

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Parishioners and families,

**Merry Christmas! Happy New Year 2025!**

The Manger is not at all what you think. The Manger is an image of your soul as it is there. Now look carefully. The Manger is simple, poor, rather dirty and even a little messy place. Does that speak to you? No? It's like your heart. It's like mine, imperfect with its flaws, its wounds. And yet it is there in this humility that Jesus chose to be born in the Manger.



There is also light in the middle of the night, so no matter what you feel, no matter the darkness you're going through. There is also in you this light that comes from above, this spark that shines and tells you that all is not lost. Finally, it is when Jesus enters them in the Manger.

Truly an extraordinary place. Your heart, even tired or wounded, can become a place of peace and joy. If you let Jesus enter it, He only asks to transform you. So look at the Manger as a mirror of your soul. No matter where you are, open your heart to Him. He wants to be born there today.

Sincerely in Christ  
Fr. Rezkallah Samaan

## SAVE THE DATE

Join us on **Sunday, January 26, 2025** as we wish Fr Ken a happy retirement! Details to follow.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no religious education classes December 22nd and December 29th. Classes resume January 5, 2025.

## PASTORAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

—Upcoming Meetings—

**7PM VESPERS SERVICE** followed by **PAC MEETING**

WEDNESDAY . JANUARY 8, 2025

WEDNESDAY . FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Meeting dates may be subject to change or cancellation.

## CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24 – 5:00pm

Tuesday, December 24 – 8:00pm

### Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25 – 10:00am



## BISHOP'S APPEAL

The 2024 Bishop's Appeal has a diocesan goal of \$610,500.00. Fifty percent of donations in excess of the parish goal will be returned to the parish. Please note for tax purposes, only donations dated before December 31, 2024 will be included in this year's appeal. Donations dated in 2025 will be applied to 2025 Bishop's Appeal. **Our parish has raised \$14,715 and our goal is \$35,000.00.** Appeal envelopes and reply cards are available in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity. You may donate online at: [melkite.org/appeal](http://melkite.org/appeal). **Please mail your donation directly to the Diocese of Newton.**

## LEBANON RELIEF FUND

Bishop Francois has established a diocesan "Lebanon Relief Fund" to assist our brothers and sisters who are suffering and in need due to the current situation in the Middle East. You may donate online at [Melkite.org](http://Melkite.org) or via the parish weekly collection. If you choose the latter, please place your donation in a plain envelope marked "Lebanon Relief" with your name as well, and hand is at any Sunday collection. *Thank you for your response.*

## SIGHT & SOUND THEATER TO SEE NOAH

in Lancaster, PA . **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025**

Cost is estimated to be \$150-\$160 per person and include theater tickets, bus transportation and lunch. Please send **a \$50 deposit per person, payable to St. Ann Church, to hold your reservation. 5 seats left!** If you are interested, please respond to [office@saintannmelkite.com](mailto:office@saintannmelkite.com).

## OUR CHARITABLE SOCIETY CAN HELP

Do you or someone you know need assistance? Please contact Fr. Rezkallah at 973.785.4144 or Fr. Choukri at 914.510.4415. *All inquiries are confidential!*

## ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER?

If you are not receiving the weekly envelope, you are not registered! All families, seniors and post-college singles should register as official parish members! **Please call the Office at 973.785.4144 to register.**



A Parish Community of the  
Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton

DECEMBER 22, 2024

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD-GENEALOGY

PROKIMENON 10: *Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.*

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 | Matthew 1:1-25

### Our Community is Served By:

Rev Rezkallah Samaan

Rev Choukri Sabbagh

Rev Archdeacon Edward Bsarany

Rev Deacon Roland Basinski

### 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

### Contact:

Fr Rezkallah:  
[office@saintannmelkite.com](mailto:office@saintannmelkite.com)

Fr Choukri:  
[frchoukri@saintannmelkite.com](mailto:frchoukri@saintannmelkite.com)

Religious Ed:  
[religiouseducation@saintannmelkite.com](mailto:religiouseducation@saintannmelkite.com)

Office/Communications:  
[office@saintannmelkite.com](mailto:office@saintannmelkite.com)

802 Rifle Camp Road  
Woodland Park NJ 07424  
973.785.4144 office/rectory  
973.890.9599 fax

[www.saintannmelkite.com](http://www.saintannmelkite.com)

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers in the Diocese of Newton, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-479-5910.

