



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

### Bulletin for Sunday, February 12, 2023

Meat Fare – The Last Judgment- Tone: 3 - Orthros Gospel: Mark 16:9-20 (3)

الاحد، 12 شباط 2023

أحد مرفع اللحم

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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 2:20)

### ----- 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.

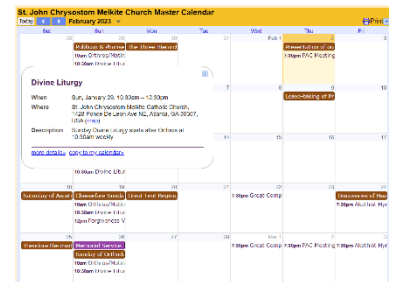
### ----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

**NEW ONLINE CALENDAR LAUNCHED:** We have posted a new interactive online calendar. The calendar will have all the feasts of the church and will have specific events for our parish posted. Please give it a try by clicking [here](#). (only partial view on smaller mobile devices)

**NEW ONLINE LITURGY REQUEST FORM LAUNCHED:** We have posted a new form to request Liturgy Commemorations and Memorial Services. To request one, please click [here](#).

**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM:** The first three adult education sessions have been successful. We hope to see you at the next program on Jesus and Grace, John 1:1-18 and Ephesians 2:1-22.

**EARTHQUAKE (SYRIA AND TURKEY):** We are all deeply saddened at the tragedy unfolding in Turkey and Syria, which has affected our brothers and sisters in these two countries, as well as our churches and extended families. We join with Pope Francis, Patriarch Yousef, and Bishop François, as well as bishops, priests and faithful across the Middle and Near East, U.S., and the world to pray for those devastated by this tragedy. For those who have departed... ✠ *O God of all spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death and overthrown the Devil, and given life to Your world, give rest to the souls of the recently departed from this life, in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. May they rest where the saints repose, for You are the Resurrection, the Life, O Christ our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, who is everlasting, and the all-holy, good, and life-creating 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](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

- +Victims of the Earthquake in Syria and Turkey, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Meyasar Al-Zaraaneh, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Sarina Lauren Shadeed, Requested by The Hagley Family
- +Halim & Adebe Maalouf, Requested by Tony Elia and family
- +Abdo Maalouf, Requested by Tony Elia and family

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- All Those Affected by the Earthquake in Syria and Turkey, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Those in our Prayer Line, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

**TRIODION:** The Pre-Lenten period began Jan 29<sup>th</sup> and concludes with Meat Fare and 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.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** +Sarina Lauren Shadeed

**LADIES SOCIETY MTG:** The Feb. Ladies Society meeting will be held on Feb. 12.

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

**SERVICE OF FORGIVENESS VESPERS:** After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, we will have the Forgiveness Vespers service. As we approach and prepare for Holy Week and Pascha (Easter), we start the season by asking for forgiveness from God and each other. Fellowship and coffee hour will follow Vespers.

**MON, FEB 20 – FORGIVENESS (or CLEAN) MONDAY:** The First Day of the Great Fast is Forgiveness Monday.

**WED, FEB 22 – COMPLINE:** Please join us for the Compline Service on Wed, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**FRI, FEB 24 – AKATHIST:** The First Akathist, followed by a Lenten Dinner.

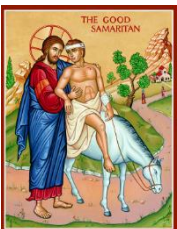
**GREAT LENT – WEDNESDAY'S & FRIDAY'S:** Do plan on regularly attending the special services of Great Lent and Holy Week.

**WED – COMPLINE:** Please join us for the Compline Service on Wed, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**WED – PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY:** Please join us for the Compline Service on Wed, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**FRI – AKATHIST:** Please join us for Akathist Service and Lenten Dinners on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

## ----- GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY RESTARTED -----



As the parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us, we are all called to be good Samaritans to each other by sharing our love of Christ with the world through actions. The recently reestablished Good Samaritan Society, led by Suely Elias and Marie Hansen, are planning one activity per quarter for us to get started. They also plan on putting a permanent box in the Narthex for food donations. Hence, we can continually be providing food for the less fortunate. The program for Great Lent is to do a Toiletries Drive, enabling us to provide much needed items to the homeless and those without the funds to secure toiletries for their personal hygiene needs. Please give generously as these programs are announced. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and participation.

## ----- CHURCH TOURS RESTARTED -----

**SHARING OUR MELKITE FAITH:** A tour of the church including a discussion regarding the understanding of the Melkite faith, the Church of Antioch, and the Byzantine Rite, was presented by Dcn. Sami to our visitors from the Federation of North American Explorers. They enjoyed their visit tremendously, commenting, "... this visit was the most enjoyable and informative. Thank you for sacrificing your time and sharing your love of Christ and His Church with our youth today." If you know of any groups that would like to visit St. John Chrysostom, please let the deacons know, so that we can continue to share our faith and rite with others.



