



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, September 18, 2022 - Tone 6 –
Community Celebration – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

الأحد 18 أيلول 2022

الأحد الذي بعد رفع الصليب المقدس خدمة المجتمع برفع الصليب المقدس والمحبي

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Web: stjohnmelkite.org, FB: facebook.com/StJohnMelkite, YouTube: youtube.com/c/SaintJohnChrysostomMelkiteCatholicChurch

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh & Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Parish Administrators

Celebrant: Rev. George Gage

Attached Clergy: Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn - Bi Ritual

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

10:00 AM – ORTHROS

10:30 AM – DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Cultural Center.

Parish Church Year Theme

(Liturgical Year – began Sept. 1, 2022 – ends Aug. 31, 2023):

"The God of heaven will give us success. We His servants will start rebuilding." (Nehemiah 2:20)

"إِنَّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ يُعْطِينَا النِّجَاحَ وَنَحْنُ عَبِيدُهُ نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي." (نحميا ٢:٢٠)

----- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL -----

HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS 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. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS? Please send email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

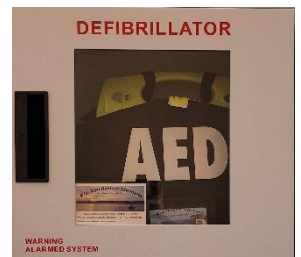
----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

GIFT SHOP: The gift shop has been refreshed and restocked with new inventory, including new icons, crosses, books, and more. Please visit the updated book shop. Consider buying a gift for a friend or loved one – share your faith!

FEAST DAY CHAIRPERSON(S): Thank you to Rita Karroum and Rania Layous for agreeing to co-chair the Feast Day Luncheon. And thanks to Susie Hagley for helping with communications for the event.

FAMILY NIGHTS: Family Nights are coming back! First one is being planned for October and then once a month going forward, please watch for more details to come. See Rita Karroum or Vera Madanat for more information.

AED (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR): Two new AEDs have been installed: one in the church proper hallway and one in the cultural center. If you are certified in using the AED, please send your certification (card) to contact@stjohnmelkite.org for our files. Thank you!



----- SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY -----

As a spiritual family, we encounter heaven on earth through the Divine Liturgy - the Lord's Day (*Kyriake* in Greek) as a priority for all families; making up of any missed financial support; and a resolve for all to let us live a renewed life in Christ through Church!

THIS WEEKEND, SUN., SEPT 18 LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

GIVE THE GIFT OF PRAYER! Below are the commemorations received from parishioners for this week. If you would like one said for you, your family members, or friends, please send requests for commemorations to contact@sjohnmelkite.org by Thursday.

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

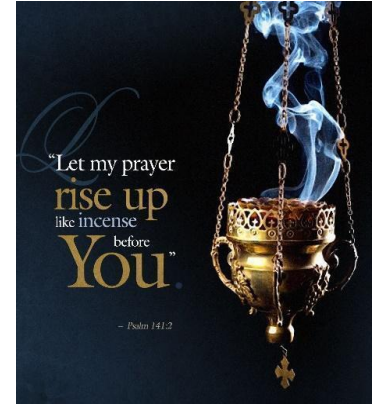
+George Hanna Laow, 2nd anniversary, Requested by Rita Karroum and Family

HEALTH & SALVATION

Sami Nassar and family, birth of Laila Kriss Nassar, requested by parish community

Evelyn Whalen, requested by parish community

Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



LITURGY INFORMATION

Altar Servers: Contact Deacon Elie if interested. Servers' robes are blessed for Orthros (9:50) and Divine Liturgy (10:15) Be early!

Masstimes.org: If traveling, consider researching schedules of weekend liturgies, (Melkite, Byzantine Catholic or Roman Catholic). If there is no Catholic Church in the area, you may attend an Orthodox church when on vacation.

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

WED, SEP 21 – STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES: THE GREAT CALLING OF EVERY CHRISTIAN - Bishop Nicholas Samra to host a webinar to launch our 2022-23 Easter Catholic Education curriculum year!

