



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, November 20, 2022

Tone: Festal, Orthros Gospel: Festal

Community Celebration of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Commemoration of our Father Among the Saints, Gregory the Decapolite and Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople

ألأحد 20 تشرين الثاني 2022
خدمة المجتمع لعيد السيدة العذراء ، والدة الإله الأقدس ، عند دخول الهيكل

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Web: stjohnmelkite.org • FB: facebook.com/StJohnMelkite • YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite

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

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. George Gage, Celebrant and Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn, Retired

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 عَبِيدُهُ 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 -----

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM: The newly formed Adult Education program will start on Sunday, December 4th after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center. The first topic is in Scripture Studies (Faith: The Foundation). The second program will be on Thursday, December 15th at 7:30pm via Zoom in Scripture Studies (Work of Righteousness).

MEMORY ETERNAL: May the Lord give rest to the soul of Your servant, +Michael Shikany, who has fall asleep in the Lord on Nov. 13, 2022. **May his soul rest in a place of light where there is no pain, no grief and no sighing but life everlasting! May his memory be eternal!** Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Charles and Katie Shikany who were crowned in marriage on Nov. 11, 2022. My God grant them many years! Please keep them both in your prayers.

SUCCESSFUL FEAST DAY: THANK YOU to all who prepared for, managed, supported and/or attended the celebration and Divine Liturgy of the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, John Chrysostom. The luncheon was a huge success, including the wonderful fellowship and food. Congratulations to the Pharo family on winning the grand prize in the 50/50 raffle.

----- 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!

COMMUNION: If you are unable to make Divine Liturgy on Sunday due to health reasons, and you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist, please e-mail contact@stjohnmelkite.org by Saturday so that a clergy member may visit you with Communion. As a reminder, Church school begins immediately after communion, so on school days, note that the teachers and students will exit into the pews for communion first. Thanks for your help.

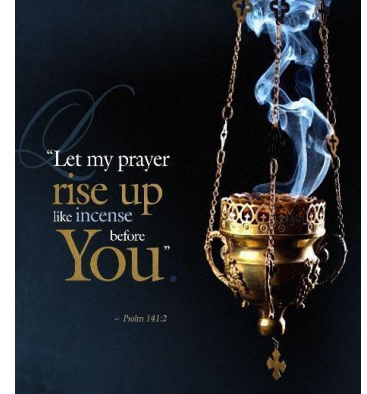
THIS WEEKEND, SUN., NOV 20 LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Michael Shikany, Requested by Deacon. Elie Hanna and Family
+Michael (Meshell) Khachfi, Requested by Paul & Janice Peterson

HEALTH & SALVATION

Deacon Sami Jajeh, 10th Year Ordination Anniversary, Requested by the Jajeh Family
Judy Nassar, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Charlie and Katie Shikany, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Kevin Steiger, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
Jim Reed, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
Those in our Prayer Line, Requested by St. John 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 -----

TUES, NOV 15 – TRADITIONAL NATIVITY FAST: The traditional fast began November 15th in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity on Dec. 25th. The Melkite form of the Fasting period begins on Dec. 10th.

SUN, NOV 20 – LADIES SOCIETY MEETING: Ladies Society will meet at the Cultural Center after fellowship and coffee.

MON, NOV 21 – FEAST OF THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE: Community Celebration on Sunday Nov. 20.

SUN, NOV 27 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: To decorate the Church and Cultural Center for the preparation of the feast of the Nativity of our Lord. We decorate again on Dec. 20th to add colors for the Nativity on Dec. 25th.

THURS, DEC 1 – PAC MEETING: Please e-mail contact@stjohnmelkite.org if you would like to receive the information to attend.

SUN, DEC 4 – FEAST OF ST. BARBARA: The Feast Day for St. Barbara (died c. 200 CE), legendary virgin martyr of the early church.

SUN, DEC 4 – ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM: Join us in the cultural center for a program on the Sacred Scriptures.

TUES, DEC 6 – FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS: Saint Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor during the time of the Roman Empire. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker.

SUN, DEC 11 – CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS: The Bake Sale, the visit by St. Nicholas and the Children Christmas Program will be this weekend. Please come for this special celebration.

SUN, JAN 8 – CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY (Actual Feast date is January 6th)

SUN, JAN 15 – MEMORIAL SERVICE AND MERCY MEAL: +Michael Shikany

SUN, JAN 22 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY: A parish general assembly will occur at the end of Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center.

----- DIAPERS AND WIPES DRIVE -----

DIAPERS AND WIPES DRIVE: The Good Samaritan Society is leading a Diapers and Wipes drive to help young women in need of diapers and wipes for their babies. The collection will go through the end of November. Thank you in advance for your generosity and participation. Please bring in them to the Cultural Center. Or, if you prefer, provide a monetary donation and we will purchase on your behalf.



----- 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. It is a way of life!

TIME AND TALENT: Volunteers Needed to help lead various ministries. **Liturgical Participation:** Please consider joining the Choir, being a reader (see Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (see Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an altar server (contact Dcn. Elie).

TREASURE: [CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#), or scan QR Code or send an email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org to set up ACH donations. All checks should be made to "St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church" except for diocesan collections, which should be made out to "Diocese of Newton." We receive Zelle donations at donate@stjohnmelkite.org. Identify donation purpose of donations in memo field.



