



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, May 14, 2023

Sunday of the Man Born Blind - Tone 5, Orthros Gospel John 20:11-18 (8)

الأحد 14 أيار 2023

أحد الاعمي

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

- +Salima and Tamador Muhanna, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Mrs. Ghada Muhanna
- +Hanneh and Elvir Mansour, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Mrs. Ghada Muhanna
- +Paulette Hatoun, Requested by her children, Nicole, Elias, and Antoine
- +Marcella Chambers, Requested by John Chambers
- +Veronica Stahl, Requested by the Curry Family;

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn and Fr. John Azar, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Munera Al-zaraaneh, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Butrus Jajeh, Requested by St John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Rouviette and Zoe Hanna, and Arousiag Palanjian Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and Family
- Samira and Lourice Jajeh, and Widad Zarour, Requested by Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family
- Aida Malouf, Requested by the Malouf Family
- Kathleen Hoffman and Roberta Curry McGuire, Requested by the Curry Family
- Holly Curry, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- All Graduates in our Community, 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: Congratulations to all our graduates. We are very proud of you and wish you great success!

- **Thomas Atalla** - Allatoona High School, attending Kennesaw State University
- **Kristin and Kaitlynn Bennett & Emma Carrico** – High School graduates and granddaughters of the Petersons, Kristin attending Lipscomb University (Nursing), Kaitlynn attending AVEDA Arts & Science Institute (Cosmetology), Emma attending James Madison University (Nursing)
- **Carlos Catalan** - Georgia Tech, MS Computer Science
- **Andrew Hagley** - Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, attending Kennesaw State University
- **Dr. Alana Hagley** – Mercer University School of Medicine, residency at Georgetown University (general surgery)
- **Bryce Hanna** – Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, attending Georgia Tech, Computer Science
- **Jordan Hanna** – Daughter of Tony & Karen Hanna, Brother of Dcn. Elie, Georgia Tech, BS Architecture
- **Sarah Hanna** – Daughter of Tony & Karen Hanna, Brother of Dcn. Elie, Syracuse University, MS Architecture
- **Salma Layous** – Kennesaw State University, BS in Exercise Science/Nutrition



Your graduate missing? Please e-mail the deacons at contact@stjohnmelkite.org with the graduation information.

PAC MEETING RESCHEDULED: Please note the PAC meeting for May has been rescheduled to May 18, 2023 at 7:30pm.

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

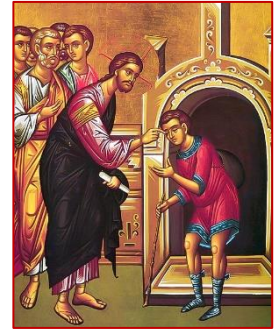
HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS WITH US! Please sign our Visitor’s Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

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 -----

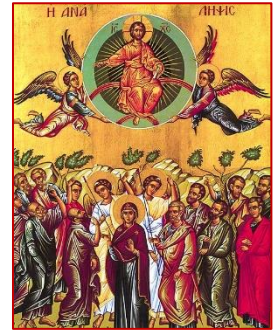
SUN, MAY 14 – SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND: This Sunday commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-38. "As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's 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."



WED, MAY 17 – LEAVE-TAKING OF EASTER (PASCHA)

THURS, MAY 18 – FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: Celebration to be held on Sunday, May 21st. The Feast of the Ascension commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5). After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).



SUN, MAY 21 – COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF THE ASCENSION AND SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF NICAEA I

SAT, MAY 27 – SATURDAY OF THE DEAD

SUN, MAY 28 – SUNDAY OF PENTECOST: More information to come.

----- 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.



----- 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:

- Installation of new commercial mailbox (completed) and repair of tiles on carport (in process)
- Front of Cultural Center Hall repair (in process)
- Asphalt roofing systems (cultural center, main building, greenhouse) inspection and bidding in progress
- Playground set, cultural ctr. bathroom repair, c.c. basement carpet replacement, room reconfiguration (in discussion)



----- 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 - APR 2023):

Total Income: \$19,133 (Ordinary Collections: \$9,982)
 **Expenses: \$45,935
 Net Income: (26,801)

****INSURANCE EXPENSE FOR 2023: \$33,024 paid in April**, an increase of approximately \$6K from 2022.

NAMW LUNCHEON NET PROCEEDS: The results of the raising of funds for Melkite Seminarians with Net Proceeds of \$570.

GA POWER ENERGY USAGE: The installation of remote Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats seems to be helping. Our energy usage is down 55.56% this month versus last year in the Church proper and down 65.38% in the Cultural Center building.



Same month last year:
DOWN 55.56 %

----- QUARTERLY GIVING STATEMENTS -----

As announced in previous bulletins and during January's general assembly, our updated accounting capabilities enable us to provide reports regarding parishioner contributions. As such, you should have received your family's quarterly (Jan-Mar) 2023 St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church giving statement. If not, please let us know to confirm your correct email.

