



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Sunday of our Father John Climacus – TONE 8

الاحد، 10 شباط 2024

الاحد الرابع من الصوم العظيم - تذكّار ابينا البار يوحنا السلمى

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

Deacon David Herr, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
Deacon Joseph Kaiser, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
Lauren Makhoulf, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Lorraine Murray, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+Samira Jajeh, Requested by Requested by Bishara Iqal, Hala Wachter, Maria Washington and Their Families
+Kamal Negm, brother of Deacon Magdi Negm, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
+Souren Palanjian, Requested by Shajih and Ghada Muhanna
+Ernest and +Ann Pharo, Requested by Gregory Pharo
+Jad Jajeh, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh and Family



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

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

- Lenten Speaker: Fr Justin Rose - Courage to be Ourselves: Who are we?

SAT, MAR 16th – 6PM GREAT VESPERS

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

- Lenten Speaker: Fr. Justin Rose - Courage to Be Ourselves: Living Out our Baptism as Melkite

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

FRI, MAR 22nd – 7 PM LAZARUS VESPERS FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL (POOR MAN'S SUPPER)

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

SUN, MAR 24th – PALM SUNDAY – ORTHROS/DIVINE LITURGY, followed by Bake Sale and Luncheon

2:30PM - VESPERS for ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

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)

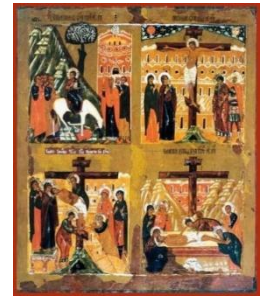
FRI, MAR 29TH – 6:00PM - GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY – DESCENT FROM THE CROSS

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

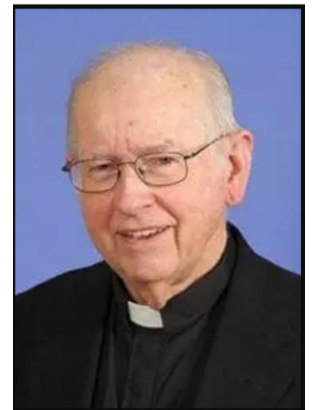
8:00PM - HAJMEH/DIVINE LITURGY



----- **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!** -----

Our beloved spiritual father, +Rev. Thomas Flynn, or as we affectionately refer to him as, “Fr. Tom,” reposed in the Lord on February 29, 2024. Father Tom served the community of St. John Chrysostom as a bi-ritual priest; previous pastors considered him quite invaluable. It was a blessing to have a bi-ritual priest who could serve and join our community - not all parishes had that blessing.

Fr. Tom was a kind, loving, and generous soul. He extolled the Christian virtues through his life of servanthood, humility, and simplicity. He was a friend to all who met him and a true spiritual father. He would regularly encourage and lift people around him, whether providing knowledge, a word of encouragement or a joke. He enjoyed telling jokes and singing, as both brought him joy. He loved God and was a devout Catholic, including a great adoration for the reception of the Eucharist. Every time clergy visited him during the past few years to give him communion, he would always be so excited and ready to receive Christ. No matter what state of health he was in, clergy commented that he would almost (literally) jump out of his seat to receive it.



Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and be Glad) discusses the Call to Holiness and specifically the "Saints Next Door," when he states, "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people... Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbors, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence." Fr. Tom was that Saint Next Door for many of us, as he revealed God's presence to us through his love. Our community loved him dearly and we will greatly miss him. Well done, good and faithful servant. **May his memory be eternal!**

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

PARKING THIS WEEKEND: This weekend we will have reduced parking capacity due to roof repair work beginning on Monday, March 11th. If you are unable to arrive early enough to find a parking spot, please park next door at the Mormon church. We apologize for any inconvenience.

THANK YOU: Thank you to all of those who attended, participated in, or helped with +Fr. Tom's visitation, funeral, and mercy meal. It was a fitting tribute to his longtime service to our parish and his life of faith. May God bless the work of your hands!

THANK YOU: The parish community extends a heartfelt thank you to the Ladies Society for donating the food, time, and/or funds for the Mercy Meal for +Samira Jajeh. May her memory be eternal!

