

SAINT JACOB MELKITE-GREEK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Serving San Diego

Sunday Liturgy 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church, 2235 Galahad Road, San Diego. Mailing address: PO Box 231328, San Diego, CA 92193;

Phone: 858 987 2864 E-mail: rsamaan@stjacobmelkite.org

Web site: stjacobmelkite.org

Fr. Rezkallah Samaan, Administrator; Archimandrite James Babcock, Associate; Deacon Antoine Kabbane, Associate

Mysteries of Christian Initiation: 1 month advance notice. Parents and Sponsors must be practicing Catholics and properly registered in a parish.

Mystery of Holy Crowning: 6 months advance notice. Required: One meeting with Father Rezkallah and participation in a marriage preparation program approved by the Catholic Church.

Mystery of Reconciliation: Before or after any service or by appointment

Mystery of Holy Anointing: Available for those who are ill or anticipating an operation.

St. Jacob Melkite COMMUNITY:

is a Melkite-Greek Catholic Community of the Eparchy of Newton headed by His Grace, Bishop Nicholas. Liturgical services are in Arabic and English. The Eparchy (Diocese) is a part of the Patriarchate of Antioch, headed by His Beatitude, Gregorios VI. "...and in Antioch the disciples were for first time called Christians" Acts 11:26). The Melkite-Greek Catholic Church maintains communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable.

"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid." (Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, "Brethren, observe the feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month." In another place it also says, "Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world."

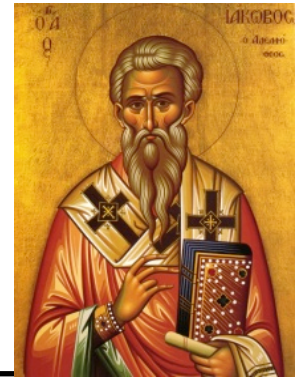
Christ is born!

Glorify Him!

St. Jacob Melkite Catholic Community

Serving San Diego

Sunday, December 25, 2016



Feast of the Nativity of Christ



SAINT JACOB MELKITE COMMUNITY - Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, December 25, 2016 - The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated for all the members of St. Jacob Community, both those with us and those with God; also That the Lord God will inspire the gift of Vocations in our Melkite Church, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JACOB COMMUNITY:

Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve party @ Holy Angels Hall, Donation \$30

New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1 - 11 a.m. - Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ and Saint Basil the Great - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: We thank God for tremendous gift of His Only-begotten Son, and we offer thanks to our new-born King for all the blessings received in 2016. Please make a generous thanksgiving gift to your Melkite Catholic Church in America. The annual Bishop's Appeal officially ends in all the parishes of the Eparchy on 31 December 2009. **However, gifts to the Appeal will continue to be received and credited to your parish until 31 January 2010 for anyone who makes an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation.** Your gift means so much to so many! Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you and all your family with a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and holy New Year! CHRIST IS BORN!

REMEMBER THE MELKITE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL: Give a lasting gift for future generations of Melkites in America by remembering the Melkite Catholic Church in your will. Simply add the following statement to your last will and testament: *I hereby bequeath to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton the following sum: \$_____.* Contact Bishop Nicholas personally to inform him of your generous bequest: 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: those who are ill and those who may be recovering from illness. Especially Fr. Theophan Leonarczyk. *If you know someone in need of prayers please notify Fr. Rezkallah.*

SAN DIEGO WALK FOR LIFE You are invited to attend the Fifth Annual San Diego Walk for Life on Saturday, January 21, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon in Balboa Park on Sixth Ave. and Laurel St. Speakers this year include: Bishop Robert McElroy, Fr. Agustino Torres, CFM, Patti Smith, and many ore. Music will be provided by Nuevo Amanecer Band. Help make this family-friendly event a success by sharing information on the Walk with family, friends, and co-workers. Please use these materials to promote the Walk starting the weekend of December 31 and ending on Friday, January 20. For additional information contact Kent Peters at: 858-490-8324, kpeters@sdcatholic.org or Evangely Ward 858-490-8221, or visit SanDiegoWalkForLife.org.

O LORD GOD, BLESS THE SACRIFICIAL WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANTS

**Sunday, December 18
ATTENDANCE: 76**

Donation data not available

Sunday, December 18
Total Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings
\$

Stipends \$

Coffee Hour \$

Total income \$

Average weekly expenses \$1,500

Are you a member or a visitor?

Members have offering envelopes.

If you consider yourself a member and don't have offering envelopes, just ask Emil Shahtout or Father Rezkallah.

Tithe: Represents 10% of our our gross income returned to God.

Sacrificial giving represents a gift that is a true sacrifice for us to give.

GOOD STEWARDS: Our Lady's Society for distributing gifts to all the ladies and the clergy; Walid & Janette Qammouh for donating gifts for the children and all who assisted with the children's Christmas Program.

WHAT IS QUICK PAY? This is an easy way to make donations from your checking account that you can arrange through your own bank. Just visit chase.com/QP or ask Rami Maria how it works. You may give to St. Jacob Community by sending your gift to donate@stjacobmelkite.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - If you have not made plans for New Year's Eve yet, you might be pleased to know that we will be gathering for a Family Night at the Holy Angels Church Hall to celebrate among our family and closest friends on December 31st. If you would like to join us, please take a moment to reserve your tickets now at <https://mkt.com/st-jacob/item/family-night> before they run out as space is limited. We hope to see you there! More details are available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/581495738722516/>

St. Jacob Advisory Council members: Rose Habbash, Rami Maria, Rana Mitri, Waleed Qammouh, Max Samaan, Steve Saed, (Ladies Society President Majeda Maria.) *If you would like to serve on the Advisory Council, please contact Fr. Rezkallah*