



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

Leave-taking Of the Feast of the Theophany

Commemoration of our Holy Fathers who were martyred in Sinai and Raitho

الاحد 14 كانون الثاني 2018

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SATURDAY: GREAT VESPERS (6pm) – CONFESSIONS (5:30-6pm)

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

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.

COMMEMORATIONS: As Christians, we pray for all. That said, we remember different categories of people at different times during the Divine Liturgy. To help us determine how best to commemorate N., please confirm whether s/he was baptized Catholic or Orthodox when you make a commemoration request. Thanking you in advance!

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

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Fr. Roger Boucher, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton

Banks Thomas Davidson (AL), Requested by Fr. Justin Rose, St. George Melkite Church (AL)

Lauren Makhoul, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Hikmat & Najwa Faraj, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Janice Peterson, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Phillip & Mary Beth Smith, Requested by Dcn. Elie and Dk. Dzovag Hanna

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Richard Jabaley, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Kh. Judy Handal, the wife of the late +Fr. Ephrem Handal, the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Carmen Conrad, Requested by Dcn. Elie and Dk. Dzovag Hanna

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

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

Epistle (Ephesians 4:7-13) Brethren, to each one of us the grace was given according to the measure of Christ's bestowal. Thus it says, Ascending on high, he led away captives; he gave gifts to men (Ps.61:19). Now this ascending, what does it mean but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended, he it is who ascended also above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he himself gave some men as apostles, and some as prophets, and others as pastors and teachers, in order to perfect the saints for a work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the deep knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday after Theophany) At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, by the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death a light has arisen." From that time, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



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

CALLED BY NAME: This weekend throughout the diocese is Called By Name Sunday: an initiative of our Vocation Team to identify faithful men who could be called to serve as readers, subdeacons, deacons, or priests. Bishop François has written a letter (provided to you last week). Think of someone who could be called. Spend time this week thinking about men in our parish who could make good priests, deacons, subdeacons, or readers. This weekend at the Divine Liturgy, we will provide response cards for you to submit that man's name and contact information. Bishop François will then send them a letter of encouragement and support, and our Vocations Team will follow up with them. God is the one who calls, but He often uses our voice of encouragement to do so. With your help, we can make this Called By Name Sunday a great success that will bear fruit in our diocese for generations to come. Thank you for your openness and generous participation.



RETREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN: *The Way* for Women is a 3-day retreat for adult female survivors of abuse offered by the **Archdiocese of Atlanta's Victim Assistance Program January 23-25, 2024**, at Carmel Retreat Center in Hoschton, Georgia. **Registration deadline is January 19, 2024.** Please contact Sue Stubbs at 404-920-7554 or sstubbs@archatl.com for more information.

FAMILY! FAITH! FORMATION! On Saturday, January 27th, we will hold a family faith formation event. We will begin at 4:15 PM and offer a talk for men and a talk for women, as well as supervised playtime for children. After Vespers, we will end with a meal. To RSVP, please go to this link: www.stjohnmelkite.org/family-faith-formation-event or SCAN QR Code.

- **4:30 PM** Talk for Men by Fr. Elias, Talk for Women by Kh. Sylvia, and Supervised playtime for children
- **5:15 PM** Confession/social time
- **6:00 PM** Vespers
- **7:00 PM** Dinner / Depart



FLOWER COMMITTEE: A new year (2024) brings us a new ministry, The Flower Committee, headed by Tyra Nuar. Men and women are needed to help beautify the church (God's house) weekly and especially during feasts with fresh flowers. Please contact Tyra if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

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

SAVE THE DATE: The Annual General Assembly will be held after Divine Liturgy on February 11, 2024. Please plan on attending!

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.

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

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

WED, JAN 17th – 11AM – 2PM - Mid-Day with Moms

THUR, JAN 18 - 8:00PM - ADULT EDUCATION SERIES ON THE BOOK: GREAT LENT by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. If you need to purchase a book, they are available in the Book Store.

SAT, JAN 20th – **6PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30PM)**

SUN, JAN 21st – SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

- Memorial Service for +Sarina Shadedd
- Ladies Society Meeting

SAT, JAN 27th – **6PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30PM)**

SUN, JAN 28th – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

THUR, FEB 1ST – 7 PM GREAT VESPERS FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

FRI, FEB 2ND – 7 PM DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

----- BISHOP'S CALL FOR PEACE JUSTICE AND PRAYER -----

Today, we will be distributing a letter from Sayedna which calls for peace, justice, and prayer in the Middle East for the recent conflict, centered in Palestine. He notes that, "...despite the joy and glory of God's abundant gifts and blessings to us which elevates humanity to a new life with Him, today we are also witnessing the tragedy of humanity and world powers who are unable, or more accurately, unwilling to bring peace to the world. We see the conflict between Russia and Ukraine continue with no clear end in sight. We see various other conflicts around the world. Also in Jerusalem, the city whose name is the city of peace, in Bethlehem, the house of bread and nourishment, and in the entire region where Jesus, the Prince of Peace (cf. Isaiah 9:6), lived, taught, prayed, healed, died, and rose from the dead, we see no peace, no bread, and no nourishment of justice or basic human rights." Please read the letter and pray for ALL that the peace may reign!



