Welcome Sayedna! Welcome Sayedna and thank you for being with us.

Visitors Worshipping with Us! Please sign our Visitor’s Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. Please join us in the Parish Cultural Center (bldg. behind Church) and introduce yourselves to the Deacons at Coffee Hour following Divine Liturgy to get to know one another. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!

New or Interested-In-Becoming-Catechumens/Learners/Parishioners? Welcome! Please register by filling out an information form located in the narthex (entrance) of the church or by calling the Church Office. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

Parish Church Year Theme
“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....” (Colossians 3:23)

Welcome to St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church
A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

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: youtube.com/c/SaintJohnChrysostomMelkiteCatholicChurch

Parish Advisory Council Chairperson - Deacon Elie Hanna - deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org
Finance Council Chairperson - Deacon Sami Jajeh - deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org
Cultural Center Manager - Jerome Hagley - jerome.hagley@gmail.com

Parish Church Year Theme
“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....” (Colossians 3:23)

WELCOME SAYEDNA! Welcome Sayedna and thank you for being with us.

VISITORS WORSHIPING WITH US! Please sign our Visitor’s Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. Please join us in the Parish Cultural Center (bldg. behind Church) and introduce yourselves to the Deacons at Coffee Hour following Divine Liturgy to get to know one another. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!

NEW OR INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/LEARNERS/PARISHIONERS? WELCOME! Please register by filling out an information form located in the narthex (entrance) of the church or by calling the Church Office. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

PARISH LIFE

HOLY MYSTERIES (SACRAMENTS)

Baptism, Chrismation & Eucharist: By appointment only; ideally please inform us during the 5th month of pregnancy for preparation of the Mysteries of Christian Initiation, administered together in our Byzantine tradition.

Repentance/Confession/Reconciliation: Confessions normally are available towards the end of Orthros. Please inform a Deacon or Usher, in advance, that you desire Confession so that they may alert the priest. Please go and stand by the right wall of the church so he sees you. All should prepare themselves well to receive the Eucharist properly each time.

Crowning in Marriage: By advanced appointment only; please call us 1+ year in advance of an anticipated marriage, before you book a place for your reception to complete the required questionnaire/research and to confirm availability.

Anointing with Holy Oil and/or Reception of Holy Eucharist: Anytime by personal request or by family request for those who are ill at home/nursing home/hospital or by anyone anticipating a hospital stay/surgery.

Sick Calls: If you wish to receive the Eucharist, be anointed and cannot come to the church, contact a Deacon to acquire a priest. Be careful that you do not have Covid-19, the Flu or are under quarantine prior to making your request. Again, before making any engagement/baptism/marriage/reception plans, please contact the Deacons in advance. We would rather not have you disappointed if you’ve already made commitments without checking our schedule first.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE INFO: Email contact@stjohnmelkite.org for any change of address, phone, or e-mail information.

ASCRIPTION TRANSFER (CHANGE OF RITE) if one wishes to formally join the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, not just become a member of this parish, please let us know as the Eparchy has updated the Procedure.

CHURCH CONTACT: The email address, stjchrys@bellsouth.net, is no longer in use. The deacons, as Parish Administrators, may be contacted at: contact@stjohnmelkite.org or individually using the e-mails above. All church-related business, including Liturgy Commemoration Requests, should be directed to them. The bulletin will now be formulated and e-mailed by the deacons.
SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY

**We start the week by encountering heaven on earth (the Divine Liturgy)! As Sunday comes first in the week, so does God. So, let’s make a personal and continual renewal by each of our family members to return to the parish if we have been away; acknowledging that Sunday is the Lord’s Day (Kyriake in Greek)...**

**His Day (not ours); scheduling Liturgy attendance as a priority for all family members; making up of any missed financial support/increase of giving; young adults registering & sharing in the weekly financial support of church and a resolve for all to be more involved persons of our spiritual home. Let us live a renewed life in Christ!**

**LITURGY INFORMATION**

**Commemorations or Bulletin Announcements:** Please send email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by each Thursday.

