



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



## A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, August 13, 2023

11th Sunday After Pentecost - The Unforgiving Servant – Tone 2

Leave-taking of the Feast of the Transfiguration - Transfer of the remains of the Holy Maximus the Confessor

الأحد، 13 آب 2023

الاحد الحادي عشر بعد العنصرة

وداع عيد التجلي

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

- +Rev. Basil Samra, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Widad Zarour (Canada), Mother of Lourice Jajeh, Requested by Eric and Marie Hansen
- +Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Paul and Janice Peterson
- +Denis Mazurik, Requested by Joe Manguno

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Butrus & Samira Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family
- Arousiag Palanjian and Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and Family
- Victims of Wildfire in Maui, Hawaii
- Peace in the World, especially in U.S., Middle East, Palestine, Niger, Ukraine



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

**THANK YOU NOTE:** A luncheon was held to honor and thank Fr. George and Presbyteria Juliana. They were very grateful for the luncheon we provided and shared the following thank you note:

*Dear St. John Chrysostom Parish Family,*

*The deacons and the parishioners of St. John Chrysostom made this past Sunday unforgettable for us. We would like to express succinctly our most profound gratitude for the love you all have shown us throughout this past year. Indeed, this was felt deeply as a special and genuine retirement. Please pray for us these days. By the grace of God, we will see all of you this Sunday. With affection and prayers, Abouna George and Presbyteria Juliana*

*thank you*

**AUGUST PAC MEETING NEW DATE:** The next PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> (Date Changed). 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

**PARISH PICNIC SIGNUP:** A signup (RSVP) e-mail went out for the Parish Picnic on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. We need to know how many are attending, so we can have the correct number of hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. We also need you to sign up for a side item or dessert. Thank you for helping us with the planning.

#### **UPCOMING FORTY DAY MEMORIALS:**

- **August 27<sup>th</sup>:** +Fr. Basil Samra, provided by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- **Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>:** +Widad Zarour, Mercy Meal in Church Hall, provided by the Lourice Zarour Jajeh and The Rahmeh Circle

**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.

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

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please register on FlockNote to receive e-mails/texts and join us in the Church Hall 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** -----

**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 13 – LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION – THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT:** The heart of the gospel is forgiveness. Do we not say the Lord's Prayer multiple times everyday and say "Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us." It is said two or three times in each of our daily liturgical services as well. Yet sometimes it seems that we are not listening to the words we ourselves are...

St. John Chrysostom saw a particularly damning indictment of the tendency to hold grudges or seek vengeance in this parable. Pointing to the fate of the unforgiving servant, Christ says, "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses" (Matthew 18:35). Chrysostom offers this interpretation: "Note that He did not say 'your Father' but 'my Father' for it is not proper for God to be called the Father of one who is so wicked and malicious" (Homily on Matthew 61, 4). These harsh words go unheard by many in the church who hold grudges, often for many years. People often feel that broken relationships have nothing to do with our faith. In reality our unwillingness to forgive says that we think God is a sucker for being so compassionate: we know better. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, the rift is with more than our relative or neighbor. "For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."



**TUES, AUG 15 – THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD –** The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek kimesis) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos. The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home. Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed. At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven. Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.



**SAT-SUN, AUG 19-20 – 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: THE RICH YOUNG MAN**

**Great Vespers** will be served by Fr. Elias Dorham on **Saturday, Aug. 19 at 5pm** and he will hear **CONFESSIONS** from 4:30-5pm. Fr. Elias will also celebrate Divine Liturgy for us on Sunday with **CONFESSIONS** from 9:30am-10am.

