



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, September 11, 2022 - Tone 5 – Community Celebration: Nativity of the Theotokos  
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

الأحد 11 أيلول 2022

خدمة المجتمع ولادة السيدة العذراء ، والدة الله المقدسة ، ومريم العذراء

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Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh & Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Parish Administrators

Celebrant: Rev. George Gage

Attached Clergy: Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn - Bi Ritual

Parish Advisory Council Chairperson - Deacon Elie Hanna - [deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org)

Finance Council Chairperson - Deacon Sami Jajeh - [deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org)

Cultural Center Manager - Jerome Hagley - [jerome.hagley@gmail.com](mailto:jerome.hagley@gmail.com)

10:00 AM – ORTHROS

10:30 AM – DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Cultural Center.

### Parish Church Year Theme

(Liturgical Year – began Sept. 1, 2022 – ends Aug. 31, 2023):

"The God of heaven will give us success. We His servants will start rebuilding." (Nehemiah 2:20)

"إِنَّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ يُعْطِينَا النِّجَاحَ وَنَحْنُ عِبِيدُهُ نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي." (نحميا ٢:٢٠)

----- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL -----

**HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS WITH US!** Please sign our Visitor's Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

**INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS?** Please send email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

### ----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

**EASTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATION:** "Catechetical Sunday" is an annual event in the parish that marks the beginning of religious instruction for the new catechetical school year. In two weeks, we will have a special blessing and prayers for our children, and their teachers, during the Divine Liturgy. We ask that all catechists and students be present for this ceremony. These prayers emphasize the importance of learning and teaching the faith of our Church, a responsibility we all have as Christians. Parents should register their children before Oct. 2, 2022, [click here register now](#) or scan the QR code



**FEAST DAY CHAIRPERSON(S):** If you would like to be a co-chair or member of the committee, please see Lina Muhanna and let her know how you are able to help.

**FAMILY NIGHTS:** Family Nights are coming back! First one is being planned for October and then once a month going forward, please watch for more details to come. See Rita Karroum or Vera Madanat for more information.

## ----- SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY -----

As a spiritual family, we encounter heaven on earth through the Divine Liturgy - the Lord's Day (*Kyriake* in Greek) as a priority for all families; making up of any missed financial support; and a resolve for all to let us live a renewed life in Christ through Church!

### THIS WEEKEND, SUN., SEPT 11 LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

GIVE THE GIFT OF PRAYER! Below are the commemorations received from parishioners for this week. If you would like one said for you, your family members, or friends, please send requests for commemorations to [contact@sjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@sjohnmelkite.org) by Thursday.

#### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

Victims of 9/11 tragedy, requested by parish community

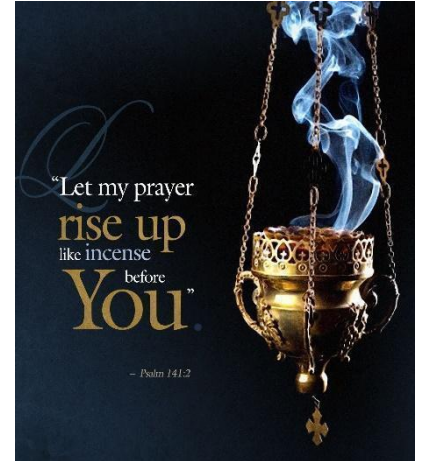
#### HEALTH & SALVATION

Vic Maloof, requested by parish community

Dcn. Peter Wingerter, Ordination to the Priesthood today, requested by parish community

Dcn. Elie & Mrs. Zoe Hanna, 24yr Wedding Anniversary, requested by their family

Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



### LITURGY INFORMATION

**Altar Servers:** Contact Deacon Elie if interested. Servers' robes are blessed for Orthros (9:50) and Divine Liturgy (10:15) Be early!

**Masstimes.org:** If traveling, consider researching schedules of weekend liturgies, (Melkite, Byzantine Catholic or Roman Catholic). If there is no Catholic Church in the area, you may attend an Orthodox church when on vacation.

## ----- UPCOMING AND IMPORTANT EVENTS -----

**WED, SEP 14 – EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** – The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is September 14<sup>th</sup>, but will be celebrated Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please get your crosses ready to bring for this celebration so that you can carry it in procession!

**SUN, SEP 18 – LADIES SOCIETY MEETING.** Meeting to be held after liturgy in the Cultural Center. Ladies Society officers will be selected, as well as important discussions regarding the Patronal Feast Day celebration.

