



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 25, 2026, 6th Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

الأحد 25 تشرين الأول 2026 الأحد السادس بعد رفع الصليب

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

Fridays 7:30 pm Arabic Divine Liturgy

(1st Friday of the month) 8:30am Seton parents, students and teachers Mass

Hymns:

Troparion of the resurrection (5th Tone)

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our Salvation; for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the cross and to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

نشيد القيامة باللحن الخامس

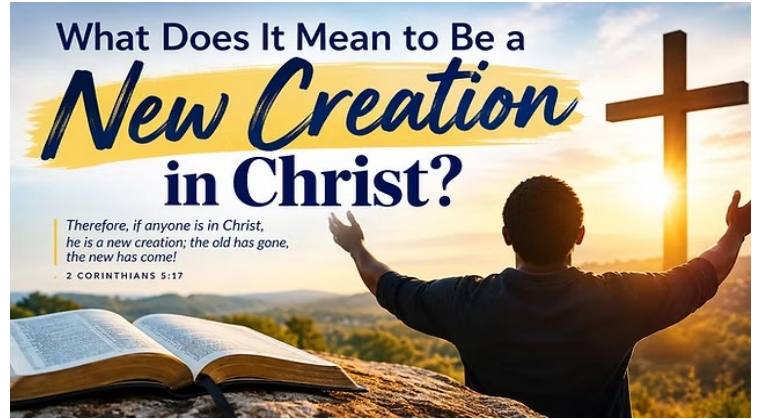
لننشد نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة، الأزلي مع الأب والروح، المولود من العذراء لخلاصنا. لأنه ارتضى أن يصعد بالجسد على الصليب، ويحتمل الموت، وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

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 إلى معونتنا، نحن الصارخين اليك بأيمان: هلمي إلى الشفاعة، وأسرعى إلى الابتهاال، يا والدة الإله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.



Epistle: Gal 6:11-18 – 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

READING from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 6: 11-18

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand! All those who want to please in a human way are forcing you to be circumcised merely to avoid persecution because of the cross of Christ. For not even the circumcised observe the Law: but they want you to be circumcised that they may boast of your subjection to external rites. But as for me, God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision but a new creation is of any account. And whoever follow this rule, peace and mercy be upon them and on God's Israel. From now on, let no man give me trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus in my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

ALLELUIA

Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For you have said, "My kindness is established forever." In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

الرسالة: الاعد الثاني والعشرون بعد العصرة

أنت يا رب تحفظنا وتحمينا، من هذا الجيل وإلى الدهر.

خلصني يا رب فإن البار قد فني، لان الحقيقة قد ضغفت عند بني البشر.

الرسالة: غلاطية 6: 11-18

يا اخوة، أنظروا بأي حروف كتب اليكم بيدي. ان جميع الذين يريدون أن يرضوا بحسب الجسد، هؤلاء يلزمونكم أن تختبئوا.

وانما ذلك لئلا يضطهدوا من أجل صليب المسيح. لان المختونين أنفسهم لا يحفظون الناموس، لكنهم يريدون أن تختبئوا ليفتخروا بأجسادكم. أما أنا فحاشي لي أن أفتخر إلا بصليب ربنا يسوع المسيح، الذي به صلب العالم لي، وأنا صلبت للعالم. لأنه في المسيح يسوع لا يستطيع الختان شيئاً ولا القلف، بل الخليفة الجديدة. وكل الذين يسلكون هذه الطريقة، عليهم السلام والرحمة، وعلى اسرائيل الله. فلا يعتني أحد فيما بعد، لأنني حامل في جسدي سمات الرب يسوع. نعمة ربنا يسوع المسيح مع روجكم أيها الاخوة، آمين.

هللوا

بمراجعتك يا رب أرنب إلى الابد، الى جيل فجيل أعلن حقا بقمي
لأنك قلت: ان الرحمة تبنى الى الابد، وفي السموات يهيا حقا.

Gospel: JOHN 15:17-27; 16:1-2

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. 'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world-therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, "Servants are not greater than their master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you, if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will

do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also If I had

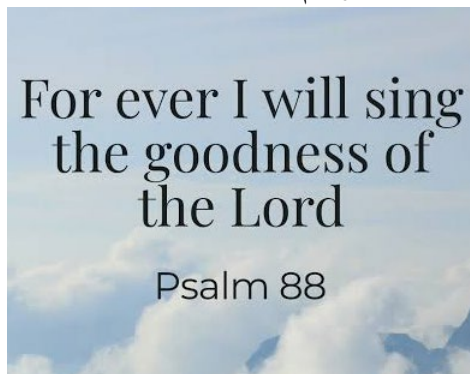
not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, "They hated me without a cause." 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you

have been with me from the beginning. 'I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so, they are offering worship to God.'

