



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - The Rich Young Man – TONE 3

Sixth Day Celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Samuel

الأحد، 20 آب 2023

الاحد الثاني عشر بعد العنصرة

SATURDAY: CONFESSIONS (4:30-5pm) – GREAT VESPERS (5pm)

SUNDAY: CONFESSIONS (9:30-10am) – ORTHROS (10am) – DIVINE LITURGY (10:30am)

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), Mother of Lourice Jajeh, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and Family
- +Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Eric and Marie Hansen
- +Amal Abyad, Mother of Fr. Zyad Abyad, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

HEALTH & SALVATION

- Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- Butrus & Samira Jajeh, Requested by Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family
- Paul Peterson, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and Family
- Gladys Hanna, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and Family
- Victims of Wildfire in Maui, Hawaii
- Peace in the World, especially in U.S., Middle East, Palestine, Nigeria, Ukraine



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

WELCOME FR. ELIAS. On the Blessed Feast of the Dormition, Sayedna François appointed Fr. Elias Dorham as pastor of St. John Chrysostom, effective September 1st. Fr. Elias Dorham is married to Khouria Sylvia, celebrating thirty years of marriage with ten children in their family. Fr. Elias has a doctorate in ministry and comes well versed in our liturgy, spirituality, and Byzantine tradition. He will be arriving this weekend for his first liturgies (vespers and divine) with us, and after a short travel schedule, will return permanently with Khouria and three of his non-adult children for full-time ministry and residence at St. John Chrysostom. We thank Sayedna for sending us our new spiritual father, Fr. Elias, and we look forward to being with him and his family as we grow together in a greater relationship with Jesus Christ.



ADULT EDUCATION AND UPCOMING PARISH DISCUSSIONS: Fr. Elias brings a wealth of biblical and theological knowledge to share with us. He will be working with our Educational Chairs and the deacons to best formulate our upcoming programs including Adult Education and the Great Catholic Parish discussions. We look forward to his leadership. Stay tuned for more announcements.

PARISH PICNIC SIGNUP: A signup (RSVP) e-mail went out for the Parish Picnic on Saturday, September 9th. 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. As a reminder, we will be having vespers at the picnic.

----- 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 an 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 -----

SAT-SUN, AUG 19-20 – THE 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: THE RICH YOUNG MAN

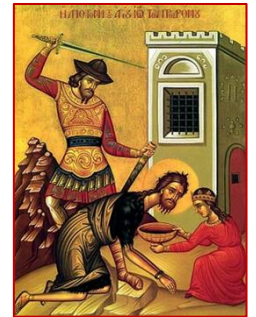
Great Vespers will be **Sat., Aug. 19 at 5pm** and Fr. Elias will hear CONFESSIONS from 4:30-5pm. Fr. Elias will also celebrate Divine Liturgy for us on Sunday with CONFESSIONS from 9:30am-10am.

THE THREE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS – Matthew, Mark and Luke – all record Christ’s meeting with a rich young man who sought His guidance. The young man (Luke calls him a “ruler”) seeks to know what to do to have eternal life. Christ responds by telling him to keep the commandments. When pressed to be more specific, the Lord begins by listing the Ten Commandments. Then He quotes the Great Commandment from Leviticus, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man says that he has kept all these commandments from his youth and presses the Lord to tell him what more he should do. The Lord Jesus then attempts to lead him from a stage of merely being obedient to God’s commandments, to one of being in a relationship of love with God. Christ tells the young man what must happen “If you want to be perfect” (v. 21): he must give his wealth to the poor and follow Jesus as He went from place to place proclaiming the kingdom of God. The Lord offered this inquirer the chance to join the company of His disciples, to show that he preferred life with Christ to enjoying his possessions. The young man declined.



