



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

**Bulletin for Sunday, April 9, 2023**

**Glorious Resurrection of our Lord**

الأحد 9 نيسان 2023  
أحد الفصح العظيم المقدس

**10:00 AM – ORTHROS**

**10:30 AM – SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY**

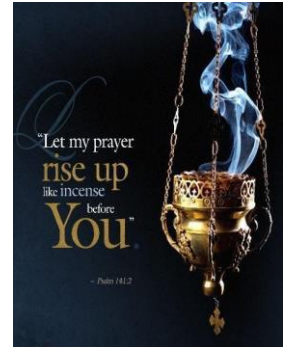
**Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Cultural Center.**

**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](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**

- +Jeanette Sarwe, Requested by the 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
- +Sue Ann Maloof, Requested by Maloof Family
- +Paulette and George Hatoun, Requested by Elias Hatoun
- +Salima, Raif, and Lutfi Muhanna, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna
- +Rodolf, Elvir, Emil, Elias, Hanneh and Nicola Mansour, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna



#### **HEALTH & SALVATION**

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. John Azar, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Janice Peterson, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Amanda, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Sue, Donna, Rita, and David, Requested by Yvonne Yarid
- Special Intention, Requested by Yvonne Yarid
- The Ghawi Family, Requested by the 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 23<sup>rd</sup> (St. George & Armor of God). Adult education will be the same day with April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jesus and Grace. Adults, please join us after Divine Liturgy in 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 be sure that we have your correct e-mail and cell phone number in our database. Thank you.



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES – THANK YOU!** to those who attended, chanted, participated, read, ushered, served at the altar, decorated, and made our Holy Week services possible! A special thank you to the Ghawi Family for the decoration of the tomb.

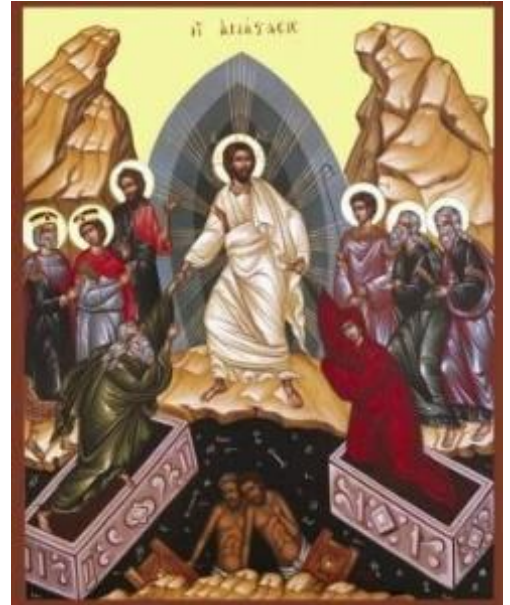
----- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL -----

**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, 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.



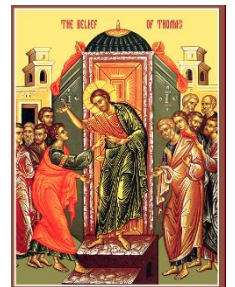
**Easter Sunday Services:** Hajmeh and Pascha Divine Liturgy 10:30AM  
Coffee Hour in Cultural Center  
Easter Egg Hunt after Divine Liturgy

For Forty Days After Easter, we greet each other with:

**CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!  
AL MASEEH QAM! HAQ-QAN QAM!  
CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!**

**MON, APR 10 - 15 – BRIGHT WEEK:** No fasting nor abstinence during Bright Week.

**SUN, APR 16 – SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS:** The Sunday of Thomas follows the celebration Easter by commemorating the appearance of Christ to His disciples when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ.



**SUN, APR 23 – SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT BEARING WOMEN:** We commemorate when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint his body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

----- 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).



----- 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 Beyrouiti 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](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 - 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](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.

----- 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

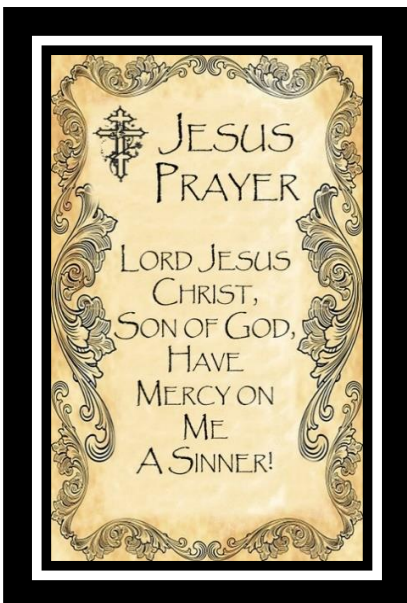
**Please keep in your prayers...**

- |                  |                          |                        |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 Tomb of Jesus ---

The burial place of the Lord was not adorned outwardly in any way, but its location was firmly fixed in the hearts of believers. It became such a place of devotion that the Roman Emperor Hadrian had a temple built to the goddess Venus over the spot to affirm the superiority of the Roman state religion. According to historian Eusebius, "Certain impious and godless persons had thought to remove this sacred cave entirely from the eyes of men, supposing in their folly that thus they should be able effectually to obscure the truth. Accordingly, they brought a quantity of earth from a distance with much labor, and covered the entire spot; then, having raised this to a moderate height, they paved it with stone, concealing the holy cave beneath this massive mound. Then, as though their purpose had been effectually accomplished, they prepare on this foundation a truly dreadful sepulcher of souls, by building a gloomy shrine of lifeless idols to the impure spirit whom they call Venus, and offering detestable oblations therein on profane and accursed altars. For they supposed that their object could not otherwise be fully attained, than by thus burying the sacred cave beneath these foul pollutions" (Life of Constantine, III, XXVI).

Under Constantine, Christianity was freed from persecution and, later, obtained a protected status. Constantine had the temple to Venus destroyed and replaced it with a church in AD 335. Its dedication is celebrated in our liturgy on September 13 each year. Known in the West as the Holy Sepulchre, its authentic name is the Anastasis, the Church of the Resurrection. This church was enlarged, damaged, repaired and destroyed again several times during the following centuries. The three main components – the basilica, the chapel of the crucifixion at Golgotha and the tomb – were enclosed in the single structure we have today.

The tomb itself was a cavern "hewn out of the rock," as we read in Mt 27:59. Constantine's builders isolated the tomb by removing the rockface around it. It was enclosed in a rotunda in the year 380. In 2016 restoration work began on the tomb-chapel. Marble cladding which protected the shelf or burial bed on which the Lord's body had been laid, was removed, exposing the original limestone shelf. After some 60 hours of studying and documenting the site, archeologists replaced the cladding, reasonably certain that this was indeed Jesus' burial place.

While archeologists can testify to the antiquity of the tomb, only faith can assent to the Gospels' essential affirmation: the tomb is empty, Christ is risen! This was the heart of the Gospel message of Christ to the world. Perhaps the first recorded proclamation of the resurrection is that of St Peter told in the Acts of the Apostles: "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. ... Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:23, 24,36).

In the Byzantine Churches of the Mediterranean, it is customary to display the emptiness of the tomb and the powerlessness of death by means of the Red Eggs, blessed at the end of the Paschal Liturgy. Participants exchange the Paschal greeting (Christ is risen! – Indeed, He is risen!), cracking each other's eggs. The broken shell, died red in remembrance of the blood of Christ, becomes an image of the empty tomb, powerless to contain the One who was confined in it. As we sing in the resurrection troparion on many Sundays, "Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, bestowing on the world great mercy!"