



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, January 29, 2023

Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican Tone: 1 - Orthros Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 (1)
Commemoration of our Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer

الاحد، 29 كانون الثاني 2023

أحد الفريسي والعشار

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: 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

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 -----

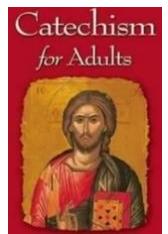
HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS WITH US! Please sign our Visitor's Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

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 -----

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

2022 GIVING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AND GIVING PLEDGES: As we converted to the new financial software midyear, statements only cover July-Dec. If a full year giving contribution statement is needed, please contact us. Please consider setting up a 2023 Giving Pledge account which allows you to better understand your total giving and us to better manage the parish budget.



JAN 29 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY: The short general assembly will be held January 29th, with the following key topics:

- Parish Life Update including key councils, ministries, societies, and educational programs
- Financial Update including income, expenses, current accounts, pledges, and Bishop's Appeal
- Open Discussion

A lasagna luncheon is planned for after the general assembly. Please make a concerted effort to attend this important function in the life of the parish. Thank you.

FEB 2 – PAC MEETING: The next PAC meeting will be this upcoming Thursday at 7:30pm via online conference call. They usually last one hour and provide critical updates regarding church parish life and financial management.

----- 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 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.

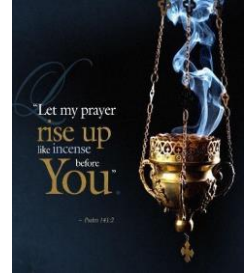
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Jan Munn, Widow of Fr. Daniel Munn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+Meyasar Al-Zaraaneh, Brother of Walid Al-Zaraaneh, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+Joseph Abyad, Father of Fr. Zyad Abyad, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+Sarina Lauren Shadeed, Requested by the Karroum family

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. John Azar, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Those in our Prayer Line, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

SAT, JAN 28 – CHURCH TOUR: An understanding of the Melkite faith, including differences in the Byzantine and Latin rites, will be presented by Dcn. Sami to our visitors from the Federation of North American Explorers. We wish them a pleasant visit!

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 12 – LADIES SOCIETY MTG: The Feb. Ladies Society meeting will be held on Feb. 12.

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 – SERVICE OF FORGIVENESS VESPERS: After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, we will have the Forgiveness Vespers service. As we approach and prepare for Holy Week and Pascha (Easter), we start the season by asking for forgiveness from God and each other. Fellowship and coffee hour will follow Vespers.

MON, FEB 20 – FORGIVENESS (or CLEAN) MONDAY: The First Day of the Great Fast is Forgiveness Monday.

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 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. 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 This is your last chance to donate to the 2022 Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton's Bishop's Appeal.

Our Goal for this year is 100% parish participation! Even if you only give \$1, it will go a long way to showing that you care about our Parish, Eparchy and Bishop and what they support. Please mail your check in today! please make your check payable to Eparchy of Newton, with "Bishop's Appeal – St. John Chrysostom, Atlanta" in the memo field. You may also donate online, simply [CLICK HERE TO DONATE ONLINE](#).

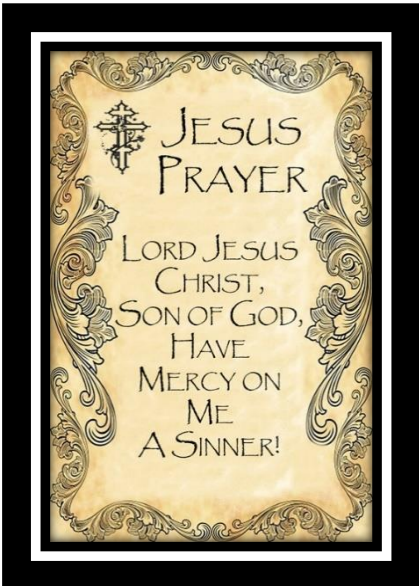
Mail donation via US Mail to:
Melkite Eparchy of Newton
Attn: Bishop Appeal
802 Rifle Camp Road
PO Box 630
Woodland Park, NJ 07424

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 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 | Al-Zaraaneh Family | Abyad Family |
| Munn Family | Fr. John Azar | 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.

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 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 Palanjian |
| 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

----- 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.

--- The Publican and the Pharisee ---

THIS WEEKEND OUR CHURCH opens the pages of the Triodion, the book containing the texts for all the services leading up to Pascha. This Lenten journey may be viewed on two levels, chronologically and spiritually. Both are important as we look ahead to our celebration of Pascha.

Chronologically, the period of the Triodion consists in three distinct sections: the pre-Lenten period, the Great Fast itself, and the Great and Holy Week. The first, the pre-Lenten period, progressively leads us to the coming Great Fast. It begins with two Sundays which introduce us to thoughts of repentance. Next, we have a weekend of observances reminding us of our mortality: the Saturday of the Dead and the Sunday of the final Judgment. Finally, in Meat-fare Week, we are eased into the Fast by beginning to abstain from meat. The last pre-Lenten observance takes place on Cheese-Fare Sunday with the ceremony of forgiveness, in which we ritually ask the entire community to forgive us our offences so that we may begin the Great Fast with pure hearts.

The Publican and the Pharisee

On this first Sunday of the Triodion's pre-Lenten period, we are presented with the Lord's parable of the Publican or tax collector and the Pharisee in Lk 18:9-14. As we begin our Lenten journey, we are reminded how the prayer of the Pharisee did not reach God while the Publican's prayer was heard. The Pharisee's devotions were "correct," but, the Lord teaches, it is not enough to say the right words when the heart is not correct as well.



The basic attitude of the heart for which the Pharisee is faulted is pride: "I fast twice a week," he boasts; "I give tithes of all that I possess" (Lk 18:12) and that makes me better than that tax collector. The Pharisee is right in one sense: it is good to fast and to give tithes, but his good deeds are made void through his pride.

Reflecting on this parable in its hymnody, our Church describes the Pharisee's prayer as "ungrateful." He says, "I thank you, God," but thankfulness to God is not revealed in his underlying attitude. His inner spirit is not focused on God's gifts, but on his own perceived accomplishments. He does the right thing, but for the wrong reason.

A consequence of the Pharisee's self-centered parody of religion is the judgmental way he regards his fellow man: "I am not like other men" (v.11): my devotions make me superior, more worthy in the sight of God. Christ takes the opposite view: "I tell you, this man [the publican] went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (v.14).