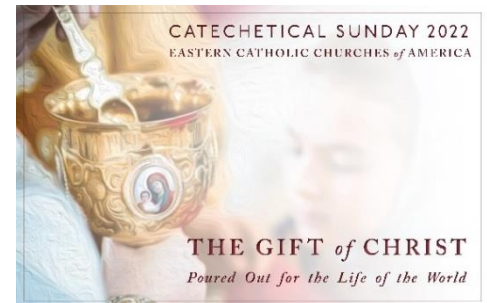
[Click here to Register for Stewards of the Mysteries](#)

SUN, SEP 25 – CATECHETICAL SUNDAY – Next Sunday, an important event will take place in our parish. The ceremony will emphasize the importance of religious instruction; a responsibility not only of catechists, but parents as well. During the Divine Liturgy we will pray for our catechists and students as they begin the new catechetical school year.

The priest will bless them in their good work. Let us ask the Lord our God to grant them wisdom, knowledge, understanding and holiness!

We ask that all catechists and students be present. Parents should register their children before Oct. 2, 2022,

[click here register now](#) or scan the QR code



SUN, SEP 25 - PRIESTHOOD SUNAY – A Day to honor, reflect and affirm the role of the priest as central to the life of the Church.

SUN, OCT 2 – EASTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN - All students and teachers should be present to begin first day of classes.

****DATE CHANGE: TENTATIVE DATE IS SAT, OCT. 8** - PARISH PICNIC** – [Click here or scan QR code](#) to RSVP, get more information and sign-up to bring items to the picnic. As always, we thank Vic Maloof for being such a gracious and hospitable host. **DEADLINE to RSVP is October 2, 2022!**



SUN, OCT 15 – *TENTATIVE* CLEANING DAY – We are very thankful for those who have helped thus far. At the same time, we are hoping for greater participation in the upcoming cleaning day. We can accomplish so much more with your involvement. It is not possible for us to hire this function out to a firm. Only we (parishioners) know what we want/need to save versus what we will need to discard. Areas for cleaning include the basement, the attic, and the greenhouse. Thank you for your consideration.

----- STEWARDSHIP (AL WAQF) IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

This is our being entrusted by God with the gifts of the earth and of our church. We are all stewards: earthly caretakers and managers for the Lord. Our return of Time, Talent and Treasure to Him is our understanding of being good stewards (caretakers) of what is already His. It is a way of life!

TIME AND TALENT:

Volunteers Needed for Chairs for Ladies Society or for Men’s Club.

Liturgical Participation: Please consider joining the Choir and learning the chants, taking turns to be a reader (contact Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (contact Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an adult altar server (contact Deacon. Elie).

Religious Education Teachers at the same time of sharing the faith with our young, we too will grow in our own faith. **Gift Shop:** staff the shop for those wishing to purchase items.



TREASURE:

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#), or scan QR Code or send an email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org to set up recurring ACH donations. All manual 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.).



ZELLE! ZELLE! ZELLE! St. John Chrysostom can now receive donations via Zelle. Our “handle” (donation id) is donate@stjohnmelkite.org. Please put a note in the memo of any Zelle donation, such as “Weekly Support” or “Commemoration.” As this is new to the parish, please let us know if this is more convenient or if you prefer Venmo.

WHAT ABOUT TRADITION? Yes, the 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.

----- PRAYER IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

Please keep in your prayers...

