



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost - The Wicked Tenants – TONE 4

Commemoration of our Holy Father Poemen

الأحد، 27 آب 2023

الاحد الثالث عشر بعد العنصرة

SUNDAY: READER ORTHROS (10am) – TYPIKA (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 (ALL MOVED TO 09/03, SEE NOTE BELOW)

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 John Chambers
- +Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Tony & Matilda Ghawi
- +Amal Abyad, Mother of Fr. Zyad Abyad, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
- +Edma Nakhlee Layous (Syria), Mother of Fr. Ziad Layous, Requested by 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
- Victims of Wildfire in Hawaii
- Peace in the World, U.S., Middle East, Palestine, Nigeria, Ukraine



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

READER ORTHROS/TYPIKA SERVICE THIS SUNDAY: Without a priest for Sunday services, August 27th; we will have Reader Orthros and Typika Service with Pre-Sanctified Eucharist. All commemorations that are scheduled will be moved out by one week. There will be no live stream.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR: Fr. Elias is moving to Atlanta in a few short weeks with Khouria and three of their children. We have not had a full-time pastor living in the facility in more than one year, and we have not a married priest with a family in the history of St. John Chrysostom. Hence, we (deacons too!) need to remember that St. John Chrysostom building is not only their spiritual home, but also their residence for the next several months, as we prepare for a more permanent home for them. All of us need to stop parking on the side of the carport whether in front of it or in front of the Church Hall any time before, during, or after our liturgies. We thank you for your cooperation.



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.

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

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

The explanation of this parable is thus: The Householder is God. The tenants are the Jewish people chosen by God to preserve the true faith. The hedges around the vineyard are the commandments of God given through Moses. The wine press where the juice of the grapes flows is the sacrifice in the Old Testament covenant prefiguring the death on the cross of Jesus Christ; the tower is the Temple in Jerusalem. The overseers are the chief priests, scribes, and elders of the Jewish people. The servants of the Householder are the holy prophets. The Son of the Householder is the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Standing at the head of the Jewish people, the chief priests, scribes, and elders had received the power to prepare the people to accept the Saviour, but they used this power only for their own benefit. God sent prophets to them, but they persecuted and killed them. Thus, they turned out to be murderers of prophets and then murderers of the apostles. Their Saviour they rejected; and leading Him out from their city, they crucified Him. Therefore, the Kingdom of God was taken away from them and given to another people; the Church of Christ was opened to all nations. (From the Law of God, Fr. Seraphim Slobodskoy)

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.

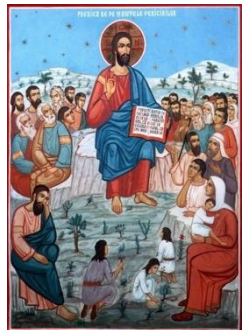


FRI, SEP 1 – THE START OF THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

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 – 7:00 PM – DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

SAT, SEP 9 – 4:00 PM – VESPERS AT THE CHURCH PICNIC

SUN, SEP 10 – SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

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.

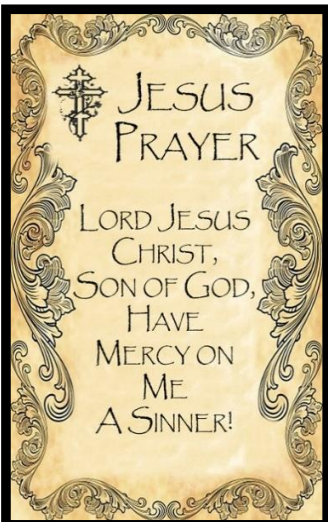
----- TIME AND TALENT-----

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 | Paul Peterson |
| Fr. Ziad Abyad and Family | Fr. Ziad Layous and Family | |

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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

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contact@stjohnmelkite.org
 Web: stjohnmelkite.org • FB: facebook.com/StJohnMelkite •
 YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite

Rev. Elias Dorham, Pastor
pastor@stjohnmelkite.org

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh, Administrator and Finance Chair
deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org

Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Administrator and PAC Chair
deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, Pastor Emeritus
 Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn, Retired

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)

﴿٢٠:٢﴾ 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.

the Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

A Workshop for Married & Engaged Catholic Couples
 October 21st and 28th 9am-4pm MDT
 Online via Zoom

SCAN ME

Learn effective, research-based strategies to help you:

- Foster respect, affection, and closeness
- Break through and resolve conflict gridlock
- Build and share a deeper connection with each other's inner world

...in a convenient, online program designed by relationship experts at The Gottman Institute and led by a trained Gottman Leader

MEET YOUR CERTIFIED WORKSHOP LEADER

Fr. Elias Dorham serves as the Pastor of St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church in Atlanta Georgia. He and Khouria Sylvia have been married for 30 years and have 10 children and three grandchildren. Prior to ordination, his professional experience encompassed coaching and leadership development across the military, federal/local government, and technology sectors. He holds a Doctor of Ministry from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. His doctoral ministry project examined marriage enrichment and development. He also has a M.A. in Theological Studies from Christendom College, an M.S. in Information Systems Technology from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a B.S. in Political Science from the United States Naval Academy.

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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
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 Finding cures. Saving children.