



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, December 17, 2023

Sunday of the Forefathers – Tone 4

الأحد، 17 كانون الاول 2023

أحد الاجداد القديسين

SATURDAY: GREAT VESPERS (5pm) – CONFESSIONS (4:30-5pm)

SUNDAY: ORTHROS (9:45am) – DIVINE LITURGY (10:30am) – CONFESSIONS: 9:30-10:00am

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Church Hall

WELCOME VISITORS! Please register on FlockNote to receive e-mails/texts and join us in the Church Hall. If you would like a tour or discussion about the Melkite Church, please let Fr. Elias know so that one can be arranged after coffee hour. Interested in being a catechumen or parishioner? Please send an email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org.



COMMUNION: If you are unable to make Divine Liturgy 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.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: Father Elias is ready to bless your house! To schedule yours, please e-mail pastor@stjohnmelkite.org.

----- DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS -----

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Banks Thomas Davidson (AL), Requested by Fr. Justin Rose, St. George Melkite Church (AL)
Lauren Makhlof, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Scott Alexander, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Hikmat & Najwa Faraj, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Ryan Raya, Requested by Dcn. Elie & Kh. Dzovag Hanna and family

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Butrus Jajeh, Father of Dcn. Sami Jajeh, Requested by Issa and Helen Ackall
+Richard Jabaley, Requested by his brother, Joseph Jabaley

SUN, DEC 17th – SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS – THE GREAT FEAST

- Children's Nativity Program
- Homeless Care Package Assembly



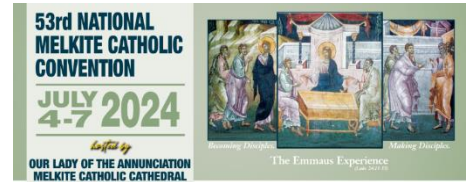
Colossians 3: 4-11: Brethren, when Christ, our life, appears, then you too shall appear in glory. Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once walked in them when they were your (way of) life. But now, you too put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one that is being renewed toward perfect knowledge according to his creator's image (Cf. Gn. 1:26). Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Scythian, no slave and freeman, but Christ is all things, and in all.

Luke 14: 16-24 (THE GREAT FEAST): The Lord told this parable, "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a farm, and I must go out and see it; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; I pray you hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant. 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the crippled, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper.' For many are called but few are chosen."

----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

HOMELESS CARE PACKAGES: This **SUNDAY, Dec. 17**, The Good Samaritan Society is asking all the children of the parish to help assemble care packages for the homeless on Sunday, Dec. 17, following the Nativity play. Each family will then have the chance to take a few of the packages with them to hand out to men in need (these packages are specifically for men). It would be nice to have the packages ready to give out before Christmas, so that our young ones can help spread the blessings of the season. Thank you for your attendance!

53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CONVENTION: SAVE THE DATES (July 4-7, 2024). The 53rd Annual National Melkite Convention will be hosted by Our Lady of the Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral at the Marriott Boston Quincy. The package registration form will be shared shortly. It is never too early to make a hotel registration, as they can be cancelled without penalty. Consider taking the entire family to this important event.



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

WED, DEC 20th – 7PM: PARAKLESIS SERVICE FOR NATIVITY FAST

- Send First Names only (no nick names) of the LIVING to contact@stjohnmelkite.org

FRI, DEC 22nd – 7PM: PARAMONY OF THE NATIVITY - HOLY ANOINTING SERVICE

SUN, DEC 24th – SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - GENEALOGY

- Sunday Orthros (9:45am) and Divine Liturgy (10:30am) at normal times
- **10 PM Christmas Divine Liturgy.** There will be an **Agape Meal after liturgy.**



MON, DEC 25th – FEAST OF THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- There will be no Christmas day liturgy on Monday, Dec. 25th.

SUN, DEC 31st – SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY – COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, JAMES, DAVID & PROTOMARTYR STEPHEN.

- Leave taking of the Feast of the Nativity

MON, JAN 1st – FEAST DAY OF ST BASIL/CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- No Services on this date

FRI, JAN 5th – 7PM: VESPERAL BASIL DIVINE LITURGY – GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY

- Agape Meal in Church Hall after Divine Liturgy

SAT, JAN 6th – THE GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY

SUN, JAN 7th – SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY - 2ND DAY OF CELEBRATION OF THE THEOPHANY – HOLY SYNAXIS IN HONOR OF THE PROPHET AND GLORIOUS FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Great Blessing of the Waters after Divine Liturgy



----- CONFESSION IN THE MELKITE TRADITION -----

The Bible tells us that "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Matthew 9:6). We also read that the risen Lord enabled the Church to forgive sin in His name when He appeared to the apostles after His resurrection: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven..." (John 20:23). The Mystery of Repentance (Confession) is the Church's principal way to exercise this ministry. Because the Church encourages us to go to confession during the fasting seasons, the Nativity Fast is a good time to consider going to confession. We prepare for confession by reviewing what we have done (and failed to do) in light of the Gospel. There are booklets available from the bookstore or the clergy to help us prepare for confession. In addition to the set times for confession posted in the bulletin, Father Elias is available for Confession by appointment. In our tradition, it is customary for the priest to hear confession before an icon of Christ. This reminds us that it is Christ to whom we are confessing. That is why Father sometimes stands near the Icon of Christ at the front of the Church during Orthros. During confession, the priest may ask questions or make suggestions. At the end, he will place the end of his epitrachelion (stole) over our bowed head and say the prayer of absolution. Afterwards, we may kiss the stole and the priest's hand.

