



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, January 15, 2023

Twelfth Sunday After the Holy Cross - Tone: 7 — Orthros Gospel: John 21:1-14 (10)

Commemoration of St. Paul of Thebes and St. John the Hut-Dweller

الاحد 15 كانون الثاني 2023

الاحد الثاني عشر بعد الصليب

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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.

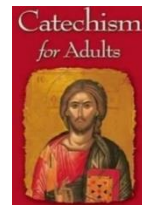
----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM: The first two adult education sessions have been successfully completed. We hope to see you at one of the upcoming programs. The next session is Sunday, January 29th (Coffee Hour): We will discuss Jesus and Grace, John 1:1-18 and Ephesians 2:1-22

2023 MELKITE CALENDARS: Please request a 2023 calendar if you have not received one.

2022 GIVING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AND GIVING PLEDGES: To be distributed in January in envelopes. As we converted to the new financial software midyear, they will only cover July-Dec. If a full year giving contribution statement is needed, please contact Deacon Sami. Please consider setting up a 2023 Giving Pledge account which allows you to better understand your total giving and St. John Chrysostom to better manage the parish budget. More information at the General Assembly.

JAN 18- 25 – PRAYER WEEK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: Suggested daily prayer for the Prayer Week of Christian Unity: *O Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, on the eve of Your redemptive suffering, You fervently asked Your heavenly Father that all Your followers be one, as You are One with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We implore You, divine Master, to bestow upon all Christian Churches the unity of faith, of hearts and of purpose, so that they become one flock under the leadership of One Shepherd according to Your wish. Grant us, Lord, to love one another as You loved us, So that, seeing our unity, the world may believe in You and embrace your message of peace and love. For You are the Prince of Peace and Lover of mankind and to You we render glory, and to Your Eternal Father, and Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen*



----- 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.

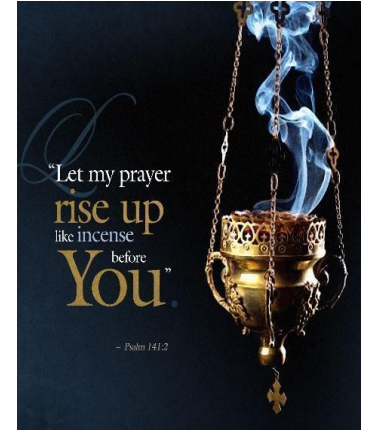
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Requested by St. John Parish Community
+Michael Shikany, 40-day memorial, Requested by St. John Parish Community
+Tony Azzam, 2nd yr. anniversary, brother of Matilda Ghawi, Requested by Tony & Matilda Ghawi
+Farhat Bajalia (CA), Requested by Butrus Jajeh, Deacon Sami Jajeh and Families

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Evelyn Whalen, Requested by St. John Parish Community
Yvonne Yarid, Requested by St. John Parish Community
John Chambers, Jr., Requested by St. John Parish Community
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 15 – MEMORIAL SERVICE AND MERCY MEAL: +Michael Shikany, may his memory be eternal!

JAN 18-25 – PRAYER WEEK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: See suggested prayer for Christian Unity above in the Parish Life Update section.

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 5 – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON:

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.

SUN, FEB 19 – FORGIVENESS VESPERS: After the Divine Liturgy for Sunday, February 19th, we will have a short coffee hour with fellowship in the hall, followed by a Forgiveness Vespers service in the Church.

MON, FEB 20 – FORGIVENESS (or CLEAN) MONDAY: The First Day of the Great Fast is Forgiveness Monday. As we approach and prepare for Holy Week and Pascha (Easter), we start the season by asking for forgiveness from God and each other. Please join us for the spiritually moving service of Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday, February 19th after Divine Liturgy.

GREAT LENT – WEDNESDAY's & FRIDAY's: The deacons are preparing the calendar for Great Lent. Do plan on regularly attending Compline, Akathist, and the special services of Holy Week.

----- A NEW YEAR: 2023 – A RENEWED COMMITMENT -----

A NEW YEAR brings with it the hope of new behaviors, new attitudes, new beginnings and more. We reflect on our previous year's accomplishments and setbacks, and endeavor to do greater things in the year ahead. In many ways, this is a Byzantine Christian approach, as we remember that "God became man, so that man might could become God" (St. Athanasius). As St. Athanasius teaches us, we are constantly in the process of *theosis*, becoming more like God. Let us together review our stewardship towards His Church and consider where we might be able to grow in 2023. Here are some questions to ponder:

- **Time:** How can I faithfully give God my time? Can I be of service with a ministry? Attend the PAC meetings? Be on time regularly for Divine Liturgy? Pray for those on the prayer list at my icon corner?
- **Talent:** Can I be of service during the liturgy? Should I join the choir? Will I learn how to bake *Qurban* (holy bread) this year? Can I make food for or visit parishioners who are sick?
- **Treasure:** As I review my donations as listed on my 2022 contribution statement, does this fully reflect what God has given me? What is He directing me to pledge for 2023?



