



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, June 11, 2023

2nd Sunday After Pentecost - The Call of the First Disciples  
Community Celebration of the Feast of the Divine Body

الأحد، 11 حزيران 2023  
الأحد الثاني بعد العنصرة

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

+Rt. Rev. Romanos V. Russo, 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

For Safe Travel and Vacation Plans for St. John Chrysostom Parishioners

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



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

**CEDAR CLUB OF ATLANTA FOUNDATION'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED:** **Andrew Hagley** of St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church and **Christine Johary** of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church were awarded \$1,500 Scholarship. Congratulations to them both! For more information about this scholarship, please see: [Cedar Club of Atlanta Foundation](#)

**SARINA SHADEED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED:** **Hanna Sadd** of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church was awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship. Congratulations! For more information about this scholarship, please see: [Cedar Club of Atlanta Foundation](#)

**JUNE PAC MEETING:** The next meeting will be Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) to be added to the distribution list.

**PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE:** Parish Picnic is **Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at Vic Malouf's Home**, so put the date on your calendar.



**CLEANOUT AND CLEANUP DAY:** Thank you to those who were able to come out and help!

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

**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.

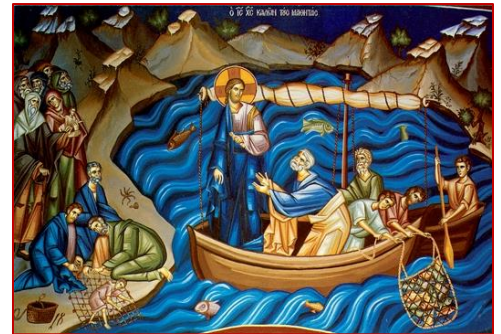
**INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS?** Please send email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

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

**MON, JUNE 5 – APOSTLE FAST CONTINUES through June 28th.**

**THUR, JUNE 8 – FEAST OF THE DIVINE BODY (LEAVE TAKING IS JUNE 15).** The gospel of the feast is John 6: 48-55 – *“The Lord said to the Jews who had come to believe in Him, “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and have died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that if anyone eats of it, he will not die. I am the living bread that has come down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews on that account argued with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” Jesus therefore said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has life everlasting and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

**SUN, JUNE 11 – CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE DIVINE BODY:** In today’s gospel, we read that Jesus calls the first four disciples to follow him. These were Peter, Andrew and the brothers, James and John: At that time as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). And He said to them, “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And at once they left the nets and followed Him. And going farther on, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. And immediately they left their nets and their father, and followed Him.



Christ has called each of us to be Disciples, meaning “follower” or “student.” So we are called to be His followers and students, learning what it means to be a Christian by following Christ. We are called to continually deepen our understanding of Christ and to continually build a relationship with Christ. Christ has also called each of us to sacrifice. By becoming his disciples, each of us is called put Him ahead of our families, careers and hobbies.

**SUN, JUNE 18 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (THE LAMP OF THE BODY)**

**BAPTISM OF NINA CURRY:** The baptism will take place at 10am and Nina will receive her first communion during Liturgy. Please allow the Curry family to approach communion first.

**SUN, JUNE 25 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (THE FAITH OF THE CENTURION)**

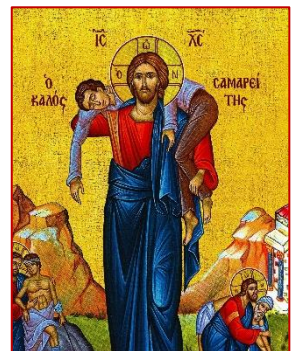
**COFFEE HOUR HOST FAMILY:** Bauarschi Family in Memory of Najwa Bauarschi, Eddie Bauarschi, and Rose Bitar

**THUR, JUNE 29 – FEAST OF THE APOSTLES, PETER AND PAUL:** The Feast (or Solemnity) of Saints Peter and Paul is a liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The celebration is of ancient Christian origin, the date selected being the anniversary of either their death or the translation of their relics. For Melkite Catholics this feast also marks the end of the Apostles' Fast (which began on the Monday following All Saints' Sunday, i.e., the second Monday after Pentecost).

----- GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY REPORT (abbreviated) -----

The Good Samaritan Society (G.S.S.) has accomplished much and we are happy to share an abbreviated version of their report and thank Suely Elias and Marie Hansen for their leadership:

- The G.S.S. went to I Care Atlanta in Doraville to drop off food and clothing donations.
- The G.S.S. took the Lenten toiletries donation to the Elizabeth Foundation giveaway site at Chamblee Tucker-I-85 and handed out toiletries to the homeless people who needed them.
- We delivered the food donation bin to the food pantry at Holy Cross Catholic Church.



