



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, June 4, 2023

1st Sunday After Pentecost - All Saints Sunday

الأحد 4 حزيران 2023

الأسبوع الأول بعد العنصرة - أحد جميع القديسين

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

+Linda Josephine Nelson, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna & 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

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

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 -----

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:** Ram & Shirin Nasrallah on their newborn baby boy **Rabbi Emmanuel Nasrallah** on March 26, 2023.



**JUNE PAC MEETING:** The next meeting will be Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>(New Date). 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:** **Next Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am**, will be 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.

**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.

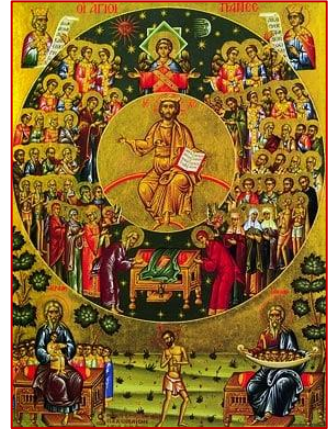
**INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS?** Please send email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

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

**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.

The icon of the Sunday of All Saints depicts our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seated above the throne of heaven surrounded by the Saints. The rows of Saints included the Archangel Michael and other Angels, the Theotokos and John the Baptist, the Apostles, Bishops, Great Martyrs, Ascetics and Monastics. To the side of the throne are Adam and Eve, bowing in reverence to Christ. They are joined by the Saints, who are lifting their hands in worship to the King of Glory. At the lower left of the icon is the Patriarch Abraham who has a righteous soul in his bosom, as told in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in the Gospel. At the lower center is the Good Thief who was crucified with Christ. On the lower right is the Patriarch Jacob.



**MON, JUNE 5 – APOSTLE FAST BEGINS**

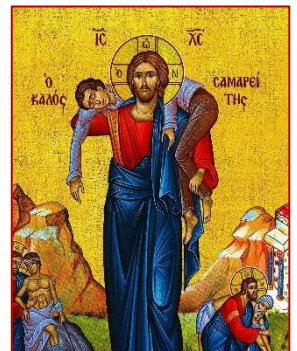
**THUR, JUNE 8 – FEAST OF THE DIVINE BODY (LEAVE TAKING IS JUNE 15)**

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

The Good Samaritan Society (G.S.S.) has accomplished much in the past few months. We are happy to share their report and thank Suely Elias and Marie Hansen for their leadership:

- 3-8-23: The G.S.S. went to I Care Atlanta in Doraville to drop off food and Suely Elias’s clothing donations. We talked with staff to get details of the support they provide to the needy and helped to organize food donations in the warehouse.
- 4-23-2023: The G.S.S. took the donations from the Lenten toiletries drive to the Elizabeth Foundation giveaway site at Chamblee Tucker-I-85 and handed out toiletries to the homeless people who needed them. We organized the toiletries by type into separate containers, which made the handing out easy and efficient.
- 5-16-2023: The food donation bin filled up once again and we took these donations to the food pantry at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Chamblee Tucker.



----- RENOVATION 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:

- Chapel renovation included the repair of long-time water damage on the walls and ceiling and re-painting (completed). See photo of completed chapel area.
- 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**

**GREATER TRANSPARENCY:** Greater financial details of the church are being provided. If you ever have any questions, please do let us know. Also, please continue to monitor your giving to ensure your ongoing participation in the stewardship of the church. May God continue to bless you and His vineyard of St. John Chrysostom.

----- 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 -----

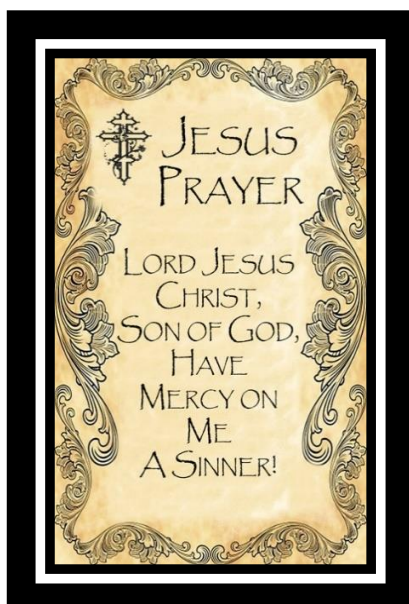
**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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
- Those approaching matrimony
- Victims of natural disasters
- 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.

### --- THE GOSPEL ON THE SAINTS ---

The Gospel passage read at the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of All Saints is not a continuous episode. Rather it is an assemblage of three teachings concerning what it means to aspire to holiness. The first step is that we are called to bear witness to Christ in the world. "Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven" (Mt 10:32). Our faith is not meant to be practiced privately, for our personal consolation alone. Rather we are to be witnesses to Him before others.

In today's world, "bearing witness" often means "pointing the finger at" some atrocity or injustice. We are called to "point the finger at" Christ, much as John the Baptist did: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). The simplest way to "point the finger" at the person of Christ is to wear a cross or display an icon in public. Often Evangelical Protestants (who do not display icons) will erect a plaque in their home or on their door with this verse: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

A few years ago, the British government prohibited Christians from wearing a cross in the workplace. A Foreign Office statement defending the policy said, In neither case is there any suggestion that the wearing of a visible cross was a generally recognized form of practicing the Christian faith, still less one that is regarded (including by the applicants themselves) as a requirement of the faith." In response, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, commented, "The irony is that when governments and courts dictate to Christians that the cross is a matter of insignificance, it becomes an even more important symbol and expression of our faith." The policy was successfully challenged by two women who had been disciplined for wearing a cross at work.

Witnessing to Christ – even in the Church – may make one unpopular and oppressed. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt 10:37). The witness to Christ is thus called, to not only wear a cross, but to bear the cross as Christ did.

The saint is one who has heard the Gospel call to put God first in their lives. We may be proud that we go to church, pray or fast. So did the Pharisee in Christ's parable (see Lk 15:11-32). The saint, however, is a person who is ready to put everything else aside to focus on God and His love for us. "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt 10:37).

The spiritual son of St Simeon the New Theologian, Nicetas Stethatos, says that there are three kinds of people in the world: "the carnal man, who wants to live for his own pleasure, even if it harms others; the natural man, who wants to please both himself and others, and the spiritual man, who wants to please only God, even if it harms himself" (cited in Tito Colliander's Way of the Ascetics, 5). The ascetic in a monastic setting or in the world strives to be that spiritual man: to love nothing or no one more than God.

The final section in this Gospel pastiche is Christ's promise that those who have left home and family for His sake will receive a hundred times more in this life, and eternal life in the age to come (see Mt 19:29). This promise is often interpreted to mean that those who go off to serve Christ will prosper materially. It may be the opposite: that those who place Christ first in their lives will find that He is worth a hundred times more than what the world has to offer and that they will find contentment in what they do have—a place in the kingdom of God.