



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, January 22, 2023

15th Sunday After the Holy Cross - Restoring Zacchaeus - Tone: 8 - Orthros Gospel: John 21:14-25 (11)

Commemoration of Apostle Timothy and Martyr Anastasios the Persian

الاحد 22 كانون الثاني 2023

الاحد، الخامس عشر بعد الصليب

1428 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, Office: (404) 373-9522, Fax: (404) 373-9755, Email: [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org)

Web: [stjohnmelkite.org](http://stjohnmelkite.org) • FB: [facebook.com/StJohnMelkite](https://facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) • YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite](https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite)

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

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. George Gage, Celebrant and Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn, Retired

Parish Advisory Council Chairperson - Deacon Elie Hanna - [deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org)

Finance Council Chairperson - Deacon Sami Jajeh - [deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org)

Cultural Center Manager - Jerome Hagley - [jerome.hagley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

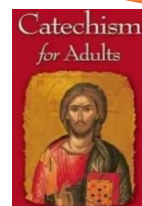
### ----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM:** The first three adult education sessions have been successfully completed. We hope to see you at the next program. We will discuss Jesus and Grace, John 1:1-18 and Ephesians 2:1-22

**2023 MELKITE CALENDARS:** Please request a 2023 calendar if you have not received one.

**2022 GIVING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AND GIVING PLEDGES:** To be distributed in January in envelopes. As we converted to the new financial software midyear, they will only cover July-Dec. If a full year giving contribution statement is needed, please contact Deacon Sami. Please consider setting up a 2023 Giving Pledge account which allows you to better understand your total giving and St. John Chrysostom to better manage the parish budget. More information at the General Assembly.

**JAN 18- 25 – PRAYER WEEK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** Suggested daily prayer for the Prayer Week of Christian Unity: *O Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, on the eve of Your redemptive suffering, You fervently asked Your heavenly Father that all Your followers be one, as You are One with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We implore You, divine Master, to bestow upon all Christian Churches the unity of faith, of hearts and of purpose, so that they become one flock under the leadership of One Shepherd according to Your wish. Grant us, Lord, to love one another as You loved us, So that, seeing our unity, the world may believe in You and embrace your message of peace and love. For You are the Prince of Peace and Lover of mankind and to You we render glory, and to Your Eternal Father, and Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen*



## ----- 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!

**COMMUNION:** If you are unable to make Divine Liturgy on Sunday due to health reasons, and you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist, please e-mail [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion. As a reminder, Church school begins immediately after communion, so on school days, so teachers and students will exit into the pews first.

### THIS WEEKS' DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

#### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Requested by St. John Parish Community

+Thomas Whalen, Requested by Evelyn Whalen

+Sarina Lauren Shadeed, Requested by St. John Parish Community

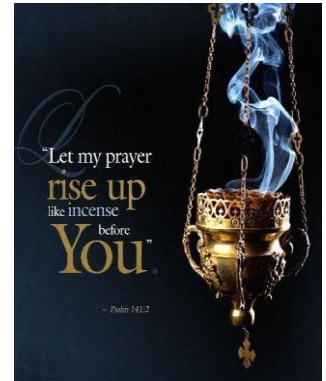
#### HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Parish Community

John Chambers, Jr., Requested by St. John Parish Community

Those in our Prayer Line, Requested by St. John Parish Community

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



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

**JAN 18-25 – PRAYER WEEK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** See suggested prayer for Christian Unity below.

**SUN, JAN 22 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** A parish general assembly will occur at the end of Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center. If you would like a specific topic addressed at the General Assembly this January, please let the deacons know by e-mailing us.

**SUN, JAN 29 – TRIODION:** The Pre-Lenten period begins with the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican, followed by the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Meat Fare Sunday, and concluding in Cheese Fare Sunday.

**SUN, FEB 5 – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON:** The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of pre-Lent, the weeks of preparation preceding Great Lent. It is the Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee and Sunday before Meatfare Sunday. This pre-Lent is the start of the Easter cycle of worship in the Eastern Church.

**SUN, FEB 12 – MEAT FARE SUNDAY:** In preparation for Great Lent, the last Sunday to partake in meat and meat by-products.

**SUN, FEB 19 – CHEESE FARE SUNDAY:** In preparation for Great Lent, the last Sunday to partake in cheese and cheese by-products.

**SUN, FEB 19 – FORGIVENESS VESPERS:** After the Divine Liturgy for Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have a short coffee hour with fellowship in the hall, followed by a Forgiveness Vespers service in the Church.

**MON, FEB 20 – FORGIVENESS (or CLEAN) MONDAY:** The First Day of the Great Fast is Forgiveness Monday. As we approach and prepare for Holy Week and Pascha (Easter), we start the season by asking for forgiveness from God and each other. Please join us for the spiritually moving service of Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> after Divine Liturgy.

