



St. John Melkite Catholic Church

330 N Westmore Ave – Villa Park, Illinois 60181 www.stjohnmelkite.church

Office (708) 680-2210 / Email: stjohn.chicago@melkite.org

Prayers Hotline, <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DjekhCR0tVC5kGH3KLYBav>

Sunday, October 4, 2026, 2nd Sunday After the Holy Cross – Love your enemies

الأحد 4 تشرين الأول 2026 الأحد الثاني بعد الصليب المقدس

Services:

Sundays 8:30 am English Divine Liturgy

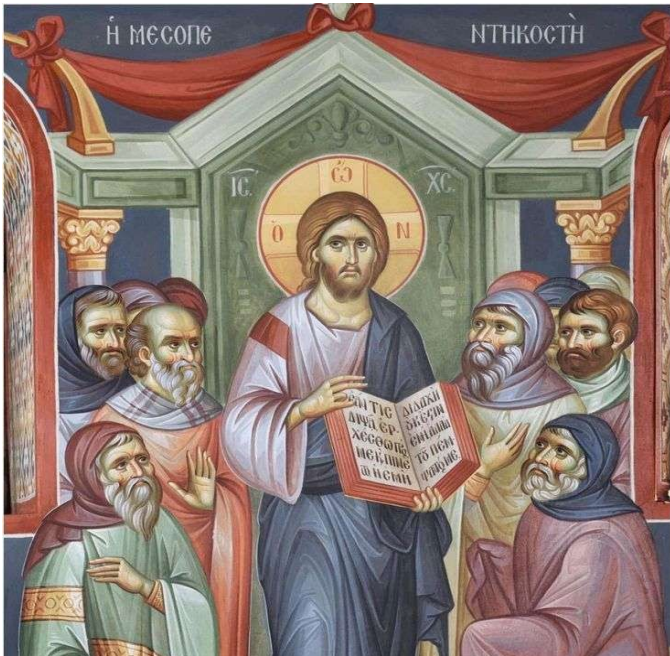
9:45 am Spanish Divine Liturgy

11:00 am English/Arabic

Wednesday 11:00 am School Mass (Roman Catholic)

Fridays 7:30 pm: Arabic Divine Liturgy

(1st Friday of the month) Seton parents, students and teachers Mass (Roman Catholic)



HYMNS

Troparion of the resurrection: (Tone 2)

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out to you: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

نشيد القيامة بالحن الثاني

لما نزلت الى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمت الجحيم بسنى لاهوتك. ولما أقمت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماويين: أيها المسيح ألها، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك .

Kondakion: O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us

sinner, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

نشيد الختام يا نصيرة المسيحيين التي لا تُخزي، ووسيطتهم الدائمة لدى الخالق، لا تعرضي عن أصوات الخطاة الطالبين اليك. بل بما انك صالحة، بادري الى معونتنا، نحن الصارخين اليك بأيمان: هلمي الى الشفاعة، وأسرعى الى الابتهاال، يا والدّة الاله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.

Epistle: 2 Cor 11:31-33-12:1-10 - 19th Sunday

My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

READING from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

BRETHREN, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the Governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

(12: 1) It is not fitting for me to boast: but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know: God knows) was caught up into paradise and heard secret sayings that man may not repeat. Of such a man I will boast; but of myself I will glory in nothing except my weaknesses. For if I do wish to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I give up, lest any man have an idea of me beyond what he sees in me or hears from me. And lest the greatness of the revelation puff me up, there was given to me a thorn for the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me. Concerning this, I begged the

Lord three times that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness." Gladly, then, will I glory in my weaknesses, that the strength of Christ may dwell in me. **ALLELUIA**

The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

O Lord, save your king and listen to us on whatever day we call upon you.

