo.com](mailto:nb4012@yahoo.com)  
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](http://www.saintann.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DanburyMelkite/](https://www.facebook.com/DanburyMelkite/)

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**Sunday, February 2, 2025 - Feast of the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple**

**Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17** (Arabic, Nizar Haddad + English, Nabil Takla) + **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of* ✠Lisa McCarthy (Fr. Thomas & Khouria Joanne); ✠Raymond (Fr. Thomas); ✠Leila Azzi (Nuhad Haddad & Family); ✠Takla Hage (Therese Brandano); ✠Kathleen Coffey (Fr. Thomas & Khouria Joanne); ✠Carmen Balesh (Augie & Loretta DeLuca); ✠Clara Kane (Michel & Hala Hourani) *and for the health and salvation of* Fr. Dennis McCarthy (Fr. Thomas); and a woman in need named Karen (Fr. Thomas)

**The Great Doxology (Hymnal p. 97):** Glory to you, O Giver of Life, glory to God in the highest...

**Troparion After Great Doxology:** When you rose from the tomb and broke the fetters of Hades, you abolished the sentence of death, O Lord, and thus delivered all men from the snares of the enemy. Appearing to the apostles, you sent them out to preach, and through them, bestowed your peace upon the World: O you who alone are full of mercy!

**Antiphon Prayer of the Feast:** O Lord, Sun of Justice, you manifested yourself as light for all nations, carried in the arms of Simeon the Just and inaugurating the new era of grace. Shine in our hearts the light of your knowledge. Open the eyes of our minds. Guide us in the straight path, so that we may behave in a way agreeable to you, willing and doing what pleases you. For you are our light, O Christ God, and to you we render glory and to your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and for ages of ages.

**Antiphon of the Feast:**

1- Gird your sword upon your thigh, O Mighty One!

*O Son of God who were carried in the arms of Simeon the Just, save us who sing to you: Alleluia*

2- In your splendor and majesty, ride triumphant in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice.

*O Son of God who were carried in the arms of Simeon the Just, save us who sing to you: Alleluia*

3- Your arrows are sharp; peoples are subject to you; the king's enemies lose heart. A tempered rod is your royal scepter.

*O Son of God who were carried in the arms of Simeon the Just, save us who sing to you: Alleluia.*

**The Incarnational Hymn:** O Only begotten Son and Word of God, immortal as you are...

**Entrance Hymn (Hymnal p. 174):** The Lord has made his salvation known; he has revealed his justice to all nations.

*All: O Son of God, who were carried in the arms of Simeon the Just, save us who sing to you. Alleluia.*

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4) (Hymnal p. 22):** The women disciples of the Lord, having learned ...

**Troparion of the Feast (2x) (Hymnal p. 175):** Hail, O Full of grace, Virgin and Mother of God, from you...

**Kontakion of the Feast (Hymnal p. 176):** O Christ our God, who through your birth have sanctified ...

**Prokimenon: Luke 1:46-48:** My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

*Stichon:* Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid, for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

**Epistle: Hebrews 7: 7-17:** Brethren, certainly the lower is blessed by the higher. And in one case indeed mortal men receive tithes, while Scripture testifies that this man lives on. And even Levi, the receiver of tithes, was also, so to speak, through Abraham made subject to tithes, for he was still in his father's loins when Melchizedek met him. If then perfection was by the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the Law), what further need was there that another priest should rise, according to the order of Melchizedek, and said not to be according to the order of Aaron? For when the priesthood is changed, it is necessary that a change of law be made also. For the one of whom these things are said is from another tribe, from which no one has ever done service at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord has sprung out of Judah, and Moses said nothing at all about priests when referring to this tribe. And it is yet far more evident if there arises another priest, according to the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become so not according to the law of carnal commandment, but according to a life that cannot end. For it is testified of him, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek"

**Alleluia: Luke 2:29 & 32:** Now you shall dismiss your servant, O Lord, according to your word in peace, because my eyes have seen your salvation.

*Stichon:* A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people, Israel.