----- RENOVATION PROGRESS -----

The Parish Property Council (or Building Council) handles the maintenance and restoration of the property. Some projects include: Front of Cultural Center Hall repair and repair of tiles on carport (in process), Asphalt roofing systems 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 is set for Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> as the first step of this project.

----- 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 - MAY 2023 and JAN-MAY 2023):**

*Total Income:	\$9,464 (O.C. \$7,983)	\$69,033 (O.C. \$47,126)
**Expenses:	<u>\$38,581</u>	<u>\$118, 129</u>
Net Income:	<b>(\$29,117)</b>	<b>(\$49,237)</b>

\* O.C. – Ordinary Collections

\*\* MAY RENOVATION EXPENSES: **\$30,804**

**CASH DONATIONS:** We kindly request that those who make cash donations do so in an envelope with your name on it, including what you would like the donation to go for (e.g., Weekly Donation), so that we can register your giving using our parish accounting software. Thank you for your consideration!

----- DONOR PATTERNS (JAN - APRIL) -----

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 -----

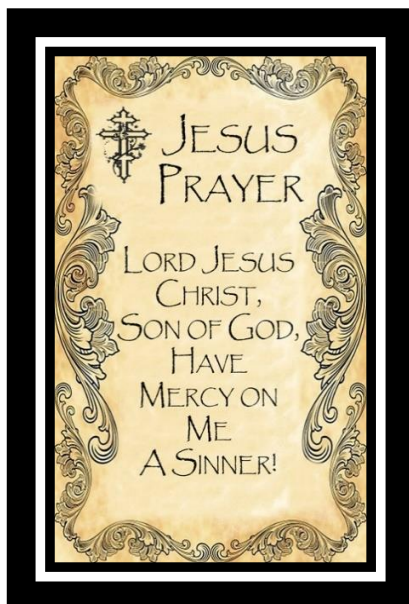
**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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...**

- |                    |                          |                             |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fr. John Azar      | Fr. Tom Flynn            | Those purchasing a new home |
| Butrus Jajeh       | Serene Kadadu            | Those moving this summer    |
| Holly Curry        | Syria and Turkey         | Couples soon to be married  |
| Munera Al-zaraaneh | Jean Pierre Garcia (Jay) |                             |

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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).



## June 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

Matthew Atalla	Michael Bourjaili
Walter Doolan	Fr. Thomas Flynn
Viola Ghawi	Miriam Haddad
Easton Hall	Bryce Hanna
Tania Jajeh	Salim Kashou
Philippe Maakaroun	Giselle Martinez
Lina Muhanna	Noura Nassar
Nawal Shadeed	Mary Shamon

### ANNIVERSARIES

Walter & Marilyn Doolan  
James & Theresa Reichard  
Albert & Nora Mishu

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 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.

### **--- FASTING AND THE APOSTLES ---**

In later centuries the Fast was extended so that it would end on the eve of the apostles' feast and came to be explained in light of their memorial. In the Middle Ages, St. Symeon of Thessalonica (+1429) explains: "The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the Fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles." At that time, it seems, the Fast lasted only one week.

The Apostles were said to have fasted before they set out on their missionary journeys. The fourth-century Canons of the Apostles, a Syrian work, says that the Apostles "...continued to speak in the new tongues of the nations, in which they preached, and He [the Lord] told them what must be done by the congregations with regards to prayer, worship, and the laws, and they thanked God for this knowledge they received. They fasted for forty days, thanking God through it, and then Peter washed the feet of the disciples... then they departed to all the nations to call people to the faith."

The canonical New Testament recalls one incident when early Christians fasted before going forth in ministry. It describes a certain gathering in the Church at Antioch: "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit... they proclaimed the word of God" (Acts 13:2-5). Fasting was again, an expected part of seeking the Lord's will.

Barnabas and Saul evangelized in Asia Minor, then retraced their steps to Antioch:" So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed" (Acts 14:23).

Spiritual writers throughout the ages have seen fasting as a critical weapon in spiritual warfare. St. Isaac the Syrian teaches, "... since fasting is a weapon established by God ...the human race knew no victory before fasting, and the devil was never defeated by our nature as it is: but this weapon has indeed deprived the devil of strength from the outset... As soon as the devil sees someone possessed of this weapon [fasting], fear straightway falls on this adversary and tormentor of ours, who remembers and thinks of his defeat by the Savior in the wilderness; his strength is at once destroyed and the sight of the weapon given us by our supreme Leader burns him up. A man armed with the weapon of fasting is always afire with zeal. He who remains therein, keeps his mind steadfast and ready to meet and repel all the passions."