



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 11, 2026, Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

الأحد 11 تشرين الأول 2026 أحد القديسين آباء المجمع المسكوني السابع

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

Friday 16 October 7:30 pm: **NO Arabic Divine Liturgy next Friday due to the ribbon cutting ceremony.**

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

HYMNS

Troparion of the resurrection: (Tone 3)

Let all in heaven rejoice and all on earth be glade for the Lord has exerted power with His arm: by death He has trampled upon Death and has become the firstborn from the dead. He has delivered us from the bosom of Hades and has granted to the world great mercy.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات، وتبتهج الارضيات. لأن الرب صنع عزاً بساعده، ووطئ الموت بالموت، وصار بكر الاموات، وأنقذنا من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم عظيم الرحمة.

Kondakion: O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, 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 أنك صالحة، بادري الى معونتنا، نحن الصارخين اليك بأيمان: هلمي الى الشفاعة، وأسرعني الى الابتهاال، يا والدة الاله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.



Epistle: Titus 3: 8-15

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

For you are just in all you have done to us, and all your works are true and your ways right.

READING from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus

My son Titus, this saying is true, and in this matter I want to insist that those who believe in God be careful to excel in good works: these are

good and useful to people. But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and quarrels, and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and futile.

Avoid a factious man after warning him once or twice, knowing that such a man is perverted and sins, since he is condemning himself.

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to meet me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, taking care that they lack nothing. And let our people also learn to excel in good works, in order to help cases of urgent need so that they may not be unfruitful. All my companions greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. The grace of God be with all of you. Amen.

ALLELUIA

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds you did in their days, in the days of old.

The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and he delivered them from all their trials.

رسالة أحد القديسين آباء المجمع المسكوني السابع

مبارك أنت ايها الرب اله آبائنا، ومسيح وممجد اسمك الى الدهور لأنك عادل في كل ما فعلت بنا، وجميع اعمالك حقيقية، وطرقك مستقيمة

الرسالة (تيطس 3: 15-8)

يا ولدي تيطس، صادق القول، وأريد ان تُقرّر هذه الامور، حتى يكون الذين آمنوا بالله ذوي اهتمام في القيام بالأعمال الصالحة. فهذه هي الحسنه والنافعة للناس. أما المباحثات السخيفة والانساب، والخصومات والمماحكات على الناموس فأجتنبها، فإنها غير نافعة وباطلة. ورجل البدعة، بعد الانذار اولاً وثانياً، أعرض عنه، عالماً ان مثل هذا قد زاع، وهو في الخطيئة يقضي هو نفسه على نفسه. متى ارسلت اليك أرتماس أو تيخيكس بادر ان يأتيني الى نيكوبولس. لأنني عولت ان اشتو هناك. اما زيناس معلم الناموس وأبلّس، فجهّزهما باعتناء لئلا يُعوزّهما شيء. ليتعلم ذونا ايضاً ان يقوموا بالأعمال الصالحة للحاجات الضرورية، حتى لا يكونوا بدون ثمر. يُسلم عليك جميع الذين معي. سلم على الذين يُحبّوننا في الايمان. النعمة معكم اجمعين.

هللوا

آمين
اللهم بأذاننا قد سمعنا، وآبائنا أخبرونا بالعمل الذي عملته في أيامهم، في الايام القديمة
الصدّيقون صرخوا والرب استمع لهم، ومن جميع مضايقهم نجّاهم.

sprang up with it and choked it. And other seed fell upon good ground and sprang up and yielded fruit a hundred-fold.” As he said these things he cried out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” But his disciples then began to ask him what this parable meant. He said to them, “To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to the rest in parables, that ‘Seeing, they may not see and hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. And those by the wayside are they who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved. Now those upon the rock are they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, but believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among the thorns, these are they who have heard, and as they go their way are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not ripen. But that upon good ground, these are they who, with a right and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bear fruit in patience. When he had said this, he cried out “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Parable of the Sower Faith Types



Faith Blinders	Faith Rocky	Faith Rebel	Remaining Faith
Value of God's Message not understood, and is disregarded.	Contentment in surface faith in God, skips dedication to depth needed to stand firm.	Destructively allows worldly priorities to compete with faith in God as primary.	Enduring faith in Jesus, fruitfully understands and practices God's Word.

الاحد الرابع بعد الصليب لوقا 8: 15-5

قال الرب هذا المثل: خرج الزارع ليزرع زرعاً. وفيما هو يزرع، سقط الزرع على الطريق، فوطئ وأكلته طيور السماء. وسقط البعض على الصخر، فلما نبت يبس لأنه لم تكن له رطوبة. وسقط البعض بين الشوك، فنبت الشوك معه فخنقه. وسقط البعض في الارض الجيدة، فلما نبت أنمر مئة ضعف. فسأله تلاميذه قائلين: ما عسى أن يكون هذا المثل؟ فقال: أنتم قد أعطيتكم معرفة أسرار ملكوت الله، وأمّا الباقون فبأمثال، لكيلا ينظروا وهم ناظرون، ولا يفهموا وهم سامعون. وهذا هو المثل: الزرع هو كلمة الله. والذين على الطريق هم الذين يسمعون، ثم يأتي ابليس وينزع الكلمة من قلوبهم لئلا يؤمنوا فيخلصوا. والذين على الصخر هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويقبلونها بفرح، فهؤلاء ليس لهم أصل، فيؤمنون الى حين، وفي وقت التجربة يرتدون. والذين سقط في الشوك، هم الذين يسمعون، ثم يذهبون فيختنقون بهموم الحياة وغناها وملذاتها، فلا يأتون بثمر، وأمّا الذي سقط في الارض الجيدة، فهم الذين يسمعون الكلمة فيحفظونها في قلب جيد وصالح، ويثمرون بالصبر. ولما قال هذا صرخ: من له أذنان للسمع فليسمع.

