



# St. Jacob Melkite Catholic Community

Serving San Diego Since 1990

## Third Sunday After Pentecost

### Saint of the Day

#### Commemoration of the Holy Woman Martyr FEBRONIA

Virgin Martyr Febronia suffered during the reign of Emperor Diocletian in the third century. She was raised at a monastery in Sivapolis (Assyria). The head of the women's monastery was the abbess Bryaena, who was St. Febronia's aunt. Being concerned about her niece's salvation, she assigned her a stricter form of life than the other nuns. According to their monastic rule, the sisters put aside their other duties on Fridays and spent the whole day in prayer and the reading of Holy Scripture. The abbess usually assigned the reading to St. Febronia.

News of St. Febronia's pious life spread throughout the city. The illustrious young widow Hieria, a pagan, began to visit her, and under her guidance and prayers, Hieria accepted Holy Baptism, as well as bringing her parents and other relatives to Christianity.

Emperor Diocletian sent a detachment of soldiers to Assyria under the command of Lysimachus, Selenos and Primus with orders to destroy the Christian community. Selenos, the uncle of Lysimachus, was noted for his fierce attitude against Christians, but Lysimachus was of a different frame of mind, as his mother had sought to inspire love for the Christian faith in her son, and she had died a Christian. Lysimachus had discussed with Primus how it would be possible to deliver Christians from the hands of their torturers. When the detachment of soldiers approached the convent, the inhabitants hid. Only Abbess Bryaena, her helper Thomais and St. Febronia remained.

Abbess Bryaena was terribly afraid that her niece, St. Febronia, might fall into the hands of the torturers, who would defile her. She prayed fervently that the Lord would preserve her and strengthen her in the confession of Christ the Savior. Selenos gave orders that all the nuns of the convent be brought before him. Primus, along with the detachment of soldiers, found no one, except the two old women and St. Febronia. He regretted that they had not hidden themselves, and he suggested to the nuns



**Youth Group Meeting Today:** Following today's Divine Liturgy, all young men and women are welcome to join the youth group for it's first meeting at Civita Park in Mission Valley. The purpose of this first meeting will be to lay the foundation for the future of the group by establishing its goals, discussing future activities and deciding on a name for the group. For more information about the group or to join, please contact Dani Maria.

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**Masters Degree from Byzantine Catholic Seminary:**

The Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.T.) is a graduate-level theological program of Eastern Christian studies which may be completed in a 2 to 6 year time frame, in person or completely online. The online program is designed for busy professionals for full-time completion in five semesters and is convenient and affordable. Byzantine Catholic Seminary has been established for over 60 years and is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. More information may be found at [online.bcs.edu](http://online.bcs.edu) or by calling 412-321-8333. A brochure has also been posted on our church website, [stjacobmelkite.org](http://stjacobmelkite.org). The Fall 2017 application deadline is July 20th.

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**Good Stewards:** All the members of the community who participated in last week's Family Night, and especially Reem Rame, Micheline Hagggar, Marwan Maayaa and Jasmine Maria for their help with the food, appetizers, entertainment and guest check-in. May God reward all His faithful stewards.

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Those who are recovering from injury or illness, especially Jacob George, Jack Malki, Nawal Kabbane and Victoria Haddad. The repose of the souls of Archimandrite Charles Aboody and of Alia Fakhoury who fell asleep in the Lord. Patriarch, Youssef Absi, that God may grant him health and bless his efforts in his new role.

**Know someone in need of a prayer?** Notify Fr. Rezkallah by Wednesday to ensure they are included in the following Sunday's special intentions. Reach Fr. Rezkallah using our website at <https://stjacobmelkite.org/prayer-request> or by telephone at 858-987-2864.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP:** His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS is pleased to announce the establishment of two new Melkite Outreaches to serve the needs of our Melkite faithful: one in Las Vegas, Nevada, and one in Palm Springs, California. At this time, we are attempting to contact all our Melkite brothers and sisters who live in these areas. If you know any Melkites in these places please send their names and contact information to Father James Babcock for Las Vegas, and Father George Bisharat for Palm Springs. Please pray for the success of these new initiatives of our Melkite Church.

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**NEW PATRIARCH ELECTED:** On Wednesday, June 21, 2017, the synod of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church elected Archbishop Youssef Absi as our Church's new patriarch. On Thursday, he received ecclesiastical communion from Pope Francis. Patriarch Absi, succeeds Patriarch Gregorios III, who retired earlier this year.

