



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Holy Relics and Saint Gregory Palamas – Tone 6

الاحد 25 شباط 2024

الاحد الثاني من الصوم – أحد الذخائر المقدسة – وعيد القديس غريغوريوس بالاماس

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

SUNDAY: ORTHROS (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 Makhlof, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Raymond Banna, Requested by Majeda Banna

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Samira Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Elie and Dk. Dzovag Hanna and Family
+Kamal Negm, brother of Deacon Magdi Negm, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
+Will Garvis, Requested by Deacon Elie and Dk. Dzovag Hanna

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

SUN, FEB 25th – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – HOLY RELICS AND ST. 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

- Young Adult Meeting and Dinner following Great Vespers

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

- Bring your crosses for the procession at the end of Orthros.

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

- Prospora (Qurban) Making Session to Follow Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall

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

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

WED, MAR 13th – 7 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

FRI, MAR 15th – 7 PM AKATHIST FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

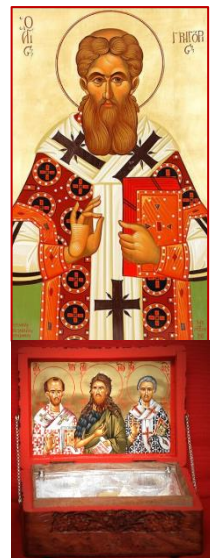
SAT, MAR 16th – 6PM GREAT VESPERS

SUN, MAR 17th – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – SUNDAY OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

WED, MAR 20th – 7 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

FRI, MAR 22nd – 7 PM LAZARUS VESPERS FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

SAT, MAR 23rd – 10:30 AM LAZARUS SATURDAY DIVINE LITURGY FOLLOWED BY PANCAKE LUNCH



----- 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 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 SAT., DIVINE LITURGY 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

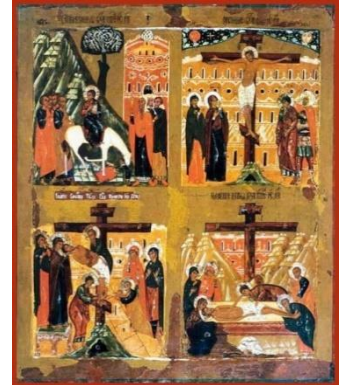
- We are looking for young men (13-17) to serve as youth Epistle Readers at the anointing service on Holy Wednesday.

**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 -----

CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir practice will be held Saturday, March 2nd with additional details to be determined.

PROSPHORA (QURBAN) MAKING: *Prospora* is the name given to the loaves of bread offered during the Divine Liturgy. The name comes from a Greek word which means "offering." In the Melkite tradition, it is customary for members of the community to make the *prospora*. When someone makes a loaf, they can also include a list of names of the living and the dead for whom they would like the priest to pray. These names are prayed for during the special service of preparation that occurs before every Divine Liturgy. We are looking for volunteers to help with this important service to the community, and will be offering a special class on Saturday, March 9th, after the 10:30 AM Saturday morning Divine Liturgy. This class is open to any member of the community interested in learning how to bake the holy bread. No prior experience with baking is needed.

RED ALTAR SERVER ROBES: This year all donations from the Akathist dinners will be used for a much-needed set of red *sticharions* (robes) for the altar servers. The total cost of these robes will be \$2,500 and the first two Akathist dinner raised \$334 towards such. If you would like to give separately for the Red Altar Server *sticharions*, please ensure your check or memo has noted such, or you may use the Flocknote QR code provided here.



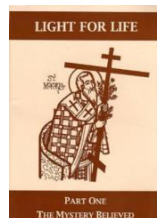
FOOD TAKEOUT: The ladies at St John Chrysostom Church are selling Kibbeh trays and grape leaves with meat to benefit the church. These items will be sold by pre-order only. Please place your order by Sunday, February 25, 2024, by emailing DIRECTLY to Ghada Muhanna at gmuhanha@gmail.com. Thank you.

SJC YOUNG ADULT GROUP MEETING: The Young Adults group will meet next Saturday, March 2nd. We will begin with Vespers at 6 PM, followed by dinner, social time, and a brief spiritual talk. Please sign up if you plan to attend using the QR Code on the right.



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**. You may sign up for the study on Flocknote.

ADULT CATECHISM: An online Adult Catechism class on Thursdays during Great Lent has 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 is an overview of the faith, worship, and spiritual life of the Eastern Church. Drawing on various aspects of Holy Tradition, it expresses the historical proclamation of the Gospel. We will pause for Holy Week and Pascha, and resume after Bright Week. Books are available at the table in the parish hall.



WOMEN DISCIPLES OF THE LORD: If you have not started, it is never too late. 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.



----- **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 Shadeded 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):

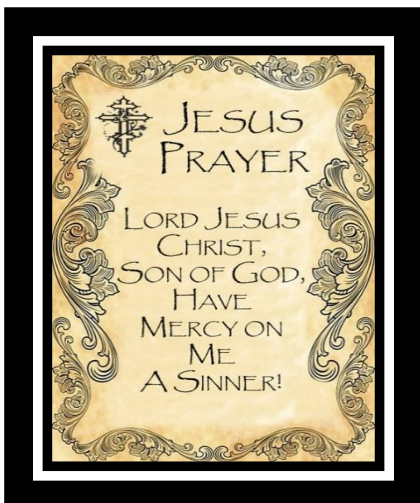
*Total Income:	\$13,320 (O.C. \$10,120)	\$164,236 (O.C. \$114,896)
**Expenses:	\$26,435	\$295,775
Net Income:	(\$13,115)	(\$131,681) * O.C. – Ordinary Collections,

** 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 Makhlof	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 SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ---

Today's Epistle reminds us of the importance of our effort and desire for God in the Lenten journey. It takes both to remain mindful of the spiritual life so that we do not drift away, and neglect the great gift of salvation the Lord offers us. In our Eastern tradition, we understand salvation in the context of spiritual healing. We see an image of this in the healing of the paralytic.

The paralytic, helpless on his own, is brought to the Lord by others. He is healed because of their faith. This reminds us that we are on the Lenten journey of spiritual healing as a community, together. We can not complete our journey well without each other's support and prayers. The healing of the paralytic also teaches us that although the healing of soul and body is closely connected, it is the healing of our souls that is most important.

On the Second Sunday of Great Lent we also commemorate St. Gregory Palamas, who emphasized the connection between soul and body in his teaching. Because of the Incarnation we can be united to the human nature of Christ through the holy Mysteries, particularly baptism and the Eucharist. As we share more and more in the divine nature, we are transformed in our whole person, body and soul. As our transformation progresses, the Lord sends us back into our homes, communities, places of work and study to show the reality of our inner healing through our words, actions and behavior.

--- 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.