

كنيسة القديس يعقوب  
للروم الملكيين الكاثوليك  
بخدمته سان دييغو منذ عام 1990



St. Jacob Melkite  
Catholic Community

Serving San Diego Since 1990

## Second Sunday after the Holy Cross

### Forgiving as He Forgives

DOES CHRIST ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE of His disciples? At times it seems so, as when He tells us to “love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back” (Lk 6:35). This doctrine goes against the ordinary inclinations of people of every society, social class or station in life. As a result it has been routinely ignored by Christians of every age when they are faced with the choice of actually putting it into practice.

As a result, many non-believers have seen Christians as hypocrites – teaching this principle in theory but ignoring it in practice. In all honesty, many of us might see ourselves in this criticism leveled by the eighteenth-century political philosopher of the American Revolution Thomas Paine: “Those who preach this doctrine of loving their enemies, are in general the greatest persecutors, and they act consistently by so doing; for the doctrine is hypocritical, and it is natural that hypocrisy should act the reverse of what it preaches.” (Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*).

### **In the Old Testament**

The Scriptures are full of imprecations against the enemies of Israel. The Torah and the early histories of Israel encourage believing Jews to consider the pagans living in their midst as God’s enemies and, therefore, their own. If they encourage readers to treat their enemies with compassion, it is for a motive other than kindness. The author of Proverbs warns his readers, “Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice or the Lord will see and disapprove and turn His wrath away from them” (Prov 24:17, 18). In other words, don’t rejoice over your enemy’s misfortune or God will restore their good fortune to spite you!

In Proverbs we find another word of advice on dealing with one’s enemies which was apparently well regarded among first-century Jews: “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you” (Prov 25:21, 22). The author encourages the doing of good from a base motive – Treat your enemy kindly. You will make him feel guilty and God will bless you in the bargain! This is very far from the New Testament teaching and shows us how far from conventional wisdom, even among God’s People, Christ’s doctrine is.



## Saint of the Day

### **Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr GREGORY, Bishop of Greater Armenia**

Saint Gregory was the son of the Satrap Anak who killed Kousarus, the King of Armenia. Raised in Caesarea of Cappadocia, he was baptized there and named Gregory. Tiridatus, the son of Kousarus, having been made king of the principality of Armenia by Emperor Diocletian, made Saint Gregory suffer for the faith and reproached him for not rendering worship to idols and for confessing the Christian faith. But Tiridatus, struck by a wonderful miracle worked beside his home, became a Christian and decreed that all the nobles of his kingdom embrace the same religion. Then Gregory was consecrated a Bishop in Caesarea by the Exarch Leontios around 294, and preached the Christian faith throughout Armenia. In his lifetime, he ordained his own son an archbishop. He died at a very old age, around 330.<sup>1</sup>

**Remember in your prayers:** Those who have fallen asleep before us in the hope of resurrection. All who are sick, suffering or recovering from illness, especially Hanna Maria, Laila Khbais and Sesel Safo. Those who have asked us to pray for them, especially Alan Habib.

**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 [www.stjacobmelkite.org/prayer-request](http://www.stjacobmelkite.org/prayer-request) or by telephone at 858-987-2864.

**Bingo Pot Luck this Saturday!** Join us on October 6 in the social hall starting at 6pm for an evening of fun and future planning. Play some bingo, help plan future events, eat and dance!

**28th Anniversary Party:** Get your tickets now! Entertainment from signer Rabih Samaan and DJ Bassam Nino! Head over to <https://stjacobmelkite.org> for information and to reserve.

# 28TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

كنيسة القديس يعقوب  
للروم الملتين الكاثوليك



**St. Jacob Melkite  
Catholic Community**

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018 7:00PM



**BEING MELKITE - DID YOU KNOW?** The proper and more ancient manner to receive communion in the Byzantine and Melkite Churches is to approach with your arms crossed. This is a personal recognition of the Holy Species we are receiving and a sign of submission to the King of all.<sup>2</sup>

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

**Summary of offerings made on Sunday, September 23**

Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings: Member envelopes returned: 17, Visitor envelopes used: 0, Basket offerings: \$1,653, Automated giving: \$125, Social Hour: \$46, Total tithes and sacrificial offerings: \$1,624

Average weekly expenses: \$1,200

Average offerings made: Members: \$43.71, Visitors: \$14.63

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 offering is a gift that is a true sacrifice for us to make.

Attendance: 52

- 1 member gave \$1,000
- 2 members gave \$100
- 3 members gave \$50
- 2 members gave \$40
- 2 members gave \$30
- 3 members gave \$25
- 2 members gave \$20
- 1 member gave \$15
- 3 members gave \$10
- 1 member gave \$6
- 1 member gave \$5
- Visitors gave \$117

**Forgot your envelope?** Not to worry. Visitor offering envelopes are available in the narthex.

**Youth / Young Adults:** Please see Dani Maria if you are interested in joining Living In Truth.

**Parish Advisory Council:** Rami Maria (Chairman), Max Samaan (Co-Vice Chairman), Eihab Shahtout (Co-Vice Chairman), Rana Metri, Dani Maria, Anthony Porrello and Sam Abraham.