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40:** At that time the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord according to the Law of Moses, (as it is written in the Law of the Lord: “*Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord*”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “*a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*” And behold, there was in Jerusalem a man named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. And he came by inspiration of the Spirit into the temple. And when his parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he also received him into his arms and blessed God, saying, “Now you release your servant, O Lord, according to your word, in peace; because my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples: A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for your people Israel.” And Joseph and his mother were marveling at the things spoken concerning him. And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contradicted. And your own soul a sword shall pierce, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also Anna, a prophetess, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after she was first married and by herself as a widow to eighty-four years. She never left the temple, with fasting and prayers worshipping night and day. And coming up at that very hour, she began to give praise to the Lord, and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had fulfilled all things prescribed in the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, into their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong in spirit. He was full of wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

**St. Ann Prayer List:** *Please remember in your prayers the suffering handmaids and servants of God:* George Ayoub, Marilyn Baiad, Anthony Colangelo, Paul Davis, Nicholas & Elsie Fatse, Abraham Fattouh, Karen Fattouh, Michael Haddad; Daniel Jowdy; Madelyn Madkour, George Michael, Jillian Michalenko, Linda Noujaim, Doreen Parrella, Victoria Scalora, Gregory Sideleau, Claire Sirgy, and Alfonso & Laurene de la Vega.

**Please remember in your prayers +Khouria Lisa McCarthy**, who reposed it the Lord Friday evening. She was the wife of Fr. Dennis McCarthy, pastor of St. Ann Melkite Catholic Church in Waterford, CT. Her funeral will be on Wednesday, February 5 @ 11:00 am at St. Ann Church in Waterford. Please also keep Fr. Dennis in your prayers. He is an old and dear friend who will benefit greatly from your spiritual support.

**Congratulations to Nabil Takla** who this Sunday will assume the office of President of the Lebanon America Club. The honor and the duty belong to Nabil, but St. Ann parish is honored by his strong shadow and that of his family. Let us be sure to support Nabil in his new position, giving generously of our time in support of the LAC and its activities.

**Meetings:** The **Parish Council, Finance Council, and Directors/Advisors of the parish corporation** will meet in the hall on Monday, February 10 @ 6pm. **The Tabernacle Society** will meet on the same date at 6:45 pm.

**Feast of St. Blaise & Blessing of Throats: Monday, February 10, 2025.** Blaise of Sebastea was a physician and bishop in historical Lesser Armenia who is venerated as a martyr. While the well-known Latin feast falls on February 3, the Eastern Churches celebrate the Saint on February 11. Blessing of throats will take place in the Church on the vigil of the feast immediately following the Tabernacle Society meeting on February 10. Blaise was martyred in 316 AD by being beaten, tortured with iron combs, and beheaded. The blessings of the throats associated with the feast arose from the account of his martyrdom in the *Acts of Saint Blaise*, according to which, while being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fish bone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. He offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. Traditionally, Saint Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat.

**House Blessings** may be scheduled by email to Fr. Tom [[pastor@saintann.org](mailto:pastor@saintann.org)]. No house blessings Feb. 16.-22

**Sunday, February 9, 2025 – Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican**

**Epistle: 2 Tim 3:10-15 (Hala Hourani) + Gospel: Luke 18:10-14**

**The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of** ✠**Lisa McCarthy** (St. Ann Parish); ✠**Leila Khoury Azzi** (Nuhad Haddad & Family); ✠**Takla Hage** (Therese Brandano); ✠**Kathleen Coffey** (Fr. Thomas & Khouria Joanne); ✠**Carmen Balesh** (Augie & Loretta DeLuca); ✠**Clara Kane** (Michel & Hala Hourani)

**Sunday Collections:**

1/5/2025	1/12/2025	1/19/2025	1/26/2025
Church Closed Due to Illness	Reg: \$1,395 Fuel/Elec: \$175 Christmas Offering: \$125 1 <sup>st</sup> Envelope Offer: \$145	Reg: \$1,081 Spec. Proj. \$198 Fuel/Elec: \$20 Memorials: \$150	Reg: \$882 Spec. Proj: \$10 Fuel/Elec: \$120 1 <sup>st</sup> Envelope Offer: \$20 Spec. Proj. Honor Roll: \$2,000

**Special Projects Honor Roll for 2025**

**Selim & Linda Noujaim**  
**Daniel Jowdy**

**Joseph & Daad Noujaim**  
**Nabil & Hind Takla**

**Ted Haddad**

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