**GREAT LENT – WEDNESDAY's & FRIDAY's:** The deacons are preparing the calendar for Great Lent. Do plan on regularly attending Compline, Akathist, and the special services of Holy Week.

## ----- A SPIRITUAL FAMILY – WHAT DOES IT MEAN? -----

**A SPIRITUAL FAMILY.** The family is the basic building block of society. It's described as the domestic church, or the church of the home, or the household of faith. A spiritual family is a community of believers. The Greek word, *koinonia*, literally means fellowship or communion. When the priest says, "...may the fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit be with all of you," it is using this word, *koinonia*, communion or fellowship. Through the Holy Spirit, the community of believers (Church) gathers to form a spiritual family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, as we are no longer estranged from God or to each other. United to Christ in our baptism, we are united to each other. And so as brothers and sisters in a spiritual family, we share in each other's lives:

- **Sorrows:** When another in our community suffers, we suffer with them. Our compassion (literally translated as "suffering with") means that their loss is ours too. Their health concerns belong to us. We walk with them in their struggles.
- **Joys:** When another experiences joy (A graduation? A wedding? A baptism?), we share in their joy, and ask for God's blessing on them as well. We offer them congratulations and love. We are never envious.
- **Hope:** As another hopes and dreams, we hope and dream with them. We pray for God to extend His Hand and let His will be done in their lives to give Him greater glory!

Let us always walk the walk of a Spiritual Family at St. John Chrysostom as we share in each other's joys, sorrows, and hopes!!!

----- 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. It is a way of life!

**TIME AND TALENT: Volunteers Needed** to help lead various ministries. **Liturgical Participation:** Please consider joining the Choir, being a reader (see Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (see Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an altar server (contact Dcn. Elie).

**TREASURE:** [CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#), or scan QR Code or send an email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) to set up ACH donations. All checks should be made to “St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church” except for diocesan collections, which should be made out to “Diocese of Newton.” We receive Zelle donations at [donate@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:donate@stjohnmelkite.org). Identify donation purpose of donations in memo field.

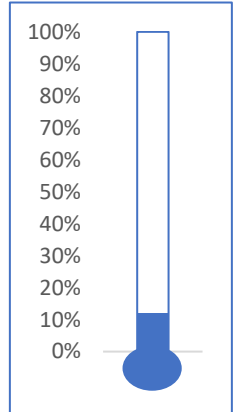


**FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - DEC 2022):** Total Income \$16,666, including Ordinary Collections: \$10,235 with Total Expenditures of \$10,239, leaving a Net Difference **\$6,373**. **(QUARTERLY – SEP- DEC 2022):** Total Income \$41,335, including Ordinary Collections: \$27,601 with Total Expenditures of \$50,527, leaving a Net Difference **(-\$9,185)**.

**BISHOP’S APPEAL** Offer your gratitude to God by giving a gift to the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton’s Bishop’s Appeal.



Please respond accordingly and give generously. **Our Goal for this year is 100% parish participation, currently at 15%.** You may give electronically by [clicking here to read Bishop Francois’ letter and give online](#) If you prefer mail, please make your check to Eparchy of Newton, with “**Bishop’s Appeal – St. John Chrysostom, Atlanta**” in the memo field. Currently, St. John Chrysostom has **fifteen donors** who have given a total of **\$3,117** for an approximate **average gift of \$207/parishioner family**. We have until the end of January to increase this amount, so please give generously.



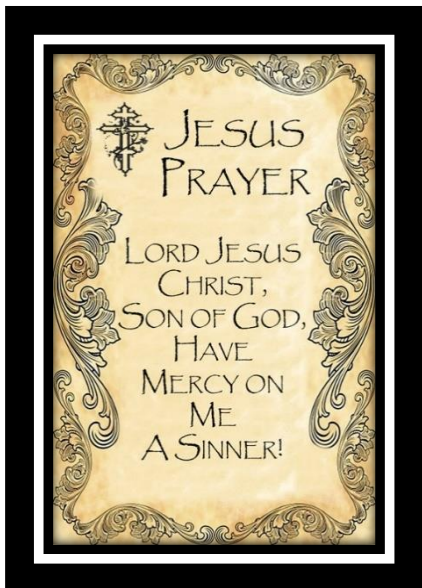
**Mail donation via US Mail to:**  
 Melkite Eparchy of Newton  
 Attn: Bishop Appeal  
 802 Rifle Camp Road  
 PO Box 630  
 Woodland Park, NJ 07424

