



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

### Bulletin for Sunday, December 11, 2022

Sunday of the Forefathers – Tone: 2 – Orthros Gospel: Luke 24:12-35 (5)

Commemoration of our Holy Father Daniel the Stylite

الأحد، 11 كانون الاول 2022

أحد الاجداد القديسين

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Web: [stjohnmelkite.org](http://stjohnmelkite.org) • FB: [facebook.com/StJohnMelkite](https://facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) • YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite](https://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](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 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](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 -----

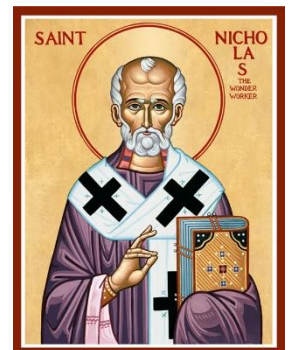
**MODIFIED NATIVITY FAST (STARTS DEC 10<sup>th</sup>):** If you have not been following the Traditional Fast, know that the Melkite form of the Fasting period begins on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CHURCHING OF NEW BABY (DEC 11<sup>th</sup>):** Mr. & Mrs. Sami and Nathalie Nassar were recently blessed with a daughter, Laila, who will be Churched on Sunday, Dec. 11.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (DEC 11<sup>TH</sup>):** Visit by St. Nicholas, Children Christmas Program and the Bake Sale will be held **Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> after liturgy in the Cultural Center.** Please come for this special event for the Feast of St. Nicholas.

**PAC MEETING CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER:** With December being a very busy month, this month's PAC meeting is being cancelled. Please reach out to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) if you would like to be added to the invite for the Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEC 15<sup>th</sup>):** Ten adults gathered for the newly-formed Adult Education program last Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center. The next program will be on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm via Zoom and the topic will be Scripture Studies (Works of Righteousness).



## ----- 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](mailto: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.

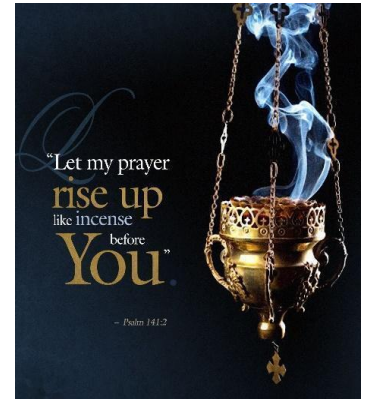
### THIS SUNDAY'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

#### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Michael Shikany, Requested by St. John Parish Community  
+Mary Baroody, Requested by St. John Parish Community  
+Victoria Azzam, 14 years anniversary, Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Tony Ghawi

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Parish Community  
Evelyn Whalen, Requested by St. John Parish Community  
Samira Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh 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



**CHRISTMAS COMMEMORATIONS:** Commemorate a loved one on the most holy Feast of Nativity. [Click here to submit](#) your prayer commemorations online, or if you prefer, e-mail [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

### 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, DEC 18 – CHURCH DECORATIONS:** Volunteers will be needed to finish the decorations by adding color on the Sunday of December 18<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the Nativity Divine Liturgy on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**SUN, DEC 25 – CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF NATIVITY: To be celebrated as a Vigil Divine Liturgy on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.** In God's time (*kairos*), the day starts when the sun goes down the evening before, so there is typically a vigil liturgy. This year, the Feast of the Nativity falls on a Sunday, so the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Nativity and Sunday are one and the same with the Divine Liturgy, Saturday evening at 6pm being both the celebration of the Feast of Nativity and Sunday Divine Liturgy. **There will be no liturgy on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**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, with Orthros at 10am and Divine Liturgy at 10:30am. There is no better way to start a new year than to put God first in worship, praise, and hymns during the Divine Liturgy.

