



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, June 18, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - THE LIGHT OF THE BODY, GOD AND MONEY, DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Leontios

الأحد، 18 حزيران 2023

الاحد الثالث 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

+Mary Grace Ritchey (Birmingham, AL), Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Feras Awad (Birmingham, AL), 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

Samira Jajeh (San Jose, CA), Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family  
Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

**SUCCESSFUL CLEANUP DAY:** Seventeen parishioners and friends came out to help with our Summer Cleanout Day. Much was accomplished including: (1) The cleanout of the inventory room, (2) The updating of Gift Shop inventory, (3) Cleaning of vases and organizing of kitchen cabinets, (4) Additional cleanout of Church basement, (5) Organization of educational rooms and materials, (6) Removal of cubicles and cleanout of cultural center basement. Afterwards, folks went and enjoyed fellowship (*koinonia*) at Fellini's with good pizza and good company.



**GREAT CATHOLIC PARISHES:** As a community, we will start discussing the book, **Great Catholic Parishes: A Living Mosaic - How Four Essential Practices Make Them**. Bill Simon and his team studied 244 Catholic parishes to determine what made them exceptional. (See more information below regarding this book.) The study found that all the parishes shared four foundational practices that led to a profound sense of belonging within their parish communities and a deepening commitment to discipleship:

1. Share leadership by using clergy and lay staff with the best talents and skills to direct the community.
2. Foster spiritual maturity and plan for discipleship by offering a variety of formation programs and ministry opportunities to reach parishioners at differing points in their lives
3. Excel on Sundays by dedicating significant time, energy, and money to liturgical celebrations that all find welcoming
4. Intentionally evangelize by looking outward and providing service programs, social events, global mission opportunities, and pastoral care at key sacramental moments that invite outsiders to a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church.

On Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing the first practice, "Share leadership," during the coffee hour after Divine Liturgy. All ministerial leaders should attend. All are welcome.

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

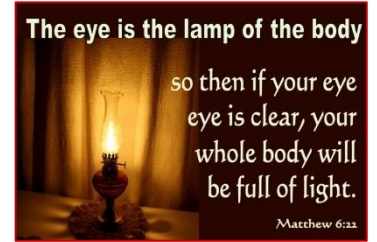
**HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS WITH US!** Please sign our Visitor’s Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

**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 -----

**SUN, JUNE 18 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - THE LIGHT OF THE BODY**

**According to St. Athanasius:** When the eye is evil the body becomes dark, but the Creator is not to blame for this—because everything that God has made is very good (cf. Gen. 1:31)—but rather the corrupt and ill-intentioned morals of the one to whom the eye belongs. And you, wise reader, in hearing about the evil eye understand it to be not the eye in the head, but the evil thoughts in the unenlightened heart. And if it so happens that the bodily eye can become darkened by strong suppurations and from headaches, physical blindness nevertheless does not make a man foreign to future and eternal blessedness.



**10 AM - BAPTISM OF NINA CURRY:** The baptism will take place at 10am and Nina will receive her first communion during Divine Liturgy at 10:30am. 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).

The Eastern Church has a beautiful presentation of the importance and prominence of the Apostles Peter and Paul with the icon that shows both Apostles standing together holding an image of the Church. Both Apostles, being chosen by our Lord, were instrumental in the establishment and growth of the early Church through their boldness, spiritual strength, and wisdom. Hence, they are recognized as "pillars" of the Church, having offered all even unto death for the sake of the Gospel of Christ. In the icon, the Apostle Paul, the great missionary of the early Church, is holding a Gospel book, while the Apostle Peter offers a blessing with his right hand. At the top of the icon is the is a semicircle, representing the divine realm. Rays extend in the semicircle representing the blessings and presence of God upon His two chosen heralds of the True Faith.



**SUN, JULY 2 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – HEALING OF THE GERASENE DEMONIACS**

**SUN, JULY 9 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – HEALING OF A PARALYTIC AT CAPERNAUM**

**COFFEE HOUR LUNCHEON:** Visit by Pastor Emeritus, Fr. John Azar.

----- MELKITE MUSIC 101 -----

There is nothing like Melkite music. For beginners, the task of learning Byzantine chant can be daunting, however. This three-week series will cover some of the basics of Melkite music and give participants the tools to continue learning in their own communities. Each session will last two hours with a ten-minute break in the middle. Participants will be able to practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources. Each session will run from 6-8pm (CDT) on Thursday July 20, 27 and August 3. Abouna Justin will open the Zoom link at 5:30 pm (CDT) so that those who wish to virtually ‘attend’ Vespers may do so.



