



St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent - Sunday of the Holy Cross – TONE 7
Commemoration of the Holy Father Gerasimos of Jordanite
الاحد، 3 اذار 2024
الاحد الثالث من الصوم – أحد عيد الصليب

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

Lauren Makhlouf, 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 Jerome and Susie Hagley

+Kamal Negm, brother of Deacon Magdi Negm, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton

+Widad Zarour, Requested by Dr. Shajih and Ghanda Muhanna

+Jeanette and +George Boghos, Requested by Elias and Ghada Boghos

+Aznif, +Yacoub and +Lina Osko, Requested by Elias and Ghada Boghos

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

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

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

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

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

- Lenten Speaker: Fr. Nathanael Guirguis - What Goes Down Must Come Up

SAT, MAR 9TH – 10:30 AM - 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

- 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

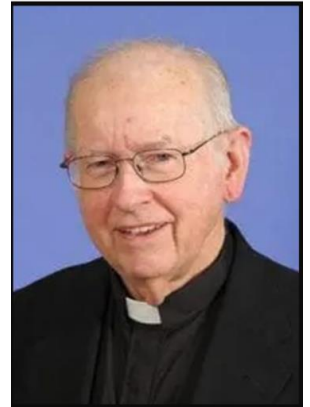
FRI, MAR 22ND – 7 PM LAZARUS VESPERS FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY MEAL

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



----- 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!**

**FR. TOM FUNERAL SERVICE - THURSDAY, MAR 7TH – ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
2PM – VISITATION, 3PM – FUNERAL, 4PM – MERCY MEAL in Church Hall**

----- 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

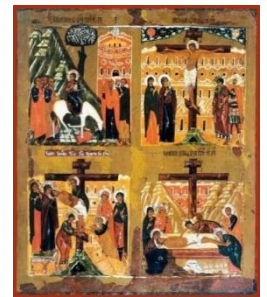
- We are looking for young men (13-17) to serve as youth Epistle Readers at the anointing service on Holy Wednesday.

**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 -----

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 their delicious food for the general assembly. May God bless you!

CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir practice will be held Saturday, March 2nd at Layaly Café at 2pm.

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 Akathist dinners to date raised \$454 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.



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.



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

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):

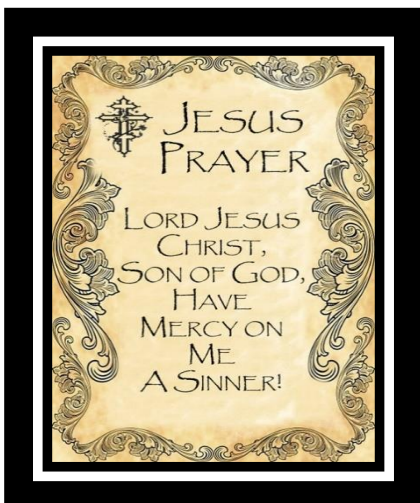
*Total Income:	\$11,394 (O.C. \$8,602)	\$23,880 (O.C. \$18,722)
**Expenses:	\$46,026	\$71,607
Net Income:	(\$34,632)	(\$47,727) * O.C. – Ordinary Collections,



**** 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 |
| 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ---

Today is the Third Sunday of Great Lent. We are at the midpoint of our journey together, and some of us may be feeling the burden of our Lenten efforts. We may not realize it, but these efforts have been a way for us to crucify ourselves, and share in the cross of Christ. Today that Cross is presented as a symbol of victory and joy. The Church presents the cross to us today as a means of encouragement.

Although we still have three more weeks of journey through the spiritual desert of Great Lent, the appearance of the Cross today is a moment of refreshment, because it is the Tree of Life. As we contemplate the Cross we are reminded that it is the source of true life, the life that is now possible for us because of the Resurrection. As we continue our journey, we move closer to celebrating the mystery of the Lord's victory over death, and His glorious resurrection. That means the Life-Giving Cross is also a symbol of the Lord's victory.

This week marks a subtle change in the theme of our Lenten services. Up until today the primary emphasis has been on our own purification. Today the church reminds us that our purification is not an end in itself. It is meant to lead us towards the Lord's own Cross and Resurrection. As we continue the journey of Lent, we begin to make our way spiritually towards Jerusalem. At the end of our six-week journey, we will accompany the Lord through His passion as we celebrate Great and Holy Week, and come to our destination as we witness His Resurrection on Great and Glorious Pascha.

--- 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.