



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, May 21, 2023

Community Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension

Fathers of the 1st Council of Nicaea

Commemoration of Equals to the Apostles Constantine & Helen

الخميس، 21 أيار 2023

صعود ربنا وإلهنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح

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

+Rose Ghawi, 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Requested by Rob and Tony Ghawi

+Victims of Gun Violence, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

#### 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

Amanda, 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) with the graduation information.

**PAC MEETING:** A successful PAC meeting was held. Parish Picnic Date has been set as September 9<sup>th</sup> at Vic Malouf's Home.

**LADIES SOCIETY MEETING:** The Ladies Society meeting will be held this Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> after Divine Liturgy.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** Adult education sessions will continue during the summer. Information regarding timing and topics to be forthcoming shortly.

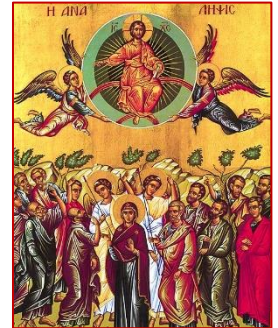
----- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL -----

**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.

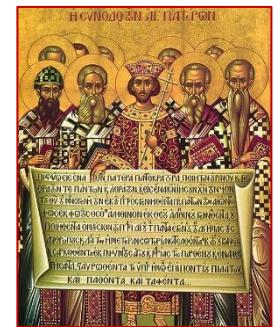
**INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS?** Please send email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

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

**THURS, MAY 18 – FEAST OF THE ASCENSION:** Celebration to be held on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. 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:** The Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council commemorates the 318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in Nicaea in 325 at the request of the Emperor, Saint Constantine the Great, to address the heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church.



**SAT, MAY 27 – SATURDAY OF THE DEAD**

**SUN, MAY 28 – SUNDAY OF PENTECOST:** The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

**SAT, JUNE 3 – LEAVE TAKING OF PENTECOST**

**SUN, JUNE 4 – ALL SAINTS DAY**

----- 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).

----- 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 (in discussion)
- Cultural center basement carpet replacement and room reconfiguration for youth activities (in discussion)



**CLEANOUT DAY:** In the hope of reworking the Cultural Center basement to be space useable for the youth activities, we need to clean out and reconfigure that space, so that it may be tiled, and appropriate youth activities can be purchased. A date for the cleanout day has yet to be determined. We hope that you can join us.

----- 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 - APR 2023):**

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

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

**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 %**

----- THE SUMMER MONTHS -----

An interesting conundrum that all parishes face is that their summer monthly expenses go up (e.g., greater electricity bills, more renovations) while their donations go down (e.g., folks on vacation, traveling). The simplest solution is for parishioners to be on a regular giving plan via BillPay, ACH, credit card, or Zelle. Please contact the deacons if you need help. As the priest states in the Divine Liturgy during the offering (i.e., *anamnesis* of the sacrifice), “we offer You Your own, from what is Your own.” Theologically, this means everything we give to God is simply a gift back to Him, since everything belongs to Him always. We are simply stewards of it during this life. So, please remember His Church by giving continually through the summer. We can never outgive the gifts that God has showered upon us. Thank you for your consideration.

----- PRAYER IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

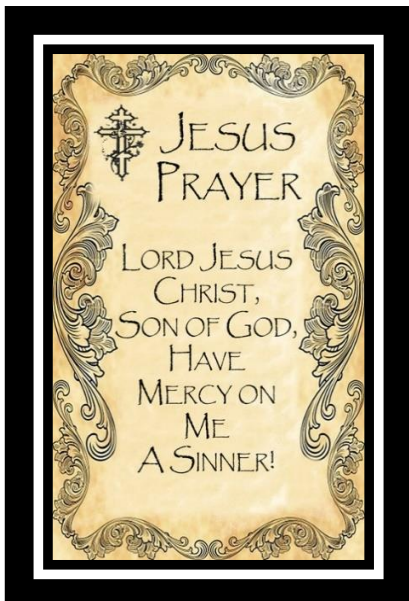
**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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       |
| 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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)

” (نحميا ٢:٢٠) 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.

### --- ASCENSION AND ENTHRONEMENT ---

The Great Feast of Christ's Holy Ascension on the fortieth day after Pascha is actually a two-fold observance. First of all it commemorates His ascension proper, as observed by the apostles and recorded in the Scriptures: *"And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven"* (Lk 24:50-51).

The feast also observes what was unseen: Christ enthroned at the Father's right hand. The two aspects of the mystery are invariably paired in the hymns of the feast: *"You were taken up in glory from the Mount of Olives, Christ our God, in the presence of Your disciples, and took Your seat at the Father's right hand, filling the universe with Your Godhead..."* (apostikhon at vespers).

Our celebration further distinguishes another aspect of the mystery. On the one hand the eternal Word of God has always been at the Father's right hand with the Holy Spirit in the Godhead. And so we fittingly pray: *"Jesus the Giver of life, taking those He loved, ascended the Mount of Olives and blessed them and, riding on a cloud, He came to the Father's bosom, which He had never left"* (from the canon at orthros).

The Word of God, incarnate in the Virgin's womb, was at the same time with the Father in His divinity. This is also expressed in this familiar troparion from the Divine Liturgy: *"Being God You were present in the tomb by Your body and yet in Hades by Your soul, in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne, O Christ, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, filling all things but encompassed by none."*

With the incarnation, Christ is now the God-become-man who brings His deified human nature to the glory of the Father. He does not return to the Father as the pre-incarnate Word but with the human nature which He had assumed, now risen and transformed:

*"When You came down from heaven to things on earth and as God raised up with You Adam's nature which lay below in Hades' prison, You brought it to heaven at Your ascension, O Christ, and made it sit with You on Your Father's throne, as You are merciful and love mankind"* (kathisma at orthros).

*"Christ, the Giver of life, who rose in His two natures with glory to heaven and is now seated with the Father, you priests praise, you people highly exalt to all the ages"* (from the canon at orthros).

*"Our nature, which of old had fallen, has been raised above the Angels and beyond understanding established on God's throne. Come, let us keep festival and let us cry out, 'You His works, praise the Lord, and highly exalt Him to all the ages'"* (from the canon at orthros).

*"The majesty of Him who became poor in the flesh has been raised above the heavens and our fallen nature honored by sitting with the Father. Let us keep festival and all cry aloud with one accord, and gladly clap our hands"* (from the canon at orthros).