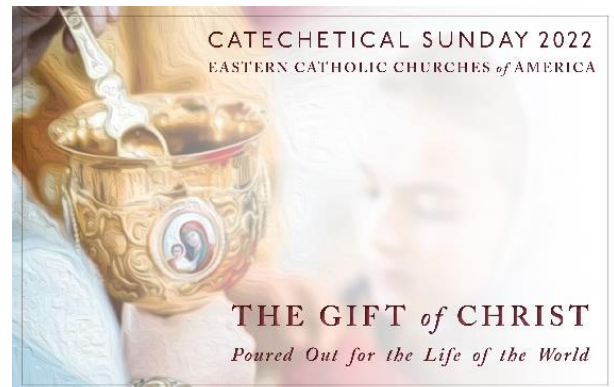
**WED, SEP 21 – STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES: THE GREAT CALLING OF EVERY CHRISTIAN** - Bishop Nicholas Samra to host a webinar to launch our 2022-23 Easter Catholic Education curriculum year!

[Click here to Register for Stewards of the Mysteries](#)

**SUN, SEP 25 – CATECHETICAL SUNDAY** – All students and teachers should be present for blessing before education classes begin on October 2, 2022.

**PRIESTHOOD SUNAY** – A Day to honor, reflect and affirm the role of the priest as central to the life of the Church.

**SUN, OCT 2 – EASTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN** - All students and teacher should be present to begin first day of classes.



**\*\*DATE CHANGE: SAT, OCT. 8\*\*** - PARISH PICNIC – [Click here or scan QR code](#) to RSVP, get more information and sign-up to bring items to the picnic. As always, we thank Vic Maloof for being such a gracious and hospitable host. **DEADLINE to RSVP is October 2, 2022! This is the LAST week for RSVP's!!**



----- STEWARDSHIP (AL WAQF) IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

This is our being entrusted by God with the gifts of the earth and of our church. We are all stewards: earthly caretakers and managers for the Lord. Our return of Time, Talent and Treasure to Him is our understanding of being good stewards (caretakers) of what is already His... It is a way of life!

**TIME AND TALENT:**

**Volunteers Needed** for Chairs for Ladies Society or for Men’s Club.

**Liturgical Participation:** Please consider joining the Choir and learning the chants, taking turns to be a reader (contact Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (contact Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an adult altar server (contact Deacon. Elie).

**Religious Education Teachers** at the same time of sharing the faith with our young, we too will grow in our own faith. **Gift Shop:** staff the shop for those wishing to purchase items.



**TREASURE:**

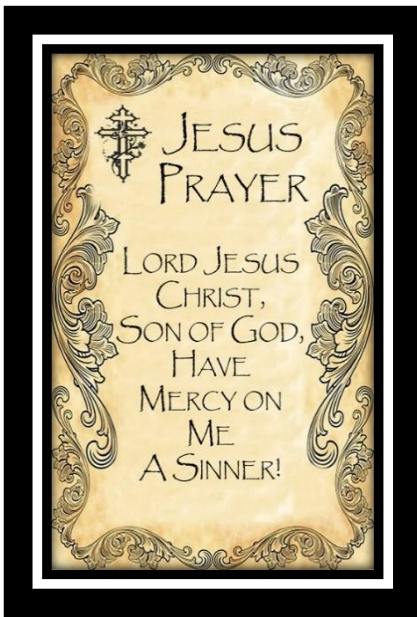
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#), or scan QR Code or send an email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) to set up recurring ACH donations. All manual checks should be made to “St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church” with the exception of diocesan collections, which should be made out to “Diocese of Newton.” Please identify the purpose of all donations in the memo field (e.g. Weekly/Monthly Support, Commemoration for \_\_\_\_\_, Shepherd’s Care, etc.).



ZELLE! ZELLE! ZELLE! St. John Chrysostom can now receive donations via Zelle. Our “handle” (donation id) is [donate@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:donate@stjohnmelkite.org). Please put a note in the memo of any Zelle donation, such as “Weekly Support” or “Commemoration.” As this is new to the parish, please let us know if this is more convenient or if you prefer Venmo.

**WHAT ABOUT TRADITION?** Yes, the fourth “T” of stewardship, as we have received the apostolic tradition and the Melkite Byzantine tradition as a gift from God. To be stewards of it, we must not only learn it and grow spiritually but share it - perhaps by inviting a friend to the Divine Liturgy or praying for others, including those in our Prayer Line.

