



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, September 10, 2023

Sunday before the Holy Cross – TONE 6

الأحد 10 ايلول 2023

الاحد قبل رفع الصليب المقدس

**SATURDAY: GREAT VESPERS (4:30pm at church picnic)**

**SUNDAY: ORTHROS (10am) – DIVINE LITURGY (10:30am) – CONFESSIONS (9:30-10:00am)**

**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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

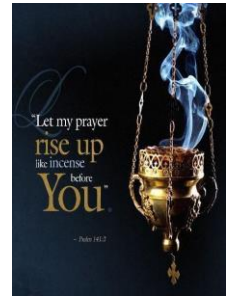
## THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

### 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)  
Lauren Makhlouf, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Rebecca Schmiedeknecht, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Peace in the World, U.S., Middle East, Palestine, Nigeria, Ukraine

### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Rev. Basil Samra, 40 Day Memorial, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Amal Abyad, Mother of Fr. Zyad Abyad, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Adele Dahar, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Edma Nakhlee Layous (Syria), Mother of Fr. Ziad Layous, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Community  
+Azniwe Osko, mother of Ghada Osko Boghos (Syria), Requested by St. John. Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Requested by Tony and Matilda Ghawi  
+Robert Schwind, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Widad Zarour (Canada), Mother of Lourice Jajeh, Requested by John Chambers



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

**WELCOME TO FR. ELIAS AND FAMILY:** Fr. Elias and his family have officially moved to Atlanta. Please welcome him and his family.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Mervat Al-Zaraaneh was married to Ayham Joudh on August 19, 2023 in South Carolina and will be living here in the Atlanta area.

**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.

**PAC MEETING:** Scheduled for September 21, 2023, at 7:30pm (moved due to Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross).

**LADIES SOCIETY MEETING:** Scheduled for September 24, 2023, after Divine Liturgy and coffee hour.

**ART SHOW:** Asa's Alley Art Studio will be having an art show Sunday from 2p-5p. The art studio has been housed in the church for many years and is owned and operated by Charlene Shikany who's family has also been part of the church for many years.

----- 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](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 -----

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

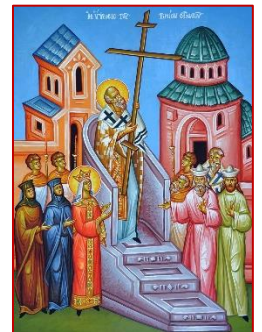
From today's gospel (John 3:13-17): *The Lord said, "No one has gone up into heaven except the One Who has come down from heaven: the Son of Man Who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting." For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting. For God did not send His Son into the world in order to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*

**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**

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ. With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption. The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy". This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.



**SUN, SEP 17 – SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine. In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

----- TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME -----

The Lord calls for anyone who would seek to be His follower to "take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). This teaching is found in each of the four Gospels, suggesting it was important to the first Christians throughout the early Church. One could not be a Christian without carrying one's cross, they all affirmed, but what does this key passage mean? What is one's cross? Is it one's spouse or one's rheumatism, as is often held, or is it something more? In the ancient world the cross was a symbol of shame reserved for executing the least important members of society. From about the sixth century BC until the practice was abolished by the Emperor St. Constantine the Great in the fourth century AD, crucifixion was the "preferred" method of executing slaves, captives and the worst criminals who had no rights in the ruling culture. The painful nature of this punishment is the source of our English word excruciating. For Christians the cross quickly became the symbol of sacrifice, of self-giving in imitation of Christ. As Christ's sacrifice on the cross became the moment of His glorification, so the Christian's sacrifice would be seen as the time of his or her exaltation with Christ as well.



----- 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.

**UPDATED FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - AUG 2023 and JAN-AUG 2023):**

*Total Income:	\$11,885 (O.C. \$9,603)	\$101,235 (O.C. \$74,256)
**Expenses:	\$15,499	\$194,205
Net Income:	<b>(\$3,613)</b>	<b>(\$92,970)</b>

\* 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.

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

**Volunteers Needed** to help lead various ministries such as Men’s Club or Publican Society.

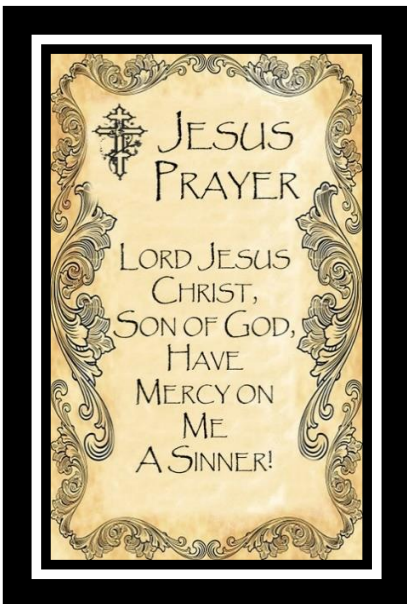
**Liturgical Participation:** Please consider chanting, being a reader (see Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (see Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an altar server (see Dcn. Elie).

----- 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

----- 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.



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

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

- The Wandering Sheep of this parish
- Areas of War and Violence
- Those starting studies this Fall
- Victims of natural disasters
- 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org)

Web: [stjohnmelkite.org](http://stjohnmelkite.org) • FB: [facebook.com/StJohnMelkite](https://facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) •

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite](http://www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite)

Rev. Elias Dorham, Pastor  
[pastor@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnmelkite.org)

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh, Administrator and Finance Chair  
[deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org)

Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Administrator and PAC Chair  
[deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org)

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

Church Hall Manager - Jerome Hagley -  
[jerome.hagley@gmail.com](mailto: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 CALL TO WORK -----

It seems contradictory that St. Paul who was so adamant against being justified by the works of the Law would later tell the Philippians, *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”* (Phil 2:12-13). For St Paul justification is not a one-time event in life. We do not simply say a prayer or make our baptismal vows once and that does it! Salvation, or justification (to use St Paul’s term) comes through faith, but faith is a lifelong process!

Life-long Christians know that there are periods of life in which spiritual zeal is strong, when we are as fervent in our faith as anyone could wish. They also know that there are periods of dryness – times when we may wonder whether we believe anything at all. There are also degrees of awareness which are meant to deepen as our Christian life progresses. St Paul uses the image of milk vs. solid food to illustrate the progress of Christian understanding in our lives: *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”* (Heb 5:12-14).

The process of growing discernment enables us to appropriate the righteousness of Christ in an ever-deepening way as our Christ life develops. As we make the teachings in Scripture more our own through reflection and assimilation we become more able to put them into practice in our lives. We thus *“work out our salvation”* by cooperating with the grace of God working within us – a synergy between God who calls and we who respond to His saving love.

*the Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*

**A Workshop for Married & Engaged Catholic Couples**

October 21st and 28th 9am-4pm MDT  
Online via Zoom

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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