



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, July 2, 2023

5th Sunday After Pentecost – Healing the Gergesenes Demeoniacs - Tone 4  
Feast of the Deposition of the Honorable Mantle of Our Lady, The Mother of God, At Blachernae

الاحد، 2 تموز 2023  
الاحد الخامس 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
- +Eddie Bauarschi, Requested by Jennie Bauarschi

### HEALTH & SALVATION

- Samira Jajeh, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Widad Zarour, Requested by Lourice Jajeh and Family
- Tony Tanory, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Jordan Hanna, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and family
- Victims of Domestic Violence, Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

**TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?:** Attend another Melkite parish service. The diocesan website has a parish locator here: [melkite.org/parish-locator](http://melkite.org/parish-locator). Introduce yourself to the pastor and parishioners 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 16<sup>th</sup> (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/](http://stjohnmelkite.org/2023-calendar/)

**CULTURAL CENTER RENTAL:** If you would like to book an event at the cultural center, no matter how large or small, your request should be directed to our Cultural Center manager, Jerome Hagley. Diocesan requirements include a signed agreement and the purchase of insurance, as well as permission from the administrators regarding the use of the center for that date and event.

**MID-YEAR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP STATEMENTS:** We will be sending out a mid-year giving statement for 2023. Please review it carefully and let us know if you have any changes or notice some. Note that some end of June giving may fall into July accounting.

**DISCUSSION PREPARATION:** An e-mail will be sent with the information we will be discussing regarding the book, Great Catholic Parishes. Please review it in advance of our discussion. Much thanks.

**HAPPY NAME DAY:** A name day celebrates the day particularly associated with a given name, traditionally the name of a saint. The custom developed during the Middle Ages and has been widely observed in both Orthodox and Catholic traditions. For example, the name, Nicholas, is celebrated after St. Nicholas on December 6<sup>th</sup> (or 19<sup>th</sup>). Name days can be celebrated with a coffee hour luncheon, a cake, and/or a commemoration. There are many name days of saints, as we recently just had the name day for Peter and Paul (see below). Would you like to celebrate your name day? Please let one of the deacons know.

----- 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 -----

**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. 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 GERGASENE DEMONIACS**

IN EASTERN ICONS, such as the traditional representation of the Gergasene demoniacs, demons are often portrayed as little winged black men. In the medieval art of the West the horned, bat-winged and fork-tailed red giant was the most popular representation of the devil. Any representation of a demon in iconography, whether Western or Eastern, is an attempt to interpret Scriptural teaching. The imagery itself is not found in Scripture but strives to graphically depict a Biblical doctrine. Physical depictions of non-physical realities, however, are always doomed to fail. This is why in our Tradition depicting the Father or the Holy Spirit in human form is considered inappropriate since they were not incarnate. Icons of Christ, on the other hand, are considered so important because they point to the truth of His incarnation: that he actually became human to join His nature to ours. One artistic convention frequently employed in images of demons is the use of wings. This device “interprets” the Scriptural image of Satan as a fallen angel. As the Lord Himself said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Lk 10:18). Since “everyone knows” that angels have wings, artists assumed that fallen angels have wings too. The image above shows that Christ has broken the “shackles and chains” (demons) that had bound him.



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

- COFFEE HOUR LUNCHEON:** In honor of Pastor Emeritus, Fr. John Azar, 35th Priesthood Anniversary
- CHURCHING:** Rabbi Emmanuel Nasrallah, Son of Ram & Shirin Nasrallah
- CHURCHING:** Laith Roman Marwan Alhamwi, Son of Farid & Chelsea Alhamwi

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

- COFFEE HOUR DISCUSSION:** Great Catholic Parishes – Shared Leadership Discussion

**SUN, JULY 23 – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – BLESSING OF CARS for feast of the Prophet St. Elias July 20<sup>th</sup>**

- COFFEE HOUR:** Farewell Luncheon for Fr. George

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

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

**What to Learn the Byzantine chant?** 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. Participants will practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources. Each session runs from 6-8pm (CDT) with the option of ‘attending’ Vespers virtually at 5:30pm.

