



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Sunday of our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt – Tone 1

الاحد، 17 شباط 2024

الاحد الخامس من الصوم – تذكّار أمنا البارة مريم المصرية

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 Joseph Kaiser, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
Lauren Makhlof, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
Harding-Rueda Family, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh
Yvonne Yarid, Requested by the Yarid Family

REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+Deacon David Herr, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
+Samira Jajeh, Requested by the Ladies Society
+Butrus Jajeh, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Ghada Muhanna
+Jad Jajeh, Requested by St. John Chrysostom Parish Community
+Kamal Negm, brother of Deacon Magdi Negm, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton
+Jeffrey Murray, Requested by Lorraine Murray
+Armas Harding, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh
+Laura Rueda, Requested by Deacon Sami Jajeh



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

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

MON, MAR 18TH – 7 PM - READING OF LIFE OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT (SEE INFO AND ZOOM LINK BELOW)

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 ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS (Agape Meal to Follow)

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 FOR PASCHA (EASTER) – Agape Meal to Follow

SUN, MAR 31ST – HOLY AND GLORIOUS PASCHA (EASTER) – NO LITURGICAL SERVICES ON EASTER SUNDAY!

----- BRIGHT WEEK (April 1-7th) -----

MON, APR 1ST – 10:30AM – BRIGHT MONDAY – DIVINE LITURGY

WED, APR 3RD – 10:30AM – BRIGHT WEDNESDAY – DIVINE LITURGY

FRI, APR 5TH – 7PM – BRIGHT FRIDAY - DIVINE LITURGY

SUN, APR 7TH – ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

SUN, APR 14TH – SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN

- +FR. THOMAS FLYNN AND +JAD JAJEH – 40 DAY MEMORIAL

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

LIFE OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT: This Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, is dedicated to our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt. The Church invites us to consider her and her extraordinary life as a model of repentance. As is customary during Great and Holy Lent, we will read the life of St. Mary of Egypt next Monday, March 18 at 7 PM. This year, we will gather virtually. After we read her life, we will have a brief Q&A session about St. Mary of Egypt, and how her life can inspire our own lives of ongoing repentance. Please join us next Monday at 7:00 PM on [Zoom](#) to hear about this amazing and inspirational saint. Join [Zoom Meeting](#)



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 \$872 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](#).

----- SATURDAY OF LAZARUS -----

The celebration of Lazarus' rising is based on the Gospel story of that event (John 11). The hymns of the feast point to its meaning for us as the Church has understood it:

- The raising of Lazarus was to prepare the disciples – and us – for Jesus' death and resurrection. "O Lord, in Your desire to assure Your disciples about Your resurrection from the dead, You came to the tomb of Lazarus."
- The raising of Lazarus also prepared Death for its ultimate defeat. As we pray at compline, "Even before Your crucifixion You made Death tremble before You, O Savior."

- The raising of Lazarus provides us with an assurance of our own ultimate resurrection. As we say repeatedly on this feast, “You confirmed the future resurrection of all” (troparion) by this event. Lazarus thus became “the prelude of salvation and rebirth” (vespers) for all believers.

Lazarus’ rising is thus an icon of Christ’s resurrection at Pascha and ours at the Last Day. Lazarus, however, was not raised to eternal life at this time. Rather he was brought back to the life of this world. According to St. Epiphanius of Cyprus (367-403), he lived for another thirty years or so. The Gospel asserts that Lazarus was a wanted man; “The chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus” (John 12:10-11). He is said to have fled the wrath of Christ’s enemies for Cyprus where he helped Paul and Barnabas establish a church. Eventually he became bishop of Kition (today’s Larnaka) and died as a martyr in AD 63.

As we complete these forty days of profit to our souls, let us exclaim: “Rejoice, O Bethany, birthplace of Lazarus.” And you, his sisters, Mary and Martha, rejoice as well! For tomorrow, Christ will come and give life to your dead brother by a word. Bitter and insatiable Death will hear His voice; and trembling with fear and groaning bitterly, it will release Lazarus still wrapped in his shroud. The Hebrews, astonished at this miracle, come to meet Him, carrying branches and palms. And the children will rejoice to see the One on whom their fathers look with hate. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

----- 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):

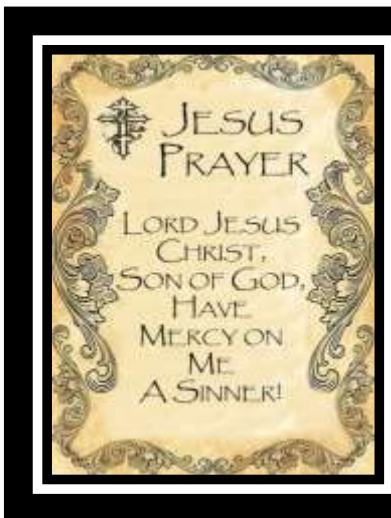
*Total Income:	\$11,394 (O.C. \$8,602)	\$23,880 (O.C. \$18,722)
**Expenses:	\$46,026	\$71,607
Net Income:	(\$34,632)	(\$47,727) * O.C. – Ordinary Collections,



** 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 Makhlouf | Serene Kadadu |
| Julian and Nadia Muhanna | Deacon Sami and Family |
| Harding-Rueda 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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ---

Beginning this Sunday the tone of the services begins to shift in two ways. First, our destination is revealed to us by the Lord: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed...and they will mock him, and spit upon him and scourge him, and put him to death." This is the journey towards which all our Lenten efforts have been directed. If the first part of our Lenten effort was directed towards our purification, the Church now teaches us that our efforts are not an end in themselves.

Our fasting, prayer, works of mercy are all meant to lead us to contemplation of the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection. More than that, our efforts are the way that we prepare to share personally in that mystery. This is revealed in the fact that beginning with the Vespers of Sunday evening, the liturgy of the Church will make us follow the Lord as He first announces the death of His friend and then begins the journey to Bethany and Jerusalem. We will spend the entire week contemplating the upcoming encounter between Christ and death, first in the person of His friend Lazarus and then in His own death.

It is critical that we realize that the liturgical commemorations of the Church year are not simply reflections on past events or historical re-enactments. In the Church's liturgical celebrations, these events are made present to us, so that we can participate in them. Next Saturday, we will joyfully witness the resurrection of Lazarus, and the following day we will accompany the Lord on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. All of this will be a preparation for the intense journey of Holy Week. And Holy Week, with all of the additional services, will bring our Lenten observances to an end and carry us to Great and Glorious Pascha, when "on the third day He will rise again."

--- 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.