



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, December 25, 2022

(Divine Liturgy to be Celebrated as Vigil Divine Liturgy on Dec. 24 @ 6p.m.)

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord according to the flesh of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

الأحد 25 كانون الأول 2022

ميلاد ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح بحسب الجسد

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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 -----

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! The Feast of Nativity celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as the Incarnation of the only begotten Son of God. The Kondakion states: *Today the Virgin gives birth to the One Who surpasses all essences, and the earth offers a cave to God, the Inaccessible One. Angels sing His glory together with the shepherds: for to us is born a Child, God in all eternity.* The deacons and their families wish everyone a Blessed Feast of Nativity, Merry Christmas, and the peace of Christ to you and your family. May God bless you always. Christ is born! Glorify Him!



A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU: Thank you to those who helped decorate the Church last Sunday and those who regularly serve in a ministerial capacity. Your hard work is appreciated and noticed. Thank you to those who continue to visit the gift shop and purchase items for others, those who regularly pray for our community members and/or visit those who need help and/or prepare food – you are doing God's work! Thank you to those who regularly tithe and support the Church. All Glory to God!

NEXT PAC MEETING: Please send an e-mail to contact@stjohnmelkite.org to join the next Parish Advisory Council meeting.

2023 MELKITE CALENDARS AVAILABLE: If you would like a calendar, they will be made available after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center. If you are not able to travel to church, please e-mail us and we will mail you a copy.

THEOPHANY LUNCHEON: A pizza luncheon is being planned for the community after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Jan 8th.

----- 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 clergy may visit you with Communion. As a reminder, Church school begins immediately after communion, so on school days, so teachers and students will exit into the pews first.

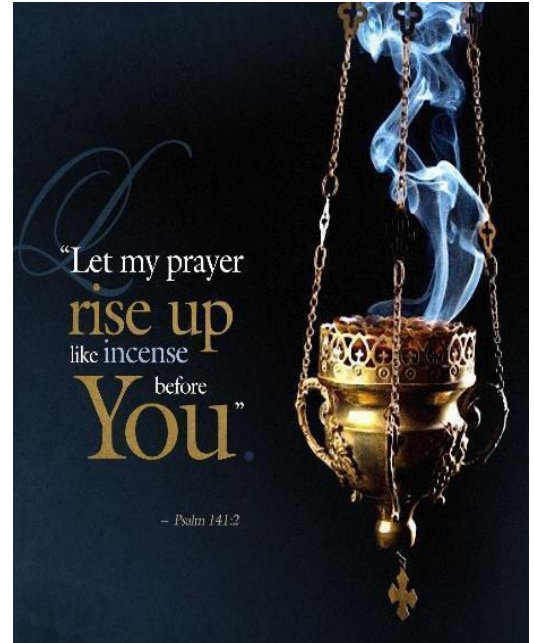
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Michael Shikany, Requested by St. John Parish Community
+Mary Barody, Requested by St. John Parish Community
+John and Marcella Chambers, Requested by John Chambers, Jr.
+Spiridon Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and family
+Knarig Kitabjian, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and family
+David Alexander, +Robb McElroy, Requested by the Alexander Family
+Raif Muhanna, +Elias Mansour, +Elvir Mansour, +Rodolf Mansour,
+Emil Mansour, Requested by Shajih & Ghada Muhanna
+Veronica Stahl, +Francis Stahl, +Ruth Strickland, +George Strickland, +James Curry,
+Russel Ferdon, +Edward Havrilla, Requested by the Curry Family

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Evelyn Whalen, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Olga Elana Mantilla, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Butrus Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family
Souren and Arous Palanjian, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
Taleen and Bryce Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie and Zoe Hanna
Zoe Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna
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



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

SAT, DEC 24 – CONFESSIONS: Starting at 5:15pm, prior to the Divine Liturgy at 6pm, confessions will be heard in the chapel.

SAT, DEC 24 – CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF NATIVITY: To be celebrated as a Vigil Divine Liturgy on Saturday, December 24th at 6pm. 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 the morning of Sunday, December 25th.**

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 6th)

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

SUN, JAN 15 – LADIES SOCIETY MEETING: A Ladies Society Meeting will be held after the Divine Liturgy.

SUN, JAN 22 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY: A parish general assembly will occur at the end of Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center. If you would like a specific topic addressed at the General Assembly this January, please let the deacons know by e-mailing us.

