



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, July 30, 2023

9th Sunday After Pentecost - Walking on Water – Tone 8

Community Celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Ann, the mother of the Mother of God

الأحد، 30 تموز 2023

المنشي على الماء

الاحتفال المجتمعي برفاد القديسة حنة ، والدة والدة الإله

الأحد التاسع بعد عيد 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

+Widad Zarour (Canada), Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+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

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Fr. James Babcock, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and family

Aldair & Stephanie Delibrado, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna

Victims of Violence in Palestine

Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



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

SUCH A BLESSING! Going back to school? Traveling to another state or country? Just purchased a new icon? Bought a new home or car? All of these (and more) are opportunities to ask for a blessing from the priest, whether in Divine Liturgy or afterwards, at church or in another location. Do let us know by Thursday, if you would like a blessing in an upcoming Sunday liturgy. May God bless you!

FINAL SESSION - MELKITE MUSIC 101: Session 2 was this past week. The final session is August 3, 2023, 6:30pm ET. See below for more information.

GREAT CATHOLIC PARISHES: 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 the rescheduled date.

GIVING THANKS: The luncheon to show our gratitude to Father George and Presbytera Juliana will be held on August 6th, after the celebration of the Feast of Transfiguration. Please note your attendance for this special feast and farewell. More information shall be forthcoming.

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

AUGUST 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 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: The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6. The feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John. In the icon, Christ is the central figure, appearing in a dominant position within a circular mandorla. His right hand is raised in blessing, and his left hand contains a scroll. The mandorla with its brilliant colors of white, gold, and blue represent the divine glory and light. The halo around the head of Christ is inscribed with Greek words meaning "The One Who is". Elijah and Moses stand at the top of separate mountain peaks to the left and right of Christ, bowing toward Christ with their right hands raised in a gesture of intercession towards Him. Saint John Chrysostom explains the presence of these two fathers of the faith from the Old Testament in three ways. He states that they represent the Law and the Prophets (Moses received the Law from God, and Elijah was a great prophet); they both experienced visions of God (Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Carmel); and they represent the living and the dead (Elijah, the living, because he was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire, and Moses, the dead, because he did experience death). Below Christ are the three Apostles, who by their posture in the icon show their response to the transfiguration of Christ. James has fallen over backwards with his hands over his eyes. John in the center has fallen prostrate. Peter is kneeling and raises his right hand toward Christ in a gesture expressing his desire to build the three booths. The garments of the Apostles are in a state of disarray as to indicate the dramatic impact the vision has had on them. The icon of the feast directs our attention toward the event of the Transfiguration and specifically to the glory of God as revealed in Christ. This event came at a critical point in the ministry of our Lord, just as He was setting out on His journey to Jerusalem. He would soon experience the humiliation, suffering, and death of the Cross. However, the glorious light of the Resurrection was revealed to strengthen His disciples for the trials that they would soon experience. The feast points to the great Second Coming of our Lord and the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God when all of creation will be transfigured and filled with light.



COFFEE HOUR: Farewell Luncheon for Fr. George – From Matthew 25:23, we join together to say, “**Well done, you good and faithful servant.**” (The icon of the Good and Faithful Servant is to the right.) We wish Fr. George and Presbytera Juliana health and happiness. God Grant You Many Years! God Grant You Many Years! God Grant You Many Years!



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 – Liturgical celebrating timing to be determined (tbd).

----- FINAL SESSION - MELKITE MUSIC 101-----

What to Learn the Byzantine chant? The final of three sessions will last two hours. Participants will practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources. It runs from 6-8pm (CDT) with the option of ‘attending’ Vespers virtually at 5:30pm. August 3 focuses on the Praying of Orthros and 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

ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS SENT: Your year-to-date donations through July 19 were sent electronically to the e-mail we have on file. If you did not receive it, please let contact@stjohnmelkite.org know. We hope to send these quarterly. For cash donations, please use an envelope with your name on and purpose of donation (e.g., Weekly Donation), so that we can register it in our accounting software package.

