



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy – TONE 5

Commemoration of the Father among the Saints, Leo, Pope of Rome

الاحد، 18 شباط 2024

الاحد الاول من الصوم العظيم المقدس – أحد الارثوذكسية

تذكار ابينا في القديسين لاون بابا رومة

SATURDAY: GREAT VESPERS (6pm) – CONFESSIONS (5:30-6pm)

SUNDAY: ORTHOS (9:45AM) - DIVINE LITURGY (10:30am) – CONFESSIONS (9:30AM)

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.

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.



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

HEALTH & SALVATION

Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Lauren Makhlouf, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Raymond Banna, Requested by Majeda Banna
Sandra & Norbert Corrigan, Requested by Dcn. Elie and Kh. Dzovag Hanna

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Samira Jajeh, Requested by John Chambers
+Nancy Baird, Requested by Joe Manguno
+Kamal Negm, brother of Deacon Magdi Negm, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton

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

SAT, FEB 24th – 6PM GREAT VESPERS

- Married Couples Date Night with a Lenten Supper, following the Vespers Liturgy

SUN, FEB 18th – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

- Bring your icons for the procession at the end of Divine Liturgy

WED, FEB 21ST – 7 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

FRI, FEB 23RD – 7 PM AKATHIST FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

SAT, FEB 24th – 6PM GREAT VESPERS

SUN, FEB 25th – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – HOLY RELICS AND GREGORY PALAMAS

WED, FEB 28TH – 7 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

FRI, MAR 1ST – 7 PM AKATHIST FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

SAT, MAR 2ND – 6PM GREAT VESPERS

SUN, MAR 3RD – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

- Bring your crosses for the procession at the end of Orthos

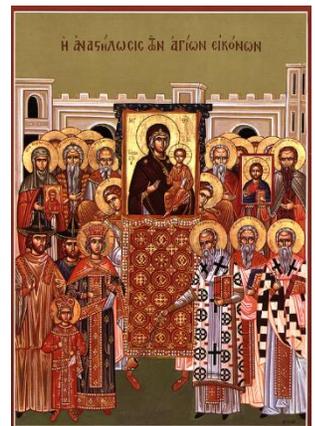
WED, MAR 6th – 7 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

FRI, MAR 8th – 7 PM AKATHIST FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

SAT, MAR 9th – SATURDAY OF THE DEAD – DIVINE LITURGY

SUN, MAR 10th – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF OUR FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS

- Memorial Service for +Samira Jajeh, followed by Mercy Meal



----- WEEKDAY GREAT LENT SCHEDULE AND READINGS -----

Weekday Lenten Services: WED – Pre-sanctified Liturgy (7pm) and FRI – Akathist followed by community supper – 7PM

Weekday Daily Lenten Scripture Readings: During Great Lent it is the custom on weekdays to read from Genesis and Proverbs during the daily evening services, and from the Prophet Isaiah at the 6th hour. You can find these readings listed in your Melkite calendar, or at <http://melkite.org>, and follow along on your own each day. This is one way to journey together with the Church as we make our way to Pascha.

----- HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE -----

SAT, MAR 23RD – 10:30AM - LAZARUS SATURDAY, followed by a pancake lunch and various youth activities.

**SUN, MAR 24TH – PALM SUNDAY – SUNDAY ORTHROS AND DIVINE LITURGY, followed by Bake Sale and Luncheon
2:30PM - VESPERS for ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS immediately following**

MON, MAR 25TH – 7:00PM - DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

TUES, MAR 26TH – 7:00PM - HOLY TUESDAY - BRIDEGROOM SERVICE

WED, MAR 27TH – 7:00PM - GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY - ANOINTING SERVICE

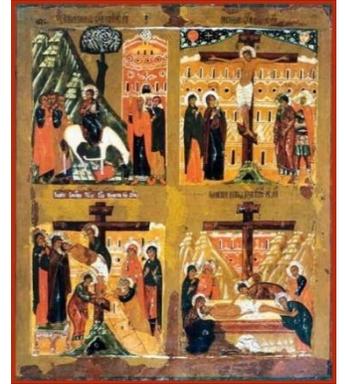
- We are looking for young men (13-17) to serve as youth Epistle Readers at the anointing service on Holy Wednesday.

**THURS, MAR 28TH – 10:30AM - GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY DIVINE LITURGY
7:00PM - CRUCIFIXION SERVICE (SERVICE OF THE 12 GOSPELS)**

**FRI, MAR 29TH – 6:00PM - GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY – DESCENT FROM THE CROSS
7:00PM - EPITAPHIOS SERVICE (LAMENTATIONS)**

- We are looking for young ladies (5-12) to serve as Myrrh Bearers at the Lamentations Service on Great and Holy Friday.

