



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, October 29, 2023

7th Sunday After the Holy Cross - The Raising of Jairus' Daughter - TONE 5

Commemoration of our Venerable Mother the Martyr Anastasia and of our Holy Father Abramios

الأحد 29 تشرين اول 2023

الاحد السابع بعد الصليب

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

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please register on FlockNote to receive e-mails/texts and join us in the Church Hall. Interested in becoming catechumens or parishioners? Please send an email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org). 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.

## ----- DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS -----

### HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Rebecca Schmiereknecht, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Banks Thomas Davidson (AL), Requested by Fr. Justin Rose, St. George Melkite Church (AL)  
Lauren Makhlof, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Scott Alexander, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

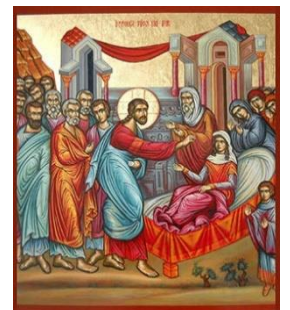
+Souren Palanjian, father of Zoe Hanna, Requested by Jerome and Susie Hagley  
+Aznive Osko (Syria), mother of Ghada Osko Boghos, Requested by Jerome and Susie Hagley  
+Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Hector Rodriguez and Family  
+Mary Raybada, aunt of Fr. Lewis, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
+Thomas Sweeney, grandfather-in-law of Subdeacon Riley Winstead, Requested by the St. John Parish Community  
+Widad Zarour, Requested by Jerome and Susie Hagley



### **SUN, OCT 29 – 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS – THE RAISING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER**

- +Rouviette Hanna – 40 Day Memorial Service and Mercy Meal

**Luke 8:41-56** AT that time behold, there came a man named Jairus to Jesus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at the feet of Jesus, he entreated him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. And it happened as he went that he was pressed upon by the crowds. And a certain woman who for twelve years had had a hemorrhage, and had spent all her means on physicians, but could not be cured by anyone, came up behind him and touched the tassel of his cloak; and at once her hemorrhage ceased. And Jesus said, "Who touched me? But as all were denying it, Peter, and those who were with him, said, "Master, the crowds throng and press upon you, and you ask 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I perceived that power had gone forth from me." But the woman, seeing that she had not escaped notice, came up trembling, and falling down at his feet, declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been healed instantly. And he said to her, "Daughter, thy faith has saved thee; go in peace." While he was yet speaking, there came one from the house of the ruler of the synagogue, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble him." But Jesus on hearing this word answered the father of the girl, "Do not be afraid; only have faith and she shall be saved." And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and James and John, and the girl's father and mother. And all were weeping and mourning for her. But he said, "Do not weep; she is asleep, not dead." And they laughed at him, knowing that she



was dead. But he, taking her by the hand, cried out, saying, "Girl, arise!" And her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately. And he directed that something be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

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

**HOMELESS CARE PACKAGE DRIVE:** The Good Samaritan Society is sponsoring a drive to collect items to distribute to men who are homeless. We hope to collect enough before Christmas to be able to hand them out during the Christmas season. A large bin will be set up in the cultural center to collect donations. We plan to set aside a time one Sunday after Liturgy when the Sunday school teachers and students (and anyone else interested in helping) can get together to assemble these packs. A sample of items needed will be provided. Please watch out for the e-mail.

**LADIES SOCIETY & NAMW 2024 DUES:** We have started collecting dues for National Association of Melkite Women. Thank you to the **thirty-six (36) women** who have paid their dues already – this is three more than we collected last year, and it is only October! Please provide \$25 to Patty Pharo via cash, check or Zelle. Note LS & NAMW in the memo.



**ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS:** You may sign up for the two Adult Education offerings **(1) Bible Study and (2) Eastern Christianity 101**. One Wednesday evening has the bible study, while the next Wednesday has Eastern Christianity 101 program, a lively **online** exploration of our faith, tradition and current practices hosted by Father Elias and Greg Pharo.

