



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Sunday of the Ointment Bearing Women (Tone 2)

الأحد، 14 نيسان 2024

أحد حاملات الطيب

*Christ Is Risen! He is Truly Risen! • Al Maseehu Qam! Haqqan Qam! • Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!*

**SUNDAY: ORTHROS (9:45AM) - DIVINE LITURGY (10:30AM)**

Followed by Coffee Hour and 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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto: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

### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Fr. Tom Flynn, Requested by Dcn. Sami & Dk. Lourice Jajeh and Family

+Deacon David Herr, Requested by the Eparchy of Newton

+Brother Roman Paul, Requested by Paul and Janice Peterson

+Diakonissa Joyce Rimmer, Requested by Eparchy of Newton

+Jad Jajeh, Requested by Dcn. Sami & Dk. Lourice Jajeh and Family

+Yvonne Yarid, Requested by Dcn. Elie & Dk. Dzovag Hanna and Family

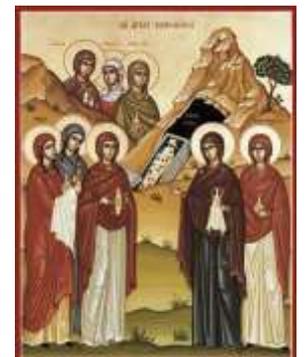


### **SUN, APR 14<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN**

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

**THE EPISTLE: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: 6:1-7** In those days, as the number of disciples increased; there arose a complaint among the Greeks against the Hebrews, in that their widows were being neglected in the daily service. And so, the twelve summoned the many disciples and said, "It is not good that we give up the word of God and serve at tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom that we could put to this service, while we devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the plan was pleasing to the whole crowd, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicholas, a recent convert from Antioch. These they presented to the apostles, who then prayed and laid their hands upon them. And God's word was growing, and the number of the disciples increased considerably in Jerusalem; and many of the priests also accepted the faith.

**GOSPEL: Mark 15: 43-16:8 (Christ's Burial and Resurrection)** - At that time there came Joseph, the one from Arimathea, a councilor of high rank, who was himself looking for the kingdom of God. And he went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. But Pilate wondered whether he had expired so soon. And sending for the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a



linen cloth, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone to the entrance of the tomb. But Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jose were looking on and saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, in order to go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, when the sun had just risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?" And looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back—now, it was very large. But on entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were amazed. He said to them, "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see him, as he told you." And they left and fled from the tomb, for trembling and fear had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

**WED, APR 17<sup>TH</sup> – \*\* NOTE: NO MID-WEEK VESPERS THIS WEDNESDAY \*\***

**SAT, APR 20<sup>TH</sup> – GREAT VESPERS (6PM)**

**SUN, APR 21<sup>ST</sup> – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

**WED, APR 24<sup>TH</sup> –VESPERS (7PM)**

**SAT, APR 27<sup>TH</sup> – GREAT VESPERS (6PM)**

**WED, APR 24<sup>TH</sup> – VESPERS (7PM) - MID-PENTECOST / MID-EASTER SEASON**

**SUN, APR 28<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**

- +YVONNE YARID – 40 DAY MEMORIAL AND MERCY MEAL

**WED, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> – VESPERS (6PM)**

**SAT, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> - GREAT VESPERS (6PM)**

**SUN, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**

- +FR. WILLIAM HADDAD– MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

**NO MORE PAPER BULLETIN:** The paper version of the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community bulletin will no longer be created, issued, and printed after Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, as the great majority of parishioners are satisfied receiving and reading the bulletin in electronic form. If you are not signed up on Flocknote or having any difficulty reading or receiving the Flocknote version, please let us know as soon as possible by e-mailing [deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org). You may register with Flocknote using the QR Code on the right, as well.