رسالة الأحد التاسع عشر بعد العنصرة

الربُّ قوّتي وتسيحي، لقد كان لي خلاصاً
أدبني الربُّ تأديباً وإلى الموت لم يُسلمني
الرسالة (2 كورنثس 11: 31 إلى 12: 9)

يا إخوة، يعلمُ إلهُ وأبو ربِّنا يسوع المسيح، المبارك إلى الدهور،
أنِّي لا أكذب. كانَ الحاكمُ بدمشقَ تحتَ إمرة الملك الحارث،
يحرُسُ مدينةَ الدمشقيين مُريداً أن يقبضَ عليّ. فذُليْتُ من كُؤَةٍ في
زنبيلٍ من السُّور، ونجوتُ من يديهِ. ان الافتخارَ لا يفيدني، فإنني
انتقلُ إلى رُؤى الربِّ وإيحاءاته. اني اعرفُ انساناً في المسيح،
أُخْطِطُ إلى السماءِ الثالثة منذ أربع عشرة سنة، أفي الجسدِ لستُ
أعلم، أم خارجَ الجسدِ لستُ أعلم، الله يعلم. واعرف ان هذا
الانسان، أفي الجسدِ أم خارجَ الجسدِ لستُ أعلم الله يعلم، قد
اخْطِطَ إلى الفردوس، وسمعَ كلماتٍ سرّية، لا يحلُ لأنسان أن
ينطقَ بها. فمن جهةٍ هذا افتخر. أمّا من جهةٍ نفسي، فلا أفتخرُ
إلا بأوهاني. فإنني لو أردتُ الافتخار، لم أكن جاهلاً، لأنني أقولُ
الحق. لكنني أكفُ لنألاً يظُنُّ أحدٌ بي فوقَ ما يراني عليه أو يسمعه
مني. ولنألاً استكبرُ لِسُمُو الإيحاءات، أُعطيْتُ شوكةً في الجسد،
ملاكُ الشيطان ليلاطمني ليلاً استكبر. ولأجل ذلك طلبتُ إلى الربِّ
ثلاثَ مراتٍ ان تفرّقني. فقال لي: تكفيكَ نعمتي، لأنَّ قوّتي تكملُ
في الوهن. فبكلِّ سرورٍ اذن افتخرُ بالحريِّ بأوهاني، لتستقرَّ عليّ
قوّة المسيح.

هلوليا

ليستجب لك الربُّ في يوم الضيق، ليعضدك اسمُ إله يعقوب
يا ربُّ خَلِّص الملك، واستجب لنا يوم ندعوك

GOSPEL: Luke 6:31-36; 2nd Sunday after the HC

The Lord said, "Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merit have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful."

الأحد الثاني بعد الصليب: لوقا 6: 31-36

قال الربُّ: كما تُريدون أن يفعلَ الناسُ بكم، كذلك أفعَلوا أنتم أيضاً بهم. فإنَّكم إن أحببتم الذين يُحبُّونكم فأبى فضلٌ لكم؟ فإنَّ الخطاةَ أيضاً يُحبُّون الذين يُحبُّونهم. وإن أحسنتم إلى الذين يُحسِنون إليكم فأبى فضلٌ لكم؟ فإنَّ الخطاةَ أيضاً يفعلون ذلك بعينهِ. وإن أقرضتم الذين تُرجون أن تستوفوا منهم، فأبى فضلٌ لكم؟ فإنَّ الخطاةَ أيضاً يُقرضون الخطاةَ لكي يستوفوا المثل. ولكن أجبوا أعداءكم، وأحسنوا وأقرضوا غيرَ مؤلمين شيئاً، فيكونَ أجرُكم كثيراً وتكونوا بني العليّ، لأنه منعٌ على غير الشاكرين والأشرار. فكونوا أدنَ رُحماء كما أن أباكم رَحيم.