الانجيل (يوحنا ١٥: ١٧ الى ١٦: ٢)

قال الرب لتلاميذه: بهذا أوصيكم ان يحب بعضكم بعضاً. ان كان العالم يبغضكم، فاعلموا انه قد أبغضني قبلكم. لو كنتم العالم، لكان العالم يحب ما هو له. لكن لأنكم لستم من العالم، بل أنا اخترتكم من العالم، لذلك يبغضكم العالم. أذكركم بالكلام الذي قلته لكم، أن ما من عبد أعظم من سيده. ان كانوا اضطهدوني فسيضطهدونكم أنتم ايضاً، وإن كانوا حفظوا كلامي فسيحفظون كلامكم ايضاً، ولكنهم سيفعلون هذا كله بكم من اجل اسمي، لأنهم لم يعرفوا الذي أرسلني. لو لم أت وأكلمهم، لم تكن عليهم خطيئة. وأما الآن فليس لهم عذر في خطيئتهم. من يبغضني يبغض الي ايضاً. لو لم أعمل

بينهم أعمالاً لم يعملها آخر، لما كانت عليهم خطيئة. أما الآن فقد رأوا وأبغضوني أنا وأبي، وذلك لتتم الكلمة المكتوبة في ناموسهم: إنهم أبغضوني بلا سبب. ومتى جاء المعزي الذي سأرسله أنا اليكم من عند الأب، روح الحق الذي من الأب ينبثق، فهو يشهد لي، وأنتم ايضاً تشهدون، لأنكم معي منذ الابتداء. كلمتكم هذا لكيلا تشكوا. انهم سيخرجونكم من المجامع، بل ستأتي ساعة يظن فيها كل من يقتلكم أنه يقدم الله عبادة.



The Holy Sacrifice of **THE MASS** WILL BE OFFERED FOR YOU AND YOUR INTENTIONS



Mass intentions for Sunday 25th of October:

For good health, speedy recovery and total healing of Pope Leo the 14th.

Fr WBHPPSS of Dr Hisham & Rana Ghareeb for sponsoring coffee hour.

In Gratitude for all those who labored and worked hard and dedicated time and efforts and for all those who contributed to make the blessing of the new church, the dinner, the retreat day, the Divine Liturgies and the lunch a success. May the Lord reward you generously and abundantly 100 folds and more.

For all the martyrs and the victims of the terrorist attack in the church in Jordan and for their families and for peace in

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

For the rest of the soul: +Jocelyn Lupac; +Daniel Joseph Olivett; +Georgette Nassar; +Alice Haddad; +Jameleh Akkawi; +Dc Tony Shehata; +Martha Rayyan +Emile & Clotilde Harb.

Sunday November 1st: Michel and Lana Noujeim memorial.

Monday November 2nd: All souls Day

Sunday November 8th: 40 Days Memorial for Georgette Nassar. + Claudia Fahum.

December 3rd -11th 6:30pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena, December 12th 5 am: Las Mananitas, 5:30am Feast Day Mass followed by traditional Tamales and sweets.

Sunday November 15th:

Sunday November 22nd: Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday November 29th: 1st Sunday of Advent.

Sunday December 6th: Feast of Saint Nicholas and Saint Barbara. 2nd Sunday of Advent.

Sunday December 13th: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 20th: Christmas Bake Sale.

Weekly donations October 18, 2026:

Sunday: 8:30am: \$35; 9:45am: \$13; 11am: \$2,604; Online Don: \$140; Baptism: \$200; Candles: \$128; Total Profit from the Souvenir Book and Dinner: \$33,686.00

Saint John Melkite Catholic Church

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

Donate online:

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

2026 MELKITE CATHOLIC PASTORAL APPEAL; MELKITE.ORG

OCTOBER 25 | CHRIST WALKS WITH US

“And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) Jesus promised that He would always be with us. We see His presence in the life of our Church, in our clergy, our families, and the people who serve our communities. Your support of the Melkite Catholic Pastoral Appeal helps us continue this work and care for those who depend on our Church.

Iskali Young Adult Group/Grupo de Adultos Jóvenes

Come join a community of young adults (ages 18-35) every Thursday at 7pm! Please see the QR codes for the Instagram pages and the WhatsApp group. For more questions, please contact Mark Medrano at 7735439130.



Tenemos reuniones para adultos jóvenes cada jueves a las 7pm! Por favor, usa estos códigos QR para seguirnos en Instagram o WhatsApp. Si tienes algunas preguntas, llama a Mark Medrano (7735439130).



ISKALI.STJOHN.VILLAPARK

FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

My Heartfelt Gratitude

I give thanks to God All Mighty in every prayer, for you all make my prayer joyful in the Lord, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-5)

I thank God for the wonderful privilege of serving the community of Saint John. To work alongside the many committees and the good-willed people ready to create new committees and bring freshness and a new spirit to our community, especially with the demands of the move to the new location which was the greatest challenge to bring the move to completion and to celebrate this precious moment with our Bishop.

