



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, May 7, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN – Tone 4- Orthros Gospel John 20:1-10

الأحد، 7 نيسان 2023
أحد السامري

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

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

+Fr. William Haddad, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Maurice Nader, Father of Janice Peterson, Worcester MA, 26yrs, Requested by Janice Peterson

+Barbara Grim, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn & 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 Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family

All Affected by the Earthquake in Syria & 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: Congratulations to all of 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
- **Bryce Hanna** – Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, attending Georgia Tech, Computer Science
- **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.

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)

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 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 -----

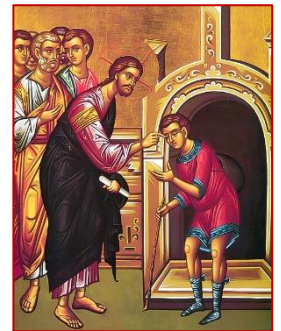
SUN, MAY 7 – SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: This Sunday commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. The biblical story of this event and the dialog between Christ and the woman is found in the Gospel of Saint John 4:5-42. "Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of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



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

THURS, MAY 18 – FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: Celebration to be held on Sunday, May 21st.

SUN, MAY 21 – COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF FEAST OF THE ASCENSION AND SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF NICEA I: 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.

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.



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

The Pentecostarion (Greek: Πεντηκοστήριον, Pentekostárion) 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 - APR 2023):

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

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

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



----- 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

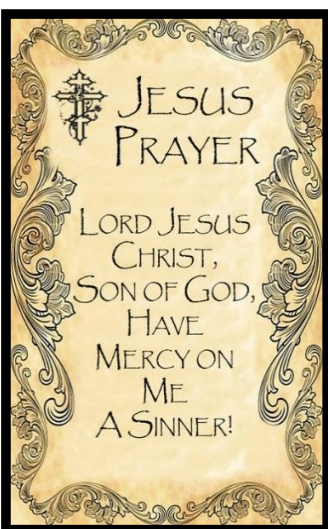
Please keep in your prayers...

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

--- Jesus' Approach to Individuals ---

The Lord's approach was very different when He was trying to lead people to recognize their own sinfulness and repent, He was not aggressive or condemnatory, but He was not timid either. When He was dining on the Sabbath with a leading Pharisee, a man with dropsy (edema) was brought before Him. The Gospel says that Jesus asked the (unasked) question of the onlookers by asking them a question, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" (Lk 14:7) His questions forced people to examine their own beliefs or attitudes, opening a way for them to see their own errors and repent. He met them where they were, but He did not encourage them to remain there.

The Lord used parables in the same way. When He noticed that people were jockeying for the best places at the table, the Lord told a series of parables on being the guest or a host at a wedding. His hearers got the point that He was making without any of them being singled out for their behavior.

Two Gospel incidents frequently heard in our churches show Jesus dealing with people who were public sinners, yet ready to hear His call to repentance. Before the Great Fast, we hear the story of Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector in Jericho, who admitted getting money by fraud (Lk 19:8). The Lord did not raise the issue of Zacchaeus' financial manipulations even indirectly. He simply told Zacchaeus that, "today I must stay at your house" (v.5). Jesus allowed Zacchaeus to see Him close up; that alone was sufficient to bring him to repentance.

Something similar happened in the case of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at Jacob's Well. Like Zacchaeus, her way of life was already well known and she was probably not welcome among the local women. This explains why she had come to draw water at the height of the midday heat. Yet Jesus did not bring up the matter of her multiple marriages; He innocently asks her to call her husband. When she tells Him, "I have no husband" (Jn 4:17), then He responds, "You have well said, 'I have no husband' for you have had five husbands and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you have spoken truly" (vv. 17, 18). Jesus led her to raise the irregularity of her marital situation herself so that He could reveal His mysterious knowledge of her past and lead her to repentance.

Both Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman (Photini, in some accounts) responded to Jesus' presence by revealing their embarrassing secrets. They could not deceive Jesus into thinking them upright. They could not pretend an untruth in the face of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

John's Gospel tells the story of another hapless woman: one caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-8). The scribes and Pharisees claimed that, according to the Law, she was to be stoned. They were right. The Law prescribed, "If a man be found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die – the man that lay with the woman and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel" (Dt 20:22).

In response, Jesus did not criticize the woman, her accusers, or the Law. To the accusers He simply said, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (v.8). He trusted that no one would dare to claim to be sinless, and He was right. They began drifting away, leaving Jesus and the woman together. The Lord did not criticize the woman caught in the act, but neither did He say, "I do not condemn you either. It's all good." She had sinned – she knew it and so did He. His response was, "Go and sin no more" (v. 11).