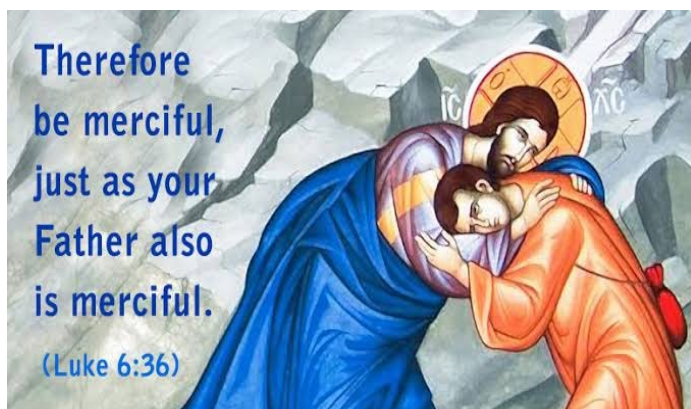
Mass intentions for Sunday 4th of October:

For WBHPPSS for Michel & Salma Souri on their 50th wedding anniversary.

For bishop Francois And his upcoming visit, for all the Francois among us and those who Saint Francis is there patron saint.

For good health and speedy recovery for all the sick among parishioners and friends. Denise Shehata, Antoinette Mansour, Basemah Aranki, Dolores Maalouf, Abe & Tony Baroud, Ghassan Azar, Mary and Elias Elkhoury, Magdi Rizkalla.

For the rest of the soul: +Georgette Haddad; +Mounir Massih; +Georgette Nassar; +Alice Haddad; +Jameleh Akkawi; +Sophia Alcheikh; +Dc Tony Shehata; +Martha Rayyan +Emile & Clotilde Harb.





For the occasion of the Feast of Saint Francis

Make me a channel of Your peace
 Where there is hatred let me bring Your love
 Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord
 And where there's doubt, true faith in You
 Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
 So much to be consoled as to console
 To be understood as to understand
 To be loved as to love with all my soul
 Make me a channel of Your peace
 Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
 Where there is darkness, only light
 And where there's sadness, ever joy
 Make me a channel of Your peace
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
 In giving to all men that we receive
 And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Weekly donations September 27, 2026:

Friday 7:30pm: \$60; Sunday: 8:30am: \$35; 9:45am: \$12; 11am: \$1,608; Online Don: \$444; Candles: \$130; Mail Don: \$175; Souvenir book: \$6,150

Sunday October 11th: Lady Society meeting
Bishop Francois Beyrouti's visit to Chicago

Friday October 16th: 5:30pm Prayer service & cutting ribbon ceremony followed by the Annual Dinner at Crystal Palace

Saturday October 17th: Family Retreat Day

Sunday October 18th: Blessing of Saint John's Church at 11:00am

Donate online:

<https://stjohnmelkite.flocknote.com/give/25225>

Saint John Melkite Catholic Church

330 N Westmore Ave, Villa Park, IL 60181
 Administrator: Fr Imad Barakeh (708-916-2068)

Fr.Imad.Barakeh@melkite.org

Office Phone: 708-680-2210

Office hrs: Mon, Tue, Wed 9am-1pm

Email: stjohn.chicago@melkite.org

www.stjohnmelkite.church

To be added to our parish directory and receive our bulletin: Please email your full name and address to: stjohn.chicago@melkite.org



GOD IS CHARITY

CHARITY GIVEN. CHARITY LIVED. CHARITY JUDGED.

EPISTLE – 1 JOHN 4:8-21
"He that loveth not, knoweth not God: for God is charity."

In this is charity: not as though we had loved God, but because he hath first loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins.

CHARITY ORIGINATES IN GOD, IS REVEALED IN THE CROSS, AND COMMUNICATED IN THE EUCHARIST.

GOSPEL – LUKE 6:36-42
"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

With the same measure that you shall mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.

THE MEASURE WE USE FOR OTHERS WILL BE THE MEASURE USED FOR US.

"FEAR IS NOT IN CHARITY: BUT PERFECT CHARITY CASTETH OUT FEAR."

– 1 JOHN 4:18

WHAT IS GIVEN MUST BE LIVED – FOR WHAT IS LIVED WILL BE JUDGED.

THE HOLY GHOST IS GIVEN.

