

ST ANN CHURCH

A Parish Community of the
Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY . SEPTEMBER 20

DIVINE LITURGIES

return to standard schedule

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

classes begin after 9am Liturgy

**BLESSING OF CHILDREN
AND TEACHERS**

in the church hall after 9am Liturgy

BAGEL HOUR RETURNS

in the church hall after 9am Liturgy

SAMY MEETING | 10:30AM

NEXT WEEK

SATURDAY . SEPTEMBER 26

SAMY - NJ RED BULLS GAME

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30PM

Sunday 9:00AM

11:30AM (Arabic/English)

Great Feast Day Eve 7:00PM

Mystery of Holy Confession

30 minutes before each Divine Liturgy

Our Community is Served By:

Rev Musil Shihadeh | *Pastor*

Rev Sayed Kozhaya | *Parochial Vicar*

Rev Choukri Sabbagh

Rev Archdeacon Edward Bsarany

Rev Deacon Roland Basinski

Rev Deacon Robert Shalhoub

St. Ann Melkite Catholic Church

802 Rifle Camp Road

Woodland Park NJ 07424

☎ 973.785.4144

✉ StAnn.WoodlandPark@melkite.org

🌐 saintannmelkite.com



There is a mystery at the heart of spiritual transformation: we must die to ourselves before we can become fully alive in God. This death is not the destruction of who we are, but the stripping away of everything false, selfish, and temporary that prevents the image of God within us from shining forth. It is the surrender of our will, our attachments, our fears, and our need to control, until our hearts become free to be transformed by grace. The cross is where the old self dies, the heart is purified, and new life begins. For only when we surrender ourselves completely can God transform us into who we were created to be.

September 20, 2026

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Galatians 2:16-21

| Mark 8:34-9:1

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers in the Diocese of Newton, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-447-8439.

Intentions

SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 19 | 5:30PM

†Norman & Laurice Dikdan . *Their Daughters*
†Lois Lozy . *Maureen Shaughnessy*
†Tony Najjar . *Rola Hannoush*
†Shirley Bluemer . *M/M Gabe Raad*

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 20 | 9:00AM

†Henry Raad . *40 Day Memorial . Wife Beverly & Family*
†Albert & Catherine Nahass . *M/M Benny Margherita*
†Pasquale & Concetta Margherita . *M/M Benny Margherita*
†Frank Margherita . *M/M Benny Margherita*
†Donna Nahass . *M/M Benny Margherita*
†Basil Fattell . *M/M George Jalinos*
†Mary Tahan . *M/M George Fakhoury*
†Kathleen Carlisle . *M/M Victor Jalinos*
†Elias Sawaf . *M/M Joseph Rowek*

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 20 | 11:30AM

†Bassima Khalifah Antun . *Memorial . Daughter Luce Kazanjian*
†Suzan & John Kayal . *Anthony Kayal*
†Sayer Sawaged . *Wife Badia & Family*
†Hani Haddad . *Wife Mary & Family*
†John Baladi . *Alan Sabeh*
†Amira & Khalil Alamir . *Their Family*
†Rana Alamir Haddad . *Alamir Family*
†Gloria Farina . *M/M Joseph Fattal*

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 26 | 5:30PM

†Lois Lozy . *M/M Eugene Wawrzyniak*
†Tony Najjar . *M/M Hani Khoury*
†Shirley Bluemer . *Rev/M Edward Bsarany*
†Judy McAuley . *Fran Najjar*

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27 | 9:00AM

†Mary Iandoli . *17 Year Remembrance . Her Family*
†Mary Lou Iandoli . *13 Year Remembrance . Her Family*
†Philip Pritchard . *M/M George Fakhoury*
†Basil Fattell . *M/M Joseph Stambuli*
†Mary Tahan . *Bruce Balady*
†Kathleen Carlisle . *M/M Matthew Jalinos*
†Henry Raad . *M/M Gabe Raad*

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27 | 11:30AM

†Sayer Sawaged . *Wife Badia & Family*
†Hani Haddad . *Wife Mary & Family*
†John Baladi . *The Cathcart Family*
†Amira & Khalil Alamir . *Their Family*
†Rana Alamir Haddad . *Alamir Family*
†Elias Sara . *Wife Juliette Sara*
†Ibrahim Sara . *Mother Juliette Sara*
†Elias Sawaf . *M/M Michel Gabriel*
†Bassima Khalifah Antun . *M/M Abboud Batikha*
†Elias Mohsen . *Micheline Ghanem*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers the sick and convalescing friends and members of our community, especially:

Robert Baskinger	Andrew Friedman	Mark Frommer	Kelly Jackson	Joyce Neuss	Debra Payne Wierciszewski
William Bsarany	Dolores Fritz	Charles Gleason	Mona Mardelli	Matthew Orsini	Donna Yuppa
Andre Fakhoury					

DAILY READINGS . September 21-26, 2026

MONDAY 9/21

EPH 4:25-32
LK 3:19-22

TUESDAY 9/22

EPH 5:20-25
LK 3:23-38; 4:1

WEDNESDAY 9/23

GAL 4:22-27
LK 1:5-25

THURSDAY 9/24

EPH 5:33; 6:1-9
LK 4:16-22

FRIDAY 9/25

EPH 6:18-24
LK 4:22-30

SATURDAY 9/26

JN 21:14-25 (11)
1 JN 4:12-19
JN 19:25-27; 21:24-25

MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION: Available 30 minutes before each Divine Liturgy.

MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION: Call the parish office three months before desired Baptism, Chrismation and First Eucharist date.

MYSTERY OF HOLY CROWNING (Marriage): Call the parish office twelve months before desired wedding date.

MYSTERY OF HOLY ANOINTING: Call the parish office when a family member is hospitalized or seriously ill.

