



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, November 26, 2023

13th Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – TONE 1

الأحد 26 تشرين الثاني 2023
الأحد الثالث عشر بعد الصليب

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. If you would like a tour or discussion about the Melkite Church, please let Fr. Elias know so that one can be arranged after coffee hour. Interested in being a catechumen or parishioner? Please send an email to contact@stjohnmelkite.org.

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 Makhlouf, 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

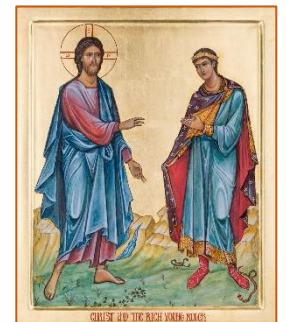
REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Janice and Paul Peterson
+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 John Chambers
+Souren Palanjian, Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Philip Smith
+Nikki Purcell, Requested by the Hanna Family



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

Luke 18:18-28: At that time a certain man approached Jesus and asked him, saying, “Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?” But Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments; ‘Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thou father and mother.’” And he said, “All these I have kept ever since I was a child.” But when Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing is still lacking to you; sell everything you own, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, “With what difficulty will the wealthy enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And they who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” He said to them, “Things men cannot do alone, they can do with God’s help.”



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

THURS, NOV 30th – 6PM: NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

This upcoming Thursday will include a neighborhood gathering in the Northwest part of the Atlanta Metropolitan area. The goal is to make it more convenient for us to meet, enjoy fellowship and food, and pray as a community. More info below.

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

UPCOMING PROJECT – WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! The Finance/Building Council has approved the restoration of the basement floor of the Church Hall, so that the students have a clean and safe area for Religious Education. We need many able-bodied adults on Sunday, Nov. 26th to move items from the basement up to the Church Hall proper, so that the bottom area is ready for the workers who will be arriving Monday, November 27th.

HOMELESS CARE PACKAGE DRIVE: The Good Samaritan Society is collecting 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 has been 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. If you prefer to provide a check or Zelle payment, The Good Samaritan Society will purchase the items on your behalf. Please put "Homeless Care Package" in the memo.

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS: Our next Neighborhood Gathering for those in Northwest Atlanta Metro area will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30th. A vegetarian potluck is at 6pm, with a short reflection at 6:45pm and compline prayers at 7:30pm. Please contact Deacon Elie (deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org) if you have not received a FlockNote sign up and would like to attend.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: Father Elias has completed many house blessings, and he is ready to come bless yours as soon as possible. To schedule yours, please e-mail father at pastor@stjohnmelkite.org.

BOOK FEATURING ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: Daniel Markham went to mass (or Divine Liturgy) in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Wash. D.C. He documented these church visits in a book titled *52 Masses*. St. John Chrysostom is the church he went to for the state of Georgia. If you would like to purchase the book, perhaps as a Christmas gift, the website is: <https://52masses.square.site/>

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

SAT, DEC 2nd and DEC 9th – SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING MARRIAGE WORK (SEE FLYER ON BACK PAGE)

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



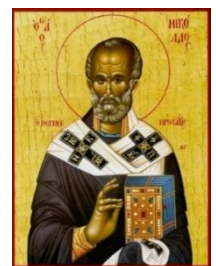
MON, DEC 4th – ACTUAL FEAST DAY OF ST BARBARA

Saint Barbara, also known as the Barbara the Great Martyr, was alive during a time when Christians were commonly persecuted by the Roman Empire. She came from a place called Heliopolis, which at the time was in Phoenicia while Maximian was the emperor. Her father’s name was Dioscorus, which was a well known idolator. Because of this, she had to practice her Christianity somewhat in secret because her family didn’t share her beliefs. Barbara believed in the Holy Trinity and practiced her Christian faith in private, without letting her family know. However, her family did eventually find out. She gave away her beliefs because she had construction workers add a third window in the house against the father’s wishes, and she inscribed a cross near it. When her father returned, he noticed and asked her why. She didn’t lie to him. She became a martyr in the year 290, losing her life from beheading. Dioscorus, her father, did the act himself.

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

SUN, DEC 10th – 10th SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS – HEALING OF A CRIPPLED WOMAN

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

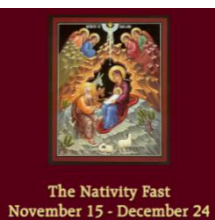


SUN, DEC 17th – SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

- 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 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.

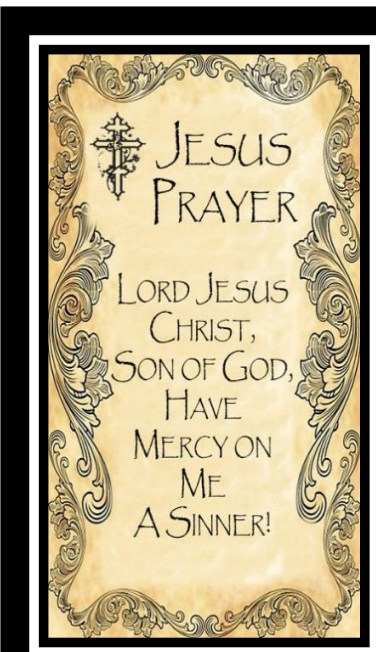


----- Middle East Emergency Relief Collection -----

All donations given to the Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church are to be shared with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), that has been serving the people of the region for over 75 years. With the increased violence, bloodshed, dispersion, and tension in the Middle East, we ask the faithful to pray for peace and to remember the words of Jesus, our Savior “Blessed are the peacemakers.” [Mt. 5:9] You may send donations to the “Diocese of Newton” or use the following link: [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.



PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

Fr. Tom Flynn	Samira Jajeh	Lauren Makhoul
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	The homeless and poor
Those taking care of (grand)parents	Those preparing for marriage
Those consider ascription into the Melkite Church	
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.

----- 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

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.

--- ASCETISM AND THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION---

The choice between serving God and mammon is at the heart of Christian asceticism, where making that choice is lived and experienced on a daily basis. It is most intensely observed by monastics, but also by Christians living in this world, married or single. A person living an ascetic life tries to distance himself or herself from being tied to the passing pleasures of the world so as to be more open to following Christ and living the life of God.

People often consider life with God as something of the world to come. It is clear to most people, even in the wider society, that our earthly attachments have no place in heaven. A recent installment in Dan Piraro's widely syndicated cartoon strip, Bizarro! makes this point. Two long-time residents of heaven are observing two younger ones. "Most of the new arrivals seem incapable of conversation," the eldest notes. "They just stare at their hands in despair," trying to text, but there are no electronic devices in heaven!

Yes, there are no cigarettes, no movies, no alcohol in heaven. To be without them would surely frustrate someone who has made enjoying these things the focus of life. Thus some Christian thinkers have observed that to be in heaven without the object of one's passions would actually be to dwell in hell.

But the differences between this age and the age to come are not really the point. Life with God, transformation into the image of God, begins now, with baptism. That life is meant to be experienced in ever deeper ways as we mature in the Christian life here, as well as in the life of the age to come. The Christian seeks to avoid anything which can captivate our minds and, at best, distract us from that relationship to God. Following Christ is meant to be the real source of our joy here on earth, as well as in the world to come. Serving Christ in worship and ministering to Him in the needy should be our joys, rather than obligations to be gotten through as quickly as possible. The Christian life, to paraphrase St Catherine of Siena, is meant to be "heaven all the way to heaven."

the Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

A Workshop for Married & Engaged Catholic Couples
December 2nd and 9th, 8am to 12pm PST
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