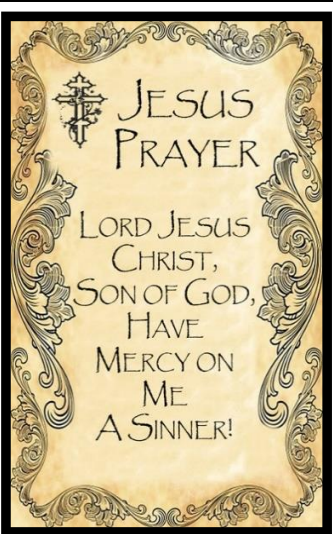
----- INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING? -----

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. James Babcock | Fr. Tom Flynn | Butrus Jajeh |
| Samira Jajeh | Serene Kadadu | Munera Al-zaraaneh |
| Rouviette Hanna | Souren Palanjian | 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 عَبْدُهُ 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 Fast of the Theotokos ---

SUMMER, IN OUR WORLD at least, is traditionally a time for sun and fun: cookouts, the beach, pool parties and the like. Yet in the midst of summer – in the week which has been compared to the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning – we are called to fast. The first two weeks of August are observed in the Byzantine Churches as the Fast of the Theotokos, in preparation for the feast of her Dormition on August 15.

In the early Church, the Dormition Fast was generally observed in both East and West. Pope St. Leo the Great mentioned it in the mid-fifth century in connection with the seasons of the year: "The Church Fasts are situated in the year in such a way that a special abstinence is prescribed for each time. Thus, for Spring, there is the Spring Fast, the Forty Days [the Great Fast]; for summer there is the Summer Fast... [the Apostles' Fast]...for Autumn there is the Autumn Fast, in the seventh month [Dormition Fast]; for Winter there is the Winter Fast [Nativity Fast]."

Today the Coptic, Malankara and Syriac Churches, as well as the Byzantine, continue to observe this 14-day fast period. In the Armenian and Maronite traditions, the fast lasts for one week rather than two. In the traditional calendar of the Roman Church, August 14 is observed as a day of fasting in preparation for this feast.

This fast period is one of several aspects of this celebration which has earned it the title of the "summer Pascha," a feast pointing to the ultimate resurrection of all flesh at the last day. Just as the feast of Christ's resurrection is paired with the feast of the Annunciation (March 25), the Dormition is paired with the feast of Christ's Holy Transfiguration (August 6). As Pascha is preceded by the Holy Friday evening observance of the Burial of Christ, the Dormition is marked in many places by a comparable burial service for the Theotokos, when lamentations patterned after the Holy Week hymns are sung. In some places a burial shroud (epitaphios), with the image of the Dormition, is carried in procession as well.

Great Paralytic Canon to the Theotokos (by Emperor Theodore Ducas Lascaris, From the First Ode)

Most holy Theotokos, save us. My humble soul is troubled by the rising storms of afflictions and woes; and clouds of misfortunes overcome me, bringing darkness to my heart, O Bride of God. But since you are the Mother of the Divine and Eternal Light, shine your gladsome light and illumine me.

Most holy Theotokos, save us. From countless trials and afflictions, from grievous foes and misfortunes of life have I been delivered by your mighty strength, O spotless and pure Maid. I extol and I magnify your immeasurable sympathy, and the loving care that you have for me.

Glory... Having my hope now in your mighty help, O Maid, I flee for refuge to you. Unto your shelter have I run wholeheartedly, O Lady, and I bow my knee and I mourn and cry, weeping. Do not disdain me, the wretched one, for you are the refuge of Christian folk.

Now... I shall not cease from making known most manifestly your great deeds, Maid of God; for if you were not present to intercede on my behalf and importune your Son and God, who would free and deliver me from such storms and turbulence, and surmount the perils that trouble me?