----- 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.

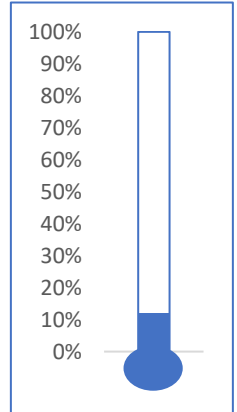


FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - DEC 2022): Total Income \$16,666, including Ordinary Collections: \$10,235 with Total Expenditures of \$10,239, leaving a Net Difference **\$6,373**. **(QUARTERLY – SEP- DEC 2022):** Total Income \$41,335, including Ordinary Collections: \$27,601 with Total Expenditures of \$50,527, 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 15%.** 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 **fifteen donors** who have given a total of **\$3,117** for an approximate **average gift of \$207/parishioner family**. We have until the end of January to increase this amount, so please give generously.



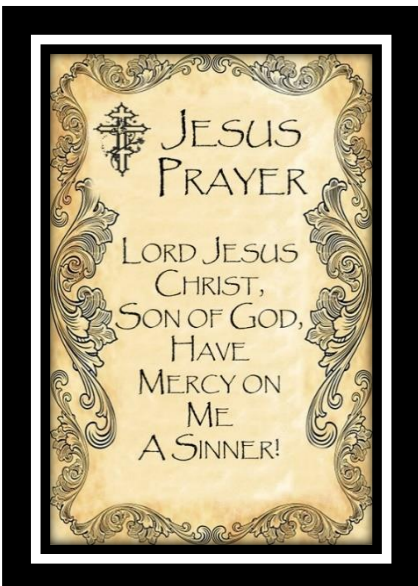
Mail donation via US Mail to:
 Melkite Eparchy of Newton
 Attn: Bishop Appeal
 802 Rifle Camp Road
 PO Box 630
 Woodland Park, NJ 07424

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...

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Yvonne Yarid | Marilyn Doolan | Evelyn Whalen |
| Souren Palanjian | Vic Maloof | Fr. Tom Flynn |
| Albert Mishu | Judy Nassar | Nadir Haddadin |
| Shikany Family | John Chambers, Jr. | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |
| +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 Palanjan
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

--- What Does It Mean to Be Saved? ---

CHRIST'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE TEN LEPERS offers several points on which we can reflect. We see that Christ heals, that He heals foreigners as well as Israelites, and that the only one who glorifies God is that foreigner, a Samaritan. Christ's response to the Samaritan, however, is a bit more complicated and merits our attention. According to St Luke, when the Samaritan returns glorifying God, Christ responds, "Arise, go your way; your faith has made you well" (Lk 17:19 New King James Version). Is Christ referring to the original healing in which all ten lepers were cleansed or does the Samaritan receive something else because he came back glorifying God?

The Greek verb in this sentence is *sesoken*, a form of the word *sonon* which we regularly translate in our prayers as "save." It may be translated as "heal," "make whole" or "save" depending on the context. In such a case it is wise to consult the Tradition for the best interpretation. Early Church commentators on this passage suggest that the Samaritan received more than the physical healing of his disease: he found salvation.

What Does It Mean to Be Saved?

When Western Christians talk about salvation they often think of it as described by St Augustine (4th/5th century) and by Anselm of Canterbury (11th century). In their view all mankind was unrighteous and unclean through the original sin of Adam. It was necessary that mankind make atonement through a well-pleasing sacrifice. That sacrifice was made on the cross, by which Christ offered Himself for the sins of Adam and of the entire human race.

As this view was developed, the West focused increasingly on the Cross. Christ's death was the sacrifice offered to atone for sin and ransom mankind. Some saw the cross as an instrument of the Father's wrath originally meant for us, now taken out on His Son! Others thought of Christ's death as a ransom paid to the devil in whose power mankind had fallen. These views took the West further and further from the thinking of the early Church.

The Eastern Fathers had a different view of sin and salvation. Instead of atonement and sacrifice they stressed the loss and restoration of relationship with God as the heart of the question of sin and redemption. The original sin, the sin of Adam, was a break in relationship with God. Adam declines to heed God's warning and eats of the tree, determining for himself what is good rather than heeding God. Going it alone, Adam no longer "walked with God" but hid from Him (Gen 2).

In Christ, God enters the world to become one with mankind once more and, through this complete and eternal union with Him, to deliver it from eternal death. The Son of God becomes like us in all things except sin and in Him God and man are perfectly united. Once again God is fully in communion with a Man, the Lord Jesus, and through Him with all mankind. Since being human means to endure suffering and death, Christ shared in those things as well. What was unique about Christ is that He did not remain in death but, once He had experienced it, He triumphed over it.

And so Christ's death on the cross is not emphasized in the Christian East as a sacrifice to atone for original sin; rather it is as the inevitable consequence of His desire to become one of us. Christ's death on the cross is an unavoidable result of His being fully human because all humans die.

----- 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.