**Volunteers wanted!** Please sign up online at [www.stjacobmelkite.org/volunteer](http://www.stjacobmelkite.org/volunteer) or with Fr. Rezkallah or Rami Maria for the unassigned tasks on the following page. For social hour preparation and clean-up, please see Hala Shahtout.

**Epistle Reading:** Sign up to read the Epistle in the church narthex or online.

**Volunteer Schedule**

Please sign up at [stjacobmelkite.org/volunteer](http://stjacobmelkite.org/volunteer) if you would like to help!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Member(s)</b>	
<b>Sunday 9/30/2018</b>	Epistle Reading	EN:	AR:
	Welcoming Visitors	Sam Abraham	
	Gospel Bearing	EN:	AR:
	Social Hour	Reem Rame	
<b>Sunday 10/7/2018</b>	Epistle Reading	EN:	AR:
	Welcoming Visitors	Dani Maria	
	Gospel Bearing	EN:	AR:
	Social Hour	Max Samaan	

## Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### **Troparion of Resurrection (Tone 2)**

When You descended to death, O immortal Life, You destroyed Hades 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 (لحن الثاني)**

لما نزلت الى الموت، أيها الحياة الخالدة، أمتَ الجحيم بسنى لاهوتك. ولما أقيمت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماويين: أيها المسيحُ ألهنا، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

### **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 (لحن الرابع)**

بما أنك تلميذٌ للرب قبلتَ الإنجيل، أيها الصديق. وبما أنك شهيدٌ لك عزمٌ لا ينتني، وبما أنك أخٌ للرب لك الدأه لديه. وبما أنك رئيسُ كهنة لك حقُ 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.

### **القنداق**

يا نصيرةً 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، وأسرعى الى الابتهاال، يا والدة الإله المحامية دائماً عن مكرميك.

### **EPISTLE of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 2 Corinthians 11:31-33-12:1-10**

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

**Reader:** My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

**All:** ***My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.***

**Reader:** The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

**All:** ***My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.***

**Reader:** My strength and my courage is the Lord ...

**All:** ***... and he has been my Savior.***

## **A READING** from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

BRETHREN, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the Governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

(12: 1) It is not fitting for me to boast: but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know: God knows) was caught up into paradise and heard secret sayings that man may not repeat. Of such a man I will boast; but of myself I will glory in nothing except my weaknesses. For if I do wish to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I give up, lest any man have an idea of me beyond what he sees in me or hears from me. And lest the greatness of the revelation puff me up, there was given to me a thorn for the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me. Concerning this, I begged the Lord three times that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness." Gladly, then, will I glory in my weaknesses, that the strength of Christ may dwell in me.

**ALLELUIA** (Tone 2) Ps.19: 1, 10

The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress; the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

**Stichon:** O Lord, save your king and listen to us on whatever day we call upon you.

## رسالة الاحد التاسع عشر بعد العنصرة 2 كورنثس 11: 31 الى 12: 9

### مقدمة الرسالة

القارئ: الربُّ قوّتي وتسبيحي، لقد كان لي خلاصاً  
الجميع: الربُّ قوّتي وتسبيحي، لقد كان لي خلاصاً  
القارئ: أدبني الربُّ تأديباً والى الموت لم يُسلمني  
الجميع: الربُّ قوّتي وتسبيحي، لقد كان لي خلاصاً  
القارئ: الربُّ قوّتي وتسبيحي ...  
الجميع: ... لقد كان لي خلاصاً

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل كورنثس

يا إخوة، يعلمُ إلهُ وأبو ربِّنا يسوع المسيح، المباركُ الى الدهور، أني لا اكذب. كانَ الحاكمُ بدمشقَ تحتَ إمرةِ الملكِ الحارث، يحرسُ مدينةَ الدمشقيينَ مُريداً أن يقبضَ عليّ. فدلَّيتُ من كُوَّةٍ في زنبيلٍ من السُّور، ونجوتُ من يديهِ. إن الافتخارَ لا يفيدني، فإنني انتقلُ الى رؤى الربِّ وإيحاءاته. اني اعرفُ انساناً في المسيح، أُخْتُفَ الى السماءِ الثالثة منذ أربعِ عشرة سنة، أفي الجسدِ لستُ أعلم، أم خارجَ الجسدِ لستُ أعلم، اللهُ يعلم. واعرف ان هذا الانسان، أفي الجسدِ أم خارجَ الجسدِ لستُ أعلم اللهُ يعلم، قد اخْتُفَ الى الفردوس، وسمعَ كلماتٍ سرّية، لا يحلُّ لأنسان أن ينطقَ بها. فمن جهةِ هذا افتخر. أمّا من جهةِ نفسي، فلا افتخرُ إلا بأوهائي. فإنني لو أردتُ الافتخار، لم أكن جاهلاً، لأنني أقولُ الحقّ. لكني أكفُّ لنألاً يظنُّ أحدٌ بي فوقَ ما يراني عليه أو يسمعه مني. ولئلاّ استكبرَ لِسْمُو

الايحاءات، أُعطيَتْ شوكةً في الجسد، ملاكَ الشيطان ليَلطمَنِي لئلا استكبر. ولأجل ذلك طلبتُ الى الربِّ ثلاثَ مراتٍ ان تفارقني. فقال لي: تكفيك نعمتي، لأنَّ قوتِي تكملُ في الوهن. فيكلَّ سرور اذن افتخرُ بالحريِّ بأوهاني، لتستقرَّ عليَّ قوَّةُ المسيح.