I take this occasion to thank personally each committee member who answered the call to help organize and execute this successful, historical and memorial momentum in the history of our church. The list of names is long and in order to avoid missing someone and for the purpose of your rewards to remain a treasure in heaven and especially seen, appreciated and awarded by the Father, I offer all your sacrifices for the Lord and ask Him to reward you 100 folds and more.

My next thanksgiving echoes what apostle Paul had said, "because of your partnership in the gospel...". All of us are made differently, but I would like to think that our reason for coming together on every Sunday is not for a social club gathering but essentially for the sake of the gospel. What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We who have received the good news and tasted the goodness of God want to share it with others. I look forward to the next phase of our church journey, in welcoming visitors from our neighborhood and bringing the good news to them. And to reach out to others who are thirsty for the coming of our Lord.



Thank You

Our partnership is to spread the gospel, and it will not be without challenges. Our relationship may be put to the test and may even result sadly in some people taking drastic measures and separating themselves from the mystical body of Christ. Therefore, we must guard our partnership zealously because it is God's desire for us to be part of the body of Christ, with Him as the head.

May we not be distracted by our personal desires but serve with humility and put the interests of others before us. Again, I thank all my brothers and sisters in Christ for the privilege to serve alongside with you. Let us look out for one another, to be a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ and do all things to preserve our unity. Lastly, be encouraged that God "who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

With my devotion and dedication.

FR Imad Barakeh

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.

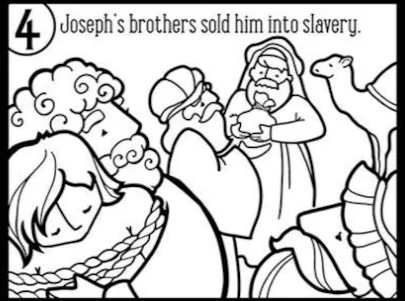
For more information, please contact George Sahyouni at georgesahyouni7@gmail.com or Nader Sahyouni at xnader@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Fun!

THE STORY OF

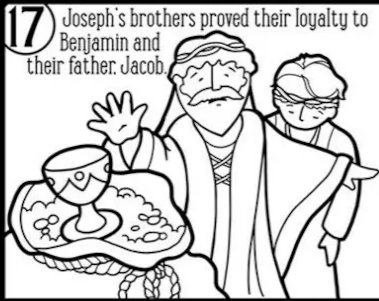
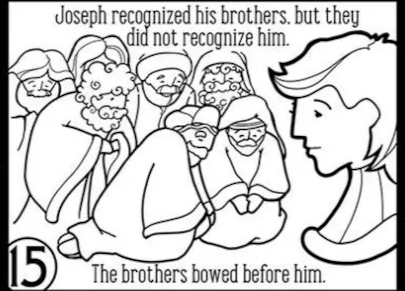
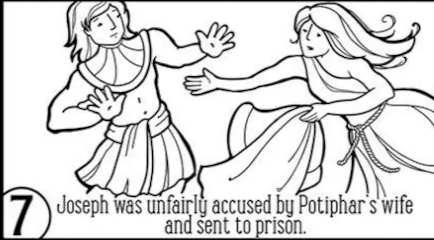
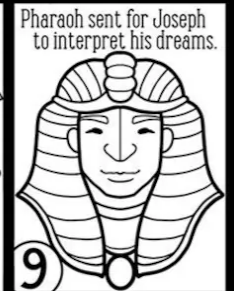
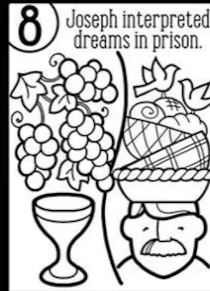
JOSEPH

GENESIS
37-50



As for you, you meant
evil against me
but
God
meant it for
Good

GENESIS 50:20



20 **God** will surely visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land which He swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

GENESIS 50:24

Domingo, 25 de octubre de 2026
Sexto Domingo después de la Exaltación de la
Santa Cruz – El Endemoniado de Gerasa

HIMNOS Tropario de la Resurrección (Tono 5):

Alabemos y adoremos, oh fieles, al Verbo, coeterno con el Padre y el Espíritu, nacido de la Virgen para nuestra salvación; porque Él se complació en ser elevado en la carne sobre la Cruz, padecer la muerte y resucitar a los muertos por su gloriosa Resurrección.

Kontakion:

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

EPÍSTOLA: GÁLATAS 6, 11-18

Tú, Señor, nos guardarás y nos protegerás para siempre de esta generación.

