



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, July 23, 2023

8th Sunday After Pentecost - Feeding of the Five Thousand – Tone 7

Community Celebration of the Feast of St. Elias and blessing of Cars

Transfer of the Remains of the Holy Hieromartyr Phocas & Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Ezekiel

ألاحد، 23 تموز 2023
الاحد الثامن 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 by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

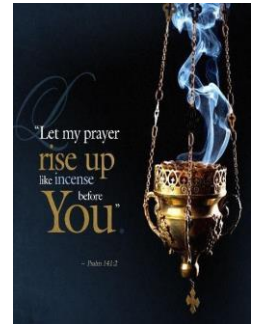
THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

- +Rev. Basil Samra, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Rt. Rev. Romanos V. Russo, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Widad Zarour, Requested by The Jajeh Family
- +Fred Ray Mallick (TX), Father of Fr. Marc Mallick, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Feras Awad (AL), Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Theodore Whalen, Requested by Evelyn Whalen

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Fr. James Babcock, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
- Aldair & Stephanie Delibrado, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna
- Victims of Violence in Palestine
- Those with the Name Day of Elijah, Elias, Elie, and Eli
- Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

MELKITE MUSIC 101: Session 1 was this past week, and it was a huge success. There was a good representation from St. John Chrysostom. Thanks to all who attended to make the Divine Liturgy a great work of the people. Next session is July 27, 2023, 6:30pm ET. See below for more information.

DISCUSSION DELAYED: Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will delay (again) the discussion for the book, Great Catholic Parishes. 😞 An email will be sent to help you prepare. Please review it in advance and thank you for your patience, more information to come about rescheduled date.

FAREWELL EVENT: Father George Gage will be with us for another few Sundays... 😊 The luncheon in his honor and to provide our gratitude has been moved to August 6th, the Feast of Transfiguration. Please note your attendance for this special feast and farewell.

SAVE THE DATE - PICNIC: Our parish picnic is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 9th. Please put this date on your calendars.

NEXT PAC MEETING: The next PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10th. The PAC meeting is open to all parishioners and is held by Video Conference. If you would like to attend, please e-mail contact@stjohnmelkite.org.

----- 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 or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

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.

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

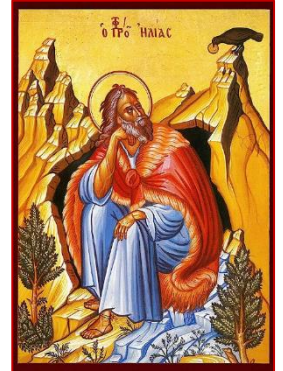
SUN, JULY 23 – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



BLESSING OF CARS for feast of the Prophet St. Elias July 20th: Since most Eastern Churches either use Greek as their liturgical language or translated their liturgies from the Greek, "Elias" is the form of the prophet's (Elijah's) name used among most members of the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches which follow the Byzantine Rite. The feast day of Saint Elias falls on July 20th of the liturgical calendar. This day is a major holiday in Lebanon and is one of a handful of holidays there whose celebration is accompanied by a launching of fireworks by the general public. The full name of St. Elias in Lebanon translates to St. Elias the Living because

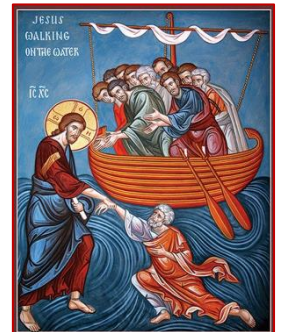
it is believed that he did not die but rode his fiery chariot to heaven. The reference to the fiery chariot is likely why the Lebanese celebrate this holiday with fireworks. Elias is also commemorated, together with all the righteous persons of the Old Testament, on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (the Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord).

HAPPY NAME DAY: Thursday was the Feast for the Prophet Elijah (Elias), but our community is celebrating it this Sunday including the name day for Elijah, Elias, Elie, Eli, etc.



SUN, JULY 30 – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – WALKING ON WATER: This gospel depicts one of the miracles of Jesus. The story follows the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand and tells how Jesus sent the disciples by ship back to the "other side" of the Sea of Galilee while he remained behind, alone, to pray. Night fell and the sea arose as the ship became caught in a windstorm. The disciples saw Jesus walking on the water and were frightened, thinking that they were seeing a spirit. When Jesus told them not to be afraid, they were reassured. After Jesus entered the ship, the wind ceased, and they arrived at land.