**هللوا**

ليستجبْ لكَ الربُّ في يوم الضيق، ليعضدكَ اسمُ إلهِ يعقوب  
يا ربُّ خِصِّ الملك، واستجبْ لنا يومَ ندعوك

### **GOSPEL of the Second Sunday after Holy Cross Luke 6:31-36**

The Lord said, "Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merit have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful."

### **انجيل الاحد الثاني بعد الصليب لوقا 6: 31-36**

قال الربُّ: كما تُريدونَ أن يفعلَ الناسُ بكم، كذلكَ أفعَلوا أنتم أيضاً بهم. فإنَّكم إن أحببتمُ الذين يُحبُّونكم فأبى فضلٍ لكم؟ فإنَّ الخطاةَ أيضاً يُحبُّونَ الذين يُحبُّونهم. وإن أحسنتمُ الى الذين يُحسِنون اليكم فأبى فضلٍ لكم؟ فإنَّ الخطاةَ أيضاً يفعلونَ ذلكَ بعينه. وإن أقرضتمُ الذين تُرجونَ أن تَسْتوفوا منهم، فأبى فضلٍ لكم؟ فإنَّ الخطاةَ أيضاً يقرضونَ الخطاةَ لكي يَسْتوفوا المثل. ولكن أحبُّوا أعداءكم، وأحسِنوا وأقرضوا غيرَ مؤمِلين شيئاً، فيكونَ أجرُكم كثيراً وتكونوا بَنِي العليِّ، لأنه منعمٌ على غير الشاكِرينَ والأشرار. فكونوا اذن رُحَماءَ كما أنَّ أبائكم رَحيم.

**Hirmos:** It is truly right ...

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

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

**نشيد المناولة:** سبحوا الرب من السموات ...

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

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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. Rez-kallah 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.

## **Imitating God**

Christ regularly encouraged His disciples to imitate God's way rather than man's. God's way is, of course, the way of mercy and compassion. God "does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities, For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him" (Ps 103:10, 11). While the Jews were long encouraged to trust in God's mercy, it was Christ who taught us to imitate that compassion in the way we treat others.

The Lord Jesus urged His disciples to strive for perfection in their spiritual lives and He pointed to love for one's enemies as exemplifying that perfection. Anything less, He identified with the spirit of the scribes and Pharisees. In St Matthew's Gospel the following injunction concludes and sums up the Sermon on the Mount: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt 5:32-36, 43-48). If the aim of the Christian life is to imitate the Lover of mankind, the chief sign of that way of life is the way we treat our enemies. We can and should act in the image of God.

Perhaps the most striking example of love for ones enemies in the Gospels is the prayer for His killers which Christ offered while hanging on the cross. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:24). Arrested for preaching in Christ's name some years later, the first martyr, St Stephen, used his last breath to imitate Christ's love for His enemies, praying: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60) as he was being stoned by his killers: God, and those who follow His way, do not let themselves be conditioned by the wickedness of others. Even when forgotten or rejected, they continue to be faithful to loving others.

## **Forgiving through the Holy Spirit**

Imitating God in this way isn't easy. Some say it isn't even in our power, but is an attitude that can only be the fruit of grace, given by the Holy Spirit. This is why St. Silouan the Athonite writes, "The soul that has not known the Holy Spirit does not understand how one can love one's enemies, and does not accept it."

The ability to love one's enemies is also closely bound to humility. Almost all the difficulties we encounter in loving our enemies are linked with pride: it is from pride that flows the affliction that follows upon insults, hatred, bad temper, spite, the desire for revenge, contempt for one's neighbor, refusing to forgive him and to be reconciled with him. Pride excludes the love of enemies and love for one's enemies excludes pride.

When we think of asceticism, we may consider prayer vigils, fasting, or making numerous prostrations. The most challenging ascetical feat, however, is to practice love for one's enemies.<sup>3</sup>

## **SAINT JACOB MELKITE 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

**Saint Jacob Melkite Community** is a Greek-Catholic (Eastern 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 professes the Orthodox Faith and maintains full communion with the See of Rome.

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### **September - October 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Divine Liturgy	1	2	3	4	5 Apostle Thomas	6 Bingo Potluck
9 Divine Liturgy	8	9	10 LIT Bible Study	11	12	13
16 Divine Liturgy	15	16	17	18 Apostle and Evangelist Luke	19	20 St. Jacob 28th Anniversary Party
21 Divine Liturgy	22	23 Hieromartyr and Apostle Jacob, Brother of the Lord	24 LIT Bible Study	25	26 Great Martyr Demetrius Great Earthquake of Constantinople	27
28 Divine Liturgy	29	30	31 Arabic Bible Study			