Sálvame, Señor, porque ya no quedan hombres piadosos y la fidelidad ha desaparecido de entre los hijos de los hombres.

Lectura de la Carta del Apóstol San Pablo a los Gálatas (6, 11-18)

Hermanos: ¡Miren con qué letras tan grandes les escribo de mi propia mano! Todos aquellos que quieren agradar a los hombres los obligan a circuncidarse, únicamente para evitar ser perseguidos a causa de la Cruz de Cristo. Porque ni siquiera los que se circuncidan cumplen la Ley; sin embargo, quieren que ustedes se circunciden para poder gloriarse de que se someten a esos ritos externos. En cuanto a mí, ¡Dios me libre de gloriarme en otra cosa que no sea la Cruz de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, por quien el mundo está crucificado para mí y yo para el mundo! Porque en Cristo Jesús, ni la circuncisión ni la incircuncisión tienen valor alguno, sino el ser una nueva creación. Y a todos los que sigan esta norma, que la paz y la misericordia descendan sobre ellos y sobre el Israel de Dios. De ahora en adelante, que nadie me cause molestias, porque llevo en mi cuerpo las marcas del Señor Jesús. Hermanos, que la gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo esté con su espíritu. Amén **Aleluya**

Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor; de generación en generación anunciaré tu fidelidad con mi boca.

Porque Tú has dicho: «Mi misericordia está establecida para siempre». En los cielos has confirmado tu fidelidad.

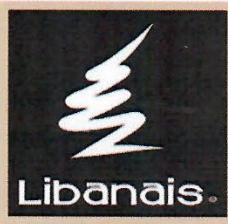
SANTO EVANGELIO: LUCAS 8, 27-39

Lectura del Santo Evangelio según San Lucas Evangelista:

En aquel tiempo, cuando Jesús llegó a la región de los gerasenos, salió a su encuentro un hombre que desde hacía mucho tiempo estaba poseído por demonios. No llevaba ropa y no vivía en una casa, sino entre los sepulcros. Al ver a Jesús, cayó a sus pies y gritó con voz fuerte: «¿Qué tienes que ver conmigo, Jesús, Hijo del Dios Altísimo? Te ruego que no me atormentes». Decía esto porque Jesús estaba ordenando al espíritu impuro que saliera de aquel hombre. Muchas veces el espíritu se había apoderado de él. Aunque lo sujetaban con cadenas y grilletes y lo mantenían bajo vigilancia, él rompía las ataduras y era llevado por el demonio a lugares desiertos. Jesús le preguntó: «¿Cómo te llamas?». Él respondió: «Legión», porque muchos demonios habían entrado en él. Y los demonios le suplicaban a Jesús que no les ordenara regresar al abismo. Había allí una gran piara de cerdos que estaba pastando en la ladera de la montaña. Los demonios le suplicaron que les permitiera entrar en ellos, y Jesús se lo permitió. Entonces los demonios salieron del hombre y entraron en los cerdos. Toda la piara se precipitó por un barranco hacia el lago y se ahogó. Al ver lo sucedido, los que cuidaban los cerdos huyeron y fueron a contar lo ocurrido en la ciudad y en los campos. La gente salió para ver qué había pasado. Cuando llegaron adonde estaba Jesús, encontraron al hombre del que habían salido los demonios sentado a sus pies, vestido y en su sano juicio. Y sintieron miedo. Los que habían presenciado el acontecimiento les contaron cómo había sido liberado aquel hombre que estaba poseído por los demonios. Entonces toda la gente de la región de los gerasenos le pidió a Jesús que se alejara de ellos, porque estaban dominados por un gran temor. Jesús subió a una barca y regresó. El hombre del que habían salido los demonios le rogaba que lo dejara quedarse con Él. Pero Jesús lo despidió, diciéndole: «Regresa a tu casa y cuenta todo lo que Dios ha hecho por ti». Y aquel hombre se fue, proclamando por toda la ciudad las grandes cosas que Jesús había hecho por él. Palabra del Señor.



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THE POWER OF MASS INTENTIONS

Their Liturgical and Spiritual Importance



1 FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Praying for deceased loved ones.



2 FOR HEALING

Physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.



3 FOR THANKSGIVING

Giving thanks for blessings received.



4 FOR FAMILIES

Marriage, children, and family intentions.



5 FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Exams, employment, travel, and personal intentions.



6 FOR CONVERSION

Praying for oneself or others to grow closer to God.



A MASS INTENTION IS NOT BUYING A MASS

The offering supports the Church and priest.
The Holy Mass itself is priceless because it is Christ's sacrifice.



"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life."

— CCC 1324



Be Prayerful. Be Inspired

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Melkite Pastoral Appeal



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for the Melkite Catholic Church
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"While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them." Luke 24:15



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by the RISEN LORD