



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, October 2, 2022 - Tone 8, Orthros Gospel: LK 24:36-53 (6)

The 2nd Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Love Your Enemies

Community Celebration of the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos

الأحد 2 تشرين الأول 2022
الأحد الثاني بعد رفع الصليب الكريم المحي
خدمة المجتمع لعيد سيدة الحماية ، والدة الإله

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Web: stjohnmelkite.org, FB: facebook.com/StJohnMelkite, YouTube: youtube.com/c/SaintJohnChrysostomMelkiteCatholicChurch

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

Finance Council Chairperson - Deacon Sami Jajeh - deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org

Cultural Center Manager - Jerome Hagley - 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 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 -----

LADIES SOCIETY DUES: Ladies Society Dues are \$25, including NAMW dues. Ladies, please provide check or cash to Patty Pharo. If you Zelle dues, please make a note in the memo of "Ladies Society Dues 2022".

AED CERTIFICATE NEEDED: Thank you to the four parishioners who have sent in their information. If you are certified in using an AED, please send your certification (card) to contact@stjohnmelkite.org for our files ASAP. Thank you!

REPAIRS: Repairs are in progress at the entrance of the Cultural Center. Thanks for your patience.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Church school begins on Oct 2nd, and we wish our teachers and students a blessed year of education in the faith.

----- 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., OCT 2 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 by Thursday.

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+George Zarour (1 yr anniv), requested by Lourice Jajeh and Family

HEALTH & SALVATION

Deacon Seraphim Ritchey, requested by St. George Melkite Catholic Church

Dr. Shajih Muhanna, requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

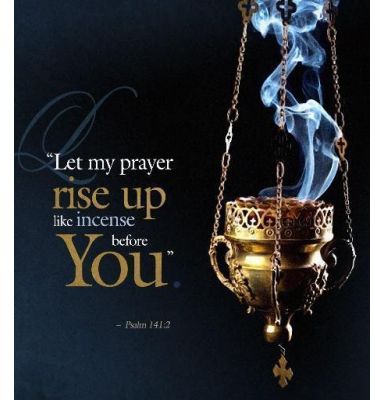
Alber Mansour, requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Souren Palanjian (Father of Dzovag Hanna), requested by the Palanjian Family

Ron Snively, requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna

Those Affected by Hurricane Ian, requested by Parish Community

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 -----

SAT, OCT 1 – FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS – This feast, re-established by a Decree of our late Patriarch Maximos V, on August 23, 1975, celebrates the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the tenth century. The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil (cerement) off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering. (Community celebration will be Sunday, October 2nd.)



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

FRI, OCT 7 - FAMILY NIGHT: Our first return of the Family Nights will be Friday, October 7th. The pizza dinner is complimentary from the church. Please join us for pizza and games. Please RSVP using the Signup Genius, so that we know how much pizza to order.

SUN, OCT 16 – FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: The 7th Ecumenical Council dealt with the issue of the iconoclastic controversy and iconoclasm - the teachings regarding veneration of icons came from this council.

SUN, OCT 16 – LADIES SOCIETY MEETING: Open to all ladies, please come and join the Ladies Society in planning, organizing, etc.

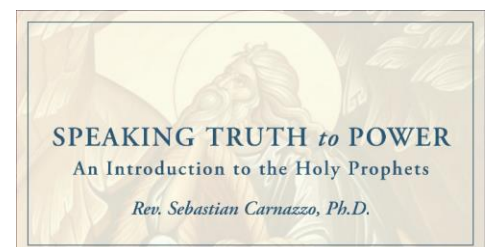
SAT, EITHER OCT 29 or NOV 6th – *TENTATIVE* CLEAN OUT DAY – We are hoping for greater participation in the upcoming and hopefully final clean out day. We accomplish much more with your involvement. It is not possible for us to hire this function out to a firm. Only parishioners know what we need to save versus discard. Areas of focus: the basement, the attic, and the greenhouse.

SUN, NOV 13 – ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM PATRONAL FEAST: The Feast Day for our patron, St. John Chrysostom, will include a special Feast Day Luncheon after Divine Liturgy. Come celebrate this special feast day with us! Parishioners who have received the Cross of Jerusalem should wear them to Divine Liturgy.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS –

We support our community organizations and their good work!

