



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, March 19, 2023

Sunday of Our Father John Climacus - Tone 8 - Orthros Gospel: John 20:11-18 (8)

الاحد، 19 اذار 2023

الاحد الرابع من الصوم العظيم - تذكّار ابينا البار يوحنا السلمي

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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

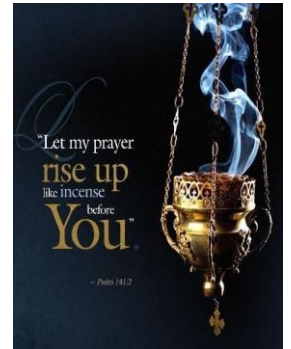
### THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

#### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

- +Marwan Nasrallah, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Teresa Assad Nader, mother of Janice Peterson Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Jeanette Sarwe, mother of Elias Boghos, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Fr. Ephrem Handal, Requested by the Chancellor's Office
- +Henriette Rawik Bsirini, Requested by Jalal Bsirini

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. John Azar, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Holly Curry, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Serene Kadadu, daughter of Bshara and Sumaya Kadadu, Requested by the Kadadu Family
- Janice Peterson, 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.

**MAR 24 AKATHIST LENTEN DINNER:** Only one Akathist Service remains, and we need volunteers to prepare the Lenten Supper on it (Mar 24<sup>th</sup>). [CLICK HERE](#) or contact [Rania Layous](#) for 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 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 26<sup>th</sup> (St. Mary of Egypt) and April 23<sup>rd</sup> (St. George & Armor of God). Adult education will be the same days with March 26<sup>th</sup> as a mid-Lent reflection, and April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jesus and Grace. Adults, please join us after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center to discuss the gospel and reflect together.

**PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE STORE NOW OPEN:** Please [CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#) BEFORE March 26, 2023!



----- 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.

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

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

**Memorial Service** for +Henriette Rawik Bsirini, mother of Jalal Bsirini

**Ladies Society Meeting** after Liturgy during coffee hour.

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

**FRI, MAR 24 – 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.

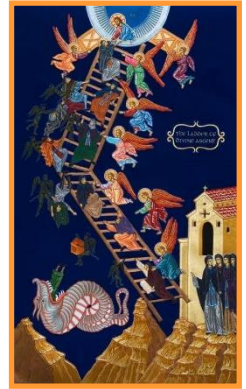
**WED, MAR 29 – PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY (7PM):** Please join us for Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wed, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

**SUN, APR 2 – PALM SUNDAY** is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord. At the end of Divine Liturgy, there will be a procession with palm branches. The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death.

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

- Monday & Tuesday:** No Services
- Wednesday:** Anointing Service (Only) 7:00PM
- Thursday:** Crucifixion Service 7:00PM
- Friday:** Good Friday (Burial Service) 7:00PM
- Saturday:** No Services
- Sunday:** Hajmeh/Pascha Divine Liturgy 10:30AM



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

The National Association of Melkite Youth Conference 2023, *Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples*, will be held July 10-14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:namy@melkite.org). All registration forms, consent forms, and deadline dates will soon be available at [www.melkite.org/namy](http://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](mailto: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](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. 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](http://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 Beyrouti.

----- PRAYER IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

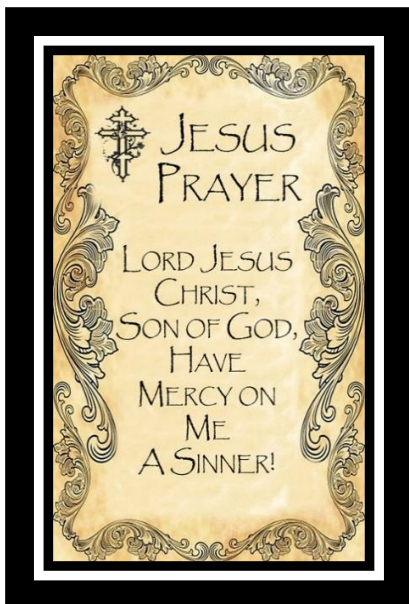
**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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...**

- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 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      |                          |

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

## March Birthdays & 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:

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

### Anniversary:

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

1428 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, Office:  
(404) 373-9522, Fax: (404) 373-9755, Email:

[contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org)

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

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)

### 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.

### --- The Rituals of Sacrifice ---

THE NEW TESTAMENT DEPICTS the mystery of Christ in terms of the rituals of sacrifice in the Jerusalem temple. The sacrifice in the temple is connected to the cross and our *anamnesis* (remembrance) of that sacrifice on the altar. The New Testament describes Christ's sacrifice based on the manner in which animals were sacrificed there. First, the animal was killed, usually by the donor, in the outer court of the temple. Similarly, Jesus was crucified outside the holy city of Jerusalem. The same pattern is found in our Divine Liturgy, illustrating the connection between the temple, the Cross, and our worship. Thus, the Eucharistic bread, which we call the Lamb, is prepared at the Prothesis, originally in another chapel, but at least at a distance from the Holy Table.

In the temple, the slain animal was taken by the Levites to the priests, who placed it on the altar and offered it to God. In contrast, Christ – being both victim and priest – offered Himself to the Father eternally in the heavenly sanctuary. In our Liturgy, the Lamb and the cup are brought to the holy table and offered "in all and for the sake of all."

Finally, the sacrificial meat was divided: part was portioned out for God (by immolation), and part for the priests. The greater part was returned to the donor to be shared with the poor or in a festive meal. In our Liturgy the sanctified Lamb and the cup are shared first by the priests and then by the people in the mystical supper of the Eucharist.

On Yom Kipper, there was another step. The blood of the animal was taken into the Holy of Holies by the High Priest and sprinkled there. Finally, the High Priest would emerge from the Holy of Holies and bless the people. Christ was placed in the tomb by Joseph and Nicodemus, but emerged from the tomb at His resurrection, sharing with those in the tombs the blessing of eternal life.

### The Presence behind the Veil

Describing Christ's sacrifice in terms of the temple ritual, the Epistle to the Hebrews speaks of Christ entering "*the Presence behind the veil*" (Heb 6:19). This depicts heaven in terms of the Jerusalem temple, where the Holy of Holies – which no one could enter except the High Priest on Yom Kippur – was separated from the rest of the temple by a curtain or veil. We see an allusion to this image at the Great Entrance of our Liturgy, when the priest brings the offered bread and wine behind the iconostasis.

To enter "*the Presence behind the veil*" alludes to Christ's return to the Father, where He eternally offers His sacrifice for us and it is eternally accepted by the Father. Because His sacrifice is offered and accepted beyond human time, it is possible for us to partake of it continually in the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy, then, is not a "new" sacrifice but the one sacrifice of Christ, eternally offered and accepted.