



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023

HOLY SYNAXIS IN HONOR OF THE PROPHET AND
GLORIOUS FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST - TONE 7

الاحد، 7 كانون الاول 2023
الاحد الذي بعد الغطاس المقدس
محفل مقدس اكراماً للسابق المجيد يوحنا المعمدان

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.

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
Hikmat & Najwa Faraj, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Julian Muhanna, Requested by Dr. Nabil and Mrs. Lina Muhanna and Family
Nadia Muhanna, Requested by Dr. Nabil and Mrs. Lina Muhanna and Family

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
+Abdou Malouf, Father of Aida Malouf, Requested by Joseph & Aida Malouf
+Halim & Adeb Malouf, parents of Joseph Malouf, Requested by Joseph & Aida Malouf

SAT, JAN 6th – **6PM** GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30PM) - THE GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY

SUN, JAN 7th – SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY –THE PROPHET AND GLORIOUS FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Great Blessing of the Waters after Divine Liturgy



Gospel of the feast of St. John, John 1: 29 – 34 (John the Baptist's Testimony to Christ) - At that time John saw Jesus coming to him, and he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one of whom I said, 'After me there comes one who has been set above me, because he was before me.' And I did not know him. But that he may be known to Israel, for this reason have I come baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying. "I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove from heaven, and it hovered over him. And I did not know him. But the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The man upon whom you will see the Spirit descending and hovering, he it is who baptizes with the Holy Spirit'." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

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

FLOWERS COMMITTEE: A new year (2024) brings us a new ministry, the Flowers 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. Thank you to Atlanta Scapes for sponsoring the 2024 Melkite Calendars here at St. John Chrysostom.

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

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.

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

TUE, JAN 9th – 7:30PM PAC Meeting, 8:30 Building/Finance Meeting.

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

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 Shadeded
- Ladies Society Meeting

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


SUN, JAN 28th – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



Next 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 at the end of Divine Liturgy) to us about this campaign, which we encourage you to read in our bulletin or social media pages. Next weekend, at every parish in the diocese, our clergy will share their vocation stories: how they listened and responded to God’s call. As part of this special weekend, the bishop is asking you to participate in 2 ways:

- Be open to God’s call. For those who are able – open your heart to the possibility of service. Serving in a leadership role is a beautiful gift to the Church, so be open and courageous if you hear the call.
- 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.

Next weekend at all the Divine Liturgies, 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 you openness and generous participation.



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

BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI

December 18, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today I am announcing a special Called by Name Campaign to identify faithful men in our diocese who, through God’s providence, could be called to serve as priests, deacons, subdeacons, or readers. The campaign will take place January 13-14, 2024.

As you know, the Melkite Church has a great need for “more workers for the harvest.” I firmly believe that our future clergy will come from our own parishes, but we need the entire Church to identify them, so that we can offer support and encouragement as they discern their vocations.

I have asked all of our clergy to share their vocation stories in January. As you reflect on the story shared by your priest or deacon, please consider the following:

1) For Young People
For those of you discerning your life’s vocation, be open to serving the church, including priesthood or religious life. God’s calling is a beautiful gift – be courageous and open to his call! Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full. Do not be afraid. If God is calling you to serve in a particular way, to include the diaconate or priesthood, then nothing less will satisfy.

2) For All Parishioners
I invite you to think deeply about the men in your parish who you believe might be called to deeper service. While God is the one who calls, he often uses our voices. Please write down at least one name using the envelope provided at Divine Liturgy, or submit names online at melkite.org

This initiative is near to my heart, and I ask you to please participate thoughtfully, so that it will be a great success throughout the diocese. And please join me in praying that the Lord will raise up many new leaders who have humble hearts to serve.

With my prayers and appreciation,

+ François
Most Reverend François Beyrouti, Ph.D./D.Th.
Eparchial Bishop of Newton,
The Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America

----- 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.

53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CATHOLIC CONVENTION

JULY 4-7 2024

Invited 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 . Hallel	\$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	

GRAND TOTAL \$

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

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

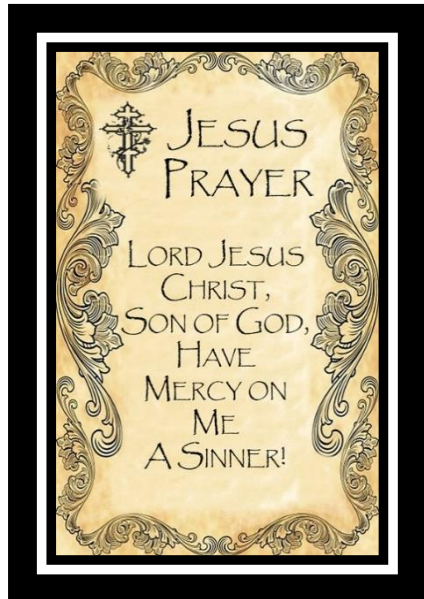
REGISTRATION

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Additional Names _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Parish/City _____



PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

Fr. Tom Flynn Samira Jajeh Lauren Makhlouf
 Serene Kadadu Scott Alexander Julian and Nadia Muhanna

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.

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 Palanjan

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 •

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.

--- THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY ---

An important patristic text read on the feast of the Theophany is the prayer at the Great Blessing of Water by St Sophronios, who served briefly as Patriarch of Jerusalem (634-638) but whose theological vision has inspired Eastern Christians ever since. The following is an excerpt from that prayer.

St Sopronios of Jerusalem on the Theophany

"Today the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came upon the waters.

Today the unwaning sun has dawned, and the world is lit up with the light of the Lord.

[...] Today the clouds refresh humanity with a rain of righteousness from above.

Today the uncreated One is by His own will touched by the creature.

Today the prophet and forerunner approaches the Master, but pauses in awe, seeing God's condescension towards us.

Today the waters of the Jordan are turned into healing by the presence of the Lord.

Today all creation is watered by mystical waters. Today men's sins are washed away in the waters of the Jordan.

Today Paradise is thrown open to mankind, and the sun of righteousness shines upon us.

Today the water that the people under Moses found bitter, is turned into sweetness at the presence of the Lord.

Today we are free of the ancient grief, and like a new Israel have been redeemed.

Today we are delivered from the darkness and are bathed in the light of the knowledge of God.

Today the world's gloom is dispersed in the epiphany of our God.

Today the entire universe is lit as by a heavenly torch.

Today error is abolished and the coming of the Lord opens the way to salvation.

Today the heavenly joins the earthly in celebration, and that which is below holds discourse with that which is above.

Today the holy and vibrant assembly of the Orthodox rejoices.

Today the Master hastens towards baptism in order to raise mankind to the heights.

Today He who bends to none, bows before His own servant, so as to free us from bondage.

Today heaven has been deeded to us, for of the Lord's kingdom there shall be no end.

Today the earth and the sky have divided the world's joy, and the world is filled with gladness.

The waters saw You, O God, the waters saw You and were afraid. The Jordan reversed its flow when it saw the fire of divinity descending bodily and entering it.

The Jordan turned back, seeing the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove and hovering about You.

The Jordan turned back seeing the invisible become visible, the Creator made flesh, the Master in the form of servant.

The Jordan turned back and the mountains leapt, seeing God in the flesh, and the clouds gave voice, marveling at the One present, light of light, true God of true God, who submerged in the Jordan the death of disobedience and the sting of error and the bond of Hades, giving to the world a baptism of salvation."