HAVE A VERY MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS

### UPCOMING

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA . DECEMBER 31

PAC MEETING . JANUARY 8

SAMY MEETING . JANUARY 19

### ONGOING

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

BISHOP'S APPEAL

LEBANON RELIEF FUND



## Intentions

### — SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD-GENEALOGY —

#### SATURDAY | DECEMBER 21 | 5:30PM

†Brian Palestis . Elizabeth Kattak  
 †Victor Kattak . Elizabeth Kattak  
 †Ella Natterer . Elizabeth Kattak  
 †George Natterer . Elizabeth Kattak  
 †Elias Harraka . Wife, Antoinette & Family

#### SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22 | 9:00AM

†Ron Peterson . 21 Year Remembrance . Wife, Pat  
 †Richard Krueger . Birthday Remembrance  
 M/M Gabe Raad & Ann Rocko  
 †Lorice Zelhof . M/M Charles Cathcart  
 †George Bsals . M/M Joseph Rowek

#### SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22 | 11:30AM

†Mahiba Samir Ghattas . 3 Year Remembrance  
 Ghattas & Maroun Families  
 †Nabih Norman Maroun . 1 Year Remembrance  
 Ghattas & Maroun Families  
 †Archdeacon George Yany . Community of St. Ann  
 †Naji Homsy . M/M George Fallaha  
 †Adibeh Moubarak . M/M Hani Khoury

### — NATIVITY OF OUR LORD —

#### Christmas Eve

#### TUESDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 5:00PM

†Deceased Clergy of St. Ann . Community of St. Ann  
 †Elias Sayad . 5 Year Remembrance . Sayad Family  
 †Baby Albert Harraka . Birthday Rememberance . His Family  
 †Norman & Laurice Dikdan . Their Daughters  
 †George & Lorice Zelhof . Their Family  
 †Joseph & Emelie Agia . Their Family  
 †Sam & Evelyn Kaspar . Their Family  
 †Albert & Agnes Harraka . Their Family  
 †Alvera Dakak . Her Family  
 †Nicolas Fakhoury . Samira Fakhoury & Family  
 †Elias Fakhoury . Samira Fakhoury & Family  
 †Joseph & Mary Borsina . M/M John Nagel

#### Our Community is Served By:

Parish Office | Georgann Bsarany, Secretary  
 Lina Alain, Secretary

Communications | Doreen Pierson, Director  
 Pastoral Advisory Council | Bernadette Murray, Chair

Property Advisory Council | Nabil Alain, Chair  
 Finance Advisory Council | Louis Sayad, Chair  
 Charitable Society | Debbie Taban, Chair  
 Religious Education | Michael & Jessica Hanczaryk

Society of Publicans | Jenine Long  
 Readers | Joann Fakhoury  
 Ushers | Joseph Murray  
 S.A.M.Y. | Paulie Harraka, Advisor  
 Fr Choukri Sabbagh, Spiritual Advisor

#### Christmas Eve

#### SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 5:00PM continued

†John & Marie Yabroudy . Their Family  
 †Vincent Magliarditi . Wife Rita & Family  
 †Deceased Members of the Kilanowski Family  
 M/M George Stronghilos  
 †Deceased Members of the Stronghilos Family  
 M/M George Stronghilos  
 †Deceased Members of the Davis Family . M/M George Stronghilos  
 †George & Elizabeth Samra . Their Family  
 †Fred & Anna Lozy . Their Family