**Or Scan QR code to donate via PayPal online**

**WHAT ABOUT TRADITION?** To be good stewards of tradition, 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 below.

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

**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.



**Please keep in your prayers...**

- |                  |                          |                    |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Marilyn Doolan   | Evelyn Whalen            | John Chambers, Jr. |
| Souren Palanjian | Vic Maloof               | Fr. Tom Flynn      |
| Shadeed Family   | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |                    |

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

## January 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) so we

### Name Days for St. Basil, St. John Baptist, St.

#### Anthony

Basil Kirma	Rt. Rev. John Azar
John Chambers	John Daho Sr. and Jr.
John Elias	John Healan
John Jajeh	Jonathan Pharo
Anthony Jabaley	Anthony Rozier
Tony Ghawi	Tony Elia
Greg Pharo	

#### Birthdays:

John Jajeh	Kamil Karroum
Dzovag Hanna	Shoghag Palanjan
Luke Ghawi	Cecilia Curry
Adelaide Curry	Matilda Ghawi
Tatiana Curry	Tony Ghawi
Lillian Karroum	George Malouf
Rita Karroum	Stephanie Kashou

#### Anniversary:

Mr. & Mrs. Kareem and Arige Atalla  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter and Tyra Nuar

## --- "Zacchaeus, Come Down!" ---

### Repentance: Warm-up to the Spiritual Life

We have all seen runners stretching their leg muscles before beginning a run. Their stretches are a warm-up in anticipation of the effort ahead. Similarly there is a warm up necessary at the start of a spiritual effort. Repentance is the necessary prerequisite to any effective spiritual effort, whether it is the encounter with Christ in the Liturgy or any of the mysteries, the Great Fast, or any spiritual work which we pray may be fruitful. Ignoring our personal spiritual state before undertaking any of these practices borders on presumption. Even world-class athletes, whether physical or spiritual, always begin each contest at the beginning, with a warm-up.

The Gospel story of Zacchaeus' conversion (Lk 19:1-10) offers some valuable insights into repentance. His spiritual journey begins with an encounter with Christ. At first Zacchaeus is moved by a kind of curiosity to climb the tree and see who this Jesus is. Then Christ calls him personally and they go off to Zacchaeus' house. True repentance always involves both our work and the Lord's. If He calls and we are not even curious, nothing will happen. If we seek Him in an inappropriate way – such as only coming to Him when we want something – He may remain silent.

Zacchaeus' repentance is not mere sentiment; it has concrete exterior manifestations. One is the desire to repair any wrongs he may have done to others. "...if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore it fourfold" (v. 8). We cannot move ahead unless we correct what we can of our past sins. When material things are at the heart of our sin it is relatively easy to make restitution. But how does anyone restore a broken relationship, heal a damaged childhood or re-establish another's reputation which we have smeared? The one we have harmed may demand something from us or our spiritual guide may offer alternative acts of reparation. But something concrete must be done.

Zacchaeus does not only look back, he also looks ahead. "I give half of my goods to the poor..." (v.8) Zacchaeus actually does something to fulfill the Lord's precept to love in a concrete way. This dynamic was explained most clearly by St Diadochos, the fifth-century Bishop of Photiki in northern Greece: "When a man begins to perceive the love of God in all its richness, he begins also to love his neighbor with spiritual perception. This is the love of which all the Scriptures speak." (On Spiritual Knowledge and Discernment, 15).

In the Church calendar the story of Zacchaeus is read as a "herald of the Triodion," before we open that guide to repentance and the Great Fast. As we recall the movements of Zacchaeus' repentance we should be led to ask ourselves about the quality of our love for God. To what concrete action are we being led to perform during the coming Fast? What tangible form will love take in our lives as we look to the celebration of Pascha? And what past offenses to others which have yet to be righted hang over us and taint our intentions for this season? Like Zacchaeus we are called to begin our spiritual exercise with the "warm-up" of repentance in deed as well as in thought.

## ----- MINISTRY LEADERS -----

- Adult Education** – Greg Pharo
- Altar Servers** – Deacon Elie Hanna
- Choir** – Sohel Elias
- Children Education** – Viola Ghawi, Tyra Nuar
- Cultural Center Rental** – Jerome Hagley
- Friday Fellowship** – Rita Karroum, Vera Madanat
- Gift Shop** – Joseph Manguno, Patty Pharo
- Good Samaritan Society** – Suely Elias, Marie Hansen
- Ladies Society** – Susie Hagley, Lina Muhanna (co-presidents)
- Men's Club, Publican Society** – OPEN
- Readers** – Eric Hansen
- Sunshine Committee** – Matilda Ghawi
- Ushers** – Jerome Hagley, Robert Ghawi, Joseph Manguno

## --- VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR ---

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