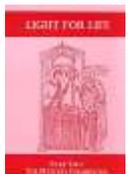
**EWTN APPEARANCE:** Fr. Elias will be appearing on EWTN Live on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM CDT/8 PM EDT. He will be speaking on the topic of marriage enrichment and forgiveness in marriage. Those who do not have EWTN in their area can watch the show LIVE online at the following link: <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live>. To participate with the show by calling in with questions and comments, please call the following numbers: 1-800-221-9460 or 205-271-2980

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is on Sunday, April 21, 2024. More information to come, but please continue to keep vocations in your prayers. All of us have a divine vocation: *"Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit."* ~Homily by Pope Saint John Paul II

**SURVEY ON SYNODALITY:** FROM THE EPARCHY: Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey to share your perspectives on the common life of the Melkite Catholic Diocese of Newton and the dimensions of "communion, participation, and mission!" Complete by May 1, 2024 and we will share the results at the upcoming Melkite Catholic Convention July 4-7, 2024 in Boston, MA! [CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#)

**PAC AND FINANCE/BUILDING MEETINGS:** The monthly meetings will resume this upcoming week of April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like an invite to the PAC meeting, please e-mail us at [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

**ADULT CATECHISM:** Our online Adult Catechism class on the Light for Life Series Part One: The Mystery Believed has concluded. We will resume after Bright Week with Part Two: The Mystery Celebrated, as we spend time learning more about the liturgical life of the Church. 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. Books are available at the table in the parish hall.



**MID-DAY MOMS:** Thank you to those moms that attended the April event. The next Mid-Day for Moms will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 10am to 1pm.

----- **ARE YOU A MODERN MYRRHBEARER?** -----

**WHEN WE THINK** about Christian ministry, it is the liturgical ministry of priests or deacons, readers or chanters that most readily comes to mind. But in the Church's tradition, ministry has a much broader meaning. The ministry of Christians includes many forms of service, all in imitation of "the Son of Man [who] did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). In one sense, every baptized Christian is called to ministry because we all share in the priesthood of Christ through the mystery of chrismation. "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:5, 9). The purpose of our ministry as sharers in Christ's priesthood is to "proclaim the praises of Him" who brought us to eternal life through baptism: to glorify God in word and deed. The means by which we exercise this ministry is by offering up "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." In fact, everything can be done in a godly manner, offered as a spiritual sacrifice to proclaim the glory of God.

**THE APOSTOLATE OF THE LAITY:** In the past century, it has become customary to call the ministry of those believers who are not clergy "the apostolate of the laity." It was particularly extolled at the Second Vatican Council in its Decree On the Apostolic Activity of God's People, affirming that "The apostolate of the laity derives from their Christian vocation and the Church can never be without it" (AA 1). The goal of Christian ministry, according to the Fathers of this Council, is that "the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ" (AA 2). Everything in the Church is oriented to this goal in one way or another and everyone in the Church is called to work for this goal. As the Council Fathers went on to say, "No part of the structure of a living body is merely passive but has a share in the functions as well as life of the body: so, too, in the body of Christ, which is the Church." It is for this reason that the Council Fathers make this, perhaps their most daring assertion: "The member who fails to make his proper contribution to the development of the Church must be said to be useful neither to the Church nor to himself". A baptized Christian who does not contribute to building up the Body of Christ is, the Fathers insist, a useless Christian!

----- **CHURCH FINANCIALS** -----

**ONGOING GIVING PATTERNS:** If you are not giving regularly weekly or monthly, 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 - MAR 2024 and Q1 2024):**

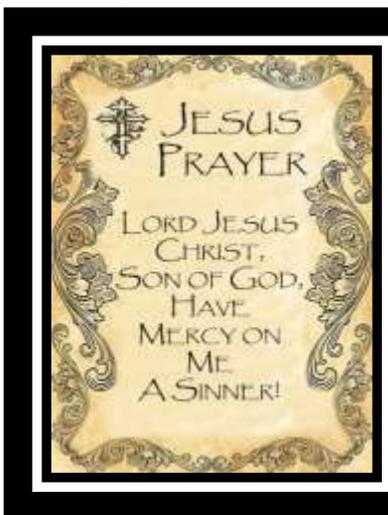
*Total Income:	\$20,674 (O.C. \$10,987)	\$44,533 (O.C. \$29,709)
**Expenses:	\$95,840	\$167,447
Net Income (Loss):	(\$75,166)	(\$122,913) * O.C. – Ordinary Collections,



\*\* Q1 2024 RENOVATION & MAINT. EXPENSES: \$105,776 – NOTE: The high expenses are due to 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 Makhoulf  
Julian and Nadia Muhanna  
The Yarid Family  
Deacon Sami and Family

Those looking for employment  
Victims of natural disasters  
Areas of War and Violence, Including Holy Land, Ukraine, Syria, Lebanon  
Those preparing for marriage  
The homeless and poor

*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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org).