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

**Summary of offerings made on Sunday, June 18**

Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings: Automatic withdrawal: \$125,  
Basket collection: \$884, Total tithes: \$1,009

Average weekly expenses: \$1,200

Average offerings made: Members: \$44.05, Visitors: \$2.71

Are you a member or a visitor? Members have offering envelopes. If you consider yourself a member and don't have offering envelopes, please see Rami Maria.

Tithe: Represents 10% of our gross income returned to God. Sacrificial giving represents a gift that is a true sacrifice for us to give.

Attendance: 58

1 member gave \$200  
3 members gave \$100  
2 members gave \$50  
3 members gave \$40  
1 member gave \$30  
1 member gave \$25  
5 members gave \$20  
2 members gave \$15  
1 member gave \$10  
2 members gave \$5  
Visitors gave \$84

**English Choir Practice:** Please see Suha Maria if you would like to join the English choir.

**Parish Advisory Council:** Rami Maria (Chairman), Max Samaan (Vice-Chairman), Rose Habash (Secretary), Majeda Maria (Ladies Society Chairwoman), Waled Qamoh and Rana Metri.

**Are you a visitor?** Welcome! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor information form near the entrance of the church on your way out today.

**Volunteers needed!** Please sign up with Fr. Rezkallah or Rami Maria for the unassigned tasks below. For social hour preparation and clean-up, please sign up with Hala Shahtout.

**Epistle Reading:** A new sign up sheet is available for those who would like to read the Epistle. Please sign up in the church narthex.

**Volunteer Schedule**

(please sign up with Fr. Rezkallah if your family would like to volunteer)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Member(s)</b>	
<b>Sunday 6/25/2017</b>	Epistle Reading	EN: Rose Habash	AR:
	Welcoming Visitors	Max Samaan	
	Gospel Bearing	EN: Emile Shahtout	AR: Adli Hanna
	Social hour	No Social Hour	
<b>Sunday 7/2/2017</b>	Epistle Reading	EN:	AR:
	Welcoming Visitors	Waled Qamoh	
	Gospel Bearing	EN:	AR:
	Social hour	No Social Hour	

## Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Offered on behalf of Jacob George

### Hymns:

#### **Troparion of the resurrection** (Tone 2)

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, \* You put Hades to death 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 ألهنا، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

#### **Troparion of St. Jacob, Brother of the Lord** (4th Tone) (Horologion p. 847)

As a disciple of the Lord, you received the Gospel, O holy Jacob. As a martyr, you displayed unyielding will. As a brother of God, you have special power with Him. As a hierarch, you have the right of intercession. Intercede therefore with Christ God that he may save our souls.

#### **طروبارية القديس يعقوب أخي الرب (شفيح الرعية)**

بما أنك تلميذ للرب قبلت الإنجيل، أيها الصديق. وبما أنك شهيد لك عزم لا يبتني، وبما أنك أخ للرب لك الدألة لديه. وبما أنك رئيس كهنة لك حق الشفاعة. فاشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا

### **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 (القنداق)**

يا نصيرة المسيحيين التيلا 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 الإله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.

### **Epistle** Romans 5:1-10, Page 105 (English) – Page 123 (Arabic)

#### **PROKIMENON** (Tone 2) Ps.117: 14, 18

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

**Stichon:** The Lord has chastised me through His teaching, yet He has not delivered me to death.

**Reading** from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans

Brethren, now that we have been justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have access by faith to that grace in which we stand and exult in the hope of God's glory.

And not only this, but we exult also in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance, and endurance challenge, and challenge hope, and hope does not deceive, for God's love is poured forth in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us.

For why did Christ die at the appointed time for the wicked while we were still weak? Hardly would someone die for a just man; perhaps someone would have the courage to die for a virtuous man. But God proves His love for us, since Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Much more now that we are made just in His blood, shall we be saved by Him from wrath.

