



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, September 25, 2022 - Tone 7

The 1st Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – The Miraculous Catch

الاحد، 25 ايلول 2022
الاحد الأول بعد رفع الصليب

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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.

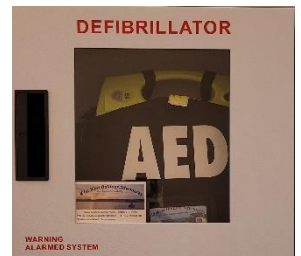
INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS? Please send email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

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

LADIES SOCIETY DUES: Ladies Society Dues are \$25, which includes the NAMW (National Association of Melkite Women) dues. Ladies, please provide them to Patty Pharo at your earliest convenience. If you Zelle them, please make a note in the memo.

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 25 LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

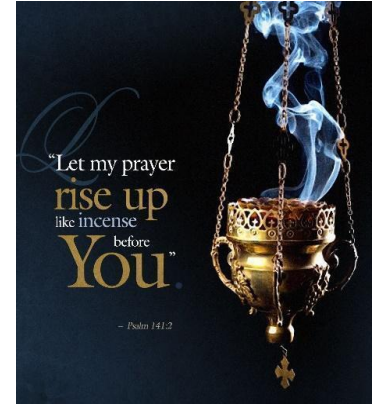
GIVE THE GIFT OF PRAYER! Below are the commemorations received from parishioners for this week. If you would like one said for you, your family members, or friends, please send requests for commemorations to contact@sjohnmelkite.org by Thursday.

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Victims of Hurricane Fiona, requested by Parish Community

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom, Fr. George and all Priests for Priesthood Sunday, requested by Parish Community
Students and Teachers, 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 -----

SUN, SEP 25 – CATECHETICAL SUNDAY – Today, we joyfully celebrate an important event in our parish: the beginning of the catechetical school year. The children, and the adults who teach them, gather together to receive a blessing for the start of the new catechetical school year. The theme this year is **“The Gift of Christ: Poured Out for the Life of the World.”**

May their good work help us all to realize the profound gift that is our Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself up for us that we may have life in Him, now and forever. Together, we ask God to grant His servants, our students, their parents, and their teachers, many years in health and happiness! **Parents should register their children** [click here register now](#) or scan the QR code



SUN, SEP 25 - PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY – 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.

****CANCELLED** - PARISH PICNIC** – It is with deep regrets, but we must cancel this year's picnic. We are looking into possible alternatives for a parish gathering. More details to come.

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.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS –

We support our community organizations and their good work!

- The Alif Institute is having its 15th Annual [Atlanta Arab Festival Oct. 1- 2](#).
- The Cedar Club of Atlanta Federation is having its [St. Jude Magic Carpet Ride Gala on October 2nd](#) at the Emory Conference Center Hotel.

The Cedar Club sent a note of thanks for our participation in their Food Drive (Please see page 4 for their thank you note.)



15th Annual
Atlanta Arab Festival
October 1 & 2, 2022
11 AM - 6 PM
Free Admission!
alif
INSTITUTE
2288 Marjan Drive
Atlanta GA 30340
info@alifinstitute.org
770-936-8770
Dukkan International Market
Benefit Car Raffle
discover dekalb Georgia Power KIA LOU SOBH KIA

----- 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:

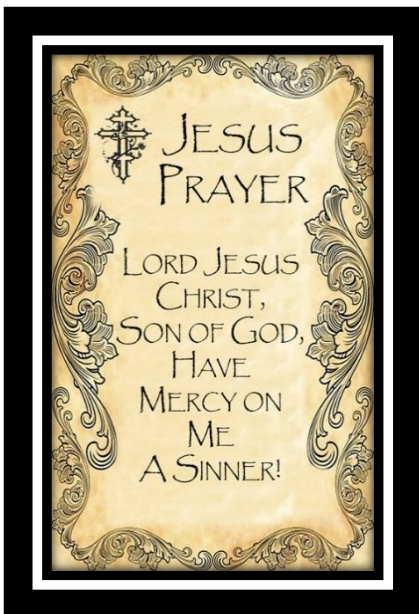
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#), or scan QR Code or send an email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org to set up recurring ACH donations. All manual checks should be made to “St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church” with the exception of diocesan collections, which should be made out to “Diocese of Newton.” Please 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 | Michael Shikany |
| Evelyn Whalen | Alber Mansour |
| Souren Palanjian | Vic Maloof |
| Janice Peterson | |
| Bp-Elect Fr. Francois Beyrouti | |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Those affected by the virus | Victims of natural disasters |
| Those approaching matrimony | 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

----- THE MIRACULOUS CATCH -----

ST LUKE'S GOSPEL GIVES US an interesting insight into the character of St Peter. We read that, meeting the disciples - who had spent a fruitless night fishing - the Lord Jesus encouraged them to throw their nets in again. *"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'* *"When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ... When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken" (Lk 5:5-9).*

Simon had encountered something he did not understand and judged – rightly, as it happened – that it must have been an experience of God's power. His first reaction was to shrink away from this holy man, Jesus. He felt deeply inadequate before the holy; he didn't belong in Jesus' company and felt that he would be consumed by this contact for which he was so unprepared.

The Fear of God

This sense of utter inadequacy before the Lord is what the Scriptures call "the fear of God." "Fear of God" is a phrase we hear repeatedly in our Liturgy. In the Great Litany the deacon invites us: "For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord." The phrase is repeated when the deacon invites us to receive Communion: "Approach in the fear of God. with faith, and with love." We are the ones who have entered "this holy house" and are invited to the Lord's Table. Do we do so with the fear of God? And just what kind of fear is it? The fear of God, which is praised as a virtue in both Old and New Testaments, is rather the sense of our inadequacy before God that destroys any false sense of self-confidence or self-righteousness we may have once we glimpse the truly holy.

St Peter, like many of the first disciples of the Lord Jesus, was a sincerely observant Jew. He kept the Law as best he could, observed the Sabbath and the holydays and the rest; but Peter sensed the difference between these "icons of holiness" (if we can invent such a term) and the real thing (the Lord Jesus).

Many of us were raised in the Church and grew up amid its "icons of holiness." We may have learned the "right answers" expounded in the catechism. We may have learned prayers, practices, principles of morality and the meaning of many elements of our Church's life but never truly experienced the presence of God. If so, we may find it difficult to appreciate the concept of the "fear of God." But we then run the risk of believing that we understand God because we know when and how we are to fast or what the Church teaches on this or that matter. But a relationship with God is more than a matter of ritual or doctrine or anything we may feel we possess. As we read in the Sermon on the Mount, *"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Mt 7:22-23).*

Thanks to our parishioners in partnership with the Cedar Club of Atlanta Eagle Cedars: **195 lbs of nonperishable food** items were collected and delivered to the Atlanta Community Food Bank helping them compose about 780 meals - adding frozen & fresh food too.

The manager was elated, as it couldn't be at a better time: They are seeing a surge of over 200 families coming to the center itself - in addition to food pantries around the city - in lieu of the typical 50.

Thanks to you, these families will have some meals this week.

God Bless you all!

