



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, April 30, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Commemoration of the Apostle James, Brother of the Theologian

الأحد 30 أيار 2023

أحد المشلولين - ذكرى الرسول يعقوب الأخ اللاهوتي

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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

### THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

#### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Henriette Rawik Bsirini, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Jennifer Maloof May, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, 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 -----

**GRADUATION SEASON:** Please e-mail the deacons at [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) or let them know directly at coffee hour the high school or college graduation information of your child (e.g., date, school, major, etc.) so that we can announce these graduations in our May bulletins. We want to recognize and join in the joy of their great accomplishment. Thank you.



**RENOVATIONS IN PROGRESS:** The Parish Property Council (or Building Council) handles the maintenance and restoration of the property. The following projects have been completed or are in process or in discussion:

- Addition of commercial lighting and electrical in the greenhouse (completed)
- Converting all lights in the cultural center basement to LED and replacing of damaged ceiling tiles (completed)
- Installation of new commercial mailbox (in process) and repair of tiles on carport (in process)
- Removal of platform (old choir area) and adding seating capacity at rear of nave (in process)
- Church residence kitchen water damage repaired, and kitchen repainted (completed)
- Church residence main bedroom wall damage repaired, and room repainted (completed)
- Front entrance of Cultural Center Hall repair (in process)
- Asphalt roofing systems (cultural center, main building, greenhouse) inspection and bidding in progress
- Playground set, cultural center bathroom repair, cultural center basement carpet replacement and room reconfiguration (in discussion)



**YOUR CELL AND EMAIL:** Please be sure that we have your correct e-mail and cell phone number in our database as we start to move to Flocknote over the next few weeks.

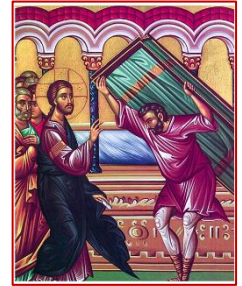
----- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL -----

**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.

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

**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.



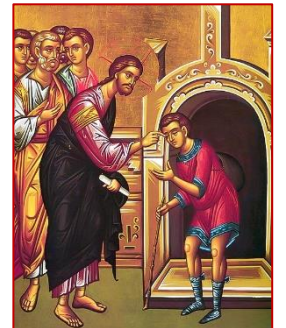
**WED, MAY 3 – MID PENTECOST**

**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. "Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.'"



The icon of the Samaritan Woman depicts the biblical story of the Christ conversing with the woman at the well. Our Lord is shown sitting beside the well, speaking with and blessing the Samaritan woman. She is shown with her right hand outstretched toward Christ, indicating both her interest in what He is saying, and also as a sign of her faith and her efforts to bring others to hear what Christ has to say. In the background of the icon, the city is visible together with the Mount Gerazim.

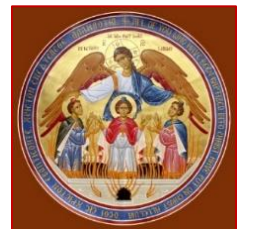
**SUN, MAY 14 – SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND:** This Sunday commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-38. "As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing."



The icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man depicts the biblical story of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Our Lord is shown placing the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples who are questioning Christ about the source of the man's affliction. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ expressing his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Our Lord has in His hand a scroll, which directs us to His statements, "I am the light of the world," (John 9:5), a clear statement of the Gospel of salvation that comes through Christ. The scroll may also represent the role of Christ as Judge as depicted in Matthew and Revelation, and also later in the same passage on the healing of the blind man (John 9:39), Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

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

The National Association of Melkite Youth Conference 2023, *Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples*, will be held July 10-14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:namy@melkite.org). All registration forms, consent forms, and deadline dates will soon be available at [www.melkite.org/namy](http://www.melkite.org/namy).