For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled with God through His death, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

**ALLELUIA** (Tone 2) Ps.19: 1; 27: 9

May the Lord answer you in the days of distress; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

**Stichon:** O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance

### مقدمة الرسالة

الربُّ قوَّتِي وتسبيحي لقد كان لي خلاصاً  
أدبني الربُّ تأديباً، والى الموت لم يسلمني

### الرسالة (رومة 5 : 1-10)

يا إخوة، إذ قد بُررنا بالإيمان، لنا سلامٌ لدى الله برّبنا يسوع المسيح الذي نلنا به أيضاً الدخولَ بالإيمان الى هذه النعمة، التي نحنُ مقيمون فيها، ومفتخرون في رجاء مجدِ الله. وليس هذا فقط، بل نفتخرُ أيضاً في الشدائد، عالمين بأنَّ الشدة تُنشئُ صبراً والصبرُ امتحاناً، والامتحانُ رجاءً، والرجاءُ لا يُخزي، لأن محبةَ الله قد أفيضت في قلوبنا بالروح القدس المعطي لنا. لأن المسيح، ونحنُ بعد ضعفاء، قد مات في الاوان عن الكافرين. ولا يكادُ أحدٌ يموت عن بارٍّ، فلعلَّ أحداً يُقدِّمُ أن يموتَ عن صالح. أما الله فيُبهرُنْ على محبته لنا، بأنَّ المسيح، ونحنُ بعد خطاة، قد ماتَ عنا، فبالأحرى كثيراً إذ قد بُررنا بدمه نخلصُ به من الغضب. لانا اذا كُنَّا قد صولحنا مع الله بموتِ ابنه ونحنُ أعداء، فبالأحرى كثيراً ونحنُ مصالحوّنْ نخلصُ بحياته.

### هللوا

ليستجبْ لكَّ الربُّ في يوم الضيق، ليعضدك اسمُ الهِ يعقوب  
خلص ياربُّ شعبك، وبارك ميراثك

**Gospel:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Mt 6:22-33 (**Divine Providence**), p 61

The Lord said: The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. Therefore if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness itself! No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will stand by the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you shall eat and drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall wear.

Is not life a greater thing than food, and the body than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you of much more value than they? But which of you by being anxious about it can add to his stature a single cubit? And as for clothing, why are you anxious? See how the lilies of the field grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. But if God so clothes the wild flower of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more you, O you of little faith! Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or, 'What shall we drink?', or, 'What are we to wear?' (For all these things the Gentiles seek); for your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all the rest shall be given you besides."

انجيل الاحد الثالث بعد العنصره

الانجيل ( متى 6 : 22-33 )

قال الرب: سراجُ الجسدِ العين. فإن كانت عينك بسيطةً، فجسدك كله يكون نيراً. وإن كانت عينك شريرةً، فجسدك كله يكون مُظلماً. وإذا كان النورُ الذي فيك ظلاماً، فالظلامُ كم يكون مُدْهِماً؟ لا يستطيع أحدٌ أن يعبدَ ربَّين. فإنه إما يُبغضُ الواحدَ ويحبُّ الآخرَ، أو يُلازمُ الواحدَ ويرذلُ الآخرَ. لا تقدرون أن تعبدوا اللهَ والمالَ. فلهذا أقولُ لكم: لا تهتمُّوا لنفسكم بما تأكلون، بما تشربون، ولا لجسدكم بما تلبسون. أليست النفسُ أفضلُ من الطعامِ، والجسدُ أفضلَ من اللباسِ؟ أنظروا إلى طيور السماء، فإنها لا تزرع ولا تحصدُ ولا تجمعُ في الأهراءِ، وأبوكم السماويُّ يقوتها. أفلمستم أنتم أفضلَ منها؟ من منكم يقدرُ باهتمامه، أن يزيدَ على قامته ذراعاً واحدة؟ ولماذا تهتمُّون باللباسِ؟ تأملوا زنابقَ الحقلِ كيف تنمو. إنها لا تتعبُ ولا تغزل. وأنا أقولُ لكم: إنَّ سليمانَ نفسه في كلِّ مجده لم يلبسَ كواحدةً منها. فإذا كان عُشبُ الحقلِ الذي يكون اليومَ، وغداً يُطرحُ في التُّور، يلبسه اللهُ هكذا، أفلا يلبسُكم بالأحرى أنتم يا قليلي الايمان. فلا تهتمُّوا إذن قائلين، ماذا نأكل، أو ماذا نشرب، أو ماذا تلبس. فإنَّ هذا كله تطلبه الأممُ، وأبوكم السماويُّ يعلمُ أنكم تحتاجون إلى هذا كله. بل اطلبوا أولاً ملكوتَ الله وبره، وهذا كله يُزادُ لكم.

**Hymn to the Theotokos:** "It is truly right ..."

**نشيد لوالدة الاله:** "انه واجب حقا..."

**Kinonikon:** "Praise the Lord ..."

**Post-communion hymn:** "We have seen the true light..."

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*(Continued on page 1)*

that they flee. But the nuns decided not to leave the convent and entrusted themselves to the will of the Lord.

