



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, January 1, 2023

Circumcision of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Commemoration of our father among the saints Basil the Great Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

الجمعة 1 كانون الثاني 2023

ختان ربنا وإلهنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح بحسب الجسد.

تذكار أبينا في القديسين باسيليوس الكبير رئيس أساقفة قيصرية الكبادوك

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 -----

JANUARY PAC MEETING: Please send an e-mail to contact@stjohnmelkite.org to join the upcoming Parish Advisory Council meeting this Thursday, January 5th.

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

THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS: For the faithful, the Christmas seasons BEGINS, NOT ENDS, on December 25th. Continue to let the light of Christ shine in your trees, your candles, and your hearts. If you did not receive your family's Christmas candle from the church at Christmas Vigil Liturgy, please pick one up at this Sunday's Divine Liturgy. Additional candles are available with a donation.

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

2022 GIVING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: will be distributed in January 2023 through e-mail. As we converted to the new software midyear, they will only cover July-Dec. If a full year giving contribution statement is needed, please contact Deacon Sami to review prior donations.

2023 GIVING PLEDGES: will be accepted in January 2023. Setting up a 2023 Giving Pledge account will allow you to better understand your total giving for the year ahead and will allow St. John Chrysostom to better manage the parish budget. More information will be provided at the General Assembly on January 22nd.



----- 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.

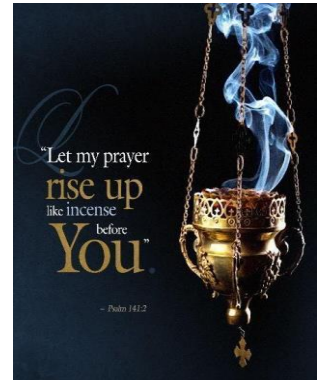
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Requested by St. John Parish Community
+Mary Baroody, Requested by St. John Parish Community
+Bohdan Luka (father of Victoria Luka), Requested by Deacon Elie and Zoe Hanna

HEALTH & SALVATION

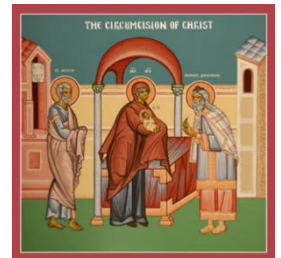
Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Evelyn Whalen, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Souren Palanjian, Requested by Zoe Hanna and Family
2023 Special Intention, Requested by Daniel Offutt
Those in our Prayer Line, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

SUN, JAN 1 – NEW YEAR/FEAST OF CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST AND ST. BASIL THE GREAT: 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). Christ's baptism in the Jordan, is considered a theophany or manifestation of God. It marked the beginning of the Lord's public life. He would go from the Jordan to the wilderness and be tempted, then return to begin His public ministry. In the thought of the Greek Fathers this event was the New Testament's first revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son. This is the theophany recalled in the troparion of the feast: "***At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed; ...***"



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.

SUN, JAN 29 – TRIODION: The Pre-Lenten period begins with the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican, followed by the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Meat Fare Sunday, and concluding in Cheese Fare Sunday.

SUN, FEB 12 – MEAT FARE SUNDAY: In preparation for Great Lent, the last Sunday to partake in meat and meat by-products.

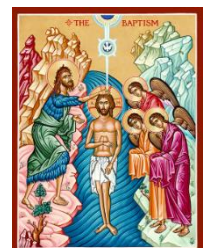
SUN, FEB 19 – CHEESE FARE SUNDAY: In preparation for Great Lent, the last Sunday to partake in cheese and cheese by-products.

----- THANK YOU FROM FR. GEORGE -----

We would like to extend our gratitude for the kind words and generous appreciations we receive from the parish and from many parishioners with the occasion of the Nativity Feast. It is our privilege to be able to be present every Sunday at St. John Chrysostom Church. Our prayers are for your parish and for everyone to be blessed with a prosperous and good New Year! Presbytera Juliana joins me in thanking you for your Christmas thoughtfulness. With blessing and affection, (Fr.) Abouna George

----- 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.

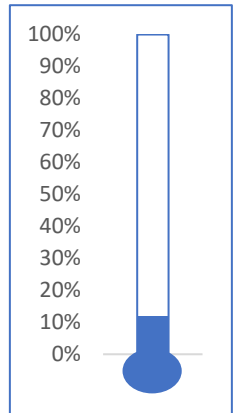


FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - DEC 2022): Total Income \$16,666, including Ordinary Collections: \$10,235 with Total Expenditures of \$10,239, leaving a Net Difference **\$6,373**. **(QUARTERLY – SEP- DEC 2022):** Total Income \$41,335, including Ordinary Collections: \$27,601 with Total Expenditures of \$50,527, leaving a Net Difference **(-\$9,185)**.

BISHOP'S APPEAL Offer your gratitude to God by giving a gift to the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Bishop's Appeal.