- July 20...Session 1: Introduction and Definitions, How to learn Melkite Music, Divine Liturgy Music, Learning the Eight Tones (part 1: Tones 7, 8, 1 and 2)
- July 27...Session 2: Learning the Eight Tones (part 2: Tones 3, 4, 5 and 6), Praying Vespers
- August 3...Session 3: Praying Orthros, Feast Day Music

Those interested should email Abouna Justin at [protosouth@stgeorgebham.com](mailto:protosouth@stgeorgebham.com) with “MELKITE MUSIC” in the subject line of the email. He will send out a Zoom link and any further details.

----- 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!

----- A BOOK AND PROCESS TO HELP MAKE OUR PARISH GREAT -----

**Great Catholic Parishes: A Living Mosaic - How Four Essential Practices Make Them Thrive** (September 23, 2016, by William E. Simon Jr.)

What is really happening in the Catholic Church in North America? Are parishes thriving or dying? Is dissatisfaction among Catholics growing or are they becoming more engaged in the evangelizing mission of the Church? Businessman, professor, and philanthropist, William E. Simon Jr. has been highly influenced by the dynamic and inspiring Catholic parishes he has attended for more than 25 years. In 2012, he founded Parish Catalyst, an organization devoted to researching and supporting the health and development of Catholic parishes. Great Catholic Parishes looks at Simon’s insights and the success stories of 244 vibrant parishes to show what makes them great.

----- 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)

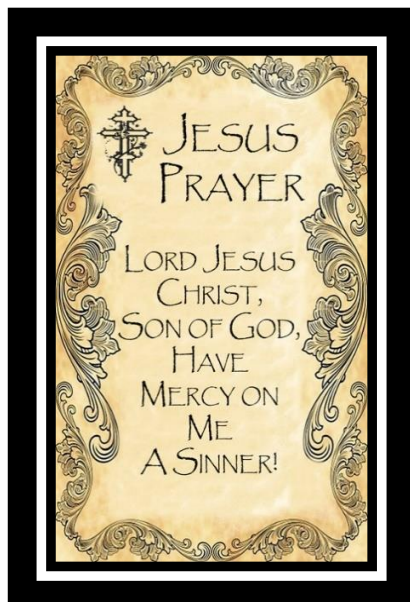
**Men’s Club** -- OPEN

**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

Samira Jajeh

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 تَقُومُ وَتَبْنِي. " (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.

### --- THE EYE IS THE LIGHT OF THE BODY ---

**St. Macarius the Great:** The eyes are the light of the body, and when the eyes are healthy, the whole body is illuminated; and when something gets into the eyes and they are darkened, the whole body is in darkness—so were the apostles placed as the eyes and light for the whole world. Therefore, the Lord commanded them, "If you will be the light of the world, stand steadfast and do not lie, then the body of the world will be enlightened. But if you—the light of the world—are darkened, then "that darkness will be great"—that is, the world. Thus, having become light, the apostles received light for those who believed, enlightening their hearts with the heavenly light of the Spirit with which they themselves were enlightened. (Collected manuscripts, type II. Discourse 1.)

**St. Nilus of Sinai:** It is said, the light of the body is the eye (Matt. 6:22). For the mind that has its thoughts on high is the eye of the soul, and its sight strongly disseminates its light throughout the construct of all things. But if drunken amidst useless cares that draw the mind downward into the abyss of destruction you incline your mind to what is coarse and pitiful, then will the mind be in any shape to present itself as something good, or to suggest something profitable to its own thoughts? Therefore every evil habit, which everywhere, like at night, brings the mind perplexity and onerous struggle, necessarily leads to darkness and confusion. (Letters on various themes. To Priest Serapion.)

**St. Symeon the New Theologian:** What other eye does He mean here other than the mind? This eye can be simple if it sees simple (pure) light. Simple (pure) light is Christ. Thus, whoever has in himself the light of Christ, which would shine in his mind, about him it is said that he has the mind of Christ. When your eye, that is, the mind, is simple, that is, shines, then your bodiless body, that is, all the parts of your soul, will be light; and to the contrary, when your mind is evil, that is, darkened and extinguished, then your whole soul will be dark. Thus, think well—is darkness or light in you? Think deeply also—do you not think that you possess what you have not yet begun to acquire? Look well at this, that you might not be deceived and think that you have light in you when it is not light, but darkness. (Homilies (Homily 59).)

**St. John of Kronstadt:** God is the All-Seeing Eye—and our souls are simple (the Church Slavonic word prostiy, meaning open, forthright, pure; whole, not divided into parts); for if your eye shall be simple, your whole body will be light, says the Lord. Thus, may your eye be the Lord in your heart. Our soul is the eye that comes from the Eye, and as the soul sees through bodily vision, so does God—the Eye of our heart—see through the eye of our heart in its pure state. This is how the prophets and clairvoyant saints saw what is in the future and hidden, and the hidden thoughts of man. (Diary. Vol XI.)