



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, May 28, 2023

Sunday of Pentecost

الأحد 28 ايار 2023

أحد العنصرة (أحد مبطل للقيامة)

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

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

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. John Azar, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Munera Al-zaraaneh, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

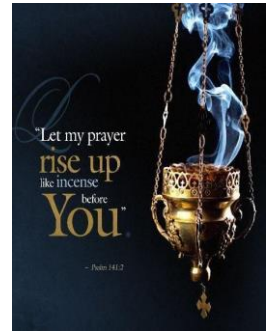
Butrus Jajeh, Requested by St John Chrysostom Parish Community

Amanda, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Dan Doelling, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and Family

Ram, Shirin and new Baby, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

PAC MEETING: A successful PAC meeting was held. Thanks to all of those who attended. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 8th. Please e-mail contact@stjohnmelkite.org to be added to the distribution list.

PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE: Parish Picnic Date has been set as September 9th at Vic Malouf's Home, so please put the date on your calendar. Thank you.



CLEANOUT AND CLEANUP DAY: Put June 10th on your calendars as our next 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. Please let Deacon Sami know if you can join us.

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

HOLY LAND PRAYER INTENTIONS: The Institute of Catholic Culture founded by Fr. Hezekias of St. George Melkite Church in Sacramento, CA will be going to the Holy Land and will take your prayer intentions with them. [Please click here to send.](#)

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.



----- 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.

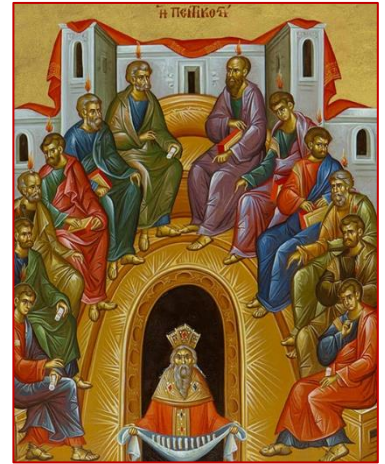
INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS? Please send email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

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

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.

The icon of the Feast of Pentecost is known as "The Descent of the Holy Spirit". It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying that this is a great event. The movement of the icon is from the top to the bottom. At the top of the icon is a semicircle with rays coming from it. The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the tongues of fire are seen descending upon each one of them signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit. The building in the background of the icon represents the upper room where the Disciples of Christ gathered after the Ascension. The Apostles are shown seated in a semicircle which shows the unity of the Church. Included in the group of the Apostles is Saint Paul, who, though not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Also included are the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, holding books of the Gospel, while the other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent the teaching authority given to them by Christ. In the center of the icon below the Apostles, a royal figure is seen against a dark background. This is a symbolic figure, Cosmos, representing the people of the world living in darkness and sin, and involved in pagan worship. However, the figure carries in his hands a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles. The tradition of the Church holds that the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world. In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.



SAT, JUNE 3 – LEAVE TAKING OF PENTECOST

SUN, JUNE 4 – ALL SAINTS DAY: The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

MON, JUNE 5 – APOSTLE FAST BEGINS

THUR, JUNE 8 – FEAST OF THE DIVINE BODY (LEAVE TAKING IS JUNE 15)

THUR, JUNE 29 – FEAST OF THE APOSTLES, PETER AND PAUL



----- 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)



