



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, April 16, 2023

Sunday of St. Thomas

الأحد، 16 نيسان 2023

أحد القديس توما

10:00 AM – ORTHROS

10:30 AM – SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Cultural Center.

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.

THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

- +Fr. Ephrem Handal, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Henriette Rawik Bsirini, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Jennifer Maloof May, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Jeanette Sarwe, Requested by Tony and Matilda Ghawi

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. John Azar, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Janice Peterson, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- All Those Affected by the Earthquake in Syria and Turkey, 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



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

MORE THAN JUST HELLO! For Forty Days After Easter, we greet each other with:

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!

AL MASEEH QAM! HAQ-QAN QAM!

CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!

YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION: Youth Education next date will be April 23rd (St. George & Armor of God). Adult education will be the same day with April 23rd, Jesus and Grace. Adults, please join us after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center.

FLOCKNOTE COMING SOON: We are converting to a diocese/eparchy wide parishioner database called Flocknote. Over the next several weeks/months you will see email and TEXT messages coming from this system. The new system will allow us to communicate more seamlessly as a Parish. Please be sure that we have your correct e-mail and cell phone number in our database. Thank you.



PARISH PROPERTY COUNCIL: The Parish Property Council (or Building Council) handles the maintenance and restoration of the property. While we have come a long way in improving and maintaining our property, there is much to be done, including the addition of a playground set, other youth activities, restoration of cultural center bathrooms, and more. Please give one of the deacons, Sami Nassar, and Rani Ghawi your feedback as we return to having a Property Council.

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

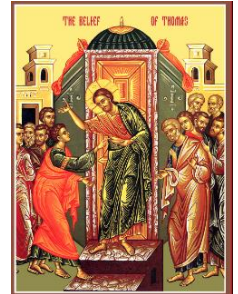
HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS WITH US! Please sign our Visitor’s Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

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.

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

MON, APR 10-15 – BRIGHT WEEK: No fasting nor abstinence during Bright Week.

SUN, APR 16 – SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS: The Sunday of Thomas follows the celebration Easter by commemorating the appearance of Christ to His disciples when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ.



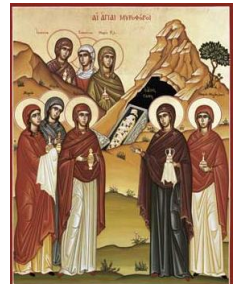
On this Sunday we have traditionally read the gospels in multiple languages. It is referred to as the Baouth (announcement) Service or the Service of Love. Some churches read this Gospel after the Pascha Liturgy, and others read it at Vespers (Agape Vespers) in the evening of Pascha day. This Gospel reading (John 20:19-31) depicts the first appearance of the risen Lord to his disciples and is recited in many languages (often as many languages as are known by those present in the congregation), symbolizing that the glorious resurrection of Christ is proclaimed to all the nations of the world. To this effect, the Gospel pericope (short extract from the reading) is sometimes read from different places within the nave. We will be reading the gospel in multiple languages to follow this beautiful tradition.

We return to our normal Sunday Schedule with

- Orthros – 10am
- Divine Liturgy – 10:30am
- Coffee hour in the Cultural Center

LADIES SOCIETY MEETING: Held immediately after Divine Liturgy in the Cultural Center.

SUN, APR 23 – SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT BEARING WOMEN: We commemorate when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint his body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.



NAMW LUNCHEON: The Ladies Society Officers share that Sunday, April 23rd is the Ladies' Society's special day of the Myrrhbearers Feast. St. John Chrysostom Ladies Society is celebrating this day by fixing lunch for our parishioners and enjoying a time of fellowship at the Cultural Center after Divine Liturgy. Please try your best to be with us.

SUN, APR 30 – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

----- NAMY CONFERENCE 2023 -----

The National Association of Melkite Youth Conference 2023, *Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples*, will be held July 10-14th for Melkite Youth (ages 13-18) at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. Join for Faith, Fellowship and Fun. Please see the deacons ASAP for more information or you may contact Fr. Thomas and Pres. Rebekah Moses at namy@melkite.org. All registration forms, consent forms, and deadline dates will soon be available at www.melkite.org/namy.



----- EPARCHY VOCATION PLAN -----

Bishop François has formed a New Vocation Team, headed by Fr. John Mefrige and composed of four other priests from each region of the eparchy. The goal is to create a



“Culture of Service and Vocations” within the Melkite Catholic Church. As Bishop François Beyrouti begins his episcopal ministry, he is emphasizing the Lord’s invitation to “serve one another humbly in love” (Galatians 5:13). In this spirit, one of his key priorities is to strengthen our focus on vocations throughout the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Newton. Thanks be to God, over the past few years, the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States has been blessed with many new vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Looking toward the future, we can also see that many parishes have aging clergy who have been faithfully serving for so many years. Thus, there is a serious need to ensure uninterrupted pastoral care for our 50 churches and communities and to respond to the needs of our faithful who are asking us to establish new parishes.

----- STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

God entrust us with the gifts of the earth and of our church. Through Stewardship, we return it to Him. It is a way of life!

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 are to be made out to “Diocese of Newton.” We receive Zelle donations at donate@stjohnmelkite.org. Identify donation purpose of donations in memo field. We appreciate those who have made the ongoing commitment to St. John Chrysostom. Please consider a regular giving plan if not already on one.

FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - MAR 2023):

Total Income: \$13,751 (Ordinary Collections: \$7,007)
 Expenses: \$15,381
 Net Income: **(1,630)**

FINANCIALS: (QUARTERLY – Q1 2023):

Total Income: \$40,295 (Ordinary Collections: \$29,162)
 Expenses: \$33,613
 Net Income: **6,681**

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION: \$599

SHEPHERD’S CARE TOTAL COLLECTIONS with FUND RAISING: \$2,129

----- 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).

----- 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** -- OPEN
- Publican Society** – OPEN
- Readers** – Eric Hansen
- Sunshine Committee** – Matilda Ghawi
- Ushers** – Jerome Hagley, Robert Ghawi, Joseph Manguno

----- BAKE SALE AND FOOD TAKEOUT -----

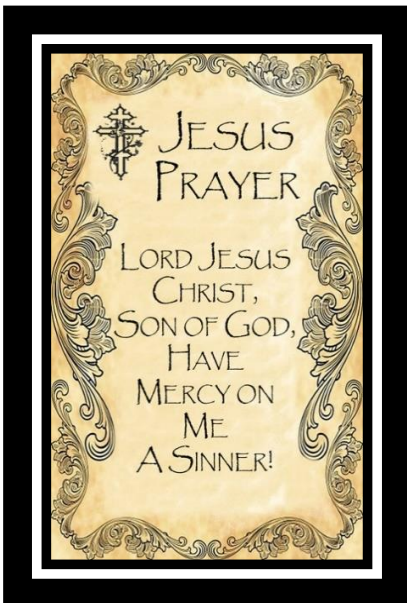
We are happy to report fantastic results of our Bake Sale and Food Takeout:

- Bake Sale Net Proceeds: **\$2,163**
- Food Takeout Net Proceeds: **\$3,948**

Net proceeds include sales and adopt-a-food donations minus expenses. As decided by the Ladies Society, ½ of the net proceeds for the Bake Sale (\$1,081.59) was added to Shepherd’s Care to help victims of the Syria/Turkey earthquake.

----- 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...

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Vic Maloof | Fr. Tom Flynn | Fr. John Azar |
| Fr. Damon Geiger | Fr. Ed Kakaty | Fr. and Mrs. Alam Alam |
| Janice Peterson | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) | |
| Syria and Turkey | Butrus Jajeh | Serene Kadadu |

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.

April Birthdays & 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

Birthdays:

Evelyn Whalen	Nicholas Curry
Kareem Atalla	Bishara Kadadu
Elias Maalouf	Aemah Badri
Selia Madanat	Janice Peterson

Anniversary:

Shane & Christiana Hooper
Eric & Marie Hansen

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](https://www.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

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

Parish Church Year Theme

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

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

﴿٢٠﴾ إِنَّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ يُعْطِينَا النِّجَاحَ وَنَحْنُ عَبِيدُهُ نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي. " (نحميا

--- 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 Joyful Pentecostarian ---

FOR MOST AMERICANS a holiday is a one-day affair – at most, a holiday weekend. In the Church, however, Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, is celebrated for a much longer period. We observe Christ's resurrection for forty days, concluding it with the Great Feast of His Holy Ascension and climaxed with the Great Feast of Pentecost. Based on the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost this season – and the book which contains the services celebrated every day – is called the Pentecostarian.

Pentecostos is the Greek word for fiftieth. The Paschal Season contains a number of special commemorations including:

Bright Week – For the first week of Pascha, the daily services are almost identical to the services of Pascha itself. One important characteristic of this week's services is that they include no readings from the Psalter. With Pascha the New Covenant is in force – to emphasize this spiritual reality nothing from the Old Covenant is read this week.

Successive Weeks – While the services resume their regular format there are some reminders of the Resurrection. "Christ is risen" and "Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ" are sung every day. The Sunday resurrectional services in the eight tones are sung daily as well. On Sundays a liti procession and the singing of the Paschalia and the Paschal Canon form part of our Church's worship.

Mid-Pentecost – At the mid-point of the season we celebrate the feast of Mid-Pentecost, recalling Christ's teaching in the temple and His promise of the Holy Spirit. This feast, unique to the Byzantine rite, is so emphasized because it was the patronal feast of the Great Church of Constantinople, Aghia Sophia (Christ, the Holy Wisdom).

"We have come to the middle of those days which began with the saving Resurrection of Christ our God and end with the divine feast of Pentecost! Truly this day shines with the light of both feasts and unites them both. It radiates with the announcement of the Ascension of the Lord."

From the Paschalia

Our Passover, Christ the Redeemer, is revealed to us today as a noble Passover. This is a new and holy Passover, a mystical Passover, a blameless Passover, a glorious Passover, a Passover for the faithful, a Passover that opens for us the gates of Paradise, a Passover that sanctifies all believers.

Come back from what you have seen, O women heralds of good tidings, and say to Sion: "Accept from us the joyful announcement of the Resurrection of Christ! O Jerusalem, rejoice, exult and leap for joy! For you have seen Christ the King coming out of the tomb as fair as a bridegroom!"

A glorious Passover has shone upon us: a Passover of the Lord, a Passover perfectly honorable. Let us embrace one another with joy! O, what a Passover, delivering from sorrow: for Christ, coming out of the tomb as from a bridal chamber, fills the women with joy by telling them to bring this happy news to the disciples.