



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

**Bulletin for Sunday, January 8, 2023**

Community Celebration of the Theophany of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ  
Great Blessing of Water

الاربعاء، 8 كانون الثاني 2023  
ظهور ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح المقدس

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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 عِبِيدُهُ 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 -----

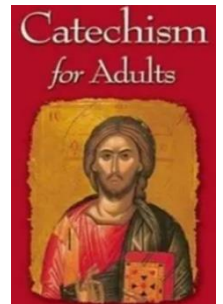
**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM:** The first two adult education sessions have been successfully completed. We hope to see you at one of the upcoming programs. The next two sessions are below and open to everyone:

- Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (Online): We will discuss the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-48
- Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> (Coffee Hour): We will discuss Jesus and Grace, John 1:1-18 and Ephesians 2:1-22

**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.

**2022 GIVING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** will be distributed in January 2023 in envelopes starting this Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## ----- 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 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

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

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

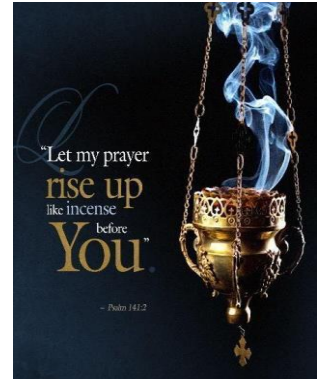
Evelyn Whalen, Requested by St. John Parish Community

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

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 8 – PIZZA LUNCHEON DURING COFFEE HOUR:** THANK YOU to Nasser Samad for his generosity in providing the pizza!!!

**SUN, JAN 8\* – LADIES SOCIETY MEETING - DATE CHANGE:** A Ladies Society Meeting will be held after the Divine Liturgy.

**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. 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.

## ----- 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](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.

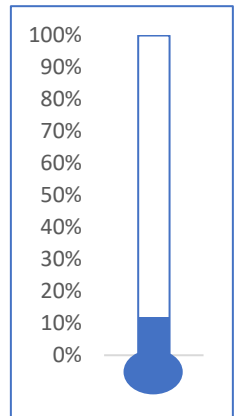


**FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - DEC 2022):** Total Income \$16,666, including Ordinary Collections: \$10,235 with Total Expenditures of \$10,239, leaving a Net Difference **\$6,373**. **(QUARTERLY – SEP- DEC 2022):** Total Income \$41,335, including Ordinary Collections: \$27,601 with Total Expenditures of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



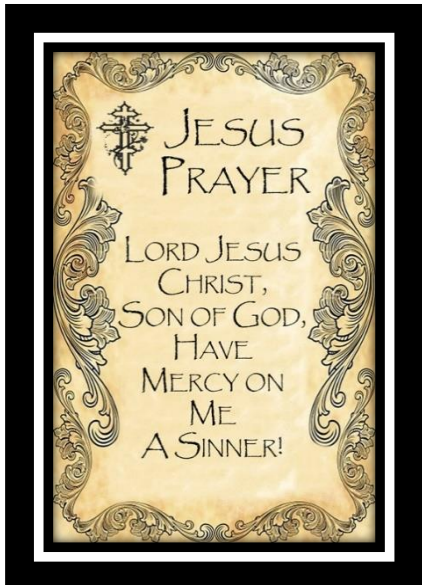
**Mail donation via US Mail to:**  
 Melkite Eparchy of Newton  
 Attn: Bishop Appeal  
 802 Rifle Camp Road  
 PO Box 630  
 Woodland Park, NJ 07424

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## --- Remembering Pope Benedict XVI ---

### 10 Quotes on Love, Death, Hope, Mary, and Marriage

(1) Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life. Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings, and is thus also my advocate, my 'Paraclete.' In light of the hour of judgment, the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me. It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life, and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death. In this regard, I am constantly reminded of what John tells us at the beginning of the Apocalypse: he sees the Son of Man in all his grandeur and falls at his feet as though dead. Yet He, placing his right hand on him, says to him: 'Do not be afraid! It is I...' (cf. Rev 1:12-17)

(2) A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak.

(3) My dear young friends, I want to invite you to 'dare to love.' Do not desire anything less for your life than a love that is strong and beautiful and that is capable of making the whole of your existence a joyful undertaking of giving yourselves as a gift to God and your brothers and sisters, in imitation of the One who vanquished hatred and death for ever through love (cf. Rev 5:13).

(4) Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave.

(5) "The consciousness that, in Christ, God has given himself for us, even unto death, must inspire us to live no longer for ourselves but for him, and, with him, for others. Whoever loves Christ loves the Church, and desires the Church to be increasingly the image and instrument of the love which flows from Christ.

(6) If you follow the will of God, you know that in spite of all the terrible things that happen to you, you will never lose a final refuge. You know that the foundation of the world is love, so that even when no human being can or will help you, you may go on, trusting in the One that loves you.

(7) Mary is the woman of hope...Mary is a woman of faith... Mary is a woman who loves... Mary has truly become the Mother of all believers. Men and women of every time and place have recourse to her motherly kindness and her virginal purity and grace, in all their needs and aspirations, their joys and sorrows, their moments of loneliness and their common endeavours. They constantly experience the gift of her goodness and the unfailing love which she pours out from the depths of her heart.

(8) Marriage is linked to faith, but not in a general way. Marriage, as a union of faithful and indissoluble love, is based upon the grace that comes from the triune God, who in Christ loved us with a faithful love, even to the Cross.

(9) We have come to believe in God's love: in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

(10) Holiness does not consist in never having erred or sinned. Holiness increases the capacity for conversion, for repentance, for willingness to start again and, especially, for reconciliation and forgiveness.

## ----- 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.