- **Oct. 5, 12, 19 @ 8 - 9 PM ET:** [SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER: An Introduction to the Holy Prophets](#)
- **Oct. 8-9:** Due to Hurricane Ian, the [Atlanta Arab Festival](#) date has changed to one week later!



----- 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 to help lead the Good Samaritan Society and 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).

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 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. 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 -----

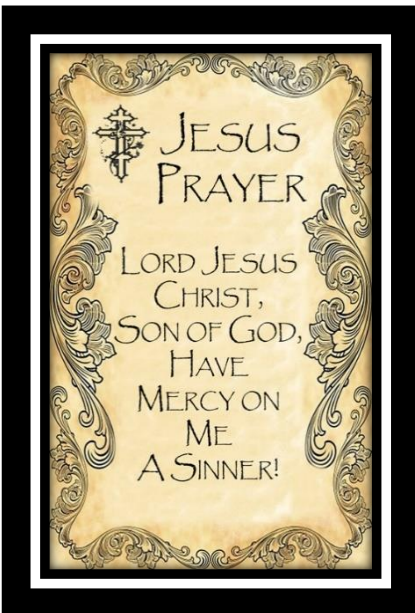
Please keep in your prayers...

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr. Shajih Muhanna | Michael Shikany |
| Evelyn Whalen | Alber Mansour |
| Souren Palanjian | Vic Maloof |
| Matilda Ghawi | Deacon Seraphim Ritchey |
| Bp-Elect Fr. Francois Beyrouti | |

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Those affected by the virus | Victims of natural disasters |
| Those approaching matrimony | 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.



October 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 so we can update our database. THANK YOU!

Name Days for St. Thomas, St. James, St. Luke:

Fr. Tom Flynn	Thomas Atalla
James Daho	James McCaffery
Titus James Nuar	James Reichard
Luke Ghawi	

Birthday:

Maryam Talla	Dcn. Elie Hanna
Fadi Layous	Samer Layous
Angelina Badri	Marina Aeshaea
Rania Layous	Kennedy Nuar
Nazim Shadeed	Albert Mishu
Patricia Pharo	Ronin Curry
Kolbe Eljah Nuar	Sami Hagley
Vera Madanat	Georges Sawaya

Anniversary:

Mr. & Mrs. John & Vera Madanat
Mr. & Mrs Sal & Sammora Madanat
Mr. & Mrs. Bishara & Sumya Kadadu

----- MISCELLANEOUS -----

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR (VAC) - To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-479-5910.

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

HOLY MYSTERIES (SACRAMENTS) Please contact the parish administrators as soon as possible once you know of an upcoming sacrament in your (family) life!

ASCRIPTION TRANSFER (CHANGE OF RITE): To formally join the Melkite Church, please let us know so we can have a discussion.

----- LOVE YOUR ENEMY -----

Does Christ ask the impossible of His disciples? At times it seems so, as when He tells us to *“love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back”* (Lk 6:35). This doctrine goes against the ordinary inclinations of people of every society, social class or station in life.

Imitating God – The Lover of Mankind

Christ regularly encouraged His disciples to imitate God’s way rather than man’s. God’s way is, of course, the way of mercy and compassion. God *“does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities, for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him”* (Ps 103:10, 11). While the Jews were long encouraged to trust in God’s mercy, it was Christ who taught us to imitate that compassion in the way we treat others. The Lord Jesus urged His disciples to strive for perfection in their spiritual lives and He pointed to love for one’s enemies as exemplifying that perfection. Anything less, He identified with the spirit of the scribes and Pharisees.

In St Matthew’s Gospel the following injunction concludes and sums up the Sermon on the Mount: *“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* (Mt 5:32-36, 43-48). If the aim of the Christian life is to imitate the Lover of mankind, the chief sign of that way of life is the way we treat our enemies. We can and should act in the image of God.

Perhaps the most striking example of love for one’s enemies in the Gospels is the prayer for His killers which Christ offered while hanging on the cross. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* (Lk 23:24). Arrested for preaching in Christ’s name some years later, the first martyr, St Stephen, used his last breath to imitate Christ’s love for His enemies, praying: *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”* (Acts 7:60) as he was being stoned by his killers: God, and those who follow His way, do not let themselves be conditioned by the wickedness of others. Even when forgotten or rejected, they continue to be faithful to loving others.