



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, July 9, 2023

6th Sunday After Pentecost - Healing of the Paralytic – Tone 5

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Pancratios, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

الاحد، 9 تموز 2023

الاحد السادس 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
- +Lina & +Yacoub Osko, Requested by Elias & Ghada Boghos and family
- +Jeanette & +George Boghos, Requested by Elias & Ghada Boghos and family
- +Toufic Azzam, 27 year anniversary, Requested by Tony & Matilda Ghawi
- +Rodolf Mansour, Requested by Dr. Shajih & Ghada Muhanna
- +Eddie Bauarschi, Requested by Jennie Bauarschi

### HEALTH & SALVATION

- Samira Jajeh, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Tony Tanory, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Aldair & Stephanie Delibrado, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Victims of Domestic Violence, Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

**GLORY TO GOD!** **Tony Tanory** had success knee surgery to remove an infection and is out of the hospital and recovery well. **Samira Jajeh** is improving, with the hope of moving to a rehabilitation center soon. Please continue to pray for both of them.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** **Stephanie Kashou**, Daughter of Roy & Ihtidal Kashou, and **Aldair Delibrado** who were married Saturday, July 8, 2023 at St. John Chrysostom by Fr. John Azar.

**CULTURAL CENTER RENTAL:** All cultural center rental, no matter how large or small, requests 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:** Mid-year giving statements will be sent soon. 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. Please let one of the deacons know.

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

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please register on FlockNote to receive our communications 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.

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

**SUN, JULY 9 – SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – HEALING OF A PARALYTIC AT CAPERNAUM** Mathew’s Gospel message for today has several important lessons for our journey to salvation. First, we must come to Christ to be healed of our spiritual sicknesses. Christ did not just heal the paralytic, but He also forgave his sins which is more important than any physical infirmity. A healthy body must be maintained with a Godly mind. The earthly body is mortal and temporal yet the soul is eternal. Next, the paralytic needed people to help him seek healing and Christ recognizes that it is not only his faith but their faith that made him well. We need to remember that we are part of the Body of Christ (Church) and it is our responsibility to aid one another and to humbly accept help when needed. Finally, we come to the scribes. They accuse Jesus of blasphemy with their thoughts. Jesus understands their evil motives by seeing into their hearts. Remember that we sin by actions, words, and thoughts. Our actions and words are apparent to others but God has the power to judge how we think.



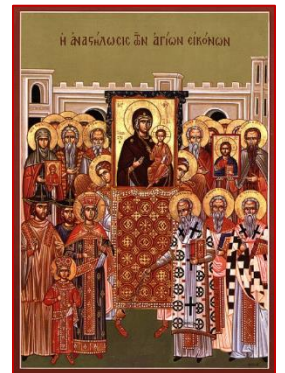
**COFFEE HOUR LUNCHEON:** In honor of Pastor Emeritus, Fr. John Azar, 35th Priesthood Anniversary

**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**

An **ecumenical council**, also called general council, is a meeting of bishops and other church authorities to consider and rule on questions of Christian doctrine, administration, discipline, and other matters in which those entitled to vote are convoked from the whole world (*oikoumene*) and which secures the approbation of the whole Church. The word "ecumenical" derives from the Late Latin *oecumenicus* "general, universal", from Greek *oikoumenikos* "from the whole world", from *he oikoumene ge* "the inhabited world" (as known to the ancient Greeks); the Greeks and their neighbors, considered as developed human society (as opposed to barbarian lands); in later use "the Roman world" and in the Christian sense in ecclesiastical Greek, from *oikoumenos*, present passive participle of *oikein* ("inhabit"), from *oikos* ("house, habitation"). The first seven ecumenical councils, recognised by both the eastern and western denominations comprising Chalcedonian Christianity, were convoked by Roman Emperors, who also enforced the decisions of those councils within the state church of the Roman Empire.



**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):**

*Total Income:	\$8,719.56 (O.C. \$7,317)	\$77,753 (O.C. \$54,443)
**Expenses:	<u>\$33,211</u>	<u>\$151,340</u>
Net Income:	<b>(\$24,492)</b>	<b>(\$73,729)</b>

\* O.C. – Ordinary Collections  
 \*\* JUNE RENOVATION EXPENSES: \$20,000

**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 -----

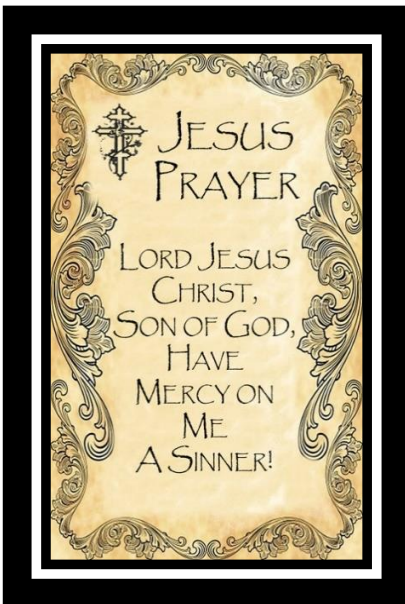
**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.

----- 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 | Fr. Basil Samra |
| Butrus Jajeh       | Samira Jajeh  | Serene Kadadu   |
| Munera Al-zaraaneh | 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://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)

﴿٢٠:٢﴾ 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.

### --- Paralysis and the Passions ---

As more philosophically minded Greeks accepted Christ, they identified the signs of spiritual paralysis in terms of the classical passions; gluttony, lust, greed, anger, envy, sloth, pride and vainglory. Someone who is focused on personal comforts (through food and drink, sex or material possessions) will find it difficult, if not impossible, to center on the spiritual life. If they attend church at all, they find their mind wandering back to the object of their passion.

A story is told about St Basil, the revered Fool for Christ, who confronted Tsar Ivan the Terrible one day, because he was not at the Liturgy. Ivan protested that he was indeed in church for the service. Basil replied that the emperor's body was in church, but his mind was on the Vorobiev hills (where he was having a palace built). When Basil died in 1557, the Tsar acted as one of his pallbearers.

It would be even harder for people ruled by their pride or vanity to look beyond themselves to God or others. Their piety dries up "like baked clay" (Ps 21:16), withered like a plant with too much sun and no water. This is why combating the passions has been seen as fundamental to a committed Christian life, since the dawn of monasticism in the third century.

In his Homily 37 on the Gospel of John, St John Chrysostom discusses the spiritual medicines necessary to combat the passions and other distractions from the Christian life. "The divine Oracles [the Scriptures] are a treasury of all manner of medicines, so that whether it be needful to quench pride, to lull desire to sleep, to tread underfoot the love of money, to despise pain, to inspire confidence, to gain patience, from them one may find abundant resource." The Scriptures held the medicine; the illnesses were the passions.

### The Church as Healer

While the Scriptures portray the incarnate Christ as Healer of the man at Bethesda, it depicts the Body of Christ, the Church, as the source of Aeneas' recovery. The Church is meant to be a therapeutic community in which Christ continues His healing work in our midst.

"Yesterday you were flung on a bed, exhausted and paralyzed, and you had no one to put you into the pool when the water should be troubled. Today you have Him, who is in one person God and Man. You were raised up from your bed, and even carried your bed, publicly acknowledging the benefit. Do not again be thrown on your bed by sinning, in the evil of a body paralyzed by its pleasures. As you now are, so walk, mindful of the command, 'See you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you' (Jn 5:14). If you prove yourself bad after the blessing you have received. You have heard the loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (St Gregory the Theologian, Oration on Holy Baptism, XI, 33)