AUG 1 – 14 – DORMITION FAST: The Feast of the Dormition is preceded by a two-week fast, referred to as the Dormition Fast. From August 1 to August 14 (inclusive) Orthodox and Eastern Catholics fast from red meat, poultry, meat products, dairy products (eggs and milk products), fish, oil, and wine.



SUN, AUG 6 – THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

COFFEE HOUR: Farewell Luncheon for Fr. George – **NOTE THE NEW DATE!**

SUN, AUG 13 – LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION – THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

TUES, AUG 15 – THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

----- 2 SESSIONS LEFT - 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 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 - 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: | (\$24,492) | (\$73,729) |

* 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!

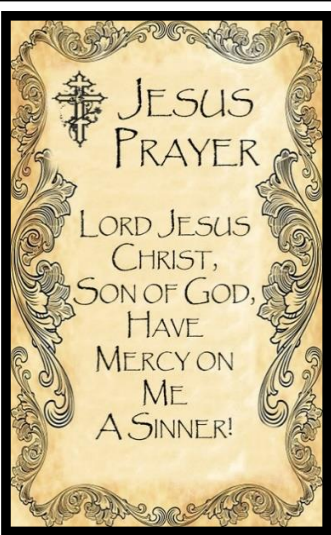
----- INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING? -----

Advertising in the church bulletin (whether delivered in Print or via FlockNote) can be a great revenue source for the church, as well as an opportunity for you to highlight your business to all parishioners. We can include a link for your business website via FlockNote, so that parishioners can directly purchase your products and/or inquire about your services. Is this something you would be interested in participating in? If so, please e-mail the deacons at contact@stjohnmelkite.org. If there is enough interest, the option will be provided to all members for their businesses. Thanks for your consideration.



----- 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.



Please keep in your prayers...

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Fr. John Azar | Fr. Tom Flynn | Butrus Jajeh |
| Samira Jajeh | Serene Kadadu | Munera Al-zaraaneh |
| Rouviette Hanna | Ricky Shahid, Jr | |

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Those purchasing a new home | The Wandering Sheep of this parish |
| Those moving this summer | Palestine, Syria, and Turkey |
| Those starting studies this Fall | Victims of natural disasters |
| Those taking care of parents and grandparents | |

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.

----- 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

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 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

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 Feeding of the 5000 ---

THE MIRACULOUS FEEDING OF 5000 with five loaves and two fish is reported in each of the four Gospels. This reflects the great importance which the first Christians attached to this narrative. In it they saw the Lord Jesus connected to the great movements of God in the past (Exodus from Egypt), the present and the future (shared below).

The Present: Jesus Nourishes the Church

This event marks the first time in the Gospel that the whole crowd will be invited to eat together with Christ, showing His desire to gather all His followers around a common table with Him. St Hilary of Poitiers noted that the first Church – those who responded to the preaching of Peter – numbered about 5000 men (Acts 4:4). The 5000 fed in the wilderness point to those 5000 who were the first to be nourished by the presence of Christ in His Church.

On that "table" in the wilderness was bread and fish. We recall that, for Christians during the Roman persecutions, the fish was a code-sign for Christ. The letters of the Greek word for fish – ichthys – was an anagram for the profession of faith, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." The bread – which Jesus "took...blessed...and broke" (Mt 14:19) – was an "icon" for the early Christians of the Eucharist, in which we receive the Son of God, our Savior, the Bread of life. Thus the feeding of the 5000 points to the Church and to its communal meal, the Eucharist.

The Future: the Messianic Banquet

Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, we see Jesus pointing to the future: "I say to you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 8:11). He was alluding to the idea of the Messianic Banquet, the great feast that represented for Jews that communion with God, which the coming of the Messiah would bring about.

This feast is described in Isaiah 25:6-9 in terms which make us think of the feeding of the 5000: "And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of all people He will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day: 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him and He will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'" The Messiah would come and restore Israel. The scattered Jews of the world would be drawn back to their homeland and they would all sit down to a great meal of celebration. How could the first Jewish believers in Christ not have thought of this banquet when reflecting on the feeding of the 5000?

When Jesus spoke of many "coming from east and west," He was adding a new note to the concept of this banquet: it would be open to Gentiles, and many "sons of the kingdom" would be excluded. The kingdom of God – and this, the great feast of the kingdom – would feature Jews and Gentiles eating together (an act forbidden in Jewish tradition). And so in Mt 15:30-38 we find Jesus' miracle repeated, after He heals the Canaanite woman in the area of Tyre and Sidon. But this time it is 4000 Gentiles who were fed. The feeding of these multitudes – Jews and Gentiles – would proclaim to believing Jews that the time of the Messiah had arrived.