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

ANTIPHONS OF THE FEAST *pg. 142*

1. O God, why have You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smolder against the sheep of Your pasture?
O Son of God Who were crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
 2. Remember Your flock which You built up of old, Your tribe You redeemed as our inheritance, Mount Sion where You took up Your abode.
O Son of God Who were crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
 3. Yet God is our King from all eternity: He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.
O Son of God Who were crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. *Amen.*

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION *Tone 8, pg. 66*

You descended from on high O Compassionate One, and consented to burial for three days, that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You!

TROPARION OF THE HOLY CROSS *Tone 1*

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting peace to the world. And preserve Your community by the power of your Cross.

KONTAKION OF THE HOLY CROSS *Tone 2, pg. 143*

O Christ God, who chose by Your free volition to be elevated upon the Holy Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new people who are called by Your name. In Your power gladden the hearts of our public authorities. Strengthen them in every good deed so that Your true alliance may be for them a weapon of peace and a standard of victory.

TRISAGION *pg. 144*

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, Sov'reign Lord, and Your Holy Resurrection, we glorify. (*3 times*)

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 2:16-21

Prokimenon: How great are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Stichon: Bless the Lord. O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians:

BRETHREN, we know man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. Hence we also

believe in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law, because by the works of the Law no man will be justified. But if, while we are seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore the minister of sin? By no means. For if I rebuild the things I destroyed, I make myself a sinner. For through the Law I have died to the Law that I may live for God. With Christ I am nailed to the cross. It is now no longer I who live, but Christ is living in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live within the faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

Alleluia

String your bow, go forth, reign for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness, and your right hand shall lead you wonderfully.

Stichon: You loved righteousness and hated iniquity: therefore God, your God, anointed you with the oil of joy above your companions.

GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-9:1

The Lord said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father." And he said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power."

HIRMOS *Hymn to the Theotokos Tone 8, pg. 145*

O Mother of God, you became a mystical paradise when without tilling you brought forth Christ our God by whom the life-giving tree of the Cross was planted on earth. Therefore seeing Him on the Cross, we adore Him and we magnify you.

KINONIKON OF THE FEAST *Tone 8, pg. 146*

Let the light of your Countenance shine upon us, O Lord. Alleluia!

POST-COMMUNION

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting peace to the world. And preserve Your community by the power of your Cross.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

NEW DATES ADDED!

Friday, October 9 & Saturday, October 10



Every family is an important part of our story. We want every family represented in our new parish directory.

Help us put faces to names and create a directory that reflects the people who call St. Ann home.

Book your appointment by scanning the QR code or visiting: **schedule.ucdir.com**

Code: **NJ187** | Password: **stann1**

Each participating household will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a free copy of the directory.

Questions or need help signing up?

Call/text Doreen Pierson at 973-800-2643.

CONGRATULATIONS!

*Congratulations to the newly elected officers of St. Ann Charitable Society: President **Barbara Fierravanti**; Vice President **John Michaud**; Secretary **Donna Lozy**; Treasurer **John Gorny**.*

OUR CHARITABLE SOCIETY CAN HELP

Do you or someone you know need assistance? If so, please contact Fr. Musil at 973.785.4144 or Fr. Sayed at 857.203.1034. *All inquiries are confidential!*

NOT A REGISTERED PARISHIONER?

Call the Parish Office at 973.785.4144 to register!

Not receiving parish envelopes? We invite all families, seniors, and post-college singles attending St. Ann to register as parishioners. Registration is required for participation in parish life, including Baptisms, Marriages, and Religious Education.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Weekend of **SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

5:00pm	10 Envelopes	\$ 625.00
10:00am	16 Envelopes	995.00
Mailed	4 Envelopes	300.00
Online	46 Envelopes	1400.00
Candles		52.00
Donation		180.00
Weekly Total		\$3,552.00

Total Envelopes Received: 76

According to our **2026 budget**, we need **\$10,464.42** per week to meet our monthly expenses

GIVE YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING ONLINE!

Go to saintannmelkite.com and click on online giving.

A Word of Thanks!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL FESTIVAL!

And just like that... our Annual Festival has come to an end!

What a beautiful few days we shared together as one family in Christ. We prayed together, laughed together, ate together, sang together, danced together, and created memories that will stay in our hearts for a long time.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made these days so special, especially our volunteers, organizers, families, friends, our wonderful singer and DJ, and everyone who served, supported, donated, cooked, cleaned, and contributed in so many ways.

Every helping hand, every smile, every song, every meal, and every moment of fellowship helped make this festival truly special.

And yes, even the rain couldn't stop us! Nothing could stop the joy of being together!

Above all, we thank God for His blessings, His protection, and for bringing us together as one community. May the love, unity, friendship, and joy we experienced during these days continue in our hearts and in our community.

The festival is over, but the memories remain, and our family continues!

Thank you for celebrating with us, for supporting us, and most importantly, for being part of our family.

Until next year... God bless you all!

And now, as we close this beautiful celebration, let us begin a new pastoral year together. Let us carry with us the joy we shared, the love we experienced, and the unity that brought us together. Let us enter this new year with deeper prayer, stronger faith, greater love, deeper unity, and renewed hearts, ready for new events, new activities, new opportunities to serve, and new ways to grow together as one family in Christ.

May this new pastoral year not simply be a continuation of what we have done, but a new step forward in our journey with God. May everything we do, every prayer we offer, every event we organize, every person we welcome, and every act of service we make bring us closer to Christ and closer to one another.

The festival may be over, but our mission continues. The celebration has ended, but our journey together goes on.

Let us walk forward together, with one heart, one faith, and one love, trusting that God has much more in store for our community.

May God bless our families, bless our community, and bless our new pastoral year.

FR. MUSIL & FR. SAYED