



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, December 10, 2023
Tenth Sunday After the Holy Cross – TONE 3
الاحد، 10 كانون الاول 2023
الاحد العاشر 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 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.

HOUSE BLESSINGS: Father Elias is ready to bless your house! To schedule yours, please e-mail pastor@stjohnmelkite.org.

----- 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 Makhoul, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Scott Alexander, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

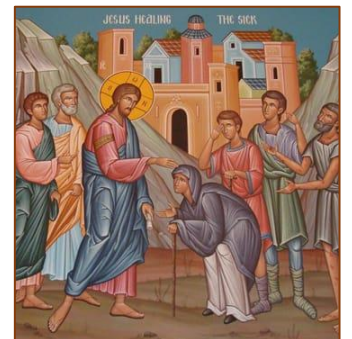
+Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Smith
+Butrus Jajeh, Father of Dcn. Sami Jajeh, Requested by Eric and Marie Hansen
+Irena Zabczak, Requested by Dcn. Elie Hanna and family

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 Bake Sale



Luke 13: 10-17 - At that time Jesus was teaching in one of their synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent over and utterly unable to look upwards. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, "Woman, thou art delivered from thy infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and instantly she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, addressed the crowd, saying, "There are six days in which one ought to work; on these therefore come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath." But the Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or ass from the manger, and lead it forth to water? And this woman, daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound, lo, for eighteen years, ought not she to be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And as he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame; and the entire crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.



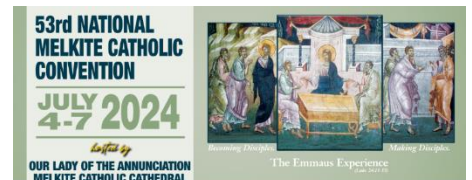
----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

FREEZE SHELTER NEXT DOOR: Our neighbors at St. John Lutheran Church has offered us the opportunity to participate in helping with their Freeze Shelter on Dec 10-12th. Options to help include Greeter (6:30-8:30pm), Meal Help, and Overnight (8:30pm-7:30am). You may Sign up to help by [CLICKING HERE](#) and/or contact the Good Samaritan Society leaders, Marie Hansen, Suely Elias or Khouriyeh Sylvia for more information. Once you signup, the Freeze Shelter procedures document will be sent to you.

HOMELESS CARE PACKAGES: SAVE THE DATE: Dec. 17 for Care package assembly. The Good Samaritan Society is asking all the children of the parish to help assemble care packages for the homeless on Sunday, Dec. 17, following the Nativity play. Each family will then have the chance to take a few of the packages with them to hand out to men in need (these packages are specifically for men). It would be nice to have the packages ready to give out before Christmas, so that our young ones can help spread the blessings of the season. Thank you for your attendance!

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/>

53rd NATIONAL MELKITE CONVENTION: SAVE THE DATES (July 4-7, 2024). The 53rd Annual National Melkite Convention will be hosted by Our Lady of the Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral at the Marriott Boston Quincy. The package registration form will be shared shortly. It is never too early to make a hotel registration, as they can be cancelled without penalty. Consider taking the entire family to this important event.



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

WED & FRI, DEC 13 & 15th – 7PM: PARAKLESIS SERVICE FOR NATIVITY FAST

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

SUN, DEC 17th – SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

- Children's Nativity Program with Lunch for the Children
- Homeless Care Package Assembly

WED, DEC 20th – 7PM: PARAKLESIS SERVICE FOR NATIVITY FAST

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

FRI, DEC 22nd – 7PM: PARAMONY OF THE NATIVITY - HOLY ANOINTING SERVICE

SUN, DEC 24th – SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - GENEALOGY

- Sunday Orthros (9:45am) and Divine Liturgy (10:30am) at normal times
- Christmas Divine Liturgy to be held as a vigil liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 24th at 10PM. There will be Agape after the Liturgy.

MON, DEC 25th – FEAST OF THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- There will be no Christmas day liturgy on Monday, Dec. 25th.



----- CONFESSION IN THE MELKITE TRADITION -----

The Bible tells us that "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Matthew 9:6). We also read that the risen Lord enabled the Church to forgive sin in His name when He appeared to the apostles after His resurrection: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven..." (John 20:23). The Mystery of Repentance (Confession) is the Church's principal way to exercise this ministry. Because the Church encourages us to go to confession during the fasting seasons, the Nativity Fast is a good time to consider going to confession. We prepare for confession by reviewing what we have done (and failed to do) in light of the Gospel. There are booklets available from the bookstore or the clergy to help us prepare for confession. In addition to the set times for confession posted in the bulletin, Father Elias is available for Confession by appointment. In our tradition, it is customary for the priest to hear confession before an icon of Christ. This reminds us that it is Christ to whom we are confessing. That is why Father sometimes stands near the Icon of Christ at the front of the Church during Orthros. During confession, the priest may ask questions or make suggestions. At the end, he will place the end of his epitrachelion (stole) over our bowed head and say the prayer of absolution. Afterwards, we may kiss the stole and the priest's hand.