----- PRAYER IS A WAY OF LIFE -----



**Please keep in your prayers...**

- Dr. Shajih Muhanna
- Evelyn Whalen
- Souren Palanjian
- John Chambers
- Bp-Elect Fr. Francois Beyrouti
- Michael Shikany
- Alber Mansour
- Vic Maloof
- Dcn. Peter Wingerter

- Those affected by the virus
- Those approaching matrimony
- Victims of natural disasters
- The Wandering Sheep of this parish

*May the Divine Physician of our souls and bodies extend His healing hand over His servants and handmaids.*

For those in need of prayer and to keep us up to date on everyone’s condition, please share at [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

## September Birthdays Name Days, Anniversaries



Note: The information below is from our Parishioner database. We apologize IN ADVANCE for anyone who is missing or any information which is mistaken. Please send corrections to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) so we can update our database. THANK YOU!

### Name Day for Feast of Nativity of Mary:

Marie Hansen	Marie Sayour
Mary Calis	Mary Daho
Mary Shamon	Maryam Talla
Mary Ellen Hughes	

### Birthday:

Greg Pharo	Ghada Muhanna
Aymen Badri	Michael Maalouf
Lourice Jajeh	Kingston Maloof
Youssef Layous	Peter Nuar
Rob Ghawi	Titus James Nuar
Andrew Hagley	

### Anniversary:

Rev. Dcn. & Mrs. Elie & Zoe Hanna  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Aida Maalouf  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Janice Peterson

## ----- THE STORY OF MARY'S BIRTH -----

The tradition preserved in the Protoevangelium is that Mary was the daughter of Joachim and Ann, born to them late in life. The literary embellishment in this work tells how Joachim, although a generous donor to the temple, was mocked for being childless. Recalling how Abraham had been given a child in his old age, Joachim retired to the wilderness to pray for a similar blessing. In response angels appeared to Joachim and Ann promising that their prayers have been heard and that Ann would conceive. Our feast of the Maternity of St Ann (December 9) recalls her conception of the Virgin Mary. Then, "When her time was fulfilled, in the ninth month, Ann gave birth. And she said to the midwife: 'What have I brought forth?' And she said: 'A girl'. Then Ann said: 'My soul has been magnified this day.' ... when the days were fulfilled, Ann was purified, and gave her breast to the child, and called her name Mary" (Protoevangelium 5).

### The Place of Mary's Birth

The Protoevangelium does not identify the place where Mary was born. Different local traditions claim at least two possible locations: the village of Sepphoris, a few miles from Nazareth, and the neighborhood of the "shepherd's pool" in the old city of Jerusalem. Byzantine basilicas were constructed in both places in the fifth century with the Jerusalem basilica designated as "the place where Mary was born." Mary's birth is celebrated by most of the historic Churches on September 8 (Copts and Ethiopians observe it on May 9). The first mention of this feast is at the beginning of the sixth century when a new church, dedicated to St Ann, replaced the basilica at the Shepherds' Pool. The present Church of St Ann, constructed by Crusaders in the twelfth century, occupies this site today. A shrine in the church's crypt commemorates the conception and birth of Mary.

### Our Celebration of This Feast

The principal theme of our feast is that "Today grace begins to bear fruit, showing forth to the world the Mother of God, through whom earth is united to Heaven for the salvation of our souls" (vespers). Other than the names of Mary's parents, almost none of the narrative details from the Protoevangelium find their way into the hymns of this feast. Rather the focus of our prayer is that now the mystery of our salvation in Christ is beginning to unfold. "Today the barren gates are opened and the virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth... Today ends our nature's barrenness" (Orthros). Mary will become the one through whom the ancient prophecies will be fulfilled when Christ is incarnate in her. As St Andrew of Crete (650-740) expressed it: "Today's solemnity is a line of demarcation, separating the truth from its prefigurative symbol, and ushering in the new in place of the old... This day is for us the beginning of all holy days. It is the door to kindness and truth. Today an inspired Temple is provided for the Creator of all, and creation prepares itself to become the divine dwelling place of its Creator." Andrew's contemporary, St John of Damascus (676-749) says, "The day of the Nativity of the Theotokos is the feast of joy for the whole world, because through the Theotokos the entire human race was renewed and the grief of the first mother Eve was changed into joy."

## ----- FEEDBACK -----

**CONCERNS?** Any needs, thoughts, concerns, questions, misunderstandings, charitable suggestions in any area of parish life that you may have, please do not hesitate to immediately contact Dcn. Elie Hanna or Dcn. Sami Jajeh. Any possible explanations, corrections, discussions or changes will never be taken care of unless all bring these concerns to us, and especially to the proper person.

### **HAVE AN IDEA?**

For parish life?

For the upcoming picnic?

Share it with us!

