



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, November 19, 2023

9th Sunday After the Holy Cross- The Rich Fool - TONE 8

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Abadiah and of the Holy Martyr Barlaam

الأحد 19 تشرين الثاني 2023

الاحد التاسع بعد الصليب المقدس

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

SUNDAY: ORTHROS (9:45am) – 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. 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 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
Banks Thomas Davidson (AL), Requested by Fr. Justin Rose, St. George Melkite Church (AL)
Lauren Makhoulouf, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Scott Alexander, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Samira Jajeh (CA), Requested by the Jajeh Family
Dcn. Sami Jajeh, 11th Ordination Anniversary, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Rob Ghawi
+Thomas Sweeney, grandfather-in-law of Subdeacon Riley Winstead, Requested by the St. John Parish Community
+Butrus Jajeh, Father of Dcn. Sami Jajeh, Requested by the Jajeh Family

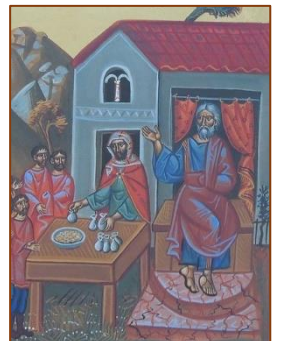


SUN, NOV 19 – NINTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS – THE RICH FOOL

READING from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-7

BRETHREN, I the prisoner in the Lord exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling by which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, careful to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, even as you were called to a single hope in your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and throughout all, and in all. But to each one of us, grace was given according to the measure of Christ's imparting.

Luke 12: 16-21: The Lord told this parable: "The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundant crops. And he began to consider, saying, 'What shall I do, for I have no room to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger one, and there I will store up all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be marry.' But God said to him, 'You fool, this very night, you must give up your life; and the things you have provided, whose will they be?' So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich as regards God." After he had said this, he cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



----- 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 Church Hall 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS: Our first meeting was held on Nov. 16th at the home of Dr. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna. We began with a brief prayer/potluck vegetarian snacks and fellowship and closed at 7:30 PM with Little Compline, a brief but beautiful prayer service that is the traditional bedtime prayer of the Church. Our next Neighborhood Gathering for those in Northwest Atlanta Metro area will be held on Nov. 30, please see Dcn. Elie if you have received an FlockNote sign up.

LUNCH BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS: This Sunday the children will be packing lunch bags for the homeless at the Bashor Homeless Men’s Shelter. All supplies are being donated by the Hanna family.

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

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

SUN, NOV 19 – LADIES SOCIETY MEETING AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

MON, NOV 20th – 7PM: GREAT VESPERS FOR FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

TUES, NOV 21st – 7PM: DIVINE LITURGY FOR FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

WED & FRI, NOV 22/24 – NO SERVICES

SUN, NOV 26 – 13th SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – THE RICH YOUNG MAN

WED & FRI, NOV 29/DEC 1st – 7PM: PARAKLESIS SERVICE FOR NATIVITY FAST

- Send First Names (only first names, no nick names) of the LIVING to contact@stjohnmelkite.org

SUN, DEC 3rd – 14th SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

- Community Celebration of the Feast Day of St. Barbara
- Asa’s Alley is hosting an Art Market which children can participate in

MON, DEC 4th – ACTUAL FEAST DAY OF ST BARBARA

WED, DEC 6th – ACTUAL FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS

SUN, DEC 10th – 10th SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS –

- +Butrus Jajeh – 40 Day Memorial with Mercy Meal
- Community Celebration of St. Nicholas – Visit of St. Nicholas
- Annual Nativity Bakesale



SUN, DEC 17th – SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

- Children’s Nativity Program with Lunch for the Children

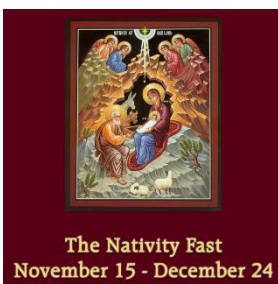
----- WHAT IS A PARAKLESIS SERVICE? -----

A *paraklesis* is a service of prayers offered on behalf of the living. This service is most commonly addressed to the Most Holy Theotokos, although it may be used to seek the intercessions of any saint. One unique thing about the service is a selection of music with hymns addressed to the saint whose intercessions are being sought. It is customary in our Melkite Diocese to chant this service during the Nativity Fast.



----- THE NATIVITY FAST AND THANKSGIVING -----

Once a priest-mentor of mine was asked about how to deal with Thanksgiving during the Nativity Fast. His answer was simple. Break the fast to enjoy the time with your family, and once your Thanksgiving celebrations are over return to the fast. The fast is not about food so much as it is about learning to discipline ourselves. It makes no sense to keep the fast perfectly if we go on sinning just as much (or even more because we are hungry and cranky). Another priest once told me that when it comes to the fast, a good rule is to "keep your eyes on your own plate." So, we each do the best we can. (Fr. Elias)



----- 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 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." Identify purpose of any Zelle donation donate@stjohnmelkite.org in memo field. You may also give via Flocknote if that is easier for you.

FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - OCT 2023 and JAN-OCT 2023):

*Total Income:	\$17,793 (O.C. \$10,350)	\$130,416 (O.C. \$93,022)
**Expenses:	\$32,927	\$251,355
Net Income:	(\$15,105)	(\$121,080)

* O.C. – Ordinary Collections

** YTD RENOVATION AND REPAIR EXPENSES: **\$91,028**

FLOCKNOTE REGISTRATION AND 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.



----- Middle East Emergency Relief Collection -----

All donations given to the Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America will be collected and shared with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), or other local Catholic organizations, that provide emergency relief to all who suffer from the effects of the war between Israel and Hamas. Please see on the melkite.org website a link for those who wish to provide emergency relief: [DONATE HERE](#)

----- 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.

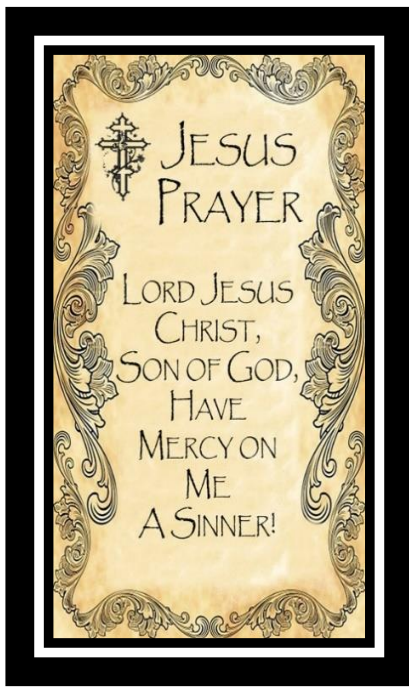
----- TIME AND TALENT -----

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
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 LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

Fr. Tom Flynn	Samira Jajeh	Lauren Makhoulouf
Serene Kadadu	Scott Alexander	Lina Muhanna
	Dcn. Sami Jajeh and Family	

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.

November 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

Joseph Cirou	Marilyn Doolan
Rani Ghawi	David Haddad
Adalyn Hall	Basil Kirma
Bob Law	Sammora Madanat
Sammy Madanat	Aida Malouf
Amaya Oukheira	Evelina Shalymoon

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Moez and Christine Hasni
Mr. & Mrs. Vikas and Razan Purohit

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

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

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
+Rt. Rev. William Haddad, Founding Pastor
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.

---- OUR TRUE WEALTH IS GOD ----

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to be “rich toward God” (Lk 12:21)? Many of us may remember the concept of spiritual bouquets promoted by many Roman Catholic religious orders in schools and churches, particularly before Vatican II. A person accomplished so many Masses, so many Communions, so many rosaries, etc. which were then offered for another person or a special intention. This practice, which urged many people to more frequent devotional practices than they would have observed otherwise, was a kind of piety of numbers: the more you do, the better.

Is this what the Lord Jesus meant by being “rich towards God”? Instead of amassing earthly treasures are we intended to accumulate spiritual “points” which we can bring with us when we stand before the Judge? Such an approach can bring us close to the Pharisee in Christ’s parable who lists his spiritual accomplishments in contrast to the repentant Publican. At best it reveals our faith as immature, incapable of digesting spiritual meat (see 1 Cor 3:2). The actual treasure which is ours as the adopted children of God is nothing less than “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:19). We are, as St. Paul insists, a temple in which God dwells both individually and as Church. Our ability to know God begins with His indwelling presence within us.

We certainly know that God loves us in Christ, and may believe that He dwells in us but it often seems to be an abstraction: something we know is true but doesn’t touch us in any significant way. “God loves us... Michelangelo gave us great art... Bell gave us the telephone...” we may know all these things in the same way. But to know God’s love in a way “that passes knowledge” is to do so in a manner that goes beyond intellectual knowledge to a knowledge of the heart.

As St. Paul says here, this knowledge is not an end in itself but enables us to be filled with God’s fullness. Once our hearts are opened by a realization of how God loves us, they can experience God’s saving presence. This presence transforms us – deifies us – making us sharers of His divine nature, which the Greek Fathers call theosis.

Some people have achieved this “knowledge past understanding” through the direct intervention of God. God makes Himself known unexpectedly to people and energizes their lives dramatically. St Gregory of Nyssa, for example, testifies that “One night there appeared to Basil an outpouring of light, and, by means of divine power, the entire dwelling was illuminated by an immaterial light, having no source in anything material” (Funeral Oration for His Brother, Basil the Great).

Most of us, however, have not had such an experience. How do we begin to arrive at this knowledge? Our attentiveness to prayer, the sacraments and the Scriptures are certainly signs that we look to know God. Still, our contact with the Bible and the Church’s liturgy is intermittent. Even if we pray every day, these acts of openness to God are intermittent. Can ordinary people be in more constant communion with God than that?

**Thank You Aroma Ridge Coffee for
sponsoring many years of our Coffee Hour!**

