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# **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](http://www.saintann.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DanburyMelkite/](https://www.facebook.com/DanburyMelkite/)

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## **Sunday, February 23, 2025 - Sunday of Meat Fare**

**Epistle:** 1 Cor 8:8-13 & 9:1-2 (*Mirna Marji*) + **Gospel:** Matthew 25, 31-46

*The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of* ✠ **Tanios Ataya** (St. Ann Parish); ✠ **Leila Azzi** (Christine & George Saadi and Family); ✠ **Takla Hage** (Christine & George Saadi and Family); ✠ **Clara Kane** (Michel & Hala Hourani) *and for the health and salvation of* **Pope Francis** (St. Ann Parish); **Anne Goebel** (Fr. Thomas & Khouria Joanne); **Paloma Velez** (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:** Today Salvation has come to the World: let us sing to Him Who is risen from the tomb, the Author of Life, for He has crushed death by His death and bestowed upon us victory and abundant mercy.

**Antiphon Prayer:** O Christ, Our God, you were sent by the Father, not to judge the world, but to save it. We ask you in your boundless compassion: Assist our weakness. Overcome our selfishness. Teach us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and to serve all people faithfully for your sake. Then we shall deserve to hear your divine voice saying: "Come you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." For you are our life and our hope, 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 ever and to ages of ages.

### **Antiphon, Psalm 65: 1,2,3:**

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, and sing praise to His name.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

2: Say to God: How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You.

*Be shafa'ati Walidatil Eelah, ya Mukhallisu, khallisna.*

3: Let all the earth worship You and sing praises to You; let it sing praises to Your name, O Most High!

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.*

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

**Resurrectional Troparion (Tone 7) (Hymnal p. 43):** You destroyed death by your cross. You opened paradise to the thief...

**Troparion of St. Ann (Hymnal p. 187):** O divinely wise Ann, you carried in your womb the pure Mother of God...

**Kontakion of Meat Fare (Hymnal p.199):** O God, when you shall come down upon earth in your glory...

**Prokimenon:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and He has been my Savior.

*Stichon:* The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

**Epistle, 1 Cor 8:8-13 & 9:1-2:** Brethren, food does not commend us to God. For neither shall we gain any advantage if we eat, nor suffer any loss if we do not. And yet, beware lest perhaps this right of yours become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if a man sees you who "have knowledge" sitting at table in a place dedicated to idols, will not his conscience, weak as it is, be emboldened to eat idol offerings? And through your "knowledge" the weak one will perish, the brother for whom Christ died. Now, when you sin in this way against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food scandalizes my brother, I will never again eat any more meat so as not to scandalize my brother. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? And if to others I am not an apostle, yet to you I am. For you are the seal set upon my apostleship in the Lord.

**Alleluia:** The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

*Stichon:* O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

**Gospel: Luke 15:11-32:** The Lord said, "At that time when the Son of Man shall come in his majesty, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory; and before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on his right hand, Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you

gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the just will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you to drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen I say to you, every time you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.' Then he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his ministers. For I was hungry, and you did not give me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked and you did not clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Amen I say to you as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me.' And these will go into everlasting punishment, but the just into everlasting life."

**Next Sunday (March 2) is Cheese Fare Sunday.** We will celebrate with a potluck meat free meal following Divine Liturgy in lieu of the usual coffee hour.

*The Lenten fasting and abstinence obligations of Melkite Catholics are established by the authority given the Church by Jesus Christ when he told the apostles, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:19, 18:18). The binding precepts of the law regarding fasting and abstinence require the following (with exception for ill health and advanced age):*

- **Fasting on the first day of Lent and the last three days of Holy Week (March 3 and April 17-19)**
- **Abstinence from meat on all Fridays in Lent**

**St. Ann Prayer List:** Please remember in your prayers the suffering handmaids and servants of God: George Ayoub, Marilyn Baiad, 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.

**Lent Film Series: Sundays of Great Lent at 11:30 am (in lieu of Coffee Hour).** In past years we have dedicated Saturday mornings in Lent to study of Sacred Scripture. This year, **beginning on Sunday March 9**, we will embark on a new adventure, utilizing extraordinary cinema that explore themes associated with Lent: *sacrifice, fidelity, redemption, fortitude, perseverance, and conversion*. Join us for a mesmerizing collection of old and new classics followed by discussion and a potluck meal.

- **3.9.25: I Confess**, Hitchcock's classic 1953 film noir
- **3.16.25: A Man for All Seasons**, winner of 6 Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Director & Best Actor
- **3.23.25: Central Station**, Academy Award for Best Actress & Best Foreign Language Film
- **3.30.25: Peanut Butter Falcon**, an unheard of 95% critics approval and 96% audience approval on Rotten Tomatoes
- **4.6.25: The Mission**, Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 39<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival & nominated for 7 Academy Awards

### Sunday, March 2, 2025 - Sunday of Cheese Fare

**Epistle:** Romans 13:11-14:4 (Arabic, Nabil Takla + English, Randa Antous ); **Gospel:** Matthew 6:14-21

*The Divine Liturgy will be offered for the repose of the soul of ✠Leila Azzi (Joseph & Therese Hanna); ✠Takla Hage (Frederick & Randa Antous); ✠ Carmen Balesh (Nicholas & Barbara Borrello); ✠ Clara Kane (Michel & Hala Hourani)*

### Sunday Collections:

1/26/2025	2/2/2025	2/9/2025	2/16/2025
Reg: \$882	Reg: \$1,880	Reg: \$880	Reg: \$775
Spec. Proj: \$10	Spec. Proj: \$146	Spec. Proj: \$20	Spec. Proj: \$271
Fuel/Elec: \$120	Clergy Ret: \$	Clergy Ret: \$40	Memorials: 200
1 <sup>st</sup> Envelope Offer: \$20	Spec. Proj Honor Roll: 3,000	Fuel/Elec: \$200	
Spec. Proj. Honor Roll: \$2,000		Fundraising: \$250	

### Special Projects Honor Roll for 2025

Selim & Linda Noujaim  
Daniel Jowdy  
Robert Hennessey  
+ Joe & Rita Stankwitz  
+ Jim & Helen Hennessey

Joseph & Daad Noujaim  
Nabil & Hind Takla  
Carol Hennessey  
+ George & Alice Davis  
+ George & Mary Antous

Ted Haddad  
Josephine Nassif  
+ Nazha Abdella Zowine  
+ James L. & Gail Hennessey

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