



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday - Glorious Entry into Jerusalem

الأحد، 2 نيسان 2023

أحد الشعانين

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.

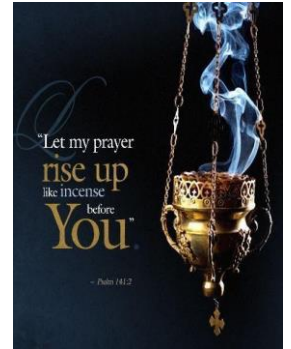
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

- +Jeanette Sarwe, mother of Elias Boghos, Requested by Dr. Nabil and Mrs. Lina Muhanna
- +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
- +Youssef Khoury, Requested by Lourice Jajeh and Family

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. John Azar, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Janice Peterson, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Butrus Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family
- Amanda, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Anonymous, 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: Only Grape Leaves available! 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.

YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION: Youth Education next date will be April 23rd (St. George & Armor of God). Adult education will be the same day with 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.

FLOCKNOTE COMING SOON: We are converting to a diocese/eparchy wide parishioner database called Flocknote. Over the next several weeks/months you will see email and TEXT messages coming from this system. The new system will allow us to communicate more seamlessly as a Parish. Please send us your feedback when that begins. Also, please be sure that we have your correct e-mail and cell phone number in our database. Thank you.



----- 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, 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.



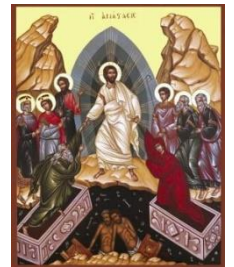
Luncheon and Bake Sale will follow the Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center Hall.
Pickup of pre-ordered food items

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
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.



----- EPARCHY VOCATION PLAN -----

Bishop François has formed a New Vocation Team, headed by Fr. John Mefrige and composed of four other priests from each region of the eparchy. The goal is to create a



“Culture of Service and Vocations” within the Melkite Catholic Church. As Bishop François Beyrouti begins his episcopal ministry, he is emphasizing the Lord’s invitation to “serve one another humbly in love” (Galatians 5:13). In this spirit, one of his key priorities is to strengthen our focus on vocations throughout the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton. Thanks be to God, over the past few years, the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States has been blessed with many new vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Looking toward the future, we can also see that many parishes have aging clergy who have been faithfully serving for so many years. Thus, there is a serious need to ensure uninterrupted pastoral care for our 50 churches and communities and to respond to the needs of our faithful who are asking us to establish new parishes.

----- 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 - MAR 2023):

Total Income: \$13,751 (Ordinary Collections: \$7,007)
 Expenses: \$15,381
 Net Income: **1,630**

FINANCIALS: (QUARTERLY – Q1 2023):

Total Income: \$40,295 (Ordinary Collections: \$29,162)
 Expenses: \$33,613
 Net Income: **6.681**

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

Earthquake relief checks may be made 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 -----

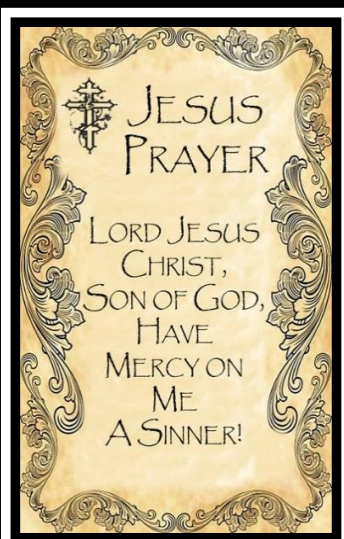
COMMEMORATIONS: Send a commemoration request to contact@stjohnmelkite.org for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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. Tom Flynn | Fr. John Azar |
| Fr. Damon Geiger | Fr. Ed Kakaty | Fr. and Mrs. Alam Alam |
| Janice Peterson | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) | |
| Syria and Turkey | Butrus Jajeh | Serene Kadadu |

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.

April 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:

Evelyn Whalen	Nicholas Curry
Kareem Atalla	Bishara Kadadu
Elias Maalouf	Aemah Badri
Selia Madanat	Janice Peterson

Anniversary:

Shane & Christiana Hooper

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)

”إِنَّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ يُعْطِينَا النِّجَاحَ وَنَحْنُ عَبِيدُهُ نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي.” (نحميا ٢:٢٠)

--- 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.

--- Our Holy Week and Jerusalem ---

In 326-28 the Empress Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, traveled to Palestine at the behest of her son to mark the places where Christ lived and died by constructing shrines and churches. According to Eusebius of Caesarea, she was chiefly responsible for two great churches, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem (still in existence), and a church on the Mount of Olives, the site of Christ's ascension. She also took part in the excavations at the site of the Lord's death and burial outside Jerusalem, where the Church of the Resurrection stands today. It soon became the practice for great celebrations to take place at these sites, particularly when the events which took place there were being observed. It was at these shrines that historical commemorations of the events of the Lord's passion were first conducted. In time, local Churches throughout the Mediterranean world began to imitate the appealing Jerusalem practices, developing the historical observances of Holy Week as we know them today.

The Power of the Redemption

The first observances of Pascha in both East and West, however, were not attempts to recreate the events of the Lord's Passion. Rather they were focused on the effects of the Lord's death and resurrection in the lives of the faithful. Thus the highpoint of the Resurrection celebration was the bestowal of union with Christ and the forgiveness of sins through the baptism of catechumens, which took place before the Paschal Liturgy, and the reconciliation of penitents on Holy Thursday: those whose serious sins had excluded them from the community.

In the same spirit, Byzantine Churches today offer the Mystery of Holy Unction on the Wednesday before Pascha. People are anointed for the healing of their spiritual infirmities, uniting them with Christ, in the power of His death and resurrection.

On Celebrating The Feast of Palm Sunday

"In His humility, Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and He is glad that He became so humble for our sake: glad that He came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to Himself. And even though we are told that He has now ascended above the highest heaven – the proof, surely of His power and godhead – His love for mankind will never rest until He has raised our earthbound nature to glory, and made it one with His own in heaven.

"So let us spread before His feet – not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither – but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothed completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that are spread before Him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the Conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms, but with the real rewards of His victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel!

St Andrew of Crete