Please respond accordingly and give generously. **Our Goal for this year is 100% parish participation, currently at 12%.** You may give electronically by [clicking here to read Bishop Francois' letter and give online](#) If you prefer mail, please make your check to Eparchy of Newton, with "Bishop's Appeal – St. John Chrysostom, Atlanta" in the memo field. Currently, St. John Chrysostom has **twelve donors** who have given a total of **\$2,700** for an approximate **average gift of \$217/parishioner family**. We have until the end of January to increase this amount, so please give generously.



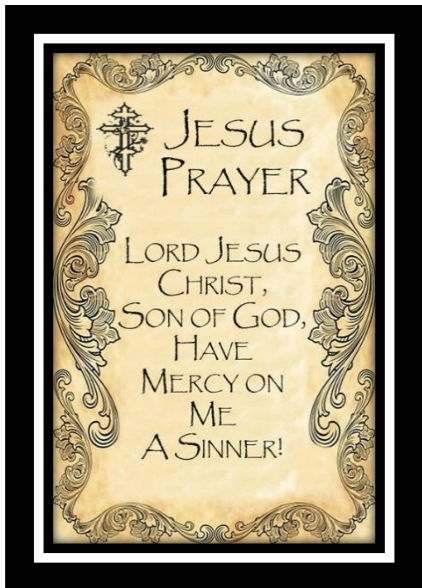
Mail donation via US Mail to:
 Melkite Eparchy of Newton
 Attn: Bishop Appeal
 802 Rifle Camp Road
 PO Box 630
 Woodland Park, NJ 07424

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: Send a commemoration request to contact@stjohnmelkite.org for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.



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 |
| +Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI | |
| 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.

January 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. Basil, St. John Baptist, St.

Anthony

Basil Kirma	Rt. Rev. John Azar
John Chambers	John Daho Sr. and Jr.
John Elias	John Healan
John Jajeh	Jonathan Pharo
Anthony Jabaley	Anthony Rozier
Tony Ghawi	Tony Elia
Greg Pharo	

Birthdays:

John Jajeh	Kamil Karroum
Dzovag Hanna	Shoghag Palanjian
Luke Ghawi	Cecilia Curry
Adelaide Curry	Matilda Ghawi
Tatiana Curry	Tony Ghawi
Lillian Karroum	George Malouf
Rita Karroum	Stephanie Kashou

Anniversary:

Mr. & Mrs. Kareem and Arige Atalla
Mr. & Mrs. Peter and Tyra Nuar

--- A Bishop for the World! ---

JANUARY 1 MARKS A DOUBLE FEAST in the Byzantine Churches. First of all, it celebrates the circumcision of Christ, which took place eight days after His birth. It is also the commemoration of St Basil the Great who died on this date in ad 379. There are several saints given this title, "the Great," in our tradition such as St Athanasius of Alexandria (296-373), and St Leo the Pope of Rome in the fifth century. But who decides that a particular individual merits this designation? Was papal or imperial authority the deciding factor or was popular acclamation responsible?

WHY IS BASIL CALLED "GREAT?"

In the case of St Basil, it was during his lifetime that people were describing him this way. His life-long friend, St Gregory the Theologian popularized the term in the eulogy he wrote in Basil's memory and the entire Christian world adopted it. Basil was what would centuries later be called a "Renaissance man," a person excelling in so many areas of thought and action. St Gregory the Theologian described him as well advanced in rhetoric, grammar, philosophy, geometry, astronomy, and medicine. His writings on a wide range of subjects over his lifetime bear witness to the breadth of his knowledge. Basil was born into an old and wealthy Christian family in Asia Minor. His grandparents were Confessors for the faith, hiding for seven year in the forest of Pontus during the Great Persecution of Diocletian. Basil's father was a prominent rhetorician in Caesarea, the administrative center of Cappadocia (Kayseri, in central Turkey, today) and it is there that Basil began his education. He was further schooled in Constantinople and Athens among the sons of other aristocrats. As St Gregory described it, "He studied everything, more than others are accustomed to study a single subject. He studied each science in its very totality, as though he would study nothing else...He was a ship fully laden with learning, as much as is humanly possible."

A year after completing his studies Basil had what we might call a conversion experience. As he described it is a letter, "Suddenly I awoke as out of a deep sleep. I beheld the wonderful light of the Gospel truth, and I recognized the nothingness of the wisdom of the princes of this world" and devoted all his energies to the Christian life. After a brief stab at the life of a solitary, Basil established a community on his grandmother's estate along the Iris River, gathering family members and friends in a community of prayer and good works. After about four years Basil was ordained a deacon (362) and a priest (365) for the service of the Church in Caesarea, the second see (protothrone) in the patriarchate of Constantinople. In 370 he was elected its bishop, a position he held until his death in 379. We recall some of St Basil's endeavors in the following troparion sung on his feast: "Your voice has sounded all over the earth that accepted your preaching. You gave a divine explanation of doctrine and made clear the nature of creatures and set a rule of life for men. Holy father, kingly priest, intercede with Christ God to grant us great mercy."

----- 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.