



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sunday (Morning) Before the Nativity – Tone 5

Sunday (Evening) of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ – Festal Tone

الأحد، 24 كانون الأول 2023

الأحد الذي قبل الميلاد – المعروف بأحد النسبة

ميلاد ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح بحسب الجسد

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

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.



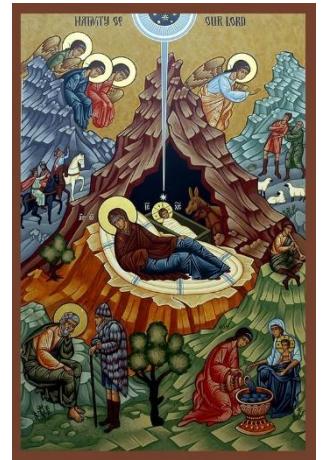
----- DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS -----

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

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Butrus Jajeh, Father of Dcn. Sami Jajeh, Requested by The Jajeh Family
+Richard Jabaley, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+David Alexander, Requested by Margaret Alexander
+Robb McElroy, Requested by Margaret Alexander
+Kh. Judy Handal, the wife of the late +Fr. Ephrem Handal, the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
The servants of God who have been killed in the Mideast, Holy Land, Palestine, and Israel, Requested by Sohel Elias



SAT, DEC 24th – 5PM GREAT VESPERS

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

- Sunday Orthros (9:45am) and Divine Liturgy (10:30am) at normal times
- Memorial Service for +Kh. Judy Handal
- **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.

Gospel for the Sunday Before the Nativity: Matthew 1: 1-25 (Genealogy of Christ) - The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah whose mother was Tamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, Abijah begot Asa. And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel

begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus, Who is called Christ. So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations. And from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary His mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;" which is interpreted, "God with us." So, Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called His name Jesus.

Gospel for the Feast of the Nativity: Matthew 2: 1-12, (Visit of the Magi) - When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi came from the East to Jerusalem saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him." But when King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and so was all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and Scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And you, Bethlehem, of the land of Judah are by no means least among the princes of Judah; for from you shall come forth a leader who shall shepherd my people, Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the Magi secretly, and carefully ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared to them. And sending them to Bethlehem he said, "Go and make careful inquiry concerning the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and worship Him." Now they, having heard the king, went their way. And behold, the star they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly. And entering the house, they found the Child with Mary His mother, and falling down they worshipped Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way.

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

THANK YOU: Thank you to all of those who made the December programs successful including the extra liturgical services, Homeless Care Package Program, Mercy Meal, Bake Sale, Visit of St. Nicholas, and Children's Christmas program. Your hard work and dedication are noticed and appreciated and a great blessing to our community. The bake sale was very successful and raised approximately \$2,450.

53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CONVENTION: SAVE THE DATES (July 4-7, 2024). The 53rd Annual National Melkite Convention. Consider taking the entire family to this important event. See WWW.MELKITE.ORG for details.



CALENDARS ARE HERE!: Please see Dcn. Elie in the Church Hall to receive your calendar and update our contact database.

GREAT VESPERS TIME CHANGE: NOTE Starting Sat, Jan 6th, as Great Vespers moves to 6pm, based on parishioner feedback.

SAVE THE DATE: The Annual General Assembly will be held after Divine Liturgy on January 21, 2024. Please plan on attending!

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

SAT, DEC 30TH – 5PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (4:30PM)

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

WED, JAN 3RD – 7PM – DAILY VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (6:30PM)

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

- Agape Meal in Church Hall after Divine Liturgy

SAT, JAN 6TH – **6PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30PM) - 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

WED, JAN 10TH – 7PM – DAILY VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (6:30PM)

SAT, JAN 13TH – **6PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30PM)**

SUN, JAN 14TH – SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY – LEAVE TAKING OF THE THEOPHANY



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

TREASURE: [CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#) 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. 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.

53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

JULY 4-7 2024

Hosted by

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

at the

MARRIOTT BOSTON QUINCY



The Emmaus Experience
from 2019

PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS			
if Purchased Separately from Package			
Individual Events	Price per ticket	Quantity	Total Cost
Thursday, July 4 . Opening Night BBQ	\$80.00		
Friday, July 5 . Hafeh	\$95.00		
Saturday, July 6 . Grand Banquet	\$130.00		
Sunday, July 7 . Farewell Brunch	\$45.00		
TOTAL DUE			

COMPLETE PACKAGES			
Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evenings only – SUNDAY BRUNCH NOT INCLUDED			
Evening Social Events	Price per package	Quantity	Total Cost
Purchased before 5/15/24	\$275.00		
Purchased after 5/15/24	\$305.00		
TOTAL DUE			
GRAND TOTAL \$			

Make Checks Payable to:
ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHEDRAL
Memo: Convention Package

Mail Payment and Form to:
 Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral
 7 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132
DO NOT SEND CASH

Registration material will be picked up at the convention registration desk

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

Please complete the entire registration form and mail it with your payment to the address on the left.

