



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, November 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday After the Holy Cross – TONE 6

Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Galaction and his wife Episteme

الأحد 5 تشرين الثاني 2023

الأحد الخامس 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. 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  
Shajih & Ghada Muhanna, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community  
Lina Muhanna, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

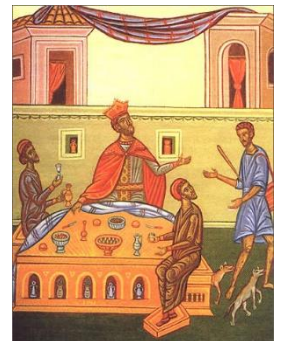
### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Aznive Osko (Syria), mother of Dr. Ghada Osko Boghos, Requested by Tony and Matilda Ghawi  
+Rouviette Hanna, Requested by John Chambers  
+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  
+Sister Mary Sponsa Beltran, Requested by John Chambers



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

**Luke 16: 19-31** At that time, the Lord told this parable; “there was certain rich man who used to clothe himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted every day in splendid fashion. And there was certain poor man, named Lazarus, who lay at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be filled with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. And it came to pass that the poor man died and was borne away by the angels into Abraham’s bosom; but the rich man also died and was buried in hell. And lifting up his eyes, being in torments, he saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham have pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember you in your lifetime have received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now here he is comforted whereas you are tormented. And besides all that, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who wish to pass over from this side to you cannot, and they cannot cross from your side to us.’ And he said, ‘Then, father, I pray you to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they too come into this place of torments.’ And Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ But he answered, ‘No father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead.’”



----- 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.

**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.

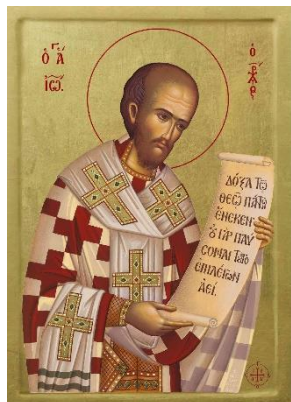
**THE NATIVITY FAST:** (also called the Fast of St. Philip, whose feast day is on November 14) traditionally begins on November 15. During this period, we abstain from meat and meat products as well as from dairy products. On December 13, the fast becomes stricter and in addition to abstinence from meat 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 -----

**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 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." Identify purpose of any Zelle donation [donate@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto: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:	<b>(\$15,105)</b>	<b>(\$121,080)</b>

\* 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.



----- 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

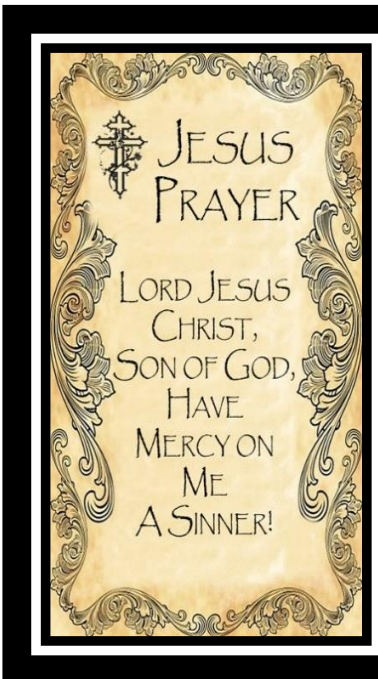
----- Palestine-Israel Emergency Relief Collection -----



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: <http://melkite.org/israel-hamas-war-emergency-relief>.

----- 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.



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

- |                        |                 |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fr. Tom Flynn          | Butrus Jajeh    | Samira Jajeh    |
| Serene Kadadu          | Scott Alexander | Lauren Makhloof |
| Shajih & Ghada Muhanna |                 | Lina Muhanna    |
| Rebecca Schmiedeknecht |                 |                 |

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

## 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](mailto: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

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: [www.youtube.com/@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.

### ---- TREASURES IN HEAVEN ----

The Lord Jesus invites us to see that we are given material wealth in this life, not for its own sake, but to be used as an investment for eternity. He teaches that material prosperity in itself does nothing for us in the long run unless we use it in a godly way. In the Sermon on the Mount we hear the Lord say, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19, 20). Here earthly treasures are not portrayed as wrong in themselves; rather it is the use to which we put them which judges us in God's sight.

As Jesus told the rich young man who came to Him, giving to the poor turns earthly goods into heavenly treasure (see Mark 10:21). That which gives us momentary contentment here on earth can be transformed into a source of eternal satisfaction by giving it away. At a dinner in a Pharisee's house, the Lord gave the following instruction: "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you; but you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:12-14). The reward of those who practice this kind of generosity will be in the age to come.

Later in his Gospel, St Luke would present us with the story of a man who learned how to use his riches: Zacchaeus the tax collector. When Zacchaeus vows to give half of his wealth to the poor and repay fourfold anyone he may have defrauded, the Lord's response is "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9); Zacchaeus has valued godliness above material possessions. As a result he attained the kingdom of God.

How to use a person's possessions in a godly way was a favorite theme of many Church Fathers. Commenting on the Beatitudes, St Ambrose of Milan would note that Jesus "does not condemn those who have riches, but those who do not know how to use them" (Exposition of the Gospel of Luke 5, 69). Preaching in the cathedral at Antioch, St John Chrysostom urged his hearers to be generous to the beggars at the church door, not rushing past them as if they were "pillars, not human bodies... lifeless statues, not breathing human beings" (Sermons on Genesis 5,3).

During St John Chrysostom's years as a priest in Antioch, the Church there maintained numerous ministries to the needy (widows, virgins, the sick, the disabled, the imprisoned and travelers) as well as providing food and clothing daily to anyone in need of them. Still, the saint insisted that church members could not hide behind these organized ministries to excuse their personal lack of compassion for those in need. "Can [someone else's hospitality] benefit you?" he chided. "If another man prays, does it follow that you are not bound to pray?" You cannot expect to be rewarded by referring the needy to someone else!

People often excuse themselves from helping the needy by pointing to their own needs. They forget the widow whom the Lord observed at the temple treasury: "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood'" (Mark 12:41-44). Jesus would not have approved of her action if it were not truly an investment in eternity.