How do we go to confession? What are the steps?

1. Approach the icon and make three metanies, along with the priest, saying each time: "God be propitious to me, the sinner, and have mercy upon me."
2. The priest will give you a blessing and make the sign of the cross over you: "Blessed is our God at all times, now and always and forever and ever."
3. He may ask the following questions to help you get started: "Have you asked the Lord pardon for all your sins and offenses? Is there anything in particular you would like to confess?"
4. State your sins simply, without going into extreme detail.

----- 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 - NOV 2023 and JAN-NOV 2023):

*Total Income:	\$16,975 (O.C. \$10,111)	\$147,2390 (O.C. \$103,132)
**Expenses:	\$19,343	\$270,993
Net Income:	(\$2,664)	(\$123,744)

* O.C. – Ordinary Collections

** YTD RENOVATION AND REPAIR EXPENSES: **\$98,554**

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

----- ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL -----

Please see the e-mail announcement via Flocknote for the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. In Bishop François’s Bishop Appeal Letter, he writes, “As Melkite Catholics, you and I know what it’s like to feel a deep, familial connection with those far away— even with those whom we’ve never met. That’s because we share the same tradition, the same heritage, and the same destiny. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy, we are connected with Our Lord and with one another across the miles and across the centuries.” The full letter is found [HERE](#), where he shares his vision of the Bishop’s Appeal helping with vocations, resources, and communications, as some of the important initiatives. You may donate to the Bishop’s appeal on the website by clicking on this link [DONATE HERE](#) or using the QR Code to the right.



----- 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.

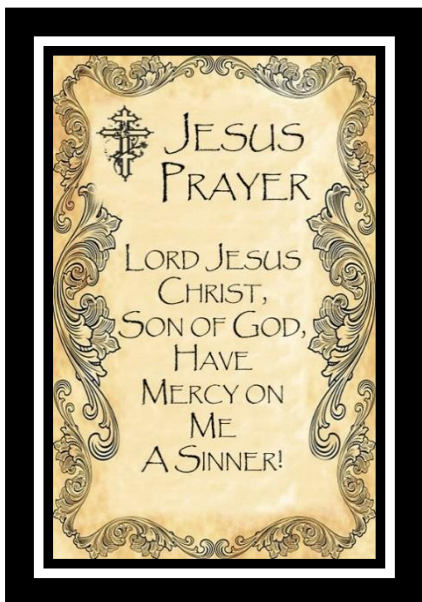
PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

Fr. Tom Flynn	Samira Jajeh	Lauren Makhlof
Serene Kadadu	Scott Alexander	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 considering 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.



December 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

Jessica Fron	Salma Layous
Tyoh Long	Michael Madanat
John Madanat	Maureen Maloof
Tyra Nuar	Luca Quatelas
Robert Thomas	

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. & Mrs. Craig and Melinda Ajmo
Mrs. Evelyn Whalen

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.

--- THE SABBATH MIRACLE ---

GOD ALLOWS SATAN AND SIN TO BIND THIS WOMAN. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: "There was in the synagogue a woman who for eighteen years was bowed down by infirmity." Her case may prove to be of great benefit to those who have understanding. We must gather what is to our advantage from every quarter. By what happened to her, we may see that Satan often receives authority over certain persons who fall into sin and have grown lax in their efforts toward piety. Whomever he gets into his power, he may involve in bodily diseases since he delights in punishment and is merciless.... The accursed Satan is the cause of disease to the human bodies, just we affirm that Adam's transgression was his doing, and by means of it our bodily frames have become liable to infirmity and decay. COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILY 96.

JESUS OVERCOMES DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: The incarnation of the Word and his assumption of human nature took place for the overthrow of death, destruction and the envy harbored against us by the wicked Serpent, who was the first cause of evil. This plainly is proved to us by facts themselves. He set free the daughter of Abraham from her protracted sickness, calling out and saying, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." A speech most worthy of God, and full of supernatural power! With the royal inclination of his will, he drives away the disease. He also lays his hands upon her. It says that she immediately was made straight. It is now also possible to see that his holy flesh bore in it the power and activity of God. It was his own flesh, and not that of some other Son beside him, distinct and separate from him, as some most impiously imagine. COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILY 96.

DID YOU KNOW?