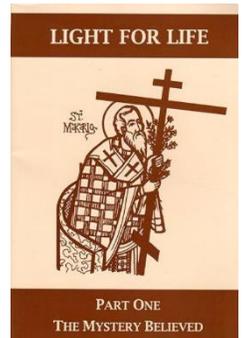
**SAT, MAR 30TH – 10:30AM - GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY LITURGY OF THE LIGHT
8:00PM - HAJMEH/DIVINE LITURGY**



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

CONGRATULATIONS DEACON SAMI: The latest Georgia Bulletin, The Newspaper of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, featured Deacon Sami as Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School's teacher of the year. The full article can be read by [CLICKING HERE](#).

ADULT CATECHISM: We will be offering an online Adult Catechism class on Thursdays during Great Lent. We have begun **with the Light for Life Series Part One: The Mystery Believed**. This volume sketches out the mystery of the God who loves us and reveals Himself to us. The Light for Life Series, commissioned by the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States, is an overview of the faith, worship, and spiritual life of the Eastern Church. Drawing on various aspects of Holy Tradition, Light for Life expresses the historical proclamation of the Gospel. We will pause for Holy Week and Great and Glorious Pascha, and resume after Bright Week. Books are available at the book table in the parish hall.



SJC YOUNG ADULT LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: The SJC Young Adults group has begun a weekly online Lenten Bible study on **Tuesdays at 7:30 PM**. As modern Christians, an exploration of the various covenants of the Old Testament can provide a deeper appreciation of our own baptism and prepare us spiritually for a more fruitful celebration of Glorious Pascha (Easter). This interactive study will explore the Old Testament through the lens of the "big picture" of salvation history, with an emphasis on the Old Testament Covenants and their ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament through Christ.

A LENTEN DATE NIGHT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - Please join Father Elias and Kh. Sylvia for Vespers and a Lenten date night on **Saturday, Feb. 17th**. After Vespers we will meet in the hall for a Lenten supper as well as an entertaining discussion of Dr. John Gottman's "4 Horsemen," a common set of behaviors that often ride into marriages and wreak havoc.

WOMEN DISCIPLES OF THE LORD: You are cordially invited to join Kh. Sylvia and women throughout the Eparchy as we continue the time-honored tradition of reading through the Psalter during the season of Great Lent. We will be using the book, "Songs of Praise" by S. Leontaritis to guide us and provide additional material for reflection. Copies of the book will be available for purchase in the bookstore. We would love to have you join us for this beautiful Lenten discipline. Scan the QR Code to sign up.



MID-DAY FOR MOMS! If you would like to receive correspondence and notifications of future events, please join the Mid-day Moms' Flocknote Group. We look forward to hosting this event again on Wednesday, February 21st, from 10 AM - 1 PM.

----- LENTEN SUPPER GUEST SPEAKER SERIES -----

Friday, 2/23/24 – Fr Gabriel Tannous - Newness of Life

Friday, 3/1/24 - Fr. Gabe Aldrige - Love and the Ascetic Struggle - St. Maximus the Confessor on the nature and value of the virtues.

Friday, 3/8/24 – Fr. Nathanael Guirguis - What Goes Down Must Come Up

Friday, 3/15/24 – Fr Justin Rose - Courage to be Ourselves: Who are we?

Sunday, 3/17/24 - Fr. Justin Rose - Courage to Be Ourselves: Living Out our Baptism as Melkite

----- CEDAR CLUB OF ATLANTA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS -----

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS: The Cedar Club of Atlanta Foundation will be awarding up to \$1,500 in scholarship(s) to a graduating senior(s) from St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox church, St. John Melkite church, and/or St. Joseph Maronite church. Applicants must have attended one of the above churches for the past 3 years to qualify and need not be of Arabic descent. This scholarship will be awarded based on academics.

The **Sarina Shadeed Scholarship is \$1,000 and will be awarded based on an essay**, written by the applicant, about overcoming adversity in their life. Applicant must be a member of one of the above churches or a member of the Cedar Club of Atlanta.

Complete applications must be received no later than April 15th, 2024. Please contact Sandra Salem, Cedar Club of Atlanta Foundation, Scholarship Director, at sasalem1118@gmail.com for more information. The link to access both scholarships is: [2024 Cedar Club Scholarship Application](#).