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

The Pentecostarion (Greek: Πεντηκοστήριον, Pentekostáron) 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](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 are to 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. 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: \$2,375**

**NAMW LUNCHEON: (ACCOUNTING IS IN PROCESS)**

----- (FINAL) 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: **\$2,656**
- Food Takeout Net Proceeds: **\$3,561**

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](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.

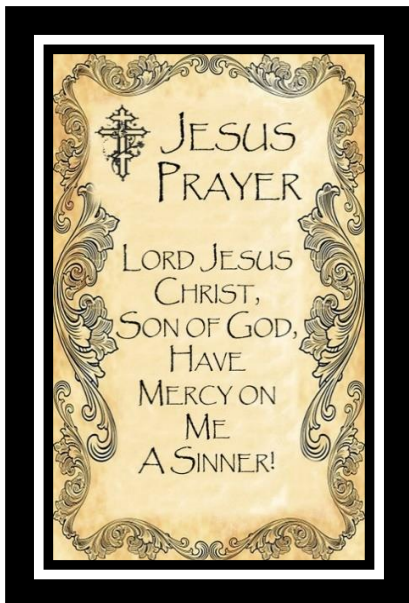
----- TIME AND TALENT-----

**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



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

Vic Maloof	Fr. Tom Flynn	Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay)
Butrus Jajeh	Serene Kadadu	Munera Al-zaraaneh
Syria and Turkey		

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).

## 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](mailto: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

### GRADUATIONS (WE NEED YOUR HELP!):

Please provide us with this information – thank you.

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

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)

### 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.

### --- Paralyzed by Sins and Thoughtless Acts ---

In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles read today, we hear about the healing of a man named Aeneas in Lydda (Lod), some 23 miles northeast of Jerusalem. Aeneas, we are told, "had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed" (Acts 9:33). In the Gospel reading which follows, we hear about another man "who had an infirmity thirty-eight years" (Jn 5:5) and who was healed by the Lord Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda (or Bethzatha) outside Jerusalem, where the infirm gathered, hoping for healing. This pool was used to clean the animals destined for sacrifice before they would be brought into the temple.

#### What Does It Mean to be Paralyzed?

In the Early Church, commentators did not often speculate on the pool, or even on the nature of the man's illness. It was more common to compare the physical infirmity of the paralyzed man to the spiritual paralysis which afflicts Christians, either occasionally or in a regular way. It was often noted how, in the lives of each one of us, there will be spiritual paralysis: moments of weakness or failure, which can last many years, as with the paralytic at the sheep pool.

In "spiritual paralysis," the energies of our soul, of our mind, of our heart, of our will, of our body itself are fettered – fettered by the fact that we have no courage and no power within us to move and to act to the full of our longings. We stand, year after year, on the very edge: on the bank of the pool that could give us life, without being able to enter it.

#### Christian Life as Synergy

In one of the last New Testament books to reach its final form, the Second Epistle of St Peter, we see the Christian spiritual life addressed. Spiritual life, we read, comes "...through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by whom have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that though these you may be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pt 1: 3,4). The way to theosis – being partakers of the divine nature – comes because of Christ. God becomes incarnate so that we might become divinized.

We, however, need to embrace this gift, lest it wither away and we become blind or paralyzed. We do this, the epistle continues, by practicing virtue, self-control, godliness, perseverance, brotherly kindness and love. "For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins" (2 Pt 1:8, 9). Fruitful Christian life, then, requires that we do our part to make our own the gift of divine life we have received.

We can become shortsighted or even blind to the gift of our baptism, remaining barren and unfruitful – in other words, paralyzed – without being committed to growing in virtue, knowledge, self-control and the rest. We may see this happen in the life of some Christians who do not consider their baptism seriously: who rarely look to the Gospel, receive the Eucharist, or even attend the Liturgy. They are blind to the gift of Christ and, therefore, paralyzed in the spiritual life. We see it in ourselves, when we cannot focus on the words we read or even the prayers we are saying, distracted by the concerns of daily life.