**THE NATIVITY FAST:** (also called the Fast of St. Philip, whose feast day is on November 14) traditionally begins on November 15. During this period, we abstain from meat and meat products as well as from dairy products. On December 13, the fast becomes stricter and in addition to abstinence from meat and dairy, we also abstain from fish, wine, and olive oil. We may have wine and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays. **IF YOU HAVE NAMES OF THE LIVING** (baptismal names only, please) that you would like commemorated during the Paraklesis services chanted during the Nativity Fast, please give them to Deacons or email them to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).



**HOUSE BLESSINGS:** Father Elias has started house blessings. To schedule yours, please e-mail father at [pastor@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnmelkite.org).

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

**SUN, NOV 5 – 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS – THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS**

**SAT-SUN, NOV. 11 & 12 – ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM PATRONAL FEAST DAY WEEKEND EVENTS:** See details on back page.

**SAT, NOV 11<sup>th</sup> – PRAYER SERVICE AND LASAGNA DINNER (UPDATED PLANS)**

We will be having a simple prayer service followed by dinner to pray for peace, healing, and love to prevail in the current war, as well as protection for those who are in harm's way. As such, the new program is as follows:

- 5pm – Great Vespers Prayer Service, with special intention for the current conflict
- 6pm – Lasagna Dinner and Fellowship, where we can share our time together as a community with each other

**SUN, NOV 12 – 8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS – THE MERCIFUL SAMARITAN**

- 10am – Orthros and 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Celebration of our Patron Feast Day)
- Luncheon – Celebration of our patron saint Feast Day weekend

**MON, NOV 13<sup>th</sup> – ACTUAL FEAST DAY FOR OUR PATRON, SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

## ----- WE PRAY FOR PEACE -----

**Dear Parish Family,** Shortly after hostilities broke out between Russia and Ukraine, I came across the words below from Elder Zacharias of Essex. Given more recent events in the Middle East, I hope you find them spiritually beneficial. **Father Elias**

When asked what we should keep in mind and do in the current political situation, Father Zacharias responded: "We do not know everything about the conflicts of this world, nor is it necessary to know. We just pray with a compassionate heart for the peace of the world and for all. We do not take sides, because each side will be responsible for crimes, and we do not want to share in these crimes and be condemned. If we pray for those who are more wrong than right, well, we perform the commandment to love even enemies. And if we pray for those who are more right than wrong, we do well. Therefore, we cannot go wrong if we pray that God save all and grant peace to the world. Especially for us, priests and monks, it is very important not to be political at all because we offer our sacrifice to God, the Holy Liturgy, for the whole world; and if we are for some and against others, our sacrifice is annulled. I think that when there is a war, the best is not to be judgmental, but to have compassion and pray that the Lord may spare all from suffering. If my Liturgy is to have any value, no one should be missing from my heart when I stand before the altar of God and say to Him, 'Thine own of thine own, we offer unto thee, in all and for all.'"



----- 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 - SEP 2023 and JAN-SEP 2023):**

*Total Income:	\$11,217 (O.C. \$8,416)	\$112,593 (O.C. \$82,671)
**Expenses:	\$24,222	\$218,427
Net Income:	<b>(\$13,005)</b>	<b>(\$105,975)</b>

\* O.C. – Ordinary Collections

\*\* YTD RENOVATION AND REPAIR EXPENSES: \$78,568

**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.

----- FLOCKNOTE REGISTRATION AND TRAINING -----

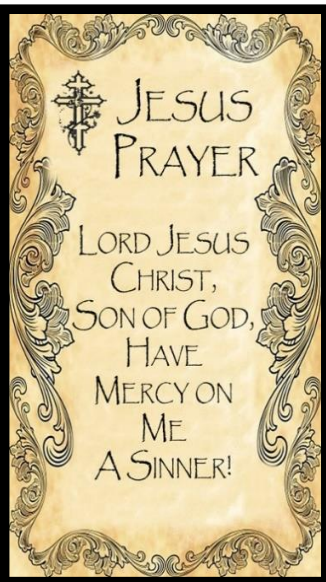
**FLOCKNOTE TRAINING:** Demystifying FlockNote – Open Office Hours at Coffee Hour by Dcn. Elie Hanna. Bring all your questions/comments and concerns.