**SUN, AUG 27 – 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANT**

40 Day Memorial: +Rev. Basil Samra, followed by a Mercy Meal, provided by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

**FRI, SEP 1 – THE START OF THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR**

**SUN, SEP 3 – 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: THE KING'S MARRIAGE FEAST**

40 Day Memorial: +Widad Zarour, followed by a Mercy Meal, provided by the Lourice Zarour Jajeh and The Rahmeh Circle

----- 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 - JULY 2023 and JAN-JULY 2023):**

*Total Income:	\$11,738 (O.C. \$10,209)	\$89,491 (O.C. \$64,653)
**Expenses:	<u>\$27,366</u>	<u>\$178,706</u>
Net Income:	<b>(\$15,628)</b>	<b>(\$89,356)</b>

\* O.C. – Ordinary Collections

\*\* YTD RENOVATION AND REPAIR EXPENSES: \$76,650

**GIVING IN FLOCKNOTE:** With Flocknote, we can raise funds quickly, and you have the convenience of paying via your computer (e-mail) or phone (text)! Some parishioners have set up regular giving using Flocknote, improving their tithing convenience, and the church’s cash flow. The process is easy, safe, and secure. Also note that every Sunday’s bulletin includes a link to this powerful capability.

----- NEW ALTAR SERVER ROBES -----

During last Sunday’s Divine Liturgy, the Altar Servers were wearing new robes. We are very blessed to be able to grow this ministry and with your help we can do more. If you would like to donate toward the new altar server robes, please include the memo “Altar Server Robes” in your Zelle, Check, Square, or **TEXT “ROBES” to 84576**. We will be donating our previously used robes to a mission within the diocese. Thank you for your consideration.



----- 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 such as Men’s Club or Publican Society.

**Liturgical Participation:** Please consider chanting, being a reader (see Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (see Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an altar server (see Dcn. Elie).

----- MINISTRY LEADERS -----

- Adult Education** – Greg Pharo
- Altar Servers** – Deacon Elie Hanna
- Building Council Members** – Rani Ghawi, Sami Nassar
- 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)
- Readers** – Eric Hansen
- Sunshine Committee** – Matilda Ghawi
- Ushers** – Jerome Hagley, Robert Ghawi, Joseph Manguno

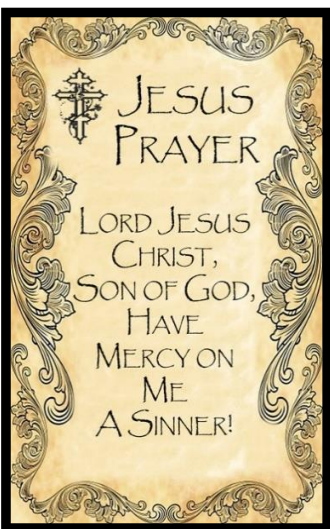
**Please keep in your prayers...**

- |                   |               |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Fr. James Babcock | Fr. Tom Flynn | Butrus Jajeh    |
| Samira Jajeh      | Serene Kadadu | Rouviette Hanna |

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Wandering Sheep of this parish | Victims of natural disasters        |
| Areas of War and Violence          | Those taking care of (grand)parents |
| Those starting studies this Fall   |                                     |

*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).





## August 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

Margaret Alexander	Gabriel Faraj
Marie Hansen	Shadi Jaraysi
Sandra Madanat	Claire Nuar
Martina Talla	

### ANNIVERSARIES

Walid & Monera Al-zaraaneh  
Aemah & Aymen Badri  
Tony & Matilda Ghawi  
Basil & Nidhal Kirma

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.

Please join us for the 11th annual

## ST. JUDE Magic Carpet Ride

Taste of the Middle East

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**

6:00 – 11:00 PM

**The Fox Theatre**  
Egyptian Ballroom  
660 Peachtree St. NE  
Atlanta, GA

Cocktails • Middle Eastern Cuisine •  
Live Entertainment • Patient Speaker •  
Silent Auction • Live Auction • Give to Live

### SPONSORSHIPS & INFORMATION

Ashley.Todd@alsac.stjude.org • 404.764.0063

[stjude.org/magiccarpetride](http://stjude.org/magiccarpetride)



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