DIOCESE OF NEWTON
for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America

BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI

A Call for Peace, Justice, and Prayer.

----- CHURCH FINANCIALS -----

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS: Please consider revising your annual giving plan or starting one if you have not already. Our finance committee has identified a few challenges that have the potential to impact the long term health of our parish community:

- **Inconsistent giving:** We have some members who only give when they attend, making it difficult to factor their contributions into our monthly and yearly budget.
- **A mismatch between increased giving and inflation:** With inflation, bills have increased greatly, but giving has not kept up. As an example, ten years ago, our insurance bill was \$17k. Since then, it has doubled.
- **Few new members:** The church exists to baptize and make disciples. Adding new members to our parish family is one of the reasons we exist. As our membership grows, giving also grows.

2023 REPORTING COMING SOON

With a full year of data via ServantKeeper, we will be able to report on (non-anonymous) giving, including the number of givers in various ranges.

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

*Total Income: \$16,845 (O.C. \$11,762) \$164,094 (O.C. \$114,896)
 **Expenses: \$24,781 \$295,775
 Net Income: **(\$7,937)** **(\$131,681)**

* O.C. – Ordinary Collections, ** YTD RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES: \$103,329

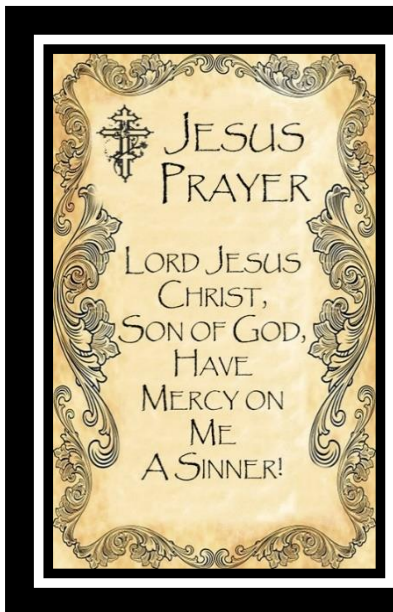
----- ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL -----



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.

----- 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 Makhoulf |
| Serene Kadadu | Scott Alexander | Julian and Nadia Muhanna |
| Janice Peterson | | |

Those looking for employment
 Victims of natural disasters
 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.

53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

JULY 4-7 2024

Hosted by
OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

at the
MARRIOTT BOSTON QUINCY

PACKAGE REGISTRATION FORM

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

COMPLETE PACKAGES			
<i>Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evenings only - SUNDAY BRUNCH NOT INCLUDED</i>			
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	

Make Checks Payable to:
ANNUNCIATION MELKITE CATHEDRAL
 Mensa Convention Package

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

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 _____

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



Note: 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

Adelaide, Cecilia & Tatiana Curry
Stephanie Delibrado Elias Elias
Luke Ghawi Tony & Matilda Ghawi
Dzovag Hanna John Jajeh
Kamil, Rita & Lillian Karroum
George Malouf Valerie Martinez
Gabrielle Nassar Shoghag Palanjian

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Kareem & Arige Atalla
Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Tyra Nuar
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Nohemi Oddo

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>

Current Parish Clergy and Staff

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

Church Hall - Jerome Hagley (jerome.hagley@gmail.com)

--- DONATIONS ---

[CLICK TO DONATE](#) or email 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 given at donate@stjohnmelkite.org.

You may give via Flocknote. Register or update registration via QR code.



--- 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.

--- CHRIST AS KING ---

The Gospels consistently proclaim that the coming of Kingdom of God was at hand. The presence of the Kingdom was the main focus of the Lord Jesus' teaching, as it had been the message of John the Baptist. The Apostles depicted Christ as One in whom the Kingdom was present and that He Himself was "the Son of David," its King. What kind of kingdom He ruled was regularly misunderstood, however. People assumed that the Messiah-King would re-establish an Israel free of Roman oversight. When the magi asked Herod, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2), Herod assumed that his position on the throne was threatened. He responded by killing the boys of Bethlehem whom we call the Holy Innocents.

When Jesus fed the multitudes with a few barley loaves and two small fish, people thought that this was a sign that, with Jesus, God was restoring Israel's independence. "Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone" (John 6:15).

When the Jewish authorities accused Jesus before Pilate, it was that He had made Himself a king. Because of this, Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" (Matthew 27:11). Much of what followed – the soldiers' mockery, the purple robe, the crown and scepter, and the charge nailed over His head on the cross – point to the Romans' belief that Jesus was claiming to rule the land of Israel.

The Lord had told Pilate explicitly that this was not so. "Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here" (John 18:36). There is one further note in the Gospels pointing to the Apostles' faith that the Lord Jesus truly is king. Jesus is buried, not as a homeless convicted rebel, but in a manner worthy of a king, surrounded with "a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds" (John 19:39) provided by Nicodemus. That people saw Jesus as a (supposed) Messiah-King is clear; that they misunderstood the nature of His kingship is undisputed.

A Kingdom "Not of This World"

When Pilate asked Jesus "are you a King?" the Lord answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth" (Matthew 18:37). It is in the Gospel records of Jesus' teaching – particularly the Parables – that we see what His kingdom was, and what it was not. This teaching is summarized in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10). This text is so familiar to us that we may not see it as describing the lifestyle of God's Kingdom:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.