SUN, AUG 27 – THE 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANT: 40 Day Memorial: +Rev. Basil Samra

TUES, AUG 29 – THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER: St John the Baptist is the “forerunner” or herald, announcing the immanent coming of God’s saving work in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Mark, we hear John say: “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Mk1: 7, 8). John’s work as herald of our salvation was not limited to announcing the beginning of Christ’s ministry in Galilee. Our troparion for today’s commemoration mentions that John baptized the Lord Jesus. Then, it continues, “You have fought for the sake of truth and proclaimed to those in Hades that God, who appeared in the flesh, has taken away the sins of the world and bestowed His great mercy upon us.” John’s ministry continued after death, as he announced to the dead in Hades that Christ’s coming was close at hand.

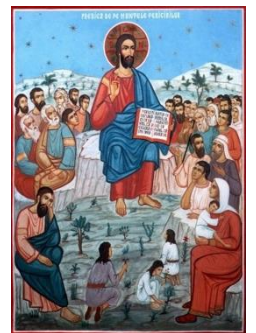


FRI, SEP 1 – THE START OF THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

SUN, SEP 3 – THE 14TH 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

The story of the wedding banquet is in many ways an echo of the parable of the vinedressers. In each story, an important person reaches out to his people; he is rebuffed and finally turns to others. The vineyard owner in the first parable and the king in the second both represent God. The disdainful tenants and the invited guests signify the people of Israel. The new tenants of the first story and the new guests of the second represent the Gentiles, who would respond in faith. It may be hard for us to imagine the reaction of the invited guests to the banquet. An invitation to such an occasion would be esteemed, even coveted. “But,” as the Gospel says, “they made light of it and went their way: one to his own farm, another to his business” (Mt 22:5). It is as if Matthew were describing our own day rather than his. This is the way that many Christians – friends and relatives sadly among them – react to their invitation to the Eucharistic banquet every Sunday. But how could an invitation to a royal wedding be dismissed so easily? Couching this parable in terms of a royal wedding is a way of saying that the initiative of God in sending to Israel the prophets who announced the coming Messiah was at least as compelling as an invitation to a kingly gala. One after another, prophets came and were recognized in some way as foretelling what was to come. At last the Forerunner came and proclaimed, “Everything is ready – this is the Lamb of God” but was ignored by many. Those invited had so lost themselves in the concerns of the everyday world.



THURS, SEP 7 – 7:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

FRI, SEP 8 – 7:00PM – DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

WED, SEP 13 – 7:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS FOR THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

THURS, SEP 14 – 7:00 PM – DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

----- 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 - 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:	(\$15,628)	(\$89,356)

* 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.

----- PAC MEETING FEEDBACK -----

The PAC meeting was held on Thurs., August 17th, and the non-clergy PAC members asked that we share the following two items: (1) They were concerned that the parish is not meeting its monthly operational expenses through tithing and asked, “What was the biggest issue?” The Financial Chair, Deacon Sami, noted that many of our parishioners are not tithing weekly nor monthly, but rather **ONLY** when they attend liturgy, creating a shortage of operational funds for the church. The PAC attendees asked that we share this reality with the parish. (2) Some PAC attendees noted that they had not noticed the new roof on the Church Hall building, so we are reminding all to look up at the new roof as you enter the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy and THANK GOD, for He is good.

----- 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.

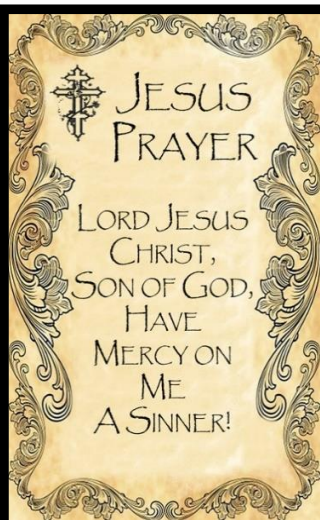
----- TIME AND TALENT-----

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...

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|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Fr. James Babcock | Fr. Tom Flynn | Butrus Jajeh |
| Samira Jajeh | Serene Kadadu | Rouviette Hanna |
| Paul Peterson | Fr. Ziad Abyad and Family | |

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

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.

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 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

Web: stjohnmelkite.org • FB: facebook.com/StJohnMelkite •

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite

Rev. Elias Dorham, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh & Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna,
Parish Administrators

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, Pastor Emeritus

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)

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--- 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



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