



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, February 19, 2023

Cheese Fare - Tone: 4 - Orthros Gospel: Luke 24:1-12 (4)

الاحد 19 شباط 2023

أحد مرفع الجبن

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)

﴿٢٠﴾ إِنَّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ يُعْطِينَا النِّجَاحَ وَنَحْنُ عَبِيدُهُ نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي. " (نحميا)

----- 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 -----

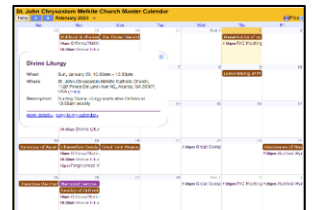
NEW WEBSITE CAPABILITIES: A new interactive online calendar has been posted. Please give it a try by clicking [here](#). Also a new form to request Liturgy Commemorations and Memorial Services has been posted. To request one, please click [here](#).

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.

FOOD DONATION BIN: A food donation bin has been placed in the Narthex. Please bring in food donation items... "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

AKATHIST LENTEN DINNER SIGN-UP: Sign up to be a Lenten Supper Hosts for the suppers which follow the Akathist Service on Friday nights. An e-mail with a Sign-up Genius has been sent from the church or [CLICK HERE](#) or contact **Rania Layous** for more details. Please remember to limit the variety of meal entrees, as this is a fasting time rather than a feasting time. May God bless your generosity always!

LENTEN SERVICE LITURGY TIMES: Note that for the first week of Great Lent, the **service times are now 7:00pm rather than 7:30pm** as in the past. Please let the deacons know if 7pm works better or not for you. Note that there is no perfect time for everyone's schedule, but we are attempting to accommodate the majority as best we can.



----- 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

- +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 Joe and Glenda Kalifeh
- +Teresa Assad Nader, mother of Janice Peterson, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. John Azar, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. Damon Geiger, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Tony Elia and Family, Requested by the Elia Family
- Jane Agan, Requested by the Hanna Family
- 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 29th and concludes this Sunday with Cheesefare Sunday.

SUN, FEB 19 – CHEESEFARE SUNDAY AND ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS: In preparation for Great Lent, this is the last Sunday to partake in cheese and cheese by-products before the Great Lent fast. After Divine Liturgy, we will prepare for Holy Week and Pascha (Easter) by praying the prayer of St. Ephrem, asking for forgiveness from God and each other, and then changing the colors of the altar. Fellowship and coffee hour will follow asking each other for forgiveness.

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

WED, FEB 22 – COMPLINE (7PM): Please join us for the Compline Service on Wed, February 22nd.

FRI, FEB 24 – AKATHIST (7PM): The First Akathist, followed by a Lenten Dinner.

SUN, FEB 26 – FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: St. Basil Liturgy is celebrated during Great Lent.

MEMORIAL MERCY MEAL: 40 Day Memorial and Mercy Meal for +Meyasar Al Zaraaneh and +Marwan Nasrallah

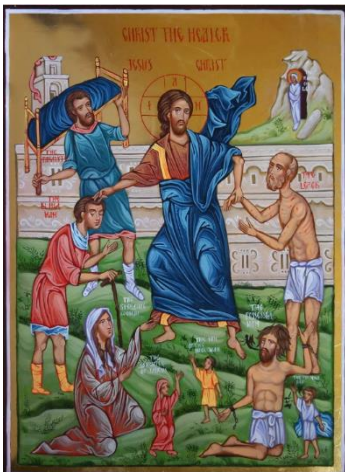
GREAT LENT – WEDNESDAY'S & FRIDAY'S: Do plan on regularly attending the special services of Great Lent and Holy Week.

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

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

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

----- ICON OF CHRIST THE HEALER -----



The Christ the Healer icon uses the symbolic language of iconography where everything is happening all at once and time is experienced as a still point of contemplation. The central figure of Jesus the Christ is represented, in pre-resurrection images, clothed in an outer garment of blue and an under garment of red. Blue is called the color of “the mystery of beings” and is the color of transcendence and divinity. Red signifies the life that the Savior brings to the children of God by the shedding of His blood. Over His shoulder is the gold band of His authority as Son of God. The other figures depicted in this icon all find their basis in the healing miracles recounted for us in the Gospels including the Paralytic, the Blind Man, the Man Possessed, the Daughter of Jairus, Lazarus, and the Leper, among others.

----- PRAYERS FOR HEALING OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS -----

May Christ the Healer extend His hand over those who are in the hospital, the first responders attempting to save lives, the families that have been devastated, and all who have been personally affected... May Christ the High Priest and Divine Physician of soul and body bless and restore all of them to full health and vigor and comfort. Amen.

