



St. Jacob Melkite Catholic Community

Serving San Diego Since 1990

16th Sunday after Pentecost, 1st Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saint of the Day

Commemoration of the holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles, THECLA

According to ancient Syrian and Greek manuscripts, Saint Thecla was born into a prosperous pagan family in the Lycaonian city of Iconium (present-day Konya in south-central Turkey) in A.D. 16. When she was 18 years old and betrothed to a young man named Thamyris, Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint Barnabas arrived in Iconium from Antioch (Acts 14). Thecla's mother Theocleia prohibited her from joining the crowds which gathered to hear Paul preach. But Thecla found that if she sat near her bedroom window she could hear his every word. Thecla sat there for three days and three nights listening to Paul preach the word of God. She was particularly touched by his call to chastity. As it became apparent that Thecla was becoming interested in the new Faith, Theocleia and Thamyris went to the governor of the city and complained about Paul and his preaching. To pacify them and the other outraged citizens of Iconium, the governor had Paul imprisoned to await trial.

When Thecla learned of Paul's arrest she secretly went to the prison, and using her golden bracelets to bribe the guard, gained admittance to his cell. When she saw the Apostle she knelt before him and kissed the chains which bound his hands and feet. She remained there a long time listening to his message of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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message of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Being concerned at Thecla's prolonged absence, Theocleia and Thamyris asked her servant if she knew where she was. The servant said that Thecla had gone to visit an imprisoned stranger. Theocleia and Thamyris knew at once that she was with Paul. They decided to go again to the governor, this time demanding immediate judgement for the Apostle. After the governor chastened Paul for the disturbances he had caused in the city, he had him stoned and expelled from Iconium. The governor then admonished Thecla for her foolishness and commanded her to return home with her mother and fiancé. When Thecla announced that she had vowed to remain a virgin for the sake of Christ, her mother became enraged and asked the governor to threaten Thecla with severe punishment. The governor complied with this wish and ruled that Thecla was to be burned at the stake unless she renounced her faith in Christ.

When Thecla refused to renounce her Heavenly Bridegroom, she was taken to the arena for punishment. As she was tied to the stake she saw a vision of Jesus Christ which gave her strength to face

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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 Unction: Available for those who are ill or anticipating an operation.

Please remember in your prayers: Those affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf and Caribbean and the earthquakes in Mexico. Those who are recovering from injury or illness, especially Fr. Bryan McNeil and Samir Shamieh.

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

Are you a visitor? Welcome! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor information form near the entrance of the church after the Divine Liturgy.

Good Stewards: All who donated generously to the hurricane relief collection last week. A total of \$405 was sent to Bishop Nicholas. May God reward your generosity many fold.

New Year's Eve 2018: Tickets are on sale now for our New Year's Eve Party! Table reservations are first-come, first-served, so don't delay buying your tickets! Flyers are available in the narthex of the church and in the social hall. See stjacobmelkite.org/nye for more information.

Choir Practice TOMORROW: Practice will start at 7pm in the Religious Education Center.

Young Adults Picnic: One Body kickoff picnic this Saturday at 12pm at Vacation Isle Park.

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

Summary of offerings made on Sunday, September 17

Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings: Envelopes returned: 14
 Electronic giving: \$125, Basket collection: \$811, Hurricane: \$405,
 Feast Day: \$225, Social hour: \$41, Total tithes: \$977

Average weekly expenses: \$1,200

Average offerings made: Members: \$23.47, Visitors: \$13

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: 50

- 1 member gave \$200
- 3 members gave \$100
- 3 members gave \$40
- 2 members gave \$30
- 1 member gave \$25
- 5 members gave \$20
- 1 member gave \$15
- 2 members gave \$10
- 1 member gave \$5
- Visitors gave \$91

Youth Group: Please see Dani Maria if you are interested in joining Living In Truth (LIT).

Choir Practice: Please see Suha Maria if you would like to join the English or Arabic choirs.

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

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

Epistle Reading: The sign up sheet for those who would like to read the Epistle is in the white binder on the podium with the visitor information forms in the church narthex.

Volunteer Schedule

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

Date	Task	Responsible Member(s)	
Sunday 9/24/2017	Epistle Reading	EN: Dani Maria	AR: Rana Metri
	Welcoming Visitors	Rami Maria	
	Gospel Bearing	EN:	AR: Adli Hanna
	Social hour	Janitte Qamoh	
Sunday 10/1/2017	Epistle Reading	EN:	AR:
	Welcoming Visitors	Max Samaan	
	Gospel Bearing	EN:	AR:
	Social hour	Lara Zawaideh	

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns:

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7)

You destroyed Death by Your cross. You opened paradise to the thief. You changed the weeping of the myrrhbearers, and commanded Your apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy.

نشيد القيامة باللحن السابع

لاشيتَ بصليبك الموت، وفتحت للصل الفردوس، وحولت نوحَ حاملات الطيب الى فرح، وأمرتَ رسلكَ أن يكرزوا بمبشرين بأنك قد قمتَ، أيها المسيحُ الاله، مانحاً العالمَ عظيمَ الرحمة.