For further information, contact Our Lady of Annunciation Cathedral at (617) 323-5242

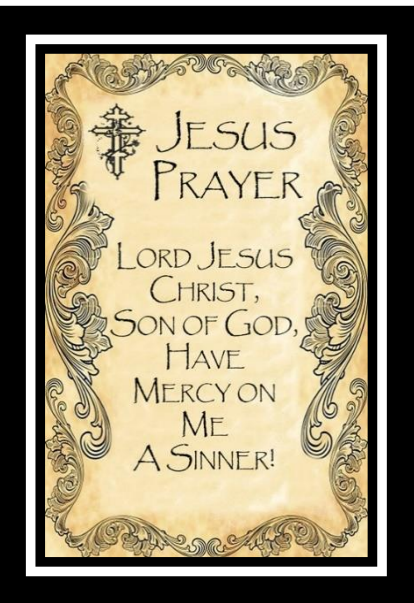
REGISTRATION

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Additional Names _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Parish/City _____



PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

Fr. Tom Flynn
Serene Kadadu

Samira Jajeh
Scott Alexander

Lauren Makhlouf
Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family

The Wandering Sheep of this parish
 Victims of natural disasters
 Those taking care of (grand)parents
 Those considering ascription into the Melkite Church

Those looking for employment
 The homeless and poor
 Those preparing for marriage

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) •
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite
FlockNote: <https://stjohnmelkiteatl.flocknote.com/register>

Rev. Elias Dorham, Pastor
pastor@stjohnmelkite.org

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh, Administrator and Finance Chair
deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org

Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Administrator and PAC Chair
deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org

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.

--- PROPHECIES OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST ---

At the time of the Hebrew kingdoms (the six or seven hundred years before Christ) prophets were periodically calling the people to trust in God despite the troubles of their nation. Despite conflicts with the Philistines or the Assyrians, and even in the midst of defeat and exile by the Babylonians and occupation by the Romans, the prophets encouraged the people to trust in God who would provide a deliverer.

After the death and resurrection of Christ the apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit came to see these prophecies fulfilled in a decisive way by Jesus Christ, who delivers all mankind – not just the Jewish people – from its ultimate enemies, sin and death, not just foreign oppressors. Around the Old Testament prophecies of a deliverer, the apostles built their preaching of the true Messiah (Anointed One) of God, Christ Jesus the Savior. What we call the Old Testament was the Bible for the early Church as well as for Judaism and its prophecies shaped the presentation of the incarnation in the New Testament. As the following quotations show, the apostles considered these prophecies as clearly pointing to the coming of Christ:

- **His Conception** (Isaiah 7:14, cited in Mt 1:23) - “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son.”
- **The Place of His Birth** (Micah 5:2, cited in Mt 2:6) - “Bethlehem...out of you shall come a ruler...”
- **The Flight into Egypt** (Hosea 11:1, cited in Mt 2:15) - “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
- **The Slaughter of the Infants** (Jeremiah 31:15, cited in Mt 2:18) - “A voice was heard in Ramah...”
- **His home in Nazareth** (possibly Judges 13:5, cited in Mt 2:23) - “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Other prophecies were frequently cited as pointing to Jesus as the Messiah:

- **Numbers 24:17** - “a star shall come forth out of Jacob...”
- **Isaiah 11:1** - “There shall come forth a shoot from the root of Jesse...”
- **Isaiah 60:5-6** “...they shall bring gold and frankincense”

While there are no verbatim quotations of prophecies in Luke’s infancy narratives, there are allusions to Old Testament scriptures throughout. In **Luke 1:17**, for example, John the Baptist is described by the angel as going “before him in the spirit and power of Elijah.” This alludes to **Malachi 4:5-6**: “Behold I am sending to you Elijah the Thesbite before the great and notable day of the Lord comes.”

These allusions, and others throughout the Gospels, reflect the early Church’s belief that the entire Old Testament leads us to see Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.