CHARITY IS RECEIVED.

CHARITY IS LIVED.

THE EUCHARIST NOURISHES AND DISCERNS.

CHARITY WILL BE JUDGED. As He is, so must we be.

LOVE AS HE LOVED. FORGIVE AS HE FORGAVE. GIVE AS HE GAVE. CONFORM IN CHARITY – AND YOU SHALL HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.



NEW PARISH COUNCIL

By-Laws of Parish Advisory Councils For the Diocese of Newton

According to **ARTICLE 2: Parish Pastoral Council P.A.C.**

Section 1: Composition

A - Large Parish: 200 + families. The Parish Pastoral Council shall consist of a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 10 ex-officio, elected, and appointed members.

We offer our deepest gratitude to the members of the previous P.A.C. who worked diligently through hard and difficult times to maintain our Church working and functioning properly. We are forever grateful for their commitment and dedication and looking forward to their continuous and perpetual participation. The electoral committee suggested wider involvement in the life of the parish and proposed renewed blood and vision, especially based on the following part of the bylaws

Section 3:

...Elected members can serve two full consecutive terms only. They are ineligible for re-election for a period of one term.

Only in fraternal charity and in order to give hard workers a break for one term, we didn't keep all the previous names of the PAC.

After many prayers and consultations, it is the committee's pleasure to announce the new Parish Advisory Council.

Nabeel Nijmeh (*by his position as previous chair*);
Jeries Mansour; Elias Nahhas; Louis Najjar;
Issa Bisharat; George Alcheikh; Maher Azar;
Randy Kash; Naji Fakhoury; Jerry Akkawi;
Dima Arbach; Joyce Rabbat; May Mansour;
Mary Makhoulf; Mark Medrano;

15 Names in total; add to them the heads of the three committees: Financial, Pastoral, and maintenance (if not among the PAC members) and the Lady Society and the Choir representatives and Sunday School and NAMY representatives.

All in all, we exceeded the maximum of 20 members.

May God bless you all and bless all those who worked before you and may God's glory and the prosperity of Saint John always be our sole aim.

COME AND SEE. TRY ALPHA!

Saint John The Baptist church cordially invites you to come to Alpha and explore life and its questions in a welcoming, friendly environment. This



ten-week series includes a shared meal, a video that looks at a different question of faith each week and leads to conversation and an opportunity to share thoughts and hear from others. The conversations are fun, open, honest and judgment free. Alpha is a seven-week build up to a "Day away retreat" with a three-week follow up. Alpha is offered free of charge. St John's invites you to our next session of Alpha. Come and see, even if only for one night. If you find that Alpha is not for you there is no pressure to come back.

For more information, please contact George Sahyouni at georgesahyouni7@gmail.com or Nader Sahyouni at xnader@sbcglobal.net

Domingo, 4 de octubre de 2026
Segundo Domingo después de la Santa Cruz
– Amen a sus enemigos

Himnos

Tropario de la Resurrección (Tono 2)

Cuando descendiste a la muerte, oh Vida inmortal, destruiste el Hades con el resplandor de tu divinidad. Y cuando levantaste a los muertos de las profundidades de la tierra, todos los poderes celestiales clamaron a Ti: «¡Oh Cristo, Dios nuestro, Dador de vida, gloria a Ti!».

Kontakion

Oh Protectora infalible de los cristianos y constante intercesora nuestra ante el Creador, no desprecies las súplicas de nosotros, pecadores, sino que, en tu bondad, extiende tu ayuda a quienes te invocamos con confianza. Apresúrate, oh Madre de Dios, a interceder por nosotros, porque siempre has protegido a quienes te honran.

Epístola

Mi fuerza y mi valor es el Señor, y Él ha sido mi Salvador.

El Señor me ha corregido con su enseñanza, pero no me ha entregado a la muerte. Mi fuerza y mi valor es el Señor, y Él ha sido mi Salvador.