Troparion of St. Jacob, Brother of the Lord (Tone 4)

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 تلميذٌ للرب قبلتَ الإنجيل، أيها الصديق. وبما أنك شهيدٌ لك عزمٌ لا ينتني، وبما أنك أخٌ للرب لك الدألهُ لديه. وبما أنك رئيسٌ كهنة لك حقُّ 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 (الفتداق)

يا نصيرةَ المسيحيين التي لا تُخزي، ووسيطتهم الدائمة لدى الخالق، لا تعرضي عن أصواتِ الخطاة الطالبين اليك. بل بما أنكِ صالحة، بادري الى معونتنا، نحن الصارخين اليك بأيمان: هلمي الى الشفاعة، وأسرعني الى الابتهاال، يا والدة الإله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.

EPISTLE – 16th Sunday after Pentecost – Corinthians 6: 1-10

PROKIMENON (Tone 7) Ps.28: 11, 1

The Lord will give strength to his people;
the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Stichon: Give to the Lord, you sons of God,
give to the Lord glory and praise.

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

BRETHREN, yes, working together with him, we beg you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, *In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation, I have helped you.* (Is.49:8) Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We give no offense to anyone, that our ministry may not be blamed. On the contrary, let us behave in all circumstances as God's ministers, in much patience, in tribulations, in hardships, in distress; in stripes, in imprisonments, in riots; in labors, in sleepless nights, in fastings; in innocence, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in unaffected love; in the word of truth, in God's power; with the armor of justification on the right hand and on the left; in honor and dishonor, in evil report and good report; as deceivers and yet truthful, as unknown and yet well known, as dying, and look, we live; as punished, but not killed, as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet enriching many, as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

ALLELUIA (Tone 7)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High!

Stichon: To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

الاحد السادس عشر بعد العنصرة مقدمة الرسالة

الربُّ يُؤتي شعبه قُوَّة، الربُّ يُباركُ شعبه بالسلام
قَدِّمُوا للربِّ يا أبناءَ الله، قدموا للربِّ أبناءَ الكِباش

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية الى أهل كورنثس

يا إخوة، إذ نحنُ معاونون، نُحرضُكم أن لا يكونَ قبُولكم نعمة الله باطلاً لأنه يقول، إنني استجبتُ لك في وقتٍ مقبول، وأعدتُك في يوم خلاص. فهوذا الآن وقتٌ مقبول، هوذا الآن يومُ خلاص. ولسنا نأتي بمعترةٍ في شيءٍ لئلاَّ يلحقَ خدمتنا عيب. بل نُظهرُ أنفسنا كخدام الله في كل شيء، في الصبر الكثير والمضايق، والضرورات والمشقات، والجلدات والسجون، والاضطرابات والأتعاب، والأسهار والأصوام، والطهارة والمعرفة، وطول الأناة والرفق، والروح القدس والمحبة بلا رياء، وكلمة الحق وقوة الله، بأسلحة البرِّ عن اليمين وعن اليسار، بالمجد والهوان، بسوء الصيت وحُسنه. كأنا مُضليون ونحنُ صادقون، كأنا مجهولون ونحنُ معروفون، كأنا مانتون وها إننا أحياء، كأنا مؤدَّبون ولا نُقتل، كأنا حزانى ونحنُ دائماً فرحون، كأنا فقراء ونحنُ نُغني كثيرين، كأنا لا شيء لنا ونحنُ كلُّ شيء

هللوا

صالح الاعتراف للربِّ، والإشادة لاسمك أيها العليّ
ليُخبرَ برحمتك بالعادة، وفي الليل بحقك

At that time Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats moored by the lake, but the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. And getting into one of the boats, the one that was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And sitting down, he began to teach the crowds from the boat. But when he had stopped speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and lower your nets for a catch." And Simon answered and said to him, "Master, the whole night through we have toiled and have taken nothing; but at your word I will lower the net." And when they had done so, they caught a great number of fishes, but their net was breaking. And they called to their comrades in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord," For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had made; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you shall catch men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all and followed him.

الاحد الاول بعد الصليب

(لوقا 5: 1 – 11)