----- 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.

----- 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 -----

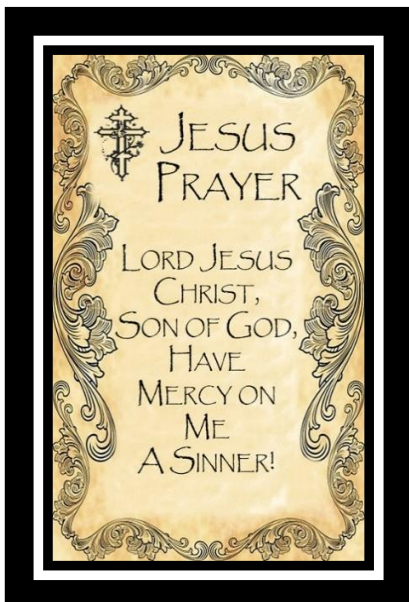
- Adult Education** – Greg Pharo
- Altar Servers** – Deacon Elie Hanna
- Choir** – Sohel Elias
- Children Education** – Viola Ghawi, Tyra Nuar
- Cultural Center Rental** – Jerome Hagley
- Friday Fellowship** – Rita Karroum, Vera Madanat
- Gift Shop** – Joseph Manguno, Patty Pharo
- Good Samaritan Society** – 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

----- QUARTERLY GIVING STATEMENTS -----

As announced in previous bulletins and during January's general assembly, our updated accounting capabilities enable us to provide reports regarding parishioner contributions. As such, you should have received your family's quarterly (Jan-Mar) 2023 St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church giving statement. If not, please let us know to confirm your correct email.

----- 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 | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |
| Butrus Jajeh | Serene Kadadu | Munera Al-zaraaneh |
| Holly Curry | Syria and Turkey | Our Graduates |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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.

May 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 can update our database.

BIRTHDAYS

Stella Hasni	Razan Ghawi-Purohit
Zahi Elias	Suhail Madanat
Danielle Shadeed	Sarah Maakaroun
Malina Madanat	Taleen Hanna
Craig Ajmo	Helena Curry
Andrew Curry	Eric Hansen

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph & Ashley Khairallah
Fadi & Rania Layous

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 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.

--- WHO IS THE BLIND MAN? ---

This question is not about the name of the man the Lord Jesus heals of blindness (in Christian lore he is named Celidonius). He is not named because his name is irrelevant to the meaning. Rather the question is: Of the people described in the passage, which one is the blind man? Several are mentioned including disciples, parents, and the Pharisees.

The Disciples

Christ's followers are depicted asking a theological question on seeing the man born blind: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (v. 2) The assumption behind their question was commonly shared by the ancient world: if you experienced good fortune, you were pleasing to God but if you experienced evil, it was a result of your sinfulness. This was considered true for individuals and the entire people as well. When Jerusalem fell to the Romans in the first century AD, Jewish thinkers attributed it to the sins of the nation: Israel had offended God and were punished by God withdrawing His protection from them. While this connection might be directly or indirectly true in some cases, it is not so here. Neither the man nor his parents had sinned. Today most people are likely to say that our good or bad fortune is not caused by direct divine intervention, but because of purely natural causes. However, it is still important to say that our choices for good or evil can and do have consequences. Societies have fallen because they embraced an immoral culture. Abortion is sinful; it also lowers birthrates and condemns societies to extinction. Divorce has consequences for the couple's children and grandchildren. Our sinful choices have effects beyond us. While the disciples' reaction is not recorded, we find Christians today connecting their earthly fortune to God's blessing or punishment in an automatic way.

The Parents

The man's parents affirmed his identity: "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind" but they evaded expressing their opinion on the miracle: "...but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age: ask him. He will speak for himself". John explains their reticence in this way: to affirm the miracle would be to avow that Jesus was the Messiah. "His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, 'He is of age: ask him.'" It may have to be explained to us, but Jews would assume that only the Messiah empowered by God could engage in a creative act. It would be easier to claim ignorance than to affirm that God was at work in Jesus and risk the consequences. This might be wisdom in the world, but it would be blindness in the spiritual realm.

The Pharisees

The Pharisees are the "heavies" in this gospel. In Jn. 8, Jesus condemns them for not seeing God at work in Him, calling them sons of the devil. In ch. 10, the leaders of the Jews again confront Jesus' demanding to know whether He was the Messiah. Jesus replies, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep". Jesus' healing of the man born blind concludes with another encounter with the Pharisees (Jn 9). The blind man had no sight though no fault of his own. The Pharisees claimed to see, without realizing that their pretension made them worse than blind. Self-righteousness in religion can render us as blind as they. Relying on the Gospel as preached in the Church can free us from the blindness that results from being one's own guide.