**Liturgy Cards** are available for health, gratitude, special intentions, anniversaries, birthdays, graduation, success, deaths, memorials, gratitude, etc. Donations to the church are at your discretion.

**Wearing of Masks:** If you are fully vaccinated, you are not required to wear a mask in church unless you personally wish to continue wearing one. Monitoring CDC guidelines will help us make an informed decision.

**Altar Servers:** It is a blessing to serve at the altar. Contact Deacon Elie if you are interested. Altar servers are expected to have their robes blessed for serving at Orthros by 9:50 am and for Divine Liturgy by 10:15 am. Please bring your children before Liturgy.

**Worship Guide (Typicon)** is offered for every Divine Liturgy and contains the changeable parts of the service so all can follow along. Pick up a copy on entering the church, along with the Orthros & Liturgy Books, or use the copy attached in weekly mailings if viewing online. For a complimentary home copy of Orthros or Divine Liturgy Book, please contact us.

**Masstimes.org:** There are multiple listings online for Catholic churches in the U.S. If traveling, consider researching their schedule of weekend liturgical services, (Melkite, Byzantine Catholic or Roman Catholic) in advance & during your travels & trips. If there is no Catholic Church in the area, you may attend an Orthodox church when on vacation.

**Health Hygiene and Protection:** Use hand sanitizer coming into and leaving the Church.

**THIS WEEKEND, SUN., JULY 16-17**
- July 16th - Mediterranean Dinner with Bishop Nicholas (6pm, Basil’s Restaurant)
- July 17th - Retirement Divine Liturgy celebrated by Fr. John, followed by Fr. John Retirement Luncheon

**THIS WEEKEND’S LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS**

**REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM**
+Myrsts Riggins, requested by Fr. John Azar
+Fleur Zarour (Israel), requested by Lourice Jajeh and Family

**HEALTH & SALVATION**
Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, A Blessed and Fruitful Retirement, requested by St. John Chrysostom Community
Fr. George Sayegh, Newly-ordained priest, requested by St. John Chrysostom Community
Fr. Thomas Flynn, 61st Ordination Anniversary, requested by St. John Chrysostom Community
Mary Baroody (VA), requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
St. John Chrysostom Melkite Community, requested by Fr. John Azar
Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine

**UPCOMING AND IMPORTANT EVENTS**

**WED., JULY 20 - SUN., 24, 2022, NAMY (NAT’L. ASSOC. OF MELKITE YOUTH) CONFERENCE,** at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH ([www.ansem.edu](http://www.ansem.edu)). The cost is $225. per person. All necessary registration forms, consent forms and deadline dates will soon be available from the pastors, N.A.M.Y advisor, or can be downloaded from the National N.A.M.Y website at [www.melkite.org](http://www.melkite.org). Youth at least 13 years old by Dec. 31, 2021, & under 19 years of age by July 20, 2022, and not yet started college.

**SUN., JULY 24 - CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF ST. ELIAS (JULY 20)** - Fr. George Gage will be celebrating liturgy and the blessing of cars. Come to liturgy and stay afterwards for the blessing. The feast of St. Elias is also the name day for Deacon Elie and all parishioners named Eli, Elie, Elias, etc. If you would like a commemoration, remember to provide them to the deacons by Thursday of that week.

**PARISH PICNIC** – Saturday, September 24th is the date being considered as families will be back from travel, and the weather is excellent for a picnic this time of year. How does this date work for you? Please let the deacons know. As always, we thank Vic Maloof for being such a gracious and hospitable host.

**NOW THROUGH AUGUST:** PLEASE bring in non-perishable food items for the Atlanta Community Food Bank drive. Thank you!
Twenty-two years ago, a priest was reassigned to Atlanta, Georgia. The church community environment, prayer life, and ministries were greatly influenced by the original pastor, +Father William Haddad of blessed memory, who served for four decades. The church was in a transition stage as new families were moving to Atlanta and metro Atlanta was growing outwards toward the suburbs. It was after a short assignment at the church by +Fr. Jean Ghaby of blessed memory, that Fr. John Azar arrived.

