



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, February 4, 2024
SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – TONE 3
الاحد، 4 شباط 2024
أحد مرفع اللحم

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.

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
Lauren Makhoulf, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Rony Kashou, Requested by the Kashou Family

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Thomas Whalen, Requested by John Chambers
+Samira Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family
+Richard Jabaley, Requested by his family
+Sue Maloof, Requested by Vic Maloof

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

SUN, FEB 4th – SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

- Memorial Service for +Sue Maloof

WED, FEB 7th – 7 PM VESPERS

SAT, FEB 10th – NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING – NORTH (12-2PM)

SAT, FEB 10th – 6 PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30 PM)

SUN, FEB 11th – SUNDAY OF CHEESE FARE/FORGIVENESS SUNDAY/BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

- General Assembly with lunch
- Forgiveness Vespers immediately following the General Assembly

WED, FEB 14th – 7 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

FRI, FEB 16th – 7 PM AKATHIST FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

SAT, FEB 17th – 6 PM GREAT VESPERS/CONFESSIONS (5:30 PM)

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

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

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

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

--- EPISTLE AND GOSPEL OF SUNDAY ---

Epistle (1 Cor 8:8-13 & 9:1-2) Brethren, food does not commend us to God. For neither shall we gain any advantage if we eat, nor suffer any loss if we do not. And yet, beware lest perhaps this right of yours become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if a man sees you who "have knowledge" sitting at table in a place dedicated to idols, will not his conscience, weak as it is, be emboldened to eat idol offerings? And through your "knowledge" the weak one will perish, the brother for whom Christ died. Now, when you sin in this way against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food scandalizes my brother, I will never again eat any more meat so as not to scandalize my brother. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? And if to others I am not an apostle, yet to you I am. For you are the seal set upon my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel (Matthew 25, 31-46 - Last Judgment) The Lord said, "At that time when the Son of Man shall come in his majesty, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory; and before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on his right hand, Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the just will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you to drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen I say to you, every time you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.' Then he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his ministers. For I was hungry, and you did not give me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked and you did not clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Amen I say to you as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me.' And these will go into everlasting punishment, but the just into everlasting life."



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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR GREAT LENT: This year we are inviting our youth to assist with certain Holy Week services. We are looking for young men (13-17) to serve as youth Epistle Readers at the anointing service on Holy Wednesday, and young ladies (5-12) to serve as Myrrh Bearers at the Lamentations Service on Great and Holy Friday. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet for each.

A LENTEN DATE NIGHT FOR MARRIED COUPLES – SAVE THE DATE - Please join Father Elias and Kh. Sylvia for Vespers and a Lenten date night on **Saturday, February 17th**. After Vespers we will meet in the hall for a Lenten supper as well as a fun and entertaining discussion of Dr. John Gottman's "4 Horsemen," a common set of behaviors that often ride into marriages and wreak havoc. Invite another couple and make it a double date. Stay tuned for more details.



SJC YOUNG ADULTS and SJC MEN'S GROUP: If you are interested in participating in either of our newly formed SJC Young Adults Group or SJC Men's Group, please add yourself to the SJC Young Adults and/or SJC Men's Group Flocknote Groups.

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.

----- GREAT LENT SCHEDULE STARTING WEEK OF FEB 12TH -----

The Holy Week schedule will be published in the coming weeks. Please note that this year we will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM on Lazarus Saturday (March 23), followed by a Pancake lunch and various youth activities. Stay tuned for additional details and please note the weekly Great Lent Schedule below:

- **WED – PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY – 7PM**
- **FRI – AKATHIST FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY SUPPER – 7PM**
- **SAT – GREAT VESPERS – 6PM**
- **SUNDAY – ORTHROS (9:45AM) AND DIVINE LITURGY (10:30AM)**

----- A PRAYER FOR LENT -----

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian is traditionally said many times throughout each day during Great Lent, in addition to our daily prayers. This prayer lists all the negative and positive elements of repentance and constitutes a “check list” for our individual Lenten effort. Our effort is aimed first at liberating ourselves from certain spiritual diseases which shape our life and make it virtually impossible for us to even start turning to God. A second aspect of this effort is striving to attain the virtues necessary to grow in Christlikeness, which is how we live out our return to God.

Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, vain curiosity, lust for power, and idle talk. (Prostration)

But give to me, Your servant, a spirit of purity, humility, patience and love. (Prostration)

Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to condemn my brother, for blessed are You for ever and ever. Amen. (Prostration)

Next week, we will talk about the different weeks of Great Lent, and the various commemorations we observe each Sunday in Lent.

----- 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. Please review the giving patterns for 2023 to best plan for your tithing in 2024. Thank you for your consideration.

ANNUAL GIVING BY HOUSEHOLD

- **\$7,500 - 10,000:** Three (3) parishioner families
- **\$5,000 – 7,500:** One (1) parishioner family
- **\$2,500 – 5,000:** Eleven (11) parishioner families
- **\$1,000 – 2,500:** Seventeen (17) parishioner families
- **\$500 – 1,000:** Twenty-one (21) parishioner families
- **\$250 - 500:** Eight (8) parishioner families
- **< \$250:** Forty-seven (47) visitors, friends, and parishioners

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

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| *Total Income: | \$13,320 (O.C. \$10,120) | \$164,094 (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: 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.

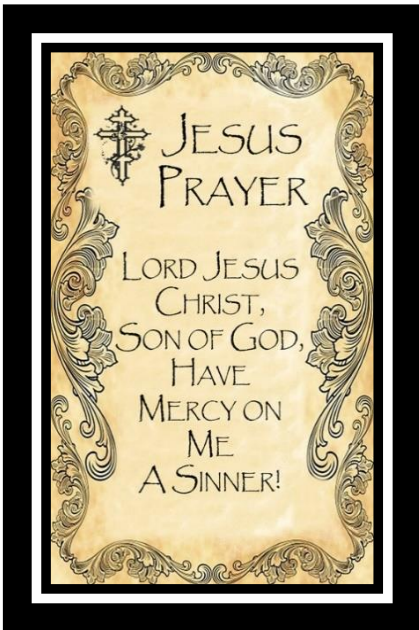
PRAYER LINE: Please keep in your prayers...

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Fr. Tom Flynn | Lauren Makhlouf | Serene Kadadu |
| Julian and Nadia Muhanna | Janice Peterson | Deacon Sami and Family |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Those looking for employment | Those preparing for marriage |
| Victims of natural disasters | The homeless and poor |
| 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.



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.

--- SUNDAYS OF GREAT LENT ---

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent we celebrate a particular aspect of the Christian life as emphasized throughout the Lenten Season.

First Sunday-Sunday of Orthodoxy (w/Procession)

This Sunday commemorates the return of the Icons into the churches, according to the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787). The Icon of Christ, according to St. John Damascus, is a distinct affirmation and a reminder of the fact of His Incarnation, which has a vital significance for the salvation of the faithful, an affirmation which prevails to this day in the Eastern Church. The celebration of the day includes the procession with the Icon of Christ.

Second Sunday - St Gregory Palamas

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Gregory Palamas (14th century). The Church dedicates this Sunday to St. Gregory for his orthodox faith, theological knowledge, virtuous life, miracles and his efforts to clarify the orthodox teaching on the subject of Hesychasm (from the Greek, meaning quiet.) Gregory was dedicated to an ascetic life of prayer and fasting, which are practices of Lent.

Third Sunday - Sunday of the Cross (w/Procession)

This Sunday commemorates the venerable Cross and the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The passages read this day repeat the calling of the Christian by Christ to dedicate his life, for "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Christ)" (v. 34-35). This verse clearly indicates the kind of dedication which is needed by the Christian in three steps:

1. Renounce one's arrogance and disobedience to God's Plan;
2. Take up one's personal cross (the difficulties of life) with patience, faith and the full acceptance of the Will of God without complaint that the burden is too heavy;
3. Having denied oneself and taken up one's personal cross, the decision to follow Christ.

Fourth Sunday - Sunday of St John of the Ladder

This Sunday commemorates St. John of the Ladder (6th century) named for his book called The Ladder of Paradise. This book contains 30 chapters, with each chapter as a step leading up to a faithful and pious life as the goal of a Christian life. These steps of the ladder as set forth by St. John are to be practiced by the Christian especially during this period of the Great Lent.

Fifth Sunday - St. Mary of Egypt

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who is a shining example of repentance from sin through prayer and fasting. She lived a sinful life for many years, but was converted to a Christian life. Her understanding of repentance involved not a mere change from small things in her life, but an extreme change of her entire attitude and thoughts. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. This recognition of sin is imperative during Lent for the faithful as a means of self-examination and preparation for a more virtuous life in anticipation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.