



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, March 26, 2023

Community Celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation (Transferred from March 25th)

Commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt

السبت، 26 آذار 2023

بشارة الفاتكة القداسة سيدتنا والدة الاله مريم الدائمة البتولية

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
- +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 St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Henriette Rawik Bsirini, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Jennifer Maloof May, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Olga Elana Mantilla, Requested by the Deacons
- 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 -----



FOOD TAKEOUT FUNDRAISER: Homemade kibbeh trays and grape leaves. Quantities are limited! One container of grape leaves has 40 cooked pieces for \$40. Uncooked grape leaves available upon request. Contact Ghada Muhanna, Rita Karroum or Susie Hagley to place orders.

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

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON: This is a fundraiser for the Ladies Society. Please help support with food donations and come have a nice lunch and purchase some yummy sweets.

ADOPT-AN-ITEM: 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.

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.

----- 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.

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

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 29th.

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

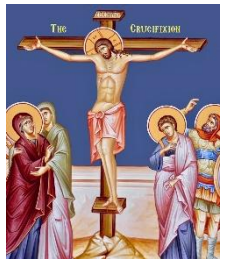
SUN, APR 2 – PALM SUNDAY is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts 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 tree symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death.



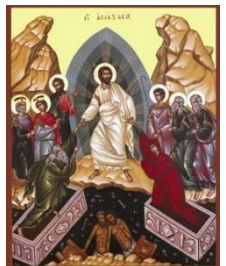
Luncheon and Bake Sale will follow the Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center Hall.

MON, APR 3 - 8 – HOLY WEEK: The services for Holy Week are below. Note that we will need help decorating, building and moving the crucifixion site, tomb, and more. Please help us at the times below. Thank you!

- Holy Monday/Tuesday:** No Services
- Holy Wednesday:** Anointing Service (Only) - 7:00PM (followed by crucifixion service setup)
- Holy Thursday:** Crucifixion Service - 7:00PM
- Great Friday:** Decorating of the Tomb - 10:30AM
Good Friday (Burial Service) - 7:00PM
- Holy Saturday:** No Services



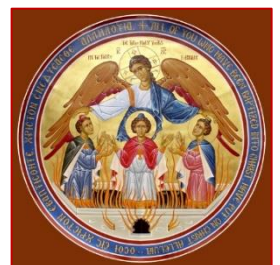
SUN, APR 9 – EASTER SUNDAY: We celebrate the Feast of Feasts - the joyous Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who declares victory over death and corruption. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. Now, Sunday’s honor and remember the Resurrection, as the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labor that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.



Easter Sunday Services: Hajmeh and Pascha Divine Liturgy 10:30AM
Coffee Hour in Cultural Center and Easter Egg Hunt after Divine Liturgy

----- 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.



----- 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

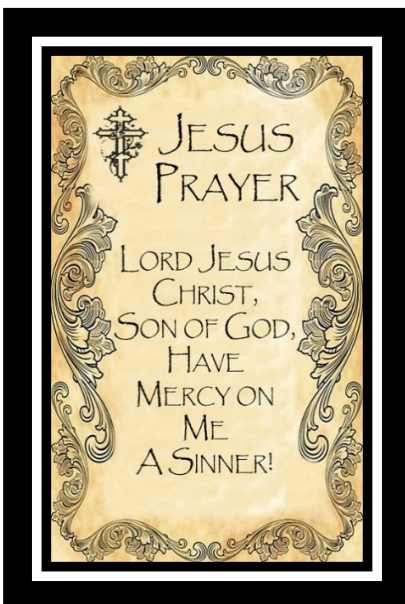
Please keep in your prayers...

- Vic Maloof
- Fr. Damon Geiger
- Janice Peterson
- Syria and Turkey
- Fr. Tom Flynn
- Fr. Ed Kakaty
- Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay)
- Serene Kadadu
- Fr. and Mrs. Alam Alam

- Those affected by the virus
- Those approaching matrimony
- Victims of natural disasters
- 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 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:

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

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 نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي. " (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.

--- Annunciation: The Angel's Greeting ---

The Angel greets Mary with the Greek word *chaire*, rather than with the Hebrew/Aramaic salutation, shalom. While each of these expressions has a different literal meaning, both are idiomatic forms of greeting, expressing good will between people. Some translations use the literal meaning, Rejoice, while others use the idiomatic meaning, Hail. The Angel describes Mary in Lk 1:28 as *kecharitomeni*, another word which has proven difficult to translate. When St Jerome rendered the Bible into Latin he translated this term literally as *gratia plena*, full of grace. This would create a problem centuries later when Western theology began using *gratia* as a technical term to mean the holiness bestowed by God. They interpreted Gabriel's greeting as an indication that Mary was immaculately conceived. During the Reformation many Protestants rejected both this doctrine and St Jerome's translation, pointing to the angel Gabriel's own explanation of the term in v. 30: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor [charis] with God." Modern Catholic translations of Luke generally favor this interpretation as well, rendering *kecharitomeni* as "highly favored one."

The Angel's Greeting in Prayer

The Council of Ephesus (431) affirmed the Virgin Mary as Theotokos, increasing our devotion to her. St Theodotos of Ancyra, a Father of that council, left us a praise of Mary based on Gabriel's greeting:

Hail, our desirable gladness;

Hail, O rejoicing of the churches;

Hail, O name that breathes out sweetness;

Hail, face that radiates divinity and grace;

Hail, most venerable memory;

Hail, O spiritual and saving fleece;

Hail, O Mother of unsetting splendor, filled with light;

Hail, unstained Mother of holiness;

Hail, most limpid font of the life-giving wave;

Hail, new Mother, workshop of the birth.

Hail, ineffable mother of a mystery beyond understanding;

Hail, new book of a new Scripture, of which, as Isaiah tells, angels and men are faithful witnesses;

Hail, alabaster jar of sanctifying ointment;

Hail, best trader of the coin of virginity;

Hail, creature embracing your Creator;

Hail, little container containing the Uncontainable (Homily 4:3).

Later poets would use the same literary device in composing Akathists to the Theotokos and, later, to numerous saints. It is also found in the Greek and Syriac hymns of Severus of Antioch (c. 459-538), Andrew of Crete (650-740), and John of Damascus (c. 675-749).

Appropriately enough, the same device is used in our services on the feast of the Annunciation. Several stichera at vespers are extended forms of the Mary-Gabriel dialogue in the Gospel, such as these:

"Gabriel stood before you, O Maiden, revealing the pre-eternal counsel, greeting you and exclaiming: 'Rejoice, O earth unsown! Rejoice, O bush unburnt! Rejoice, O depth hard to fathom! Rejoice, O bridge leading to the heavens and lofty ladder, which Jacob beheld! Rejoice, O divine jar of Manna! Rejoice, annulment of the curse! Rejoice, restoration of Adam: the Lord is with you!'"

"You appear to me as a man," the incorrupt Maiden said to the supreme commander; "yet how is it that you announce words which are beyond man? For you have said that God is with me, and that He will dwell in my womb. Tell me, how shall I become so spacious a dwelling and a place of sanctity which surpasses the cherubim? Deceive me no more with falsehood, for I have not known lust, I have not partaken of marriage, how then shall I give birth to a Child?"