Lectura de la Segunda Carta del Apóstol San Pablo a los Corintios

Hermanos: El Dios y Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, bendito por los siglos, sabe que no miento. En Damasco, el gobernador del rey Aretas vigilaba la ciudad de los damascenos para arrestarme, pero fui bajado en una canasta por una ventana de la muralla, y así escapé de sus manos. No me conviene gloriarme; sin embargo, hablaré de las visiones y revelaciones del Señor. Conozco a un hombre en Cristo que hace catorce años fue arrebatado hasta el paraíso —si en el cuerpo o fuera del cuerpo, no lo sé; Dios lo sabe— y escuchó palabras inefables que al hombre no le está permitido repetir. De ese hombre me gloriaré; pero de mí mismo no me gloriaré sino en mis debilidades. Porque, si quisiera gloriarme, no sería insensato, ya que estaría diciendo la verdad. Sin

embargo, prefiero abstenerme, para que nadie tenga de mí una opinión superior a lo que ve en mí o escucha de mí. Y para que la grandeza de las revelaciones no me llenara de orgullo, me fue dada una espina en la carne, un mensajero de Satanás que me atormentara. Tres veces le rogué al Señor que la apartara de mí, pero Él me respondió: «Te basta mi gracia, porque mi poder se perfecciona en la debilidad». Por eso, con mucho gusto me gloriaré en mis debilidades, para que el poder de Cristo habite en mí.

Aleluya

Que el Señor te escuche en el día de la tribulación; que el nombre del Dios de Jacob te proteja.

Señor, salva a tu rey y escúchanos cuando te invoquemos.

Santo Evangelio

Lectura del Santo Evangelio según San Lucas (6, 31-36)

El Señor dijo: «Traten a los demás como quieren que ellos los traten a ustedes. Porque, si aman solamente a quienes los aman, ¿qué mérito tienen? También los pecadores aman a quienes los aman. Y si hacen el bien solamente a quienes les hacen el bien, ¿qué mérito tienen? También los pecadores hacen lo mismo. Y si prestan solamente a aquellos de quienes esperan recibir algo a cambio, ¿qué mérito tienen? También los pecadores prestan a otros pecadores con la esperanza de recibir otro tanto. Por el contrario, amen a sus enemigos, hagan el bien y presten sin esperar nada a cambio. Entonces su recompensa será grande y serán hijos del Altísimo, porque Él es bondadoso con los ingratos y los malvados. Sean misericordiosos, así como su Padre es misericordioso». Palabra del Señor.

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ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE FUTURE IN FAITH.**

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RECEPTION**

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TONY MERCHO
— AND BAND —



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Sunday Fun!

A great reward awaits
God's kids who show mercy!

Matthew 5:7

Luke 6:35-36
35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing back; and your reward will be great,
and you will be children of the Most High;
for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil.
36 "Therefore be merciful, even as
your Father is also merciful. (WEB)

A beautiful thought...

Fatherheart.tv/kids

When you are merciful to those who
aren't nice, you touch your Father's heart
because you are acting just like Him!



THEREFORE

Be
Merciful
JUST
AS YOUR FATHER
ALSO IS
Merciful

LUKE
6:36

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY

Illustration Art: Mary B.

Saint Francis of Assisi Word Search



Find all ten words in the puzzle above. These words are related to Saint Francis of Assisi.

Francis
Assisi
Beggar
Italy

Franciscans
October
Wealthy
Poverty

Animals
Simplicity

133rd Anniversary Celebration & Re-Dedication

Saint John The Baptist Melkite Catholic Church



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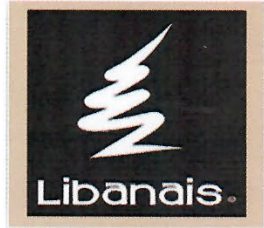
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If possible, please forward your message, artwork, photos or graphics via email to Stjohn.chicago@melkite.org. Please submit your artwork in a jpg format. Call Norma-Jean with questions



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OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY.**



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All are welcome!

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