



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, February 26, 2023

Sunday of Orthodoxy - Tone: 5 - Orthros Gospel: Luke 24:12-35 (5)

الاحد، شباط 26، 2023

الاحد الاول من الصوم - أحد الارثوذكسية

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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 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 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 -----

TOILETRIES DRIVE: For Great Lent, we will start collecting toiletries for the homeless and those in need... "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). Please bring your items (soap, shampoos, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, deodorant) to the Cultural Center.

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!

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: Please bring your icons for the procession of icons during the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Thank you.

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.

GREAT LENT: Please feel free to share your stories of your spiritual journey during Great Lent with contact@stjohnmelkite.org. We are all on the journey together, so let us share and encourage each other as we journey towards the hope of eternal life through the resurrection.



----- 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.

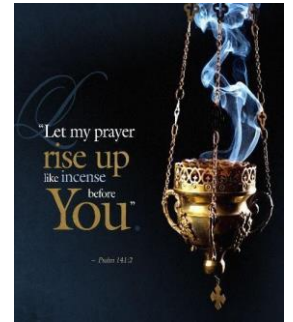
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

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
- +Marwan Nasrallah, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Bishop David O'Connell, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, Requested by Chancellor's Office
- +Sarina Lauren Shadeed, Requested by Tony & Matilda Ghawi
- +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
- Omega Waits, Mother of Vickie Elias, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Anna, Lusia, Monika, John and Slawek, Requested by the Gawlik 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 -----

SUN, FEB 26 – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: St. Basil Liturgy is celebrated during Great Lent. The Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent. It is the celebration of the victory over the iconoclasts by the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. Therefore, the service is to commemorate the restoration of icons for use in services and private devotional life of Christians.

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

WED, MAR 1 – PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY (7PM): Please join us for the Pre-sanctified Liturgy on Wed, March 1st

FRI, MAR 3 – AKATHIST (7PM): The Second Akathist, followed by a Lenten Dinner.

SUN, MAR 5 – SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: St. Basil Liturgy is celebrated during Great Lent.

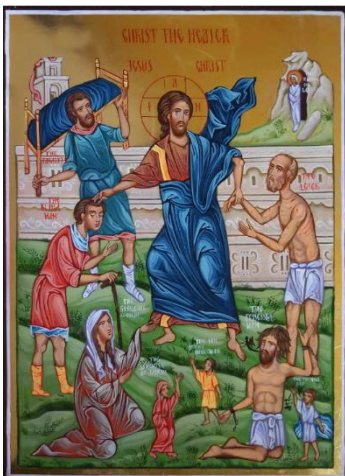
GREAT LENT – WEDNESDAY'S & FRIDAY'S: Do plan on regularly attending the special services of Great Lent and Holy Week.

WED – COMPLINE: Please join us for the Compline Service on Wed, 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 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:

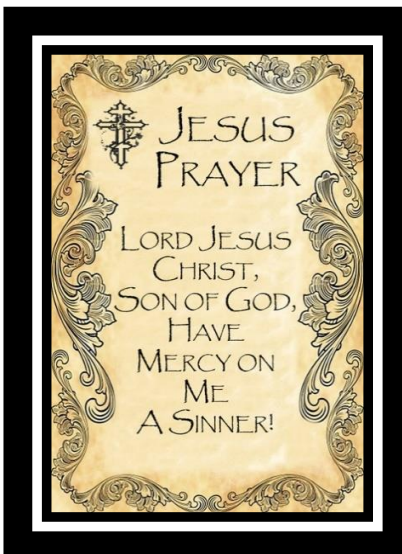
"Earthquake Relief." Send the check to:

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	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.

--- Sunday of Orthodoxy ---

The Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent. It is the celebration of the victory of the iconodules over the iconoclasts by the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. Therefore, the service is to commemorate the restoration of icons for use in services and private devotional life of Christians.

AT EVERY DIVINE LITURGY during the Great Fast we read from the Holy Gospel according to Mark – except for today. Why is Jn1:43-51 read on this Sunday, the Sunday of Orthodoxy? The brief answer is that both the Gospel reading and the triumph of Orthodoxy, which we commemorate today, are about seeing God. In the Gospel story we hear how Philip invites Nathaniel to see Jesus (physically); when they meet, Nathaniel sees (spiritually) that Jesus is the Messiah. In the Church, we (physically) see icons; then see (spiritually) that they reflect the reality of Christ’s incarnation.

Icons Reveal Christ as God’s Image

In the eighth and ninth centuries AD, some Byzantine emperors and churchmen waged a struggle against the use of icons. This conflict was ultimately ended in 843 with the restoration of icons, called in the Church the “Triumph of Orthodoxy.” Today’s observance celebrates this act.



Iconoclasm formally began in the 720s, when certain bishops began questioning the excessive way in which some people were revering icons. In 730 Emperor Leo III took up their cause and issued a decree forbidding the veneration of religious images, “the evil art of painters,” as a later iconoclast council called it. While iconoclasts saw images as a departure from the practice of the early Church, those who supported the veneration of icons did so precisely on the basis of Tradition: the Church had done so for years and was not in error.

It was St John of Damascus (676-749) who gave the Church the insight that the use of icons was the logical consequence of the incarnation of Christ. As he wrote in his *Treatise on the Divine Images*, “In former times, God who is without form or body, could never be depicted. But now, when God is seen in the flesh, conversing with men, I make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter, who became matter for my sake.” St John’s teaching became normative in the Byzantine Church which, since the Triumph of Orthodoxy, has in the minds of many become identified as “the Church of Icons.”