MONTHLY FINANCIALS (OCT 2022): Total Income \$11,944, including Ordinary Collections: \$7,170 with Total Expenditures: \$17,685, including \$6,730 repairs and maintenance, leaving a Net Difference (-\$5,740)

2022 BISHOP'S APPEAL Offer your gratitude to God by giving a generous gift to the 2022 Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Bishop's Appeal today. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish and our Melkite Catholic Eparchy. The mailing from the diocese will be sent shortly to you. In the meantime, if you would like to give now, you may do so, by making your check payable to Eparchy of Newton, placing "Bishop Appeal 2022 – St. John Chrysostom, Atlanta" in the memo field and sending it to:

Eparchy of Newton
Attn: Bishop Appeal
3 VFW Pkwy
West Roxbury, MA 02132



WHAT ABOUT TRADITION? To be good stewards of tradition, 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 below.

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

COMMEMORATIONS: GIVE THE GIFT OF PRAYER! Send a commemoration request for a family member, friend, colleague or more such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life. Send your requests to contact@stjohnmelkite.org by Thursday.

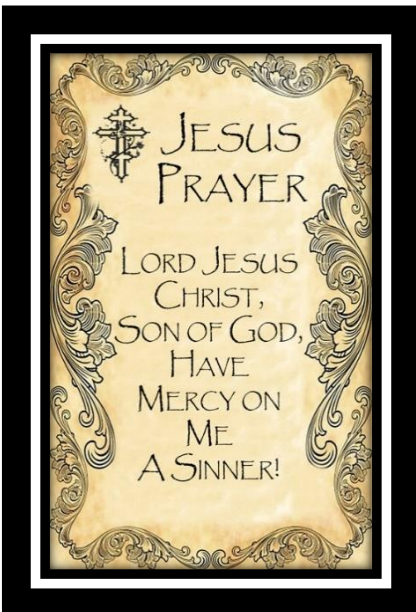
Please keep in your prayers...

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Evelyn Whalen | Souren Palanjian |
| Vic Maloof | Fr. Tom Flynn |
| Albert Mishu | Judy Nassar |
| Nadir Haddadin | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |
| Shikany Family | |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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.



2023 NAMW MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to the 31 ladies who joined the National Association of Melkite Women (NAMW). This is the best turnout we have had in many years!

Margaret Alexander	Julie Alyateem
Nidhal Asker	Suely Elias
Vickie Elias	Shirin Francis
Matilda Ghawi	Viola Ghawi
Suzie Hagley	Zoe Hanna
Marie Hansen	Lourice Jajeh
Tania Jajeh	Lillian Karroum
Rita Karroum	Rania Layous
Salma Layous	Vera Madanat
Aida Malouf	Suzie Massaol
Ghada Muhanna	Laila Muhanna
Lina Muhanna	Nadia Muhanna McCaffrey
Tyra Nuar	Ghada Osko
Patty Pharo	Nawal Shadeed
Mayy Wehbeh	Evelyn Whalen
Yvonne Yarid	

--- Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple ---

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is found in *The Protoevangelion of James*, a second-century telling of the birth and infancy of the Theotokos. The prayers and icon of this Feast focus on two elements of the Protoevangelion story. In the first, Mary at the age of three is presented to God in the temple at Jerusalem accompanied, as the text reads, “by the daughters of the Hebrews that are undefiled.” There “the priest received her, kissed her and blessed her.” After describing the scene, the Protoevangelion continues: “And Mary was in the temple of the Lord like a dove that is being nurtured: and she received food from the hand of an angel” (8:1). The image of the Virgin receiving food from an angel, often represented in our icon of the Feast, points to the spiritual environment in which Mary was raised and which would prepare the holy Virgin for her future role as Theotokos.

The second vignette is shown in the upper right hand corner of this icon. There Mary sits in the innermost sanctuary of the temple, the Holy of Holies, ministered to by an angel. According to Jewish Law, no one entered the Holy of Holies: “only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance” (Heb 9:8). It is unthinkable that a child would be not only allowed there but actually live there as the Protoevangelion avows.

In the Epistle to the Hebrews we are given a reason why no one was allowed into the Holy of Holies: “The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning” (Heb 9:9). By placing Mary in the Holy of Holies, the Protoevangelion is saying that the way into the Holy Place – the presence of God – now is disclosed. It is Christ, who would be incarnate in the womb of this same Mary the Theotokos. For this reason the story and its celebration have been embraced by the Tradition as affirmations of the Gospel.

Mary’s coming into the temple is portrayed as an “Entrance” on this feast in the Christian East rather than as a “Presentation” as in the West. This term puts us in mind of things like the “Great Entrance” at our Divine Liturgy or the Entrance Procession in the Western rites. Her coming is not the blessing of an insignificant child given in a “side chapel,” as it were, but a festive “prelude” or “overture” inaugurating the main event, the New Testament itself.

Our celebration of this feast focuses on Mary as the temple of the incarnate God, the one for whom the Jerusalem temple was only a prefiguration. After their entry with Christ into Jerusalem His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to the temple and the buildings in its compound. Jesus replied, “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down” (Mt 24:2). This feast celebrates the fulfillment of His prophecy. God’s people will no longer reach heaven via Jerusalem; rather the heavens have been opened to us and God’s temple, the Theotokos, is become for us the way to heaven through her childbearing.

----- MINISTRY LEADERS -----

Adult Education – Greg Pharo
Altar Servers – Deacon Elie Hanna
Choir – Sohel Elias
Children Education – Viola Ghawi, Tyra Nuar
Cultural Center Rental – Jerome Hagley
Friday Fellowship – Rita Karroum, Vera Madanat
Gift Shop – Joseph Manguno, Patty Pharo
Good Samaritan Society – Suely Elias, Marie Hansen
Ladies Society – Susie Hagley, Lina Muhanna (co-presidents)
Men’s Club, Publican Society – OPEN
Readers – Eric Hansen
Sunshine Committee – Matilda Ghawi
Ushers – Jerome Hagley, Robert Ghawi, Joseph Manguno

--- VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR ---

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.