



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, March 12, 2023

Sunday of the Holy Cross - Tone 7 - Orthros Gospel: John 20:1-10 (7)

الاحد، 12 اذار 2023

الاحد الثالث للصوم العظيم المقدس - احد الصليب المقدس

10:00 AM – ORTHROS

10:30 AM – SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Cultural Center.

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.

THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

- +Marwan Nasrallah, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Jeanette Sarwe, mother of Elias Boghos, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Richard Stahley, Requested by the Chancellor's Office
- +Teresa Assad Nader, mother of Janice Peterson Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. John Azar, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. Ephrem Handal, Requested by the Chancellor's Office
- Holly Curry, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Serene Kadadu, daughter of Bshara and Sumaya Kadadu, Requested by the Kadadu Family
- Josephine Renee Kriss, received Holy Mystery of Baptism, 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



----- 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..." (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.

FOOD TAKEOUT FUNDRAISER: We will be having a food takeout fundraiser which includes the selling of homemade kibbeh trays and grape leaves. Quantities are limited, so please place your order by March 10th as the demand is very high and the quality is superb! Contact Ghada Muhanna, Rita Karroum or Susie Hagley to place your orders. Additionally, to increase our profit from the takeout fundraiser, we have created an Adopt a Food Item list. If you are able to help donate the food items or donate money to purchase the food items for preparation of the kibbeh and grape leaves, [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#).

YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION: Youth Education dates will be March 26th (St. Mary of Egypt) and April 23rd (St. George & Armor of God). Adult education will be the same days with March 26th as a mid-Lent reflection, and April 23rd, Jesus and Grace. Adults, please join us after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center to discuss the gospel and reflect together.



----- 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.

----- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS TONIGHT, SAT MARCH 11 -----



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

SUN, MAR 12 – THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS: St. Basil Liturgy is celebrated during Great Lent. We will be processing with the crosses this Sunday. Please remember to bring your crosses from home to carry in procession.

Memorial Service & Mercy Meal for +Jeanette Sarwe, mother of Elias Boghos

WED, MAR 15 – PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY (7PM): Please join us for Presanctified Liturgy.

FRI, MAR 17 – AKATHIST (7PM): The Fourth Akathist, followed by a Lenten Dinner.

SUN, MAR 19 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: On the fourth Sunday in Lent we commemorate St. John Climacos, the great seventh-Century ascetic and author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent.

WED, MAR 22 – COMPLINE (7PM): Please join us for Compline on Wed, March 22nd.

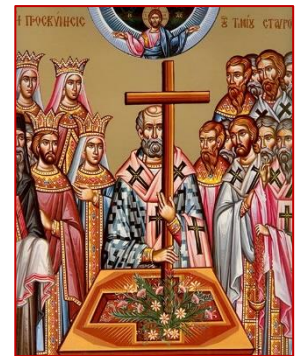
FRI, MAR 17 – AKATHIST (7PM): The Fifth Akathist, followed by a Lenten Dinner.

SUN, MAR 26 – CELEBRATION OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS (ACTUAL FEAST IS MARCH 25): The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25 each year. The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb.

FRI, MAR 31 – LAZARUS VESPERS (7PM): Please join us for Lazarus Vespers, followed by Poor Man's Supper.

SUN, APR 2 – PALM SUNDAY: The glorious entrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem

MON, APR 3 - 9 – HOLY WEEK: More information to come regarding the services.



----- NAMY CONFERENCE 2023 -----

The National Association of Melkite Youth Conference 2023, *Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples*, will be held July 10-14th for Melkite Youth (ages 13-18) at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. Join for Faith, Fellowship and Fun. Please see the deacons ASAP for more information or you may contact Fr. Thomas and Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org. All registration forms, consent forms, and deadline dates will soon be available at www.melkite.org/namy.

----- ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS -----

Cedar Club of Atlanta Scholarships 2023 will be awarding two scholarships this year to active members in good standing: (1) **Cedar Club of Atlanta Foundation** will be awarding up to \$1,500 in scholarship(s) to graduating senior(s) from St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox church, **St. John Chrysostom Melkite church**, and/or St. Joseph Maronite church. Applicants for this scholarship must have attended one of the above churches for the past 3 years, actively participate in church life, and be in good standing to qualify and need not be of Arabic descent. This scholarship will be awarded based on academics. [Click here to apply online for this scholarship](#) (2) **Sarina Shadeed Scholarship** award is \$1,000 and will be awarded based on an essay, written by the applicant, about overcoming adversity in their life. Applicants must be graduating senior(s) from St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox church, **St. John Chrysostom Melkite church**, and/or St. Joseph Maronite church, actively participate in church life, and be in good standing or a member of the Cedar Club of Atlanta. [Click here to apply online for this scholarship](#). The Foundation's scholarship director, Sandra Salem, must receive complete applications no later than **May 1st, 2023**. Please contact Sandra at sasalem1118@gmail.com or 404-386-6031 for more information

----- STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

God entrust us with the gifts of the earth and of our church. Through Stewardship, we return it to Him. It is a way of life!