THANK YOU: A big thank you to Ray's NY Pizza (Nasser Samad) for their continued generosity and support of the St. John Chrysostom parish community through donations of delicious food for the general assembly. May God bless you!



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 Akathist dinners as well as donations to date have raised \$660 towards such. If you would like to give 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.

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.



MOVIE NIGHT: A Double Feature of the movie, **Sacred Alaska**, with the Feature Film, **Amphilochios**. Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00pm at The Tara Atlanta. Tickets will be available on The Tara site soon. Hosted by Greek Orthodox Annunciation Cathedral.

GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE: Join a global, ecumenical Christian movement walking in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza. On March 23, we will walk 16 miles through the city of Atlanta, roughly one step for every person killed. We'll do the walk in 5 shifts, stopping along the way for prayer and song. The final two shifts of the march will begin in the afternoon, after the conclusion of our Lazarus Saturday services and related activities. Registration and more information is [here](#).

----- **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** -----

ONGOING GIVING PATTERNS: If you are not giving regularly (week-to-week or month-to-month), please re-consider your pattern of giving. Our finance committee has identified the main challenges of long-term health of our parish community to include inconsistent giving, a mismatch between increased giving and inflation, and fewer new members. Thank you for your consideration.

2024 FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - FEB 2024 and YTD 2024):

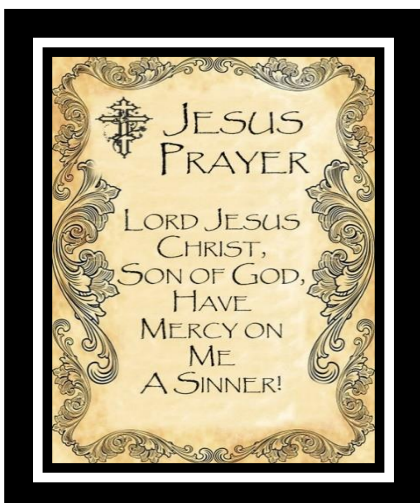
*Total Income:	\$11,394 (O.C. \$8,602)	\$23,880 (O.C. \$18,722)
**Expenses:	<u>\$46,026</u>	<u>\$71,607</u>
Net Income:	(\$34,632)	(\$47,727) * O.C. – Ordinary Collections,



**** FEB (and YTD) RENOVATION & MAINT. EXPENSES: \$25,500 (\$34,857) – NOTE: The high expenses are due to the starting of the roof project.**

----- **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...

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 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.

March 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

Patrick Blonski	Pia-Charli Nuar
John Chambers	Joseph Maalouf
Ashley Khairallah	Nidhal Kirma
Melinda Ajmo	Gabriel Maloof
John Elias	Basma Abdulmaseh
Rabbi Nasrallah	Jerome Hagley
Dcn. Sami Jajeh	

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Tony and Josephine Elia

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ---

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Great, we commemorate St. John Climacus. Although he lived in the 7th century, he is a model for us of the life of repentance we are called to live during Great Lent. His teachings and his example also remind us that our repentance has no value, and no true meaning, if it is not an expression of love.

When we choose to pray and fast out of love for the Lord, they help us to grow in our faith and humility. Like the man in today's Gospel, we too learn to say "I do believe, help my unbelief." Prayer and fasting, along with humility, teach us to surrender everything into the hands of God, like the Lord Jesus Himself. Today, as we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Great Lent, the Lord reveals where his own self-surrender will take Him.

Today we hear the Lord announce: The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and having been killed, he will rise again on the third day. Having passed the midpoint of Great Lent and the Sunday of the Cross, the emphasis of the Sunday readings now shifts from us and our own repentance and efforts to all that was done for us and for our salvation. Today we are invited to begin the journey towards Jerusalem with the Lord. There, we will see the glory of God revealed, but only if we follow Him with faith, humility, and love.

--- THE LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM ---

O Lord and master of my life, grant that I may not be afflicted with a spirit of sloth, inquisitiveness, ambition, and vain talking.
(prostration)

Instead, bestow upon me, your servant, a spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. (prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King, grant me the the grace to see my own sins and not to condemn my brethren.(prostration)

O God, forgive me, the sinner, and have mercy on me. (12 times with a metany each time) Then:

Yes, O Lord and King, grant me the grace to see my own sins and not to condemn my brethren. (prostration)

For you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

--- 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.