



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, April 23, 2023
Sunday of Ointment-Bearing Women
Commemoration of the Great Martyr George the Triumphant
الأحد، 23 أيار 2023
أحد حاملات الطيب

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 St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

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
- Munera Al-zaraaneh, 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 -----

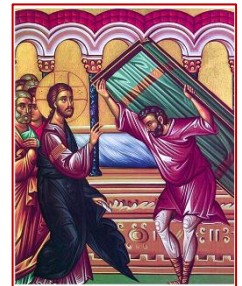
SUN, APR 23 – SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT BEARING WOMEN: We commemorate when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint his body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

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.

The Third Sunday of Pascha is dedicated to the 'Myrrhbearing Women' (the Theotokos, Mary Magdalene, and the other women who brought spices to the Tomb of Jesus) and also to Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who cared for the burial of Jesus after his crucifixion. The placement of this feast is based upon the idea of the synaxis, wherein secondary persons directly involved in the events celebrated in one of the feasts are celebrated on the day after. However, since Bright Week is devoted exclusively to the celebration of the Resurrection, and Thomas Sunday falls logically on the eighth day of the Resurrection (according to its biblical source), this day becomes the first Sunday on which these persons can be commemorated.



SUN, APR 30 – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC: This Sunday commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. The biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of John 5:1-15. The icon depicts the biblical story of the Christ healing the paralytic. Our Lord, accompanied by His disciples, is shown blessing the paralytic. The man has risen and taken up his bed as commanded by Christ. The paralytic is bowing toward the Lord in reverence and in gratitude for the great miracle that has been done. In the background of the icon is the pool where the infirmed came for healing.



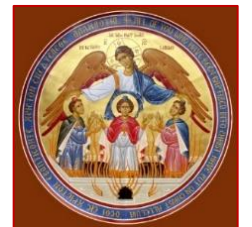
WED, MAY 3 – MID PENTECOST

SUN, MAY 7 – SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: This Sunday commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. The biblical story of this event and the dialog between Christ and the woman is found in the Gospel of Saint John 4:5-42.

SUN, MAY 14 – SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND: This Sunday commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-38.

----- 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.



----- THE PENTECOSTARIAN -----

The Pentecostarion (Greek: Πεντηκοστόριον, Pentekostáριον) is the liturgical book used by the Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic churches during the Paschal Season which extends from Pascha (Easter) to the Sunday following All Saints Sunday (i.e., the Second Sunday After Pentecost). The name means the Book of the "Fifty Days", referring to the period of time from Pascha to Pentecost. In Greek, it is also sometimes called the Joyful Pentecostarion. In English, it is sometimes called the Paschal Triodion. The name "Pentecostarion" is also applied to the liturgical season covered by the book. The period includes Bright Week, Thomas Sunday, Sunday of the Myrrbearers, Sunday of the Paralytic, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, Sunday of the Man Born Blind, Ascension, Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Saturday of the Dead, and Pentecost.

----- 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

----- (UPDATED) BAKE SALE AND FOOD TAKEOUT -----

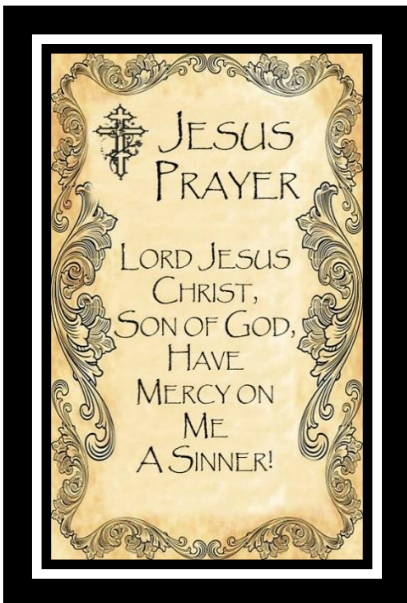
As some adopt-an-items were incorrectly recorded for food takeout, we are happy to report the (updated) results of:

- Bake Sale Net Proceeds: **\$2,464**
- Food Takeout Net Proceeds: **\$3,648**

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 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 •

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 تَقُومُ وَتَبْنِي. " (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.

--- Joseph and the Myrrhbearers---

In Mark 15:44-16:8, which is read at this Sunday's Liturgy, we see Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Council, arrange for Jesus' burial. St John Chrysostom observes, *"This was Joseph, who had been concealing his discipleship. Now, after the death of Christ, he became very bold. For neither was he an obscure person nor unnoticed. He was one of the Council, and highly distinguished and, as we see, courageous. For he exposed himself to death, taking upon himself the enmity of all by his affection for Jesus. He begged for the body and did not desist until he obtained it. Not only that, but by laying it in his own new tomb, he actively demonstrated his love and courage"* (Homily 88 on Matthew).

In Jn 19:39 we are told that the seeker Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee, helped Joseph in this task. Their service is memorialized in the troparion sung on this day, itself drawn from the Gospel of St Mark: *The noble Joseph took down from the tree Your spotless body. He wrapped it in fine linen with aromatic spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb...*

Mark notes that Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus (whom John identifies as the wife of Clopas – Cleophas in the King James Bible – and a relative of the Theotokos) saw where Jesus had been buried and returned with others on Sunday morning with more spices. Mk 15:40 tells of a Salome, one of those who had witnessed the death of the Lord, who accompanied them. These women were among those whom Luke says provided for Jesus' needs during His ministry from their possessions. Others among them, according to Luke, were *"Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Suzanna, and many others"* (8:3). Mt 27:56 mentions *"the mother of the sons of Zebedee"* (i.e. James and John). Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, are included among them as well. As St John Chrysostom remarked, *"They lamented over what had happened, beating their breasts. Meanwhile, the religious leaders were glorying in those very things for which the others were grieving, neither moved by pity nor checked by fear"* (Homily 88.2 on Mt).

The Jews did not embalm the dead like the Egyptians. Rather they anointed a corpse and surrounded it with large quantities of spices to counteract the odor of decay. Jn 19:39 says that Nicodemus brought one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes for that purpose. When the women returned to the tomb at first light on Sunday morning, according to Mark and Luke, they brought more spices. The odor should have increased to such a degree that further masking would be needed if people were to visit the tomb. But the Lord did not need their spices; not subject to corruption, He had conquered Death and destroyed its hold over us.

The Myrrhbearers knew that the service they offered was fruitless in a sense – Jesus was dead and they could not change that. They could simply perform a last act of love and remain by the tomb in witness to their love for Him. Their faithfulness to serve Christ even in death was rewarded; they were blessed to see the empty tomb and to bear witness to the Apostles that Christ was risen.