----- 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 - JAN 2023):** Total Income \$13,650, including Ordinary Collections: \$11,965 with Total Expenditures of \$11,492, leaving a Net Difference **\$2,174**. As mentioned at the recent General Assembly meeting, the giving in the parish is uneven, and the biggest impact would be for families who are not on a regular (weekly or monthly) giving plan to start one. Thank you for your consideration.

**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.

----- THANK YOU TO THESE GOOD STEWARDS -----

In today's bulletin, we appreciate and give thanks to some of the businesses who have been generous stewards in providing free services or products to the Church, specifically:

**AtlantaScapes:** Thank you for the offer to fix the recent damage to the lawn.



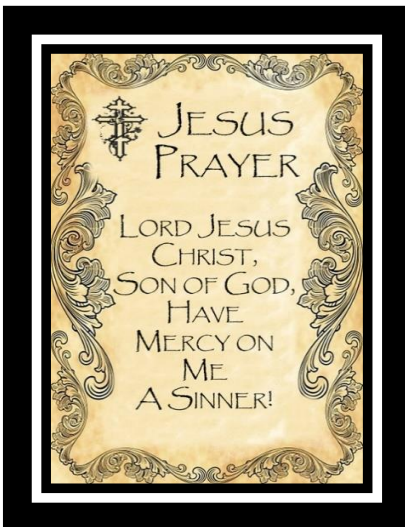
**Aroma Ridge Coffee:** Thank you for continuing to provide coffee to the church.

**Ray's Pizza:** Thank you for the pizza luncheon. The pizza was delicious!



----- 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...**

- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Souren Palanjian | Vic Maloof         | Fr. Tom Flynn            |
| Shadeed Family   | Al-Zaraaneh Family | Abyad Family             |
| Munn Family      | Fr. John Azar      | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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).

## February Birthdays and 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

### Birthdays:

Paul Peterson	Scott Schreiber
Fr. John Azar	Mayy Wehbeh
Thomas Atalla	Camille Nassar
Mervat Al zaraaneh	Sumaya Kadadu
William Maakaroun	Mark Madanat
Louis (Vic) Maloof	Ghada Nabhan
Maya Nabhan	

### Anniversary:

Dr. & Mrs. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg and Patty Pharo  
Mr. & Mrs. Zahi and Suely Elias

## ----- 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.

## --- The Prodigal Son, Part 2 ---

### Are We Scribes and Pharisees?

The brothers in this parable represent two types found in our society today. There are independent individualists who are determined to “fulfill themselves,” to make their own way according to their own lights. There are also people who conform to the expectations of their family or society, seeking to earn the approval of their peers or the powers-that-be.

In the Church there are always people who equate being a good Christian with doing all the “right” things. Consciously or unconsciously, they use their acts of external righteousness to mask their unrighteous hearts. In the words of Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol, Cyprus (the “Father Maximos” of The Mountain of Silence), “...we went to the shrines, we venerated, we took out our money and placed it in a box, we left our candles, our oil, our prayers, our names, our prosphoron, everything... But our hearts did not change at all. Having completed our duties, we are the same as we were before. We are ready to attack one another, ready to testify against each other, ready to be sour just as we were before. Our hearts do not change... I confess to you from my own experience that I have not seen worse enemies of the Church than ‘religious’ people” (from Therapy for the Sickness of Pharisaism). As the Lord said, “these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”

### What Happens Next?

The parable ends without an ending. We are not told how the older brother responded to his father because the goal of the parable is that we examine what we would do. St John Chrysostom said, “Almost any noble person can weep with those who weep but very few of us can rejoice with those who rejoice.” Very few of us can really rejoice in the salvation of another... But how happy is the man who can rejoice in the salvation of his brother, who rejoices over his brother’s repentance more than his own well-being.”

The approaching Great Fast gives us an opportunity to care for the salvation of others. People attend the Liturgy or Lenten services who are not worshippers during the rest of the year. Do we invite our less fervent fellow-parishioners to worship with us during this season? Do we welcome them as returning brethren with love? Or do we say things like, “Oh, look who’s back – so you remembered how to get here!” A better approach might begin by reflecting on the attitude of the loving Father in today’s parable, an icon of Christ Himself.

### From St Cyril of Alexandria

“What is the object of this parable? Let us examine the occasion which led to it; in this way we shall learn the truth. The blessed Luke said a little before concerning Christ, the Savior of us all, “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’” Since the Pharisees and scribes were making an outcry on account of His gentleness and love for mankind, wickedly and impiously blaming Him for receiving and teaching people whose lives were impure, Christ set before them this present parable to show them clearly that the God of all requires even the person who is thoroughly steadfast and firm, who knows how to live in a holy manner, and has attained the highest praise for his sober conduct to be earnest in following His will, that when any are called to repentance – even if they are the most blameworthy – he must rejoice and not give way to a loveless irritation on their account.” (Commentary on the Gospel of St Luke, Sermon 107)