



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, June 25, 2023

4th Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 3

The Centurion's servant - Commemoration of the Holy Woman Martyr Febronia

الأحد 25 حزيران 2023

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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

- +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
- +Najwa & Eddie Bauarschi, Requested by Jennie Bauarschi
- +Rose Bitar, Requested by Jennie Bauarschi
- +Kailyn Amadasun, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. John Azar, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. Basil Samra, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Samira Jajeh, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

CONGRATULATIONS TO: **Nina Curry**, Daughter of Josiah & Holly Curry, who was given the Christian Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation & Holy Eucharist last Sunday here at St. John Chrysostom Church!

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?: Consider attending another Melkite parish service. The diocesan website has a parish/mission locator: melkite.org/parish-locator. Introduce yourself to the parish to get to know them better.



UPCOMING PARISH LIFE: Did you know we just had a baptism? That we have two luncheons planned for July? A best practice study on July 16th (see below)? Planning for the feast day? Do you know when our next Ladies Society meeting is? How about the Summer Picnic? Find out all of this and more by bookmarking the calendar for St. John Chrysostom at: stjohnmelkite.org/2023-calendar/

GREAT CATHOLIC PARISHES: In 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. The study found that all the parishes shared four practices that led to a profound sense of belonging and a deepening commitment to discipleship:

1. Share leadership by using clergy and lay staff (We will discuss this practice on Sunday, July 16th – **NOTE NEW DATE**)
2. Foster spiritual maturity and plan for discipleship by offering a variety of formation programs and ministry opportunities
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.

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

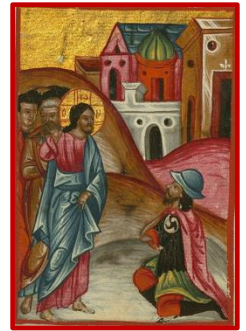
HAPPY TO HAVE VISITORS WITH US! Please sign our Visitor’s Guest Book in the narthex (entrance) of the church. If interested in receiving news, make sure we have an email address. And join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

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, JUNE 25 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - THE FAITH OF THE CENTURION

St John Chrysostom on the Faith of the Centurion: Great is the pride of those who are in places of command; not even in afflictions do they take lower ground. In John 4, for example, the nobleman is all for dragging Him to his house, and says, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” (Jn 4:49) But not so this man; rather he is far superior both to him, and to those who let down the bed through the roof. For he does not seek His bodily presence, nor did He bring the sick man near the physician... he says, speak the word only... not looking so much to the health of the servant, as to the avoiding all appearance of doing anything irreverent. (*Homily 26 on Matthew*)



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 – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – HEALING OF A PARALYTIC AT CAPERNAUM

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

CHURCHING: Rabbi Emmanuel Nasrallah, Son of Ram & Shirin Nasrallah

SUN, JULY 16 – SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

SUN, JULY 23 – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – BLESSING OF CARS

SUN, JULY 30 – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – WALKING ON WATER

----- 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 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 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 - 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:	(\$29,117)	(\$49,237)

* 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 -----

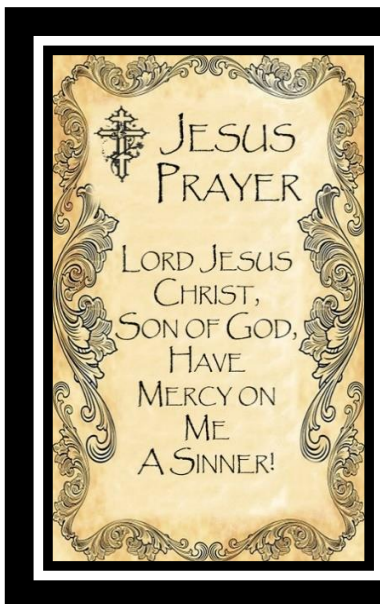
COMMEMORATIONS: Send a commemoration request to contact@stjohnmelkite.org for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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...

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|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Fr. John Azar | Fr. Tom Flynn | Fr. Basil Samra |
| Butrus Jajeh | Samira Jajeh | Serene Kadadu |
| Munera Al-zaraaneh | | |

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Those purchasing a new home | The Wandering Sheep of this parish |
| Those moving this summer | Syria and Turkey |
| Those affected by the virus | Victims of natural disasters |
| Those approaching matrimony | |

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.

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 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

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.

--- THE CENTURION AT CAPERNAUM ---

BY THE TIME CHRIST BEGAN His public ministry, Rome had been ruling the Holy Land for almost 100 years, through a succession of local governors and administrators. The ruler of Galilee at the time was the tetrarch Herod Antipas, whom the locals called "King Herod." The region of Galilee was the site of much of the Lord Jesus' early ministry.

When the Lord's teaching was rejected in His home town of Nazareth, we are told that "leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea" (Mt 4:13). It was there that He chose four local fishermen – Peter, Andrew, James and John – and called them to be His followers.

As a seaside fishing village, it is likely that Capernaum was a place where taxes would be collected, particularly from local fishermen. Matthew the evangelist was collecting taxes there when Jesus called him (see Mt 9:9). It was perhaps to ensure that taxes were collected, that Roman soldiers were stationed in the area as well.

Matthew does not tell us anything about the officer who called on His help. In Luke 7, the first approach to Jesus on this matter was made by the local Jewish elders: "And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue" (Lk 7:4, 5). Some commentators have concluded that the centurion might have been a God-fearer or even a proselyte (Gentile convert), but this is not mentioned in either Gospel, as it was not pertinent to the story or its message.

In both tellings of this story, the centurion refrains from summoning Jesus to the servant's bedside, "for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof" (Mt 8:8, Lk 7:6). Perhaps the centurion knew it would violate local custom for a Jew (much less a holy man) to enter the home of a Gentile. This is not mentioned, because it too was not pertinent to the story or its message.

What was emphasized by the Lord in both Gospels is the centurion's faith. Many of Jesus' contemporaries relied on their being members of the people of Israel to, as it were, guarantee their status before God. But, as the Lord said, "Do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Mt 3:9).

Many looked to the correct observance of the precepts of the Law as the sign that they were doing God's will. The centurion, not being a Jew, could not rely on either of these principles. His response, however, showed that he had the deep reliance on God which validates any religious observance then or now. Christian tradition has also stressed the man's humility and made it the model for our response when the Lord is near. In both East and West, his words are incorporated into our prayer as we approach the Eucharist.

In the Byzantine prayers before receiving Communion we say, "I know that I am not worthy or sufficient that You should come under the roof of my soul, for all is desolate and fallen" (Second Prayer) and "I am not worthy, O Lord and Master, that You should enter under the roof of my soul" (Seventh Prayer). The centurion's humble protestation is clearly the model here.