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. We greatly appreciate those who have made the ongoing commitment to St. John Chrysostom. Please consider a regular giving plan if you are not already on one.

FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - FEB 2023):

Total Income: \$13,650 (Ordinary Collections: \$12,878)
Expenses: \$6,741
Net Income: **6,137**

----- EARTHQUAKE RELIEF MESSAGE -----

Earthquake relief checks for Syria and Turkey 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." Note that 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 -----

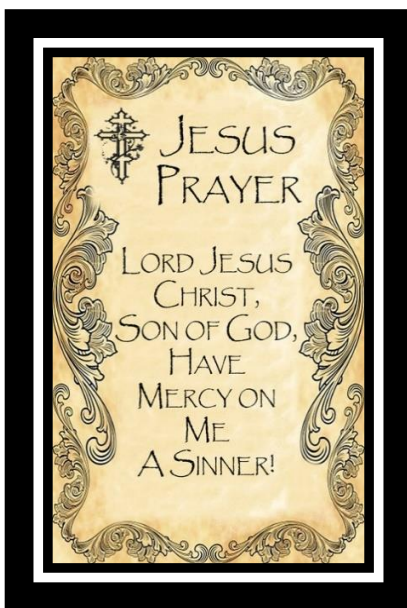
COMMEMORATIONS: Send a commemoration request to contact@stjohnmelkite.org for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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).

----- 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 -- OPEN
Publican Society – OPEN
Readers – Eric Hansen
Sunshine Committee – Matilda Ghawi
Ushers – Jerome Hagley, Robert Ghawi, Joseph Manguno



Please keep in your prayers...

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|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 | Holly Curry |
| Serene Kadadu | Matilda Ghawi | |

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

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Note: The information below is from our Parishioners' database. Please send corrections to contact@stjohnmelkite.org so we can update it. Please do not take any information from this page without our permission.



Birthdays:

Pia-Charli Nuar	John Chambers
Joseph Maalouf,	Ashley Maalouf
Melinda Ajmo	Gabriel Maloof
John Elias	Basma Abdulmaseh
Dcn. Sami Jajeh	

Anniversary:

None listed in our database, please let us know if we missed your anniversary. Thank you.

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(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

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

Parish Church Year Theme

(Liturgical Year – Sept. 1, 2022 – 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 تَقُومُ وَتَبْنِي. " (نحميا

--- 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 the Holy Cross ---

Christ's Death as a Sacrifice

The Gospel of John describes Jesus' crucifixion as taking place on Friday afternoon, the day before the Passover, when the priests would begin to sacrifice lambs for the feast. St Paul makes the same connection when he tells the Corinthians, *"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us"* (1 Cor 5:7). The death of Christ initiates the New and Ultimate Passover, His blood delivering all mankind from the curse of eternal death.

The Scriptures do not portray Christ as merely the victim of the sacrifice but as the One who offered Himself for us. St Paul tells the Ephesians, *"Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma"* (Eph 5:2). This image recalls an occasion recorded in the Book of Exodus when a sacrifice was made to God, *"a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD"* (Ex 29:18). This was the consecration of Aaron and his sons as the first priests of the Old Covenant. St Paul borrowed that imagery to say that Christ is at once the Lamb offered in sacrifice and the High Priest who offers that sacrifice.

Our Liturgy and Christ's Sacrifice

According to many rabbis of Christ's day, all sacrifices would cease with the coming of the Messiah, except for the thank-offerings (in Hebrew, *todah*) which would never cease to be offered throughout all eternity. Some Jewish writers in the Greek-speaking Roman Empire used *eucharistia* to translate the Hebrew *todah*. Little wonder that the first Christians saw the Eucharist as their sharing in the sacrifice of Christ.

Our Liturgy today expresses in several ways this connection with Christ's sacrifice. In the Prothesis, or preparation of the gifts, the priest takes up the bread and says, *"In remembrance of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ... 'Like a sheep He was led to the slaughter. Like a spotless lamb silent before its shearer, He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away. And who shall declare His generation?'"* These verses from Isaiah 53 describing the "Suffering Servant" are explained as pointing to Christ in the encounter of the Apostle Philip with the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40). Here the Priest is commemorating Christ's sacrifice, making the first "remembrance" in the Liturgy.

Another reference to sacrifice in the prothesis rite concerns the Eucharistic bread itself. In our tradition the central portion of the loaf, inscribed with the monogram *ic xc nika* (Jesus Christ is victorious) – the part of the loaf which will be consecrated – is called *the Lamb*.

Once he has cut the Lamb away from the rest of the loaf, the Priest pierces it with the lance, saying, *"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* is immolated for the life and salvation of the world." The Bread/Lamb is identified with Christ, the Victim/Lamb of the New Passover.