----- CHURCH FINANCIALS -----

2023 REPORTING AND GIVING PATTERNS: Please consider revising your annual giving plan or starting one if you have not already. Our finance committee has identified a few challenges that have impacted the long-term health of our parish community that include inconsistent giving, a mismatch between increased giving and inflation, and fewer new members. Thank you for your consideration.

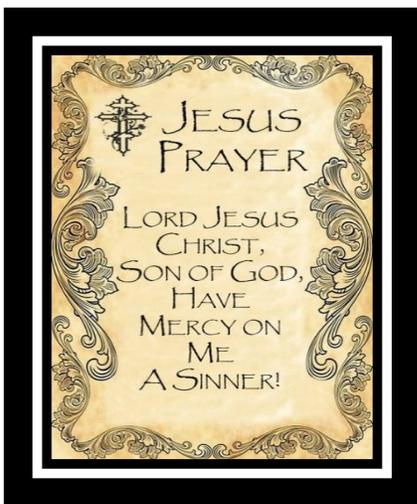
2023-24 FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - JAN 2024 and JAN-DEC 2023):

*Total Income:	\$13,320 (O.C. \$10,120)	\$164,236 (O.C. \$114,896)
**Expenses:	\$26,435	\$295,775
Net Income:	(\$13,115)	(\$131,681) * O.C. – Ordinary Collections, ** JAN 24 RENOVATION & MAINT. EXPENSES: \$9,357



----- PRAYER IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

COMMEMORATIONS: Commemorations can be made for a community member, 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	Lauren Makhoulouf	Serene Kadadu
Julian and Nadia Muhanna		Deacon Sami and Family
Those looking for employment		Those preparing for marriage
Victims of natural disasters		The homeless and poor
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.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



Note: 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

Mervat Joudh	Thomas Atalla
Fr. John Azar	Nina Curry
Jaime Diaz	William Maakaroun
Mark Madanat	Vic Maloof
Ghada Nabhan	Maya Nabhan
Camille Nassar	Paul Peterson
Jonathan Pharo	Scott Schreiber
Mayy Wehbeh	

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Zahi and Suely Elias
Dr. & Mrs. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna
Mr. & Mrs. Greg and Patty Pharo

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](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) •

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite

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

Parish Clergy and Staff

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

Church Hall - Jerome Hagley (jerome.hagley@gmail.com)

--- DONATIONS ---

All checks should be made to "St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church" except for diocesan collections, made out to "Eparchy of Newton." Identify in memo field purpose of any Zelle donation given at donate@stjohnmelkite.org. You may give via Flocknote. Register or update registration via QR code.



--- 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 FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ---

Each Sunday of Lent has two themes. One theme is based on historical developments within the Church over time. The secondary theme for the First Sunday of Lent is the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," commemorating the victory over Iconoclasm and the restoration of the veneration of icons in Constantinople in 843. The texts of Vespers and Orthros for this Sunday insist on the reality of the Incarnation of Christ in the flesh, which is the foundation of the veneration of icons. Christ Incarnate is the essential Icon, the prototype of all other Icons.

The primary theme of the first Sunday is based on the fact that Lent was originally a period of catechesis for those preparing for Baptism. Baptism is the entrance into new life in Christ. One preparing for Baptism has not yet entered this life and is preparing for it, like those of the Old Testament who lived my faith in God's promise. Those preparing for Baptism were preparing for the inauguration of the new age, the fulfillment of all promises, the manifestation of the Kingdom. This is the life that we live as baptized Christians, and that we experience during Great Lent to the extent that we have the desire and accept the effort required to live out Lent.

As part of this life, we must be like Nathanael, who meets Christ today in the Gospel. Like Nathanael we all have decisive moments or turning points in which the Lord comes to us in unseen and often unexpected ways. Our challenge is to accept the Lord's presence and activity. These moments can inspire us and encourage us to accept the daily challenge of living the Christian life. If we are open to the Lord's action in our lives, we will always be prepared to follow where He leads as His disciples.

--- LENTEN FAST – THE IDEAL IS BEFORE US ---

The tradition of the Eastern Church during Great Lent is as follows from sundown of Cheesefare Sunday to Holy Pascha:

- ABSTINENCE of meat (including poultry), meat products, dairy products, fish, olive oil, and wine.
- NO ABSTINENCE of shellfish, fruit, vegetables, vegetable products.

During this time, Eastern Christians regulate both the amount of food they eat and the number of times they eat each day. In other words, no food should be eaten between meals and at mealtimes only a small portion of food should be eaten. On Saturdays and Sundays during the Great Lent the quantity and number of times food is eaten is not restricted and olive oil and wine may be taken. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Father or one of the Deacons.