## April 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](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) so we can update our database.

### BIRTHDAYS

Kareem Atalla	Aemah Badri
Nicholas Curry	Josephine Elia
Michael Incata	Elias Maalouf
Selia Madanat	Janice Peterson
Evelyn Whalen	

### ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Eric & Marie Hansen

## --- JOSEPH AND THE MYRRH BEARERS ---

In Mark 15:44-16:8, which is read at this Sunday's Liturgy, we see Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Council, arrange for Jesus' burial. St John Chrysostom observes, "This was Joseph, who had been concealing his discipleship. Now, after the death of Christ, he became very bold. For neither was he an obscure person nor unnoticed. He was one of the Council, and highly distinguished and, as we see, courageous. For he exposed himself to death, taking upon himself the enmity of all by his affection for Jesus. He begged for the body and did not desist until he obtained it. Not only that, but by laying it in his own new tomb, he actively demonstrated his love and courage" (Homily 88 on Matthew).

In John 19:39 we are told that the seeker Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee, helped Joseph in this task. Their service is memorialized in the troparion sung on this day, itself drawn from the Gospel of St Mark: The noble Joseph took down from the tree Your spotless body. He wrapped it in fine linen with aromatic spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb...

Mark notes that Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus (whom John identifies as the wife of Clopas – Cleophas in the King James Bible – and a relative of the Theotokos) saw where Jesus had been buried and returned with others on Sunday morning with more spices. Mark 15:40 tells of a Salome, one of those who had witnessed the death of the Lord, who accompanied them. These women were among those whom Luke says provided for Jesus' needs during His ministry from their possessions. Others among them, according to Luke, were "Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Suzanna, and many others" (8:3). Matthew 27:56 mentions "the mother of the sons of Zebedee" (i.e. James and John). Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, are included among them as well. As St John Chrysostom remarked, "They lamented over what had happened, beating their breasts. Meanwhile, the religious leaders were glorying in those very things for which the others were grieving, neither moved by pity nor checked by fear" (Homily 88.2 on Matthew).

The Jews did not embalm the dead like the Egyptians. Rather they anointed a corpse and surrounded it with large quantities of spices to counteract the odor of decay. Jn 19:39 says that Nicodemus brought one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes for that purpose. When the women returned to the tomb at first light on Sunday morning, according to Mark and Luke, they brought more spices. The odor should have increased to such a degree that further masking would be needed if people were to visit the tomb. But the Lord did not need their spices; not subject to corruption, He had conquered Death and destroyed its hold over us.

The Myrrhbearers knew that the service they offered was fruitless in a sense – Jesus was dead and they could not change that. They could simply perform a last act of love and remain by the tomb in witness to their love for Him. Their faithfulness to serve Christ even in death was rewarded; they were blessed to see the empty tomb and to bear witness to the Apostles that Christ was risen.

1428 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, Office:  
(404) 373-9522, Fax: (404) 373-9755,  
Email: [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org)  
Web: [stjohnmelkite.org](http://stjohnmelkite.org) • FB: [facebook.com/StJohnMelkite](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) •  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite](https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite)  
FlockNote: <https://stjohnmelkiteatl.flocknote.com/register>

### Parish Clergy and Staff

Rev. Elias Dorham, Pastor  
[pastor@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnmelkite.org)

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh, Administrator and Finance Chair  
[deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org)

Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna, Administrator and PAC Chair  
[deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org)

Church Hall - Jerome Hagley ([jerome.hagley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.