Having been a teacher, Father John immediately started to teach us, and so we thank you.

- Thank you for teaching us about and returning us to our Byzantine tradition!
- Thank you for returning our liturgical life to a proper Byzantine form, with the appropriate chanting in Arabic, English, and Greek!
- Thank you for teaching us about the Church proper and iconography!
- Thank you for the excellent homilies that motivated us to be better and grow in Christ!

For all of these and much more, WE THANK YOU for teaching us for the past 22 years.

The community had been challenged financially before his arrival, so Father John worked diligently to teach us about stewardship. He also worked with the Parish Advisory Council and Finance Councils to slowly return the building to its proper form. Much of this was infrastructure, from roofs and HVAC to flooring and windows/doors. But, so much more was the creation of a truly beautiful temple: a Holy Place, Church, and Narthex complete with iconography; a number of icon shrines of Jesus and the cross; a gift shop; a chapel for prayer; and more. Did you know that St. John Chrysostom is the only Melkite church with the Pantocrator in stained-glass on the ceiling? There is a great story of how this came to be, so be sure to ask it of Father John or one of the deacons. More importantly, WE THANK YOU Father John for leaving us with a crown jewel in our diocese - our holy temple in Atlanta.

And last, but not least, are all of the ministries (new and old) that Father John helped start, revive, and/or thrive with St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church. From parish and finance councils to youth activities and festivals/events and so much more, Father John always encouraged us to do more - to keep the love of Christ alive in our parish, family, and liturgical lives. From driving tirelessly to the furthest reaches of Atlanta to bless houses to getting on an airplane to do a wedding for a parishioner who had moved, Father John was leading us to live out our Christian vocations. And speaking of vocations... as if being a pastor was not enough, he became the Vocation Director of the diocese, helping teach and share the mission of vocations with all of our parishes across the country. Simply pick up the most recent Sophia to read another article from Father John about vocations or the Christian Life. So, again WE THANK YOU for helping us build up the ministerial life in Atlanta, Georgia.

Encapsulating 22 years in a few paragraphs is no easy task, but we hoped to highlight some of the accomplishments of Father John’s ministry while conveying our gratitude. If we missed anything (and we’re sure we missed a lot), know that it was unintentional. The greatest gift of any minister is helping one grow further towards Christ. And, as deacons, we know our ministry is also part of the fruit of Father John’s ministry in Atlanta for the last 22 years. So again, THANK YOU!

(Prepared by Deacons Sami and Elie, on behalf of the St. John Chrysostom Community.)

-------- FEEDBACK --------

CONCERNS? Any needs, thoughts, concerns, questions, misunderstandings, charitable suggestions in any area of parish life that you may have, please do not hesitate to immediately contact Dn. Elie Hanna or Dn. Sami Jajeh Any possible explanations, corrections, discussions or changes will never be taken care of unless all bring these concerns to us, and especially to the proper person.

HAVE AN IDEA? Have an idea for parish life? Share it with us, as we are on the journey together!
TREASURE: Please go to our Church website, www.stjohnmelkite.org and click on the “HOW TO DONATE” tab at the top, and then click on: “CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW” Send an email to contact@stjohnmelkite to set up recurring ACH donations. All checks should be made to “St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church” with the exception of diocesan collections, which should be made out to “Diocese of Newton.” Please identify the purpose of all donations in the memo field (e.g. Weekly/Monthly Support, Commemoration for ________, Shepherd’s Care, etc.).

TIME AND TALENT: Some suggestions for your participation in parish life are below, but there are many opportunities from liturgical and ministerial to maintenance and serving. Most importantly is to give your time and talent back to God.

Volunteers Needed to be Chair or Co-Chairs for Ladies Society & Chair or Co-Chairs for Men’s Club. Please help re-activate both groups! Be a leader! We are appealing to all of you to bring full & active life back into the parish!