#### Christmas Eve

#### SATURDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 8:00PM

†Deceased Clergy of St. Ann . Community of St. Ann  
 †George Batikha . Parents, M/M Abboud Batikha  
 †Joseph & Tony Ghandour . Khamis & Aida Khamis  
 †Gerious & Josephine Khamis . Khamis & Aida Khamis  
 †Chehada & Neda Khamis . Khamis & Aida Khamis  
 †Jamil Alain . M/M Nabil Alain  
 †Mountaha Sabbagh . M/M Nabil Alain  
 †Gabriel Bakhos . M/M Nabil Alain  
 †George Nazzir Konboz . Antoinette Konboz  
 †Naji Homsy . Wife Milva & Family

#### Christmas Day

#### SUNDAY | DECEMBER 25 | 10:00AM

†Deceased Clergy of St. Ann . Community of St. Ann  
 †Ron Peterson . Wife Pat  
 †Deceased Members of the Peterson Family . Pat Peterson  
 †Deceased Members of the Vida Family . Pat Peterson  
 †Joseph & Annie Shackoor . Shackoor Family  
 †William Kattak . Adrienne Kattak & Family  
 †Renee Sekula . Adrienne Kattak & Family  
 †Florence Kattak . Adrienne Kattak & Family

### — SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD —

#### SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28 | 5:30PM

†Emil Garlewicz . Rockel Family  
 †Raymond Orfaly . Reem & Rola Hannoush

## Intentions

### SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD —

#### SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28 | 5:30PM continued

†George Akshar . M/M Eamon Doherty  
 †Elias Harraka . Wife, Antoinette & Family

#### SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29 | 9:00AM

†Lorice Zelhof . Samira Fakhoury  
 †George Bsals . M/M John Lozy

#### SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29 | 11:30AM

†Rt. Rev. Max Chalhoub  
 †Naji Homsy . Rima Fallaha

## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

### Weekend of DECEMBER 15, 2024

5:30pm	19 Envelopes	\$ 925.00
9:00am	23 Envelopes	1251.00
11:30am	37 Envelopes	1020.00
Mailed	10 Envelopes	1550.00
Online	42 Envelopes	1627.00
Candles		86.00
Coffee Hour		300.00

**Weekly Total \$6,759.00**

Total Envelopes Received: 131

According to our 2023-2024 budget, our weekly sacrificial giving need is **\$8,000.00** to meet expenses.

### GIVE YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING ONLINE!

Online giving directly from your bank account is the most cost effective way to donate. Consider this for your Sunday Offering. For details, go to [saintanmelkite.com](http://saintanmelkite.com) and click the online giving tab.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Louis Dahdah	Laurice Kayal	Debra Payne
Tracey Ferraro	Robin A. Kingery	Wierciszewski
Andrew Friedman	Mona Mardelli	Donna Yuppa
Dolores Fritz	Joyce Neuss	
Mark Frommer	Mary Tahan	

### — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 —

### SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY - GENEALOGY -

PROKIMENON 10

*Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.*

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40 | Matthew 1:1-25

### TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 6) pg. 64

The angelic powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead; and Mary stood at the tomb, seeking Your spotless body; Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it, and You met the Virgin O Bestower of life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### ANCESTORS OF CHRIST

### TROPARION OF SAINT ANN pg. 22

O divinely wise Ann, you carried in your womb the pure mother of God, who gave birth to the Life. Wherefore you now have been carried up joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the abode of those who rejoice in glory. O blessed one, obtain the forgiveness of sins, for those who honor you with fervor.

### KONTAKION pg. 103 . Nativity Preparation

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the Eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear this news, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds Him who shall appear as a new Child, being God from all eternity.

## DAILY READINGS

December 23-28, 2024

MONDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS
Jas 2:14-26 Mk 10:46-52	Heb 1:1-12 Lk 2:1-20	Mt 1:18-25 Gal 4:4-7 Mt 2:1-12
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Heb 10:19-31 Mt 2:13-23	Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60 Mt 21:33-42	1 Tim 6:11-16 Lk 19:1-10

**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.