GOSPEL: Luke 8: 5-15 4 – 4th Sunday after the Holy Cross - (Parable of the Sower)

The Lord told this parable: “The Sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air ate it up. And other seeds fell upon the rock, and as soon as it had sprung up it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns

Mass intentions for Sunday 11th of October:

For WBHPPSS for Nouha, Sam and Charles Ferraye in gratitude for sponsoring coffee hour.

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: +Elie Ferraye; +Mounir Massih; +Georgette Nassar; +Alice Haddad; +Jameleh Akkawi; +Sophia Alcheikh; +Dc Tony Shehata; +Martha Rayyan +Emile & Clotilde Harb; +Socorro Maldonado; +Fernando Hernandez;

Today Lady Society meeting in the Church Salon

Next week:

Bishop Francois Beyrouti's visit to Chicago

Friday October 16th: 5:30pm Ribbon Cutting Ceremony followed by the Annual Dinner at Crystal Palace

Saturday October 17th Family Retreat Day

10am - 10:15 Opening Prayer

10:15 - 11am Meeting the Sunday School kids

11:00 Break

11:20 Meeting the youth

12:30 Lunch

1pm Meeting with the parents and adults

1:45 pm Closing prayer

2pm Dismissal

Sunday October 18th: Blessing of Saint John's Church.

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

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Donate online:

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

Weekly donations October 4, 2026:

Friday: \$89; Sunday: 8:30am: \$35; 9:45am: \$3; 11am: \$1,531; Online Don: \$140; Rent: \$2,000; Candles:\$54; Mail Don:\$175; Wedding Ann.: \$500; Memorial: \$70; Souvenir book: \$5,750;

Parable of the Sower Heart Types



Blind Heart

Heart's disposition blinds hearer from grasping God's Message.

Rocky Heart

Enthusiastic at first to God's Word, Rocky Heart shallow & lacks will to strengthen initial gift.

Rebellious Heart

Heart partially commits to Christ, leaving disastrous vulnerability to worldly desires & concerns.

Remaining Heart

Heart fully dedicated to Jesus is firmly established, reaping fruit of righteousness plentifully.

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



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.



Saint Carlo Acutis

Prayer from the Bishop of Assisi

O God, Our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo, an example for youth of a life well-lived, with a message of love for all.

You filled his heart with love for Your Son, Jesus, making the Eucharist his "Highway to Heaven."

You gave him Mary as a loving Mother, and through the Rosary, you made him a poet of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us.

Above all, gaze upon the poor, whom he loved and served. Through his intercession, grant me the grace I need [*mention here*].

We rejoice that Carlo is now counted among the saints of Your Church, a beacon of light for our times. May his smile may reflect for us the glory of Your name. *Amen*

Domingo, 11 de octubre de 2026

Himnos:

Tropario de la Resurrección (Tono 3): Que se alegren los cielos y se regocije la tierra, porque el Señor ha manifestado el poder de su brazo. Con su muerte ha vencido a la muerte y se ha convertido en el primogénito de entre los muertos. Nos ha librado de las profundidades del Hades y ha concedido al mundo su gran misericordia.

Kontakion:

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

Epístola

Bendito eres, Señor, Dios de nuestros padres, y tu nombre es digno de alabanza y glorioso por siempre.

Porque eres justo en todo lo que has hecho con nosotros; todas tus obras son verdaderas y tus caminos son rectos.

Lectura de la carta de San Pablo a Tito (3, 8–15)

Hijo mío, Tito: Esta afirmación es digna de confianza, y quiero que insistas en estas cosas, para que quienes creen en Dios procuren dedicarse a las buenas obras. Esto es bueno y provechoso para todos. Pero evita las controversias necias, las genealogías, las riñas y las discusiones sobre la Ley, porque son inútiles y vanas. A quien cause divisiones, después de advertirle una y otra vez, apártate de él, sabiendo que una persona así se ha desviado y sigue pecando, condenándose a sí misma. Cuando te envíe a Artemas o a Tíquico, procura venir a verme a Nicópolis, pues he decidido pasar allí el invierno. Ayuda con diligencia a Zenas, el abogado, y a Apolo a continuar su viaje, procurando que no les falte nada. Que los nuestros también aprendan a dedicarse a las buenas obras para atender las necesidades urgentes, de modo que no queden sin dar fruto. Todos los que están

conmigo te saludan. Saluda a quienes nos aman en la fe. La gracia de Dios esté con todos ustedes. Amén.