Choir: Please consider joining the Choir, learning the chants and adding to the fulness of the Liturgy.

Readers: we invite all to take turns in becoming readers of the Epistle in English or Arabic. Please contact Eric Hansen or one of the deacons to learn the rubrics.

Ushers: we invite men or women, young adults or older, to take turns in helping with this ministry of welcoming people and taking up the collections. Please see Jerome Hagley, Joe Manguno or one of the deacons.

Adult Altar Servers: men to personally volunteer to assist the priest in the Holy Place at all times; esp. when there are no young servers present. We will train and assist you.

Religious Education Teachers at the same time of sharing the faith with our young, we too will grow in our own faith.

Gift Shop Salespeople: people to staff the shop for those wishing to purchase items. Please speak with a deacon.

Event Photographers: persons bringing phones/cameras to take photos at liturgical services, hall activities & offsite church-related happenings for our church’s pictorial galleries.

WHAT ABOUT TRADITION? Yes, the Church has begun to recognize tradition as a fourth “T” of stewardship, as we have received the apostolic tradition and the Melkite Byzantine tradition as a gift from God. To be stewards of it, we must not only learn it and grow spiritually but share it - perhaps by inviting a friend to the Divine Liturgy or praying for others, including those in our Prayer Line.

God With Us ONLINE: A collaborative outreach of the Eastern Catholic Bishops and eparchies of the USA to provide educational resources for the faithful in our Eastern Christian traditions. God With Us Online has many excellent talks, the opportunity to sign up for live educational webinars and other resources! All resources are offered free of charge.

Prayer Line: If you would like to add friends convalescing or in need of prayer, please share with us at contact@stjohnmelkite.org. Please keep in your prayers those who have been affected by the virus pandemic; victims of storms, fires, earthquakes, floods & violence; James Reichard, Sammy Jaraysi, Sam Verniero, Father Tom, Father John as he enters retirement, and the recently-ordained Fr. George Sayegh.

Individuals/Families: Please keep us updated on everyone’s condition. May the Divine Physician of our souls and bodies extend His healing hand over His servants and handmaids. Also, we pray for the wandering sheep of this parish.

UKRAINE CRISIS – A specific collection for the Ukrainian people will not be taken up, but anyone wishing to give a donation may do so through the eparchy. Checks should be made out to the Eparchy of Newton with “Ukrainian Relief” in the memo. The Eparchy will then forward the monies to Archbishop Boris Gudziak, Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia, who will then properly distribute them through the Ukrainian Synod to where needed most.

EPARCHIAL VOCATION OFFICE will soon have a new Director. All inquiries about Vocations to the Priesthood & Seminary Applications should be directed temporarily to: Bp. Nicholas @ 617-323-9922.

DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM - Fr. Bryan McNeil, Director, announces that the Eparchy of Newton is accepting new applicants for the deacon program. Please send application requests to Fr. Bryan at Brymce56@comcast.net. Note that a Pastor’s approval is normally a prerequisite before any application is paperwork or paperless is sent in.

ORDER OF ST. NICHOLAS - Dr. Sherine Rabbat & husband, Mr. George Mussalli, parishioners of St. Basil the Great Church, Lincoln RI, are the National Chairpersons. The order supports clergy retirement and health care costs and Melkite outreach and missions. Want more information? Please contact Mr. George Mussalli & Dr. Sherine Rabbat - Phone: 617-510-5743 - Email: sherineandgeorge@yahoo.com Annual Fees: $1,000. for a person, $1,500. for a couple & $5,000. Lifetime membership. Bp. Nicholas will personally attend to bless, honor with a neck medallion & install new members.

MCAA - MELKITE CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S AID – a 501©(3) nonprofit organization and tax deductible.- our Diocese’s cooperation with Middle Eastern countries where our Melkite Church exists: Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan & Egypt, etc. Transform the lives of children who have known nothing else but war. Suggestion is a dollar a day but any amount will help. Sign up at: www.melkite.org to assist with food, clothing, shelter, medicine & education for the children.