في ذلك الزمان، بينما كان يسوع واقفاً عند بحيرة جبيصارات، رأى سفينتين واقفتين عند البحيرة، وقد انحدرَ مِنْهُمَا الصيَّادون لِيَعْسَلُوا الشَّبَاك. فركب إحدى السفينتين التي كانت لسمعان، وسأله أن يتباعد قليلاً عن البر، وجلس يعلم الجموع من السفينة. فلما أنجز كلامه قال لسمعان: تقدّم إلى العرّض وألقوا شباككم للصيّد. فأجاب سمعان وقال له: يا معلم قد تعبنا الليل كله ولم نصب شيئاً، ولكن بكلمتك ألقى الشبكة. فلما فعلوا ذلك حازوا من السمك شيئاً كثيراً، فأخذت شبكتهم تتخرق. فأشاروا إلى شركائهم الذين في السفينة الأخرى أن يأتوا لتجدّتهم، فأثروا وملاوا السفينتين حتى كادتَا تغرّقان. فلما رأى ذلك سمعان بطرس خرّ عند ركبتي يسوع قائلاً: أبعد عني يارب، فإني رجل خاطيء. فإن الدهول قد أعتراه هو وجميع الذين معه بسبب صيد السمك الذي أصابوه. وكذلك يعقوب ويوحنا ابنا زبدي اللذان كانا شريكين لسمعان. فقال يسوع لسمعان: لا تخف فإنك من الآن تكون صيِّداً للناس. ولما بلغوا بالسفينتين إلى البر، تركوا كل شيء وتبعوه.

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

نشيد لوالدة الإله: "انه واجب حقاً..."

Kinonikon: "Praise the Lord ..."

Post-communion hymn: "We have seen the true light..." إذ قد نظرنا النور الحقيقي ...

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the flames. The fire was lit, but as the flames came near Thecla a thunderstorm suddenly arose and a great torrent of rain and hail came down from heaven and extinguished the flames. Embarrassed because his plan had failed, the angry governor released Thecla but commanded that she must leave Iconium at once.

Upon her release, Thecla went to the outskirts of the city where she rejoined Paul. She told him of her trial and miraculous escape from punishment and asked for baptism. Paul refused to baptize Thecla, saying that this would be accomplished in God's own way and time. Paul and Thecla then departed from the region of Iconium and traveled to Antioch in Syria. As they were entering the city a young nobleman named Alexander saw Thecla. Being entranced by her beauty he rushed forward and tried to seduce her, but Thecla fought him off, thus disgracing him in front of his crowd of friends. Alexander went to the governor of Antioch and complained that this wandering girl had disgraced him, a nobleman, in public. He demanded that she be punished with death. The governor complied and ruled that Thecla would face the wild beasts in the arena. Thecla's only reply was that she be allowed to preserve her virginity unto death. Her wish was granted and she was given into the care of the noblewoman Tryphaena, a relative of Caesar, until the time of punishment.

When Thecla was taken to the arena, a lioness was set free to attack her. But to the astonishment of the crowd, the lioness approached the Saint and sat tamely at her feet. A bear was then released, but as it came close to Thecla the lioness rose up to defend her and killed the bear. A large lion was then released. The lioness again came to Thecla's defense killing the lion, but losing her own life also. Then all the cages were opened and a large number of wild animals charged at the defenseless Thecla. After crossing herself and praying for courage, the Saint noticed a large tank of water which was nearby, containing the aquatic animals. She climbed into the water, asking that she might be baptized by Christ as she did so. Seeing that the beasts were unable to harm Thecla, Alexander asked that the Saint be given over to him for punishment. He tied her to two large bulls in the hopes that they would pull her asunder. But when the bulls charged off in opposite directions, the ropes which held Thecla to them were miraculously loosened and she was spared. Seeing that no harm could be done to Thecla, the authorities released her. She went to the home of Tryphaena where she remained for eight days preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and converting Tryphaena and her entire household. When she departed from Antioch, Tryphaena gave her a treasure in gold and precious jewels.

After she left Antioch, Thecla journeyed to Myra where she rejoined Paul. She informed him of all that had occurred, including her baptism and asked that she might be permitted to spend the remainder of her life as an ascetic. Paul gave her his blessing and she departed, leaving with Paul all the gold and jewels that Tryphaena had given her so that he might distribute them among the poor and needy.

Thecla then traveled again to Syria where she went up into the mountains for a life of prayer and solitude. Many years later a young pagan found her praying in an isolated canyon and resolved to harass her and spoil her virginity. As he approached her and blocked her only exit to safety, she prayed that her Bridegroom would protect her as He had so many times in the past. At that moment the canyon wall was miraculously split allowing her to escape through a narrow crack in the rock.

Saint Thecla continued her life of asceticism and then peacefully fell asleep in Christ at the age of 90. Shortly after her death a community of virgins went to live in her mountain cell, building a small chapel to enshrine her body. This Convent of Saint Thecla still exists today near the village of Ma'loula, Syria. Because of her many sufferings for the Faith the Church counts her as a "Protomartyr". And because she converted so many people to Christianity she is also known as an "Equal-to-the-Apostles".

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 Web site: 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 Joseph. "...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.

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Event Calendar

(more details available on website - www.stjacobmelkite.org)

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Beginning of 10th Year of Indiction	2
3 Divine Liturgy	4	5	6	7	8 Nativity of the Theotokos	9 Bonfire at Va- cation Isle Park
10 Divine Liturgy Vocations Day	11 LIT Bible Study Choir Practice	12	13	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross	15	16
17 Divine Liturgy	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Divine Liturgy	25 Choir Practice	26	27	28	29	30 Young Adults Picnic