



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, November 27, 2022

13th Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Tone: 8, Orthros Gospel: Mark 16:9-20 (3)

Counseling the Rich Man – Commemoration of the Great-martyr James the Persian

الأحد 27 تشرين الثاني 2022
الأحد الثالث عشر بعد الصليب

1428 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, Office: (404) 373-9522, Fax: (404) 373-9755, Email: contact@stjohnmelkite.org
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 -----

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.

CHURCH AND CULTURAL CENTER DECORATIONS: This Sunday, November 27th, we will decorate the church and hall for the Christmas season. We will gather after Divine Liturgy in teams. As always, your participation is appreciated – thank you!

UPCOMING FAMILY NIGHT: The December Family Night will be held on Saturday, Dec 3rd with Vespers in the Church at 6:30pm and dinner starting in the cultural center at 7pm. We are trying a Saturday evening both to add Vespers and to see how a Saturday evening works for everyone.

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).

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Visit by St. Nicholas, Children Christmas Program and the Bake Sale will be held Sunday, Dec. 11th after liturgy in the Cultural Center. Please come for this special celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas.

----- 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 27 LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Michael Shikany, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family

+Mary Baroody, Requested by St. John Parish Community

HEALTH & SALVATION

Vic Maloof, Requested by St. John Parish Community

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Parish Community

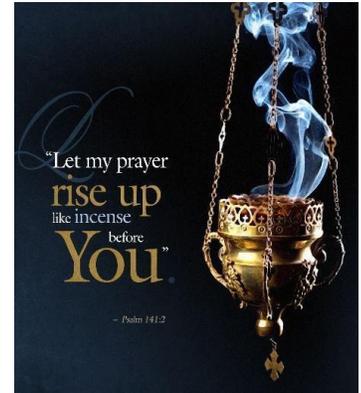
Those in our Prayer Line, Requested by St. John Parish Community

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 -----

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. 18th 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.

SAT, DEC 3 – FAMILY NIGHT: Please join us for Vespers (6:30pm) and Dinner (7:00pm).

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.

SUN, DEC 9 – FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF ANNA AND CONCEPTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS: According to the ancient tradition of the Church, since Saint Anna, the Ancestor of God, was barren, she and her husband Joachim remained without children until old age. Therefore, sorrowing over their childlessness, they besought God with a promise that, if He were to grant them the fruit of the womb, they would offer their offspring to Him as a gift. And God, hearkening to their supplication, informed them through an Angel concerning the birth of the Virgin.

SUN, DEC 11 – CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS: The Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra (Dec 6th), 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.

SAT, DEC 24 and SUN, DEC 25 – CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF NATIVITY: The liturgical calendar for the Feast of Nativity is still being considered. This year, it falls on a Sunday, so the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Nativity and Sunday are one and the same.

SUN, JAN 1 – NEW YEAR/FEAST OF CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST: Since New Year falls on a Sunday, the Divine Liturgy for the New Year will be the same Divine Liturgy for this Sunday. There is no better way to start a new year than to put God first in worship, praise, and hymns during Divine Liturgy.

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.

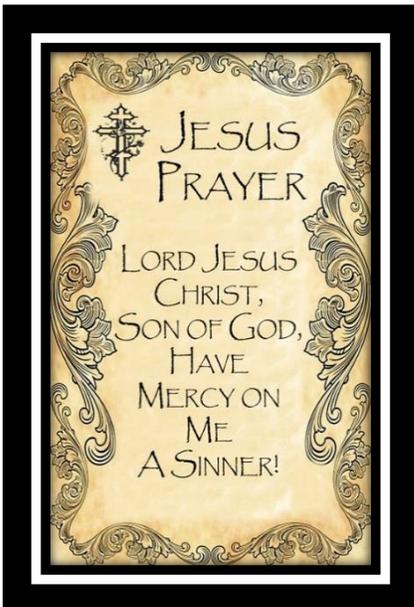
Please keep in your prayers...

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Evelyn Whalen | Souren Palanjian |
| Vic Maloof | Fr. Tom Flynn |
| Albert Mishu | Judy Nassar |
| Nadir Haddadin | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |
| Shikany Family | Baroody 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 33 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	Ghada Nabhan
Mervat Al Zaraaneh	

--- Sell All You Have ---

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” This question is posed by a young Jewish leader whom Jesus meets on His way to Jerusalem. At first glance it seems a reasonable inquiry, one that many people would still ask today. “Tell me what prayer to say, what shrine to visit, what project I can take on which will guarantee that I’ll get to heaven.”

Church Fathers, however, saw this as a trick question, seeking to trap Jesus into setting some new requirement not in the Law. The Lord does not give the young man another thing to do, adding to the list of precepts which devotees of the Torah felt set forth God’s will for them. Rather Jesus says that to be perfect you must “sell all you have” and commit yourself completely to Him. Perfection does not come from performing this or that isolated action, however good it may be. Perfection comes from entrusting one’s whole life to Christ.

From the Commentary of Theophylact

It is better if we give away all our wealth; and if not all, then at least let us share it with the poor. Thus the impossible becomes possible. For though it is impossible for the man who does not distribute all to be saved, yet through God’s love for man, even a partial distribution brings a partial benefit.

In response to this, Peter asks, “*Lo, we have left all.* [What do we have to give to the poor?]” He does not ask this for his own sake alone, but in order to find some consolation for all the poor. Peter asks his question for fear that only the rich have the good hope to obtain much because they despised much, and that the poor have little hope because they had little to give away and thus can expect only a little reward.

Peter asks, and hears the answer, that everyone who despises, for God’s sake, whatever goods he may have, even if they are few, shall receive his reward both in this age and in the age to come. Do not consider those goods to be few; rather, for that poor man, his few things are his whole life. Just as you, the rich man, expect to pass your life with your many and great possessions, the pauper, likewise, expects to pass his life with his belongings, no matter how few and small they may be.

Though his belongings are few, I will say that a man’s attachment to his possessions is even greater when he owns little. This is clearly shown to be true with parents. The attachment of a parent to his only child is much greater than that of a parent to his many children. Likewise, the poor man has a keener love for his single house and single field than you have for your many houses and fields. And even if it is the case that a poor man is attached to his possessions to the same degree as a rich man, then, at a minimum, the loss is the same for each.

Even in this present age, those who give of the little they have receive their reward many times over, as did these very Apostles. For each Apostle left his own hut, and now each one has magnificent temples in his name, with lands and triumphant processions, and, instead of a single wife, many women bound to him in fervent faith; in short, for everything they gave up, they have received many times over. And in the age to come they receive, not a multiplication of fields such as these and other tangible rewards, but eternal life.

----- 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.