Aleluya

Oh Dios, lo hemos escuchado con nuestros propios oídos; nuestros padres nos han contado las obras que realizaste en sus días, en los tiempos antiguos.

Los justos clamaron y el Señor los escuchó; los libró de todas sus tribulaciones.

Santo Evangelio

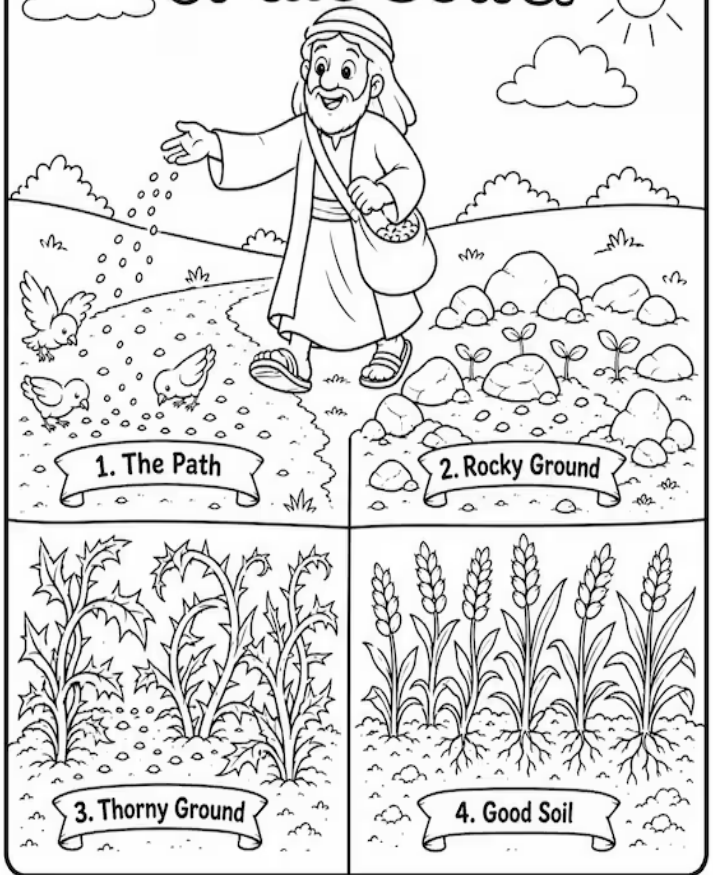
Lectura del santo Evangelio según San Lucas (8, 5–15)

El Señor contó esta parábola: «Salió el sembrador a sembrar su semilla. Mientras sembraba, una parte cayó junto al camino; fue pisoteada y las aves del cielo se la comieron. Otra parte cayó sobre la roca y, apenas brotó, se secó por falta de humedad. Otra parte cayó entre espinos, y los espinos crecieron con ella y la ahogaron. Otra parte cayó en tierra buena, brotó y dio fruto al ciento por uno». Al decir estas cosas, exclamó: «¡El que tenga oídos para oír, que oiga!». Sus discípulos le preguntaron qué significaba esta parábola. Él les respondió: «A ustedes se les ha concedido conocer el misterio del Reino de Dios; a los demás se les habla en parábolas, para que, viendo, no vean y, oyendo, no comprendan. Este es el significado de la parábola: La semilla es la palabra de Dios. Los que están junto al camino son quienes han escuchado; luego viene el diablo y les quita la palabra del corazón, para que no crean ni se salven. Los que están sobre la roca son quienes, al escuchar la palabra, la reciben con alegría, pero no tienen raíz. Creen por un tiempo y, cuando llega la tentación, se apartan. La semilla que cayó entre espinos representa a quienes han escuchado la palabra, pero, al seguir su camino, se dejan ahogar por las preocupaciones, las riquezas y los placeres de la vida, y su fruto no llega a madurar. La semilla que cayó en tierra buena representa a quienes escuchan la palabra con un corazón bueno y sincero, la conservan y dan fruto con perseverancia». Después de decir esto, exclamó: «¡El que tenga oídos para oír, que oiga!»

Sunday Fun!



The Parable of the Sower



Word Search Puzzle

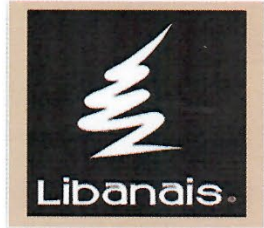
Sower - Parable - Seeds - Soil - Isaiah - Ground

Tribulation - Ground - Fruit - Thorns - Faith - Jesus

W	S	O	W	E	R	V	B	C	W	Z
Q	O	E	D	N	J	W	P	E	K	C
F	I	T	E	P	A	R	A	B	L	E
R	L	S	F	D	G	G	T	G	A	K
V	I	I	A	H	S	R	H	R	B	C
T	N	U	I	I	U	I	O	O	F	U
G	Y	G	T	P	A	F	R	U	I	T
W	J	P	H	L	J	H	N	N	N	D
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Q	U	D	R	Y	Q	T	B	M	T	U
T	R	I	B	U	L	A	T	I	O	N



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