- July 20...Session 1: Intro 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 - JUNE 2023 and JAN-JUNE 2023):**

Financials for 2023 YTD and June will be published next week, so please stay tuned!

**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!

----- 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

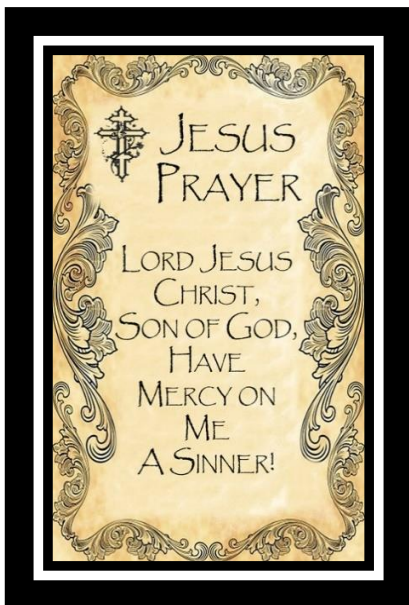
----- A BOOK AND PROCESS TO HELP MAKE OUR PARISH GREAT -----

**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.



**Please keep in your prayers...**

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

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).



## July 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

Nabil Muhanna      Suely Elias  
Arige Atalla      Anthony Rozier  
Adam Ghawi

### ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs. Rouviette Hanna  
Dr. Nabil & Mrs. Lina Muhanna  
Dcn. Sami & Mrs. Lourice Jajeh  
Mr. & Mrs Kamil & Rita Karroum  
Mr. & Mrs Bushra & Sinan Haddad  
Mr. & Mrs. Rani & Viola Ghawi  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Christina Malouf

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://www.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.

### --- Demons in the Scriptures ---

The Old Testament presents Satan or the devil as "the Accuser" (in Hebrew, *ha satan*; Greek, *ho diabolos*) who accuses or slanders people and thus incites them to sin. He is depicted as a tempter, a persuader who convinces people to choose other than godly ways to live. When his influence spreads among the influential figures in society, an entire culture can be perverted. But Satan cannot force anyone to comply with him; we can always reject his temptations.

Jews also came to speak of other diabolical figures in addition to Satan. The devil had his minions, angels who fell with him and who sought to drag people down with them. As the Book of Revelation describes it: "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Rev 12:9).

By the first and second centuries BC, belief in demons active in Israel had become common in popular Judaism. Deliverance from demons was an important part of the ministry of. It is assumed today that many of the people in the Gospel accounts believed to have a demon were afflicted with some form of psychosis. This does not explain the absence of demonic possession in Jewish writings before Christ. Could it be that the coming of the Messiah prompted a last ditch effort of Satan and his angels to assert power?

Jesus became quickly known as a healer and exorcist, confronting physical maladies and the assault of demons: "Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them" (Mt 4:24). Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the kingdom of God and gave them authority over demons: "He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease" (Mt 10:1). They continued to exercise this power even after Pentecost (see Acts 8:7; 16:16ff.).

The Church has continued to exercise this power over unclean spirits. St Justin the Philosopher told a Jewish acquaintance named Trypho that "now we, who believe in our Lord Jesus, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, when we exorcise all demons and evil spirits, have them subjected to us" (Dialogue with Trypho, 76.6).

By the third century it was common that people entering the Church through baptism first be freed from the power of any unclean spirits. In our Byzantine ritual today four prayers of exorcism are part of the reception of a catechumen, calling on Satan to "Depart, and admit the vanity of your power which could not even control the swine." When blessing water, oil or sacred vessels or when consecrating churches, the bishop or priest first prays that the influence of unclean spirits be averted from this place or object.

Our sacramental books also include prayers to deliver people from unclean spirits. In many places use of these prayers is on the increase as people become involved with occult practices, thus opening themselves to influence by unclean spirits. A Coptic priest, Fr Sama'an Ibrahim, conducts prayers of deliverance weekly in his church. Most of those who fill the 2000-seat church seeking deliverance are Muslims, says Father Ibrahim. "Christians rarely get possessed, because they are baptized young."