Primus told Lysimachus of the particular beauty of St. Febronia and told Lysimachus to take her for himself. Lysimachus said that he would not seduce a virgin dedicated to God, and he asked Primus to hide the other nuns so that they would not fall into the hands of Selenos. One of the other soldiers related this conversation to Selenos.

Thereafter, St. Febronia was led before the military commander with her hands bound and a chain around her neck. Selenos ordered her to deny Christ, promising her honors, rewards, and marriage to Lysimachus. The holy virgin firmly and fearlessly answered that she had an Immortal Bridegroom, and she would not exchange Him for any mortal man. Selenos subjected her to fierce tortures. Throughout her agony, the saint prayed, "My Savior, do not abandon me in this terrible hour!"

St. Febronia was beaten repeatedly, and blood flowed from her wounds. In order to intensify her suffering, she was tied to a tree and a fire was set under it. The tortures were so inhuman that the people began to demand an end to her sufferings, since St. Febronia refused to confess her guilt. Selenos continued to mock and jeer at her, but St. Febronia was silent. Because of the weakness brought on by the beatings, she was unable to utter a word. In a rage, Selenos gave orders to tear out her tongue, smash her teeth, and finally, to cut off both hands and feet. The people were unable to bear witness to such a horrid spectacle and left the scene of the torture, cursing Diocletian and his gods.

Among the crowd was the nun Thomais and her student, Hieria, who afterwards recorded St. Febronia's martyrdom in detail. Hieria came out of the crowd and reproached Selenos for his cruelty. He gave orders to arrest her, but learning that Hieria was of illustrious standing whom he could not readily subject to torture, he said, "By your speech you have brought on Febronia even greater torment." Finally, St. Febronia was beheaded.

Leaving the place of execution, Lysimachus wept and shut himself up in his quarters. Selenos attempted to eat, but was unable to take food, and went off to the quiet of his own chambers. Suddenly, he became deranged. Looking up to the heavens, he raved and bellowed like a bull, then fell down and struck his head on a marble column and died. When Lysimachus learned of this, he said, "Great is the God of the Christians, Who has avenged Febronia's blood, so unrighteously shed!" He prepared a coffin, placed St. Febronia's body in it, and took it to the convent.

Upon seeing the mutilated remains of St. Febronia, Abbess Bryaena fell senseless. Later, she recovered and gave orders to open the convent gates so that all would be able to come and venerate the holy martyr and glorify God Who had given her such endurance in suffering for Christ. Lysimachus and Primus renounced their worship of idols and accepted both Baptism and monasticism. Hieria gave her wealth to the convent and petitioned Abbess Bryaena to accept her in place of St. Febronia.

Soon after her death, St. James, the Bishop of Nisibis, built a church and transferred into it a portion of St. Febronia's relics.

Every year, on the anniversary of the death of St. Febronia, a solemn feast was celebrated at the convent. During the all-night Vigils, the nuns always saw St. Febronia, at her usual place in the church. Numerous miracles and healings occurred from her relics. The life of St. Febronia was recorded by the nun Thomais, an eyewitness to her deeds.

In 363, St. Febronia's relics were transferred to Constantinople.

## **SAINT JACOB MELKITE (BYZANTINE) CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Sunday Divine Liturgy 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

Worship address: 2235 Galahad Road, San Diego, CA 92123

Mailing address: PO Box 231328, San Diego, CA 92193

Pastor office address: 4772 Felton Street, San Diego, CA 92116

Phone: 858-987-2864    E-mail: [rsamaan@stjacobmelkite.org](mailto:rsamaan@stjacobmelkite.org)    Web site: [stjacobmelkite.org](http://stjacobmelkite.org)

Fr. Rezkallah Samaan, Pastor/Administrator;    Deacon Antoine Kabbane, Associate

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

### **Holy Mysteries**

***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 Fr. 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.

### **Event Calendar**

(more details available on website - [www.stjacobmelkite.org](http://www.stjacobmelkite.org))

#### **June 2017**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
				1	2	3
4 Divine Liturgy Pentecost	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Divine Liturgy	12	13	14	15 Divine Body	16	17 Family Night
18 Divine Liturgy	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Divine Liturgy Youth Group Meeting	26	27	28	29 Feast of Saints Peter and Paul PAC Meeting	30	