**SUN, JAN 8 – CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY** (Actual Feast date is January 6<sup>th</sup>)

**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.

## ----- ARE WE PREPARING? -----

Christmas is a time of joy, wonder, and excitement. It celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Feast of Nativity celebrates the Incarnation of the only-begotten Son of God. As such, we should prepare ourselves accordingly, so we can welcome Him with pure hearts and contrite spirits. The Kondakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord reminds us that: ***Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice therefore, O Universe, when you hear this news and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him Who shall appear as a new Child being God from all eternity.***



----- 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](mailto: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](mailto:donate@stjohnmelkite.org). Identify donation purpose of donations in memo field.



**MONTHLY FINANCIALS (NOV 2022):** Total Income \$12,725, including Ordinary Collections: \$10,189 with Total Expenditures of \$22,542, including \$9,798 building repairs and maintenance (including new HVAC), leaving a Net Difference **(-\$9,817)**. As we have shown a deficit the past three months, prayerfully consider what your ongoing 2023 donations to St. John Chrysostom might be, starting the New Year, as well as putting your payments on a regular giving schedule if not already.



**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. The mailing from the diocese has been sent out to all parishioners. Please respond accordingly and give generously. **Our Goal for this year is 100% parish participation.** You may also give electronically by [clicking here to read Bishop Francois' letter and give online](#) If you prefer to send via mail, please make your check payable to Eparchy of Newton, with "Bishop Appeal 2022 – St. John Chrysostom, Atlanta" in the memo field

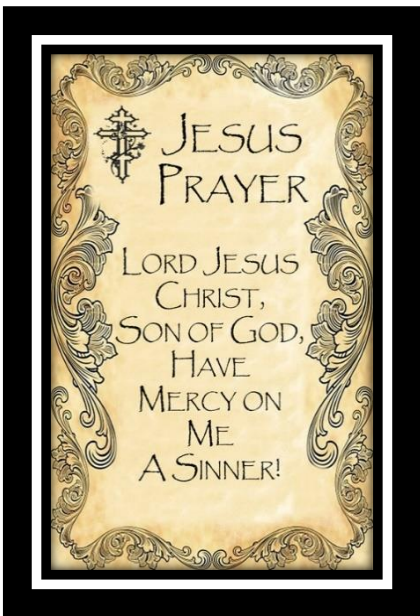
Mail donation via US Mail to:  
Melkite Eparchy of Newton  
Attn: Bishop Appeal  
802 Rifle Camp Road  
PO Box 630  
Woodland Park, NJ 07424

Or Scan QR code to donate via  
PayPal online

**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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

## December 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@stiohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stiohnmelkite.org) so we

**Name Days for St. Barbara, St. Nicholas, St. Spiridon,**  
Nicholas Curry

### Birthdays:

Michael Madanat	Tyra Nuar
Salma Layous	Nora Mishu
Rouviette Hanna	
Suleiman (John) Madanat	

Jesus Christ, also known as Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Lord, Savior, Messiah, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Holy and Blessed Trinity, true God and true man.

### Anniversary:

Evelyn Whalen    Craig & Melinda Ajmo

## ----- 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.

## --- St Athanasios on the Incarnation---

“What, then, was God to do? What else could He possibly do, being God, but renew His Image in mankind, so that through it we might once more come to know Him? And how could this be done save by the coming of the very Image Himself, our Savior Jesus Christ? We could not have done it, for we are only made after the Image; nor could angels have done it, for they are not the images of God. The Word of God came in His own Person, because it was He alone, the Image of the Father, Who could recreate man made after the Image.

“The Word perceived that corruption could not be got rid of otherwise than through death; yet He Himself, as the Word, being immortal and the Father’s Son, could not die. For this reason, therefore, He assumed a body capable of death, ... By surrendering to death the body which He had taken, as an offering and sacrifice free from every stain, He abolished death for His human brethren

... Naturally also, through this union of the immortal Son of God with our human nature, all men were clothed with incorruption in the promise of the resurrection. For the solidarity of mankind is such that, by the Word’s indwelling in a single human body, the corruption which goes with death has lost its power over all” (On the Incarnation 34, 35).

