

## Feast of Saint Gregory the Theologian



# St. Jacob Melkite Greek~Catholic Church

Serving San Diego Since 1990

## Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### Memory of our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

This Father and Teacher of the Church was born around 329 in Arianus, a market town in Second Cappadocia, in the vicinity of Nazianzus. His father, a convert from paganism who became the Bishop of Nazianzus, was also named Gregory, and his mother Nonna. He studied first in Caesarea of Cappadocia, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens, where he became a close friend of Saint Basil. Returning to his country in 357, he received Holy Baptism and gave himself to asceticism with his friend in the wilderness of Pontus. He was ordained a priest of the Church of Nazianzus, by his own father. Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima, a suffering see of Caesarea. In 375, he withdrew to the monastery of Saint Thecla in Seleucia of Isauria. It is from there that he left in 379 to help the Church of Constantinople, troubled for forty years by the Arians. Supported by the pious Emperor Theodosius the Great, he managed by his wise discourses, sufferings, and many punishments, to free his Church from the plague of heresy. He fell asleep in the Lord in 389 or 390. The grandeur of his theological writings have merited him the surname of "Theologian." That which comes down to us of his works, discourses and poems of all types, witness to his radiant eloquence and remarkable knowledge.

### Troparion of Gregory (Tone 1)

The sweet melody of your theological teaching has overcome the noisy blast of orators, for God has granted you the power of penetrating spiritual depths and the gift of brilliant literary talent. Gregory our father, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

### Troparion of James, Brother of the Lord (Tone 4)

O holy James, as a disciple of the Lord, you received the Gospel. As a martyr, you displayed an 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.

### Kontakion of the Encounter (Tone 1)

O Christ God who through your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have blessed the arms of Simeon, you have come today to save us. When wars prevail, keep your people in peace and strengthen our Public Authorities in every good deed, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

### PROKEIMENON (Tone 1) Ps. 48: 4,2

Reader: My mouth shall speak wisdom; prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.

**All: My mouth shall speak wisdom; prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.**

Reader: Hear this all you peoples; listen, all you who dwell in the world.

**All: My mouth shall speak wisdom; prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.**

Reader: My mouth shall speak wisdom ...

**All: ...prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.**

## EPISTLE (Hebrews 7:26-8:2)



RETHREN, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled (Cf. Lv. 16:6), set apart from sinners, and become higher than the heavens. He does not need to offer sacrifices daily (as the other priests did), first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people; for this latter he did once for all in offering up himself. For the Law appoints as priests men who are weak; but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son who is forever perfect.

Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of majesty in the heavens, a minister of the Holies and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, and not man.

**ALLELUIA** (Tone 2) Ps. 77: 1,2

Listen, my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

*Stichon*: I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter mysteries from of old.

## GOSPEL (John 10:9-16)



HE Lord said, "I am the Door. If anyone enters by me he shall be safe, and shall go in and out, and shall find pastures. The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. But the hired hand, who is not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees. And the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep; but the hired hand flees because he is a hireling, and has no concern for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, even as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."

**Kinonikon**: O Christ God, you brought about salvation in the midst of the earth. Alleluia.

**For Fr. James' 38<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary**: God grant you many years, God grant you many years, God grant you many years. In health and happiness, in health and happiness, God grant you many, many years!

Please join us after the liturgy for light refreshments downstairs in the church hall.

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## SAINT JACOB MELKITE GREEK-CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Fr. Rezkallah Samaan, Pastor/Administrator

Deacon Antoine Kabbane, Associate

**Saint Jacob Melkite Catholic Church** is an Eastern Catholic Community of the Eparchy of Newton, headed by His Grace, Bishop Nicholas. Liturgical services are celebrated in English and Arabic in the Byzantine Rite. 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.

**St. Jacob Mission Statement**: To foster a Catholic and Godly renewal with worship through the awe-inspiring Liturgy of the Byzantine Rite and by safeguarding our orthodox faith and Tradition; in order to bring the message of the Living Lord to the faithful and seekers of truth.

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