Dr. Shajih Muhanna
Evelyn Whalen
Souren Palanjian
Janice Peterson

Michael Shikany
Alber Mansour
Vic Maloof

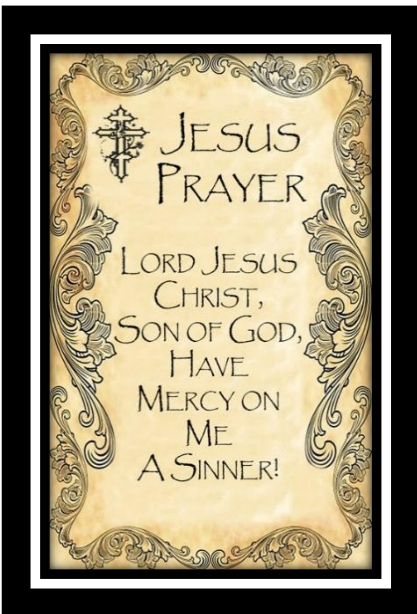
Bp-Elect Fr. Francois Beyrouti

Those affected by the virus
Those approaching matrimony

Victims of natural disasters
The Wandering Sheep of this parish

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.



September Birthdays Name Days, Anniversaries



Note: The information below is from our Parishioner database. 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. THANK YOU!

Name Day for Feast of Nativity of Mary:

Marie Hansen	Marie Sayour
Mary Calis	Mary Daho
Mary Shamon	Maryam Talla
Mary Ellen Hughes	

Birthday:

Greg Pharo	Ghada Muhanna
Aymen Badri	Michael Maalouf
Lourice Jajeh	Kingston Maloof
Youssef Layous	Peter Nuar
Rob Ghawi	Titus James Nuar
Andrew Hagley	

Anniversary:

Rev. Dcn. & Mrs. Elie & Zoe Hanna
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Aida Maalouf
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Janice Peterson

----- CONTEMPLATING THE CROSS -----

Sacrificing One's Life

The first Christians were acutely aware that they might be called to follow Christ to a literal cross, sacrificing their lives as He did. Thus the apostolic brothers Peter and Andrew and some others were actually crucified by pagan authorities. Countless others since then have met their deaths in a host of ways. Practically every day we commemorate martyrs among the saints. This week alone we honor several martyrs of the Roman persecutions: the Great Martyrs Euphemia (9/16), Eustathius and his family (9/20) and a dozen others. Local Churches may also commemorate other martyrs from the Persian, Arab, Turkish or Communist persecutions.

For the followers of Christ, martyrdom is never very far away. Christians today in many parts of Asia and Africa are giving up their lives rather than deny their faith in Christ their Savior. The demise of militant atheistic Communism was followed quickly by the rise of militant Islamism and even militant Hinduism and ultra-Orthodox Judaism as these peoples strive vainly to purify their cultures from foreign influences. Recently a watchdog group in Europe concluded that more than 100,000 Christians are killed each year "because of some relation to their faith."

Sacrificing One's Self

As Christ's death was the consequence of His assuming our whole nature, the sacrifice of blood-martyrdom is inseparably tied to the martyr's witness to Christ. The very word martyr means witness, a witness made at the cost of one's life. The Gospel indicates another kind of witnessing unto death in this passage, when Christ says, "let him deny himself and take up his cross..." (Mk 8:34). In addition to our physical life which may be sacrificed in blood-martyrdom, we also have an inner life: the life of our ego. We want do this, own that, eat or drink this. We can satisfy every urge that our material resources allow, or we can deny ourselves to witness to Christ. This is the heart of asceticism, whether in its institutional expression (monasticism) or in the call of every Christian to place God and others first in our lives.

The first such self-denial is that to which St Paul urges us: "Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:11). We are called to destroy that part of us which is bound up with sin – the passions of our broken human nature – and to be crucified interiorly.

In another place, St Paul becomes more explicit: "Therefore put to death your members which are of the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col 3:5). As St Augustine noted centuries ago, this does not mean that we are to kill or maim ourselves "...but it does mean that one should kill whatever in oneself is unduly attached to the earthly, which makes one take inordinate pleasure in this present life to the neglect of the life to come" (Letter to Laetus). We are to deal violently with our sinful actions and inclinations in imitation of Christ's death on the cross.

15th Annual

Atlanta Arab Festival



October 1 & 2, 2022

11 AM - 6 PM

Free Admission!



3288 Marjan Drive
Atlanta GA 30340
info@alifinstitute.org
770-936-8770



Benefit
Car Raffle



Dukkan International Market



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