----- 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)**

** 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 %

----- 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

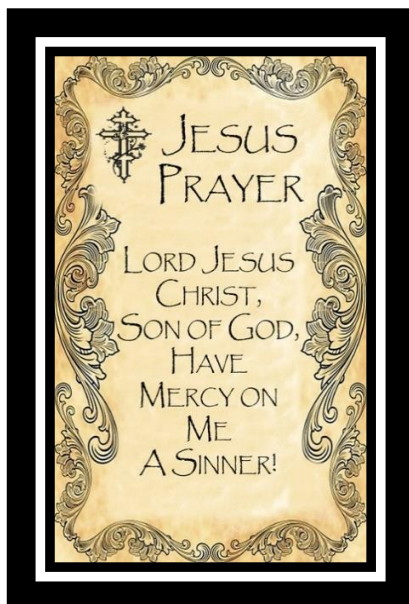
----- DONOR PATTERNS -----

Parish expenses in the first four months of 2023 are approximately \$80k including our insurance expenses (\$33K) for the year and renovations. With approximately 50 actively contributing families, we have expenses of \$1,600/family or \$400/month per family. Our contribution patterns through the first four months of 2023 are as follows, with families contributing:

- Between \$3,000 and \$5,000 – **One**
 - Between \$1,000 and \$3,000 – **Nine**
 - Between \$500 and \$1,000 – **Fourteen**
 - Between \$250 and \$500 – **Thirteen**
 - Less than \$250 – **Forty**
- (This includes visitors and friends of parish)

----- 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...

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Fr. John Azar | 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)

﴿٢٠:٢﴾ 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.

--- WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT LOOK LIKE? ---

We know from the Scriptures that the Father cannot be seen, but has manifested Himself to us in His Son. "No one has seen God at any time. The only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (Jn 1:18). And we know that the Son, incarnate, became visible in His humanity. He looks like one of us. This is why we are able to have icons of Him. As St John of Damascus wrote in *On the Divine Images*, "It is impossible to make an image of the immeasurable, uncircum-scribed, invisible God. ... But it is obvious that, when you contemplate God becoming man, then you may depict Him clothed in human form. When the Invisible One becomes visible in the flesh, then you may draw His likeness" (1:7, 8). But what about the Holy Spirit? Has He become visible to flesh? Can we see the face of the Holy Spirit?

In a sense, we can. The "face of the Holy Spirit" is the face of the saints. The very existence of the saints testifies to the presence of holiness in the Church, for no one can become a saint except by the Holy Spirit. The "face" of the Holy Spirit is not in the monuments which have been erected by Christians over the centuries, impressive as they are. Rather it is in those who have lived the way they did because the Spirit of God dwelt within them.

The priest of the French village of Ars, St Jean Vianney, knew the Holy Spirit firsthand, we might say. He wrote, "If the damned were asked, 'Why are you in hell?' they would answer, 'For having resisted the Holy Spirit.' And if the saints were asked, 'Why are you in Heaven?' they would answer, 'For having listened to the Holy Spirit.' When good thoughts come into our minds, it is the Holy Spirit who is visiting us. The Holy Spirit is a power. The Holy Spirit supported St Simeon on his column. He sustained the martyrs. Without the Holy Spirit, the martyrs would have fallen like the leaves from the trees" (Catechesis on the Holy Spirit).

This intimate connection between the Holy Spirit and the saints is proclaimed in the Byzantine Churches, which celebrate the Feast of All Saints in connection with the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we say that the Holy Spirit has come upon the Church. Next Sunday, we demonstrate the truth of this claim by pointing to the saints. The Spirit is certainly present in any saint, but it is in the totality of all saints that we find the "face" of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are many and varied; no one person can encompass them all. The Church describes the particular gifts of the saints by designating categories for us to understand and revere them. There are prophets and apostles, martyrs, hierarchs, ascetics, unmercenaries, fools for Christ, and more. There are saints whose names we know, and those we do not. There are saints whose lives are documented, and others whose name is their only memorial. All together they reveal to us the "face" of the Holy Spirit. It is noteworthy that what the West calls the "communion of saints" is referred to in the East as "the communion of the Holy Spirit."

In Byzantine churches we are surrounded by icons of the saints. Frescoes of the saints cover the walls, panel icons in shrines or on icon stands are displayed for veneration. These are not distractions from the altar or pulpit but a wordless demonstration that we are one body with the saints in Christ by the operation of the Holy Spirit. The Church is not simply the assembly of those physically present: it is the gathering of all who are in Christ.