



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, March 5, 2023

Sunday of the Holy Relics and - Our Holy Father Gregory Palamas - Tone 6 - Orthros Gospel: 6

2023 الاحد، 5 اذار

احد النخائر المقدسة - وعيد القديس غريغوريوس بالاماس

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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](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)

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](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.

### ----- 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 Layouts for more details.

**SPRING CLEAN OUT DAY:** The Ladies Society is sponsoring a Clean Out Day on March 11<sup>th</sup>, which will include the Cultural Center. Men are also needed to help with larger materials. We hope to finish the Greenhouse and Basement items as well. Please plan on attending. We need as much help as you can provide. The start time is 9am. Thank you.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**GREAT LENT:** Please share your stories of your spiritual journey during Great Lent with [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org). We are all on the journey together, so let us encourage each other as we share 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](mailto: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
- +Jeanette Sarwe, mother of Elias Boghos, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Richard Stahley, Requested by the Chancellor's Office
- +Sarina Lauren Shadeed, Requested by the Jajeh Family
- +Teresa Assad Nader, Requested by the Hanna Family



#### 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
- 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, MAR 5 – SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS:** St. Basil Liturgy is celebrated during Great Lent. We will be processing with the relics this Sunday.

**WED, MAR 8 – COMPLINE (7PM):** Please join us for Compline on Wed, March 8<sup>th</sup>

**FRI, MAR 10 – AKATHIST (7PM):** The Third Akathist, followed by a Lenten Dinner.

**SAT, MAR 11 – CLEAN OUT DAY:** Please plan on coming to the Spring Clean Out Day. We will be starting at 9am.

**WED, MAR 15 – PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY (7PM):** Please join us for Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wed, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**FRI, MAR 17 – AKATHIST (7PM):** The Fourth 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 10-14<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).

## ----- THE THREE PILLARS OF GREAT LENT -----

Great Lent should include three equal supports that will give us the balance we need in our spiritual climb—fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. From the earliest days of the church, the Great Fast was not solely about abstaining from food. The physical fast was always accompanied by increased prayer and almsgiving. As families, we should look at all three of these elements to put into practice a broader and more fulfilling approach to Great Lent. Regardless of varying ages and levels of spiritual maturity, one's family can share the joys and struggles of the journey towards the Resurrection. Take the time to create a Lenten family plan will help you properly prepare for Pascha.



----- 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](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.



**FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - FEB 2023):** Total Income \$13,650, including Ordinary Collections: \$12,878 with Total Expenditures of \$6,741, leaving a Net Difference **\$6,137**. Thankfully, the last three months have found the church in the black, as we have not had large maintenance expenses. As such, we greatly appreciate those who have made the ongoing commitment to our spiritual home of St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church. If not already on one, please consider a regular giving plan.

**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 -----

Earthquake relief checks for Syria and Turkey may be made out to: "Diocese of Newton" with the memo: "Earthquake Relief." Send the check to:

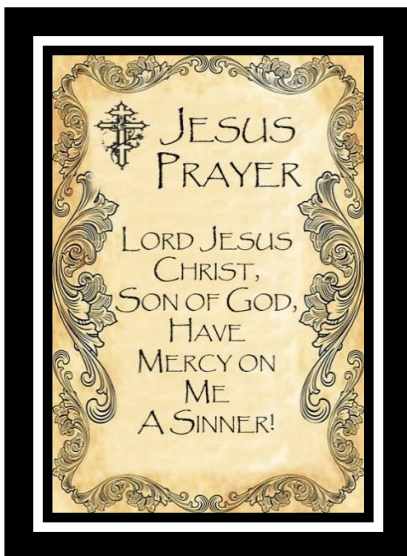
Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church  
3 VFW Pkwy  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

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 Beyrouiti.

----- 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.

**PRAY FOR 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 those 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.*



**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              |

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 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](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	

### Anniversary:

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

## --- Your Sins Are Forgiven ---

**Forgiveness in the Body of Christ:** Among other things, Christ has empowered the Church as His Body to continue proclaiming the remission of sins in His name. This ministry is executed in a number of expressions by which we can experience God's forgiveness in our life. To the degree that we enter into them, we will find our lives centering on God to a greater degree. These include:

**Daily Prayer for Repentance, particularly the Jesus Prayer** – The morning and evening prayers prescribed by the Church includes prayers of repentance. The most basic of these is the Jesus Prayer: *“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”* God surely hears these prayers when offered from a contrite heart.

**Regular Self-Reflection** – Periodic, even daily, self-examination helps us to see the direction of our lives. Our entire existence should be lived in the light of the Holy Spirit. Honest self-examination helps us see the degree in which our lives are conformed to Christ's.

**A Relationship with a Confessor/Spiritual Father** – Each person is in a different place in his or her journey. We may on occasion find thoughts in the Scriptures or Fathers that touch our hearts, but finding someone who knows you and knows the ways of Holy Tradition is like taking a giant step in the Christian life. The fullest dimension of spiritual guidance involves sharing our thoughts and yearnings, not just our sins, with this spiritual guide.

**The Eucharist and the Remission of Sins** – Several times during the Divine Liturgy we are reminded that the Eucharist is given to us “for the remission of sins.” To receive this gift, we must approach *“discerning the body,”* as St Paul says: sensing the depths of this mystery and our unworthiness to take part in it. And so before receiving we say the prayer “I believe, Lord and profess,” specifically asking for the pardon of our offences, the deliberate and the indeliberate, whether committed knowingly or inadvertently – so that we may receive the remission of sins and eternal life in this mystery.

**Observing the Church's Fasts** – The Fasts are another liturgical expression of repentance. Rearranging our lives in obedience to the Church's weekly and seasonal Fasts is a most practical way of affirming our commitment to life in Christ, a daily reminder that *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Mt 4:4).

**Confession: The Mystery of Repentance** – This is the sacramental expression of repentance. This mystery appeared in Christian history when people first realized that they had reneged on their baptismal commitment in a serious way. Confession was this considered a “second baptism,” a starting over in the Christian life. Over the centuries, it became more widely used and is considered appropriate today whenever a person feels the need of it, particularly:

When serious sin has been committed;

When a habitual sin has overwhelmed the Christian;

When a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a

## ----- 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.