



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, September 3, 2023 – TONE 5

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost - The King's Marriage Feast - Community Celebration of Church New Year
Commemoration of Holy Hieromartyr Anthimos, Bishop of Nicomedia
and of our Holy Father Theoctistos, companion in asceticism of Euthymios the Great
الاحد الرابع عشر بعد العنصرة الاحد 3 ايلول 2023

SATURDAY: GREAT VESPERS (5pm) - SUNDAY: ORTHROS (10am) – DIVINE LITURGY (10:30am)

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Church Hall

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

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Banks Thomas Davidson(AL), Requested by Fr. Justin Rose, St. George Melkite Church(AL)
Victims of Hurricane in Florida and other Natural Disasters
Peace in the World, U.S., Middle East, Palestine, Nigeria, Ukraine

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Widad Zarour (Canada), Mother of Lourice Jajeh, 40 Day Memorial, Requested by The Jajeh Family
+Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Requested Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family
+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
+Spiridon Hanna, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and Family
+Aznive Osko(Syria), mother of Ghada Osko Boghos, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna
+Robert Schwind, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community



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

GREAT VESPERS: Saturday, Sept. 2 at 5pm. Fr. Sean LaBat will be traveling this weekend to celebrate Vespers and Divine Liturgy. Let us give him a big welcome to our community. Vespers is a holy and prayerful way to start the day in the presence of the Lord, and Great Vespers is a beautiful and inspiring experience, truly completing the celebration of a feast or of the Lord's Day, Sunday. We hope to see you.

PASTOR AND LITURGY UPDATE: Fr. Elias is moving to Atlanta this week with Khouria Sylvia and three of their children. May God grant him a fruitful ministry in His vineyard at St. John Chrysostom. With our return to having a full-time pastor, we will also be returning to weekday liturgies for major feasts. Please see the event schedule below. Thank you.

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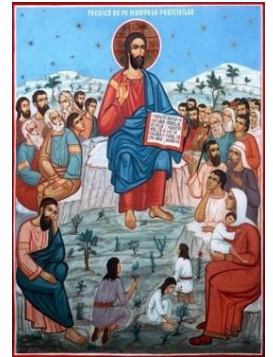
----- **UPCOMING AND IMPORTANT EVENTS** -----

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 Ladies Society

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.

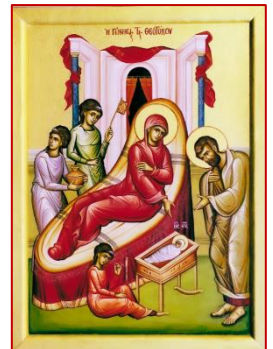


THURS, SEP 7 – 7:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion. According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks. As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos presents to us the central figures of Saints Joachim and Anna, Mary's parents, and the Mother of our Lord as an infant. Saint Anna is in the middle of the icon with her right hand extended toward her daughter. Likewise, Saint Joachim, Mary's father, is gazing upon the young child with his right hand extended toward her. Anna is surrounded by attendants who have assisted with the birth. The icon directs attention to Mary as the central figure in this feast. It also acknowledges the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna as new parents with a child received through a promise from God. The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge this joy and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world. The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.



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

SUN, SEP 17 – SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY 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 - AUG 2023 and JAN-AUG 2023):

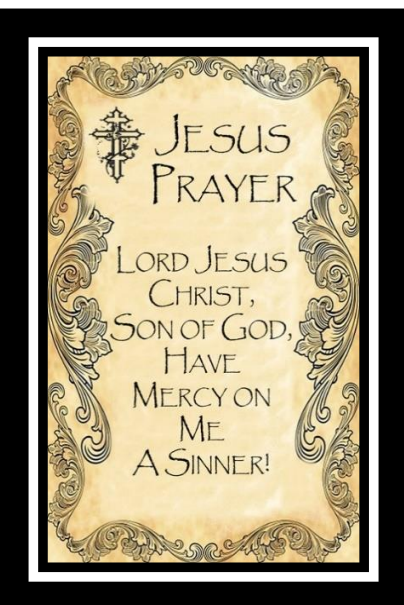
*Total Income:	\$11,573 (O.C. \$9,298)	\$101,064 (O.C. \$73,951)
**Expenses:	\$15,496	\$194,202
Net Income:	(\$3,923)	(\$93,280)

* O.C. – Ordinary Collections
 ** YTD RENOVATION AND REPAIR EXPENSES: \$77,414

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.

----- 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. Tom Flynn | Butrus Jajeh | Samira Jajeh |
| Serene Kadadu | Rouviette Hanna | Paul Peterson |
| Rebecca Schmiedeknecht | | |

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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.

----- 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
- Church Hall 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

September 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

Aymen Badri	Veronica Curry
Aldair Delibrado	Rob Ghawi
Andrew Hagley	Mary Ellen Hughes
Lourice Jajeh	Youssef Layous
Michael Maalouf	Kingston Maloof
Laila Kriss Nassar	Peter Nuar
Titus Nuar	Paul Oddo
Greg Pharo	Steven Wright

ANNIVERSARIES

Dcn. Elie & Mrs. Dzovag Hanna
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Maalouf
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Peterson

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
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

Church Hall Manager - Jerome Hagley -
jerome.hagley@gmail.com

--- 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
stjude.org/magiccarpetride

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Finding cures. Saving children.