----- 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 - 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.

----- EARTHQUAKE RELIEF MESSAGE FROM DIOCESE -----

In light of the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey that now has claimed over 33,000 lives, we extend our prayers to all the families who have lost loved ones. In our customary Melkite Catholic compassion and generosity, we would like to pray and offer financial assistance to the people who have been most affected by the earthquake. If you would like to make a donation to assist those who have lost loved ones, have been injured, or had their property damaged or destroyed, you may mail a donation to the address below. The check may be made out to: "Diocese of Newton" with the memo:

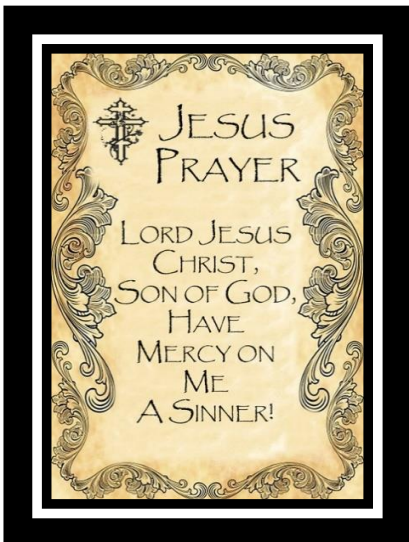
"Earthquake Relief." Send the check to:

Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church
3 VFW Pkwy
West Roxbury, MA 02132

You may also make online donations through your parish's online portal or at: www.melkite.org/donate
Please specify: "Earthquake relief." It has been customary for us during Great Lent to offer an opportunity for charitable giving through our Melkite Catholic Diocese of Newton's, Shepherd's Care. This year, all money donated through Shepherd's Care will be given for Earthquake Relief. With my prayers and appreciation for your generosity, Bishop François Beyrouiti.

----- 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...

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Souren Palanjian | Vic Maloof | Fr. Tom Flynn |
| Shadeed Family | Al-Zaraaneh Family | Abyad Family |
| Munn Family | Fr. John Azar | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |
| Syria and Turkey – Earthquake Victims | | Fr. Damon Geiger |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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.

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 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 Epistle of Cheesefare Sunday ---

TOMORROW IS THE FIRST DAY of the Great Fast , the forty days of preparation for the observances of Great Week and Pascha. On this, the eve of the Fast, our Church always reads these words from St Paul's Epistle to the Romans, "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep... let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Rom 13:11, 12).

In our lectionary, the Epistle to the Romans is read during the first weeks after Pentecost. Why is this section appointed for this Sunday? ... because "the day is at hand." The Great Fast begins this evening with "Forgiveness Vespers." We have the opportunity to be untied from "our attachment to the things of this present world," to "cast off the works of darkness, and ... put on the armor of light" (v. 13), through the observances of the Fast.

Appropriate as these words may be on this day, we know that they were not written with the Fast in mind; there was no Great Fast in St Paul's day. To what was he referring?

Commentators believe that St Paul's sense of urgency derived from the portentous events in the Roman Empire of his day. The persecution of the Church had begun. Jewish unrest was intensifying and a full-scale revolt would be mounted in a few short years, bringing about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. Many Jews believed that the Messiah would be coming soon; many Christians believed that He (Jesus) would be returning soon. The "Day of the Lord" was at hand. For St Paul, this critical time in the history of the Church and the Jewish nation demanded that Christians focus their attention on the fundamental truth of their existence: they had a unique relationship to God in Christ. Everyone in the world was related to God as the work of His hands; Christians, however, were related to Him as His adopted children, God "having predestined us to adoption as sons" (Eph 1:5) in order to make present throughout the world the Gospel of salvation in Christ. It is this reality which should define a Christian's way of life at this time.

St John Chrysostom, commenting on this passage, says that St Paul "... puts the Resurrection close at hand. For, as time advances, he means, the season of our present life is wasting away, and the life to come approaches. If, then, you are prepared, and have done all that He has commanded, that day is salvation for you; but if you are not ready, it is not so." That is not some kind of threat for Chrysostom: "It is not to alarm them that he exhorts them in this way, but out of kindness, in order to untie them from their attachment to the things of this present world" (Homily on Romans).

Most of us are quite happy to be attached to the things of this present world and resist parting from them. It is not unusual to find older people, who have moved from a family home to smaller quarters, trying to cram all "their things" into one or two rooms. Few are those who come to realize that, as the saying goes, "what you own, owns you." For St Paul, our "things" are not something to hold on to, but to leave behind happily, because what waits us is so far superior.