



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – TONE 7

الأحد، 17 ايلول 2023

الأحد الذي بعد رفع الصليب الكريم المقدس

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

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  
Rebecca Schmiedeknecht, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Banks Thomas Davidson (AL), Requested by Fr. Justin Rose, St. George Melkite Church (AL)  
Dennis Lauzon, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and family  
Sharon and Richard Rodgers, Requested by Joe Cirou  
Lauren Makhlouf, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Amal Abyad, Mother of Fr. Zyad Abyad, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+George Laow (father of Rita Karroum) 3rd year, Requested by the Karroum family  
+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 the Boghos (Osko) family  
+Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by the Karroum family  
+Robert Schwind, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Widad Zarour (Canada), Mother of Lourice Jajeh, Requested by the Karroum family



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

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Choir practice today after Vespers. We look forward to your participation.

**SINGING THE OUR FATHER AND NICENE CREED:** The word, "liturgy," literally means the work (*ergos*) of the people (*laos*). One important way we do this "work" of praise and worship in our tradition is by singing (chanting). Hence, as we continue to move all elements liturgical worship towards our Byzantine tradition, we will be moving towards singing the Our Father and Nicene Creed for our community. Be on the lookout, as the choir leads us in implementing this for our community. Thank you.

**WED. DAILY VESPERS:** Starting this Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, our liturgical schedule will include a daily vespers service on Wednesday evenings. We look forward to your participation and attendance.

**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.

**ADULT EDUCATION UPCOMING SCHEDULE:** Adult education sessions to start up again beginning on Wednesday night after Vespers Liturgy, September 27<sup>th</sup>. They will include a sequence of Bible Studies and sessions on Eastern Christianity. Be on the lookout.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS:** Father Elias will be starting house blessings for our community in October. If you would like to schedule yours, please e-mail father at [pastor@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnmelkite.org).

**BISHOP VISIT:** Sayedna François will be visiting us our community on October 6-8<sup>th</sup>. Please mark the dates. More info to come.

----- 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.

**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.

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

**SUN, SEP 17 – SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:** Gospel of Mark 8:34:-9:1 *The Lord said, “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father.” And he said to them, “Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power.”*

**40 DAY MEMORIAL AND MERCY MEAL** - Aznive Osko, mother of Ghada Osko Boghos (Syria)

**THURS, SEP 17 – LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** Gospel of Luke 5:1-11

**SUN, SEP 24 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – GOSPEL OF FISHERS OF MEN**

*At that time Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats moored by the lake, but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. And getting into one of the boats, the one that was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And sitting down, he began to teach the crowds from the boat. But when he had stopped speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep, and lower your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered and said to him, “Master, the whole night through we have toiled and have taken nothing; but at your word I will lower the net.” And when they had done so, they caught a great number of fishes, but their net was breaking. And they called to their comrades in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord,” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had made; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all and followed him.*



**40 DAY MEMORIAL AND MERCY MEAL** – Souren Palanjian, Father of Zoe Hanna

**SUN, OCT 1 – FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**FRI, OCT 6 – HOLY APOSTLE THOMAS**

**SUN, OCT 8 – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – THE WIDOW’S SON**

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

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.



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.

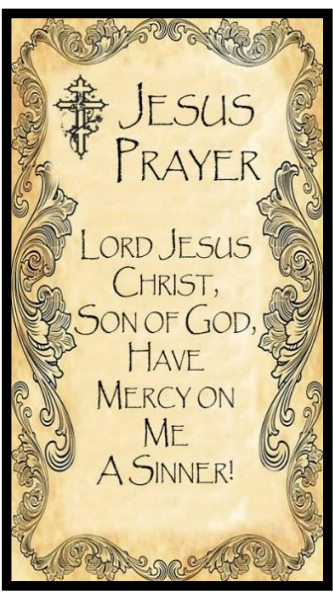
**Liturgical Participation:** Please consider chanting, being a reader (see Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (see Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an altar server (see Dcn. Elie).

----- 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 li



**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           |                              |
| Earthquake Victims in Morocco       | Victims of natural disasters |
| Those taking care of (grand)parents | Flooding Victims in Libya    |

*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)

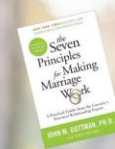
### --- VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR ---

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.

### ----- SACRIFICING ONE'S LIFE -----

The first Christians were acutely aware that they might be called to follow Christ to a literal cross, sacrificing their lives as He did. Thus the apostolic brothers Peter and Andrew and some others were actually crucified by pagan authorities. Countless others since then have met their deaths in a host of ways. Practically every day we commemorate martyrs among the saints. This week alone we honor several martyrs of the Roman persecutions: the Great Martyrs Euphemia (+304), Eustathius and his family (+c. 110), and a dozen others. Local Churches may also commemorate other martyrs from the Persian, Arab, Turkish or Communist persecutions. For the follower of Christ martyrdom is never very far away. Christians today in many parts of Asia and Africa are giving up their lives rather than deny their faith in Christ their Savior. Recently a watchdog group in Europe concluded that throughout the world more than 100,000 Christians are killed each year "because of some relation to their faith."

As Christ's death was the consequence of His assuming our whole nature, the sacrifice of blood-martyrdom is inseparably tied to the martyr's witness to Christ. The very word martyr means witness, a witness made at the cost of one's life. The Gospel indicates another kind of witnessing unto death in this passage, when Christ says, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross..." (Mark 8:34). In addition to our physical life which may be sacrificed in blood-martyrdom, we also have an inner life the life of our ego. We want to do this, own that, eat or drink this. We can satisfy every urge our material resources allow or we can deny ourselves to witness to Christ. This is the heart of asceticism, whether in its institutional expression, monasticism, or in the call of every Christian to place God and others first in our lives.



## 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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