----- COMMUNITY EVENT -----

FRI, JAN 6 – BLESSING OF THE RIVER (For the Feast Theophany on January 6th). The Epiphany of our Lord Byzantine Church in Roswell, GA is doing a special service on the Feast of Theophany with Divine Liturgy at 12:00pm on Friday, January 6th at their church followed by a Great Blessing of Water at the Chattahoochee (Docks behind St Andrews RC Church) at approximately 2pm. They will convoy to St. Andrews from their church to bless the Chattahoochee River, which is 2-3 miles from their church. They have graciously extended an invite to all our parishioners who can make this service. No RSVP is required.

----- 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 (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's Appeal – 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

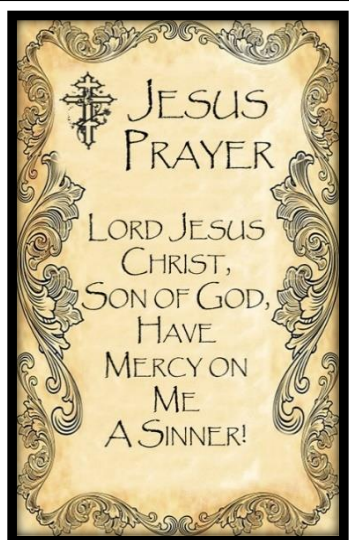
Or Scan QR code to donate via
PayPal online



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 by Thursday.



Please keep in your prayers...

Evelyn Whalen
Vic Maloof
Albert Mishu
Nadir Haddadin
Shikany Family

Souren Palanjian
Fr. Tom Flynn
Judy Nassar
Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay)
Baroody Family

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.

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@stjohnmelkite.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	

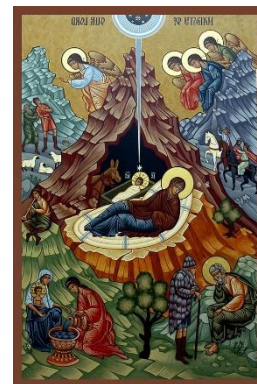
Jesus Christ, also known as Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Lord, Savior, Messiah, and the 2nd Person of the Holy and Blessed Trinity, true God and true man.

Anniversary:

Evelyn Whalen Craig & Melinda Ajmo

--- Christ is Born! Glorify Him! ---

OUR NATURE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED in Christ... our nature is being transformed in Christ... our nature will be transformed in Christ. At first glance this may seem like a grammar exercise about verbs. In fact it is a summary of theology: exploring the magnitude of the mystery which is Christ in us.



Christ's Coming Has Transformed Us

The focus of our Christmas celebration is most often on the Gospel narratives of Matthew and Luke. They speak of the trip to Bethlehem, the angels and shepherds, the magi and the star. But from the earliest days of the Church believers have seen the birth of Christ containing, as it were, the whole life and death of Christ as a seed. His acceptance of our human nature necessarily includes His acceptance of the cross and death, and His renewal of mankind by His resurrection. In the same way our decision to have children must include the decision to accept the Terrible Twos, the Traumatic Teens, and all that follows.

For many religious people, when something holy comes into contact with something profane the holy thing becomes defiled. This principle is found in Judaism and Islam and accounts for the ritual washings and similar practices in these religions. The message of the Gospel, however, is that when the Holy One, the Son of God, comes into contact with something profane it is the profane thing which is changed. It is sanctified by contact with the holy. God is not defiled by His fallen creation; His creation is transformed when He enters into it in Christ. As described by St Gregory of Nyssa, "The Word in taking flesh was mingled with humanity, and took our nature within Himself, so that the human should be deified by this mingling with God: the stuff of our nature was entirely sanctified by Christ, the first-fruits of creation" (Against Appolonarius, 2).

By taking on our humanity the Word of God assumes all that we are, except sin, so that we can become by grace what He is by nature, children of the Father. Our nature is transfigured in Him. It is divinized or deified. As St Gregory the Theologian boldly expressed it, "He took our flesh and our flesh became God, since it is united with God and forms a single entity with Him" (Third Theological Oration).

Our society, and contemporary culture in general, is committed to the value and freedom of the individual. We recognize that each person has worth in himself or herself and this is good. But a stress on individualism inevitably leads to the separation of peoples from one another. At worst, people are alienated from society, from God, from one another. At the least, we find it hard to see the communal dimension to the incarnation: that the entire human race is irrevocably changed because the Son of God has come into it.

----- 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.