**REGISTER OR UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION:** Scan the QR on the right to do that



----- 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



**PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...**

Fr. Tom Flynn	Butrus Jajeh	Samira Jajeh
Serene Kadadu	Scott Alexander	Lauren Makhlouf
Rebecca Schmiedeknecht		

The Wandering Sheep of this parish	Those looking for employment
Victims of natural disasters	Flooding Victims in Libya
Earthquake Victims in Morocco	
Those taking care of (grand)parents	
Areas of War and Violence, Including Holy Land, Ukraine, Syria, Lebanon	

*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).



## October 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

Marina Aeshaea	Angelina Badri
Ronin Curry	Sami Hagley
Fadi Layous	Rania Layous
Samer Layous	Theresa Luu
Marc Maalouf	Vera Madanat
Albert Mishu	Kennedy Nuar
Kolbe Nuar	Patricia Pharo
James Reichard	Georges Sawaya
Nazim Shadeed	Maryam Talla
Dcn. Elie Hanna	Ethan

### ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Bishara & Sumaya Kadadu  
Mr. & Mrs. Suleiman(John) & Vera Madana

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://www.facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) •

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

FlockNote: <https://stjohnmelkiteatl.flocknote.com/register>

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  
+Rt. Rev. William Haddad, Founding Pastor  
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.

### ---- "Caught You Listening" Series ----

The puzzles and questions below are for your kids, to see how much of today's gospel they remember.

**October 29, 2023: Gospel: Luke 8: 41-56**

**Today, Jairus comes to Jesus to beg help for his dying 12-year-old daughter. Jesus gives Jairus some jobs to do on his way to the man's house. Find a rhyme for each word to find out what Jesus commanded Jairus to do.**

- Won't see a braid.
- Dust receive.
- Then, Jesus promised:
- We bill me field.



### ---- The Near-Death Experience ----

In 1975 physician and psychologist Raymond Moody authored *Life After Life*, recounting a number of cases where people were pronounced clinically dead after heart attacks, accidents or other traumas. They regained consciousness after a period of time, anywhere from 10 minutes to several hours, and told of being able to see their physicians working on them or viewing their death from outside their bodies. One accident victim only came to when he felt a pathologist begin to autopsy him! Most spoke of beatific after death experiences such as a feeling of peace and happiness, meeting spiritual beings and/or dead loved ones and seeing a radiant light. Some – upwards of twenty percent in one study – spoke of frightening experiences: extreme fear, panic or anger, demonic creatures or embittered human-like voices that mock or taunt the subjects. Many of our otherwise skeptical contemporaries have concluded that near-death experiences prove the existence of an afterlife. Some believing Christians have taken these recorded experiences in our own day as confirmation of the Church's faith.

In any case, the Lord did not promise to take away death; rather, He died with us and instead of us. He has transformed death into a bridge for us to cross over to paradise in order to await the great Day of the Lord. This is why St Augustine says, "It is more of a miracle that someone rises to live forever than that he rises to die again."

Today's near-death experiences in some ways reinforce the experience of the saints. St Bede the Venerable (673-735) reported in his *Ecclesiastical History*: "There was a certain householder in that district of the Northumbrians which is called Incuneningum, who led a godly life, with all his house. This man fell sick, and his sickness daily increasing, he was brought to extremity, and died in the beginning of the night; but at dawn he came to life again, and suddenly sat up, whereat all those that sat about the body weeping fled away in great terror; only his wife, who loved him better, though trembling and greatly afraid, remained with him. And he comforting her, said, 'Fear not, for I am now in very deed risen from the death which held me, and permitted again to live among men; nevertheless, hereafter I must not live as I was wont, but after a very different manner.'" Likewise St Athanasius of the Kiev Caves (+1176) reported retuning to this life after two days in the next world. He refused to discuss what he saw there, saying only, "Even if I were to tell you, you would not believe me or listen to me." When he was pressed to explain, he would only say "Repent and pray!"