How do we go to confession? What are the steps?

1. Approach the icon and make three metanias, along with the priest, saying each time: "God be propitious to me, the sinner, and have mercy upon me."
2. The priest will give you a blessing and make the sign of the cross over you: "Blessed is our God at all times, now and always and forever and ever."
3. He may ask the following questions to help you get started: "Have you asked the Lord pardon for all your sins and offenses? Is there anything in particular you would like to confess?"
4. State your sins simply, without going into extreme detail.

----- STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

TREASURE: [CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](https://stjohnmelkite.org) 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, made out to “Eparchy of Newton.” Identify in memo field purpose of any Zelle donation [donate@stjohnmelkite.org](https://stjohnmelkite.org). You may also give via Flocknote.

FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - NOV 2023 and JAN-NOV 2023):

*Total Income:	\$16,975 (O.C. \$10,111)	\$147,2390 (O.C. \$103,132)
**Expenses:	\$19,343	\$270,993
Net Income:	(\$2,664)	(\$123,744)

* O.C. – Ordinary Collections
 ** YTD RENOVATION AND REPAIR EXPENSES: **\$98,554**

FLOCKNOTE REGISTRATION AND TRAINING: Bring comments/questions to Dcn. Elie at coffee hour. Register or update registration via QR code.



END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS AND GIFTS: Your End-of-year giving statement for the 2023 calendar year will be coming to you in early-to-mid January. If you would like any additional contribution to be considered a 2023 donation, please send it in as soon as possible.

----- ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL -----

Please see the e-mail announcement via Flocknote for the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. In Bishop François’s Bishop Appeal Letter, he writes, “As Melkite Catholics, you and I know what it’s like to feel a deep, familial connection with those far away— even with those whom we’ve never met. That’s because we share the same tradition, the same heritage, and the same destiny. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy, we are connected with Our Lord and with one another across the miles and across the centuries.” The full letter is found [HERE](#), where he shares his vision of the Bishop’s Appeal helping with vocations, resources, and communications, as some of the important initiatives. You may donate to the Bishop’s appeal on the website by clicking on this link [DONATE HERE](#) or using the QR Code to the right.



----- 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.

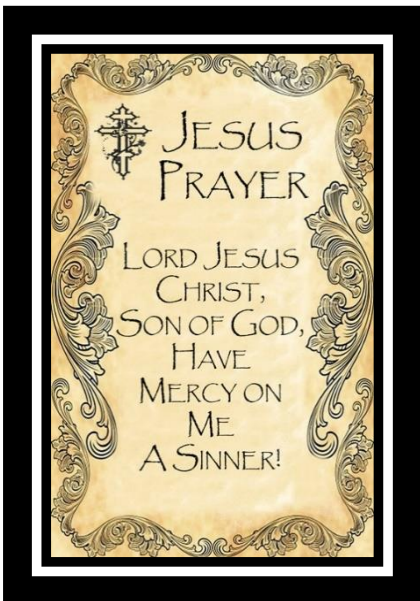
PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

Fr. Tom Flynn	Samira Jajeh	Lauren Makhlof
Serene Kadadu	Scott Alexander	Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family

The Wandering Sheep of this parish	Those looking for employment
Victims of natural disasters	The homeless and poor
Those taking care of (grand)parents	Those preparing for marriage
Those considering ascription into the Melkite Church	

Areas of War and Violence, Including Holy Land, Ukraine, Syria, Lebanon
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.



December 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 can update our database.

BIRTHDAYS

Jessica Fron	Salma Layous
Tyoh Long	Michael Madanat
John Madanat	Maureen Maloof
Tyra Nuar	Luca Quatelas
Robert Thomas	

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. & Mrs. Craig and Melinda Ajmo
Mrs. Evelyn Whalen

--- THE BANQUET BEATITUDE AND STORY ---

WHY JESUS TOLD THE PARABLE. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: One of those who were sitting at the table with them said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God." Probably this man was not yet spiritual but earthly, and not able to understand correctly what Christ spoke. He was not one of those who believed, nor had he been baptized. He supposed that the rewards of the saints for their mutual labors of love would be in things pertaining to the body. Since they were too dull in heart to comprehend a precise idea, Christ outlines for them a parable that explains the nature of the era about to be instituted for their sakes. COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILY 104.

THE HEAVENLY FOOD OF JESUS' WORD. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA: The holy agape is the sublime and saving creation of the Lord.... An agape is in reality heavenly food, a banquet of the Word. The agape, or love, "bears all things, endures all things, hopes all things. Love never fails." "Blessed is he who eats bread in the kingdom of God." The most unlikely of all downfalls is charity that does not fail to be thrown down from heaven to earth among all these dainty seasonings. Do you still imagine that I refer to a meal that will be destroyed? "If I distribute my goods to the poor and do not have love," Scripture says, "I am nothing." The whole law and the word depend on this love. If you love the Lord your God and your neighbor, there will be a heavenly feast in heaven. The earthly feast, as we have proved from Scripture, is called a supper. It is permeated with love yet is not identified with it but is an expression of mutual and generous good will. CHRIST THE EDUCATOR 2.1.

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite
FlockNote: <https://stjohnmelkiteatl.flocknote.com/register>

Rev. Elias Dorham, Pastor
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Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Administrator and PAC Chair
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Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, Pastor Emeritus
+Rt. Rev. William Haddad, Founding Pastor
Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn, Retired

Church Hall Manager - Jerome Hagley -
jerome.hagley@gmail.com

--- 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

