

## Feast of Saint Jacob, Brother of the Lord

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



St. Jacob Melkite  
Greek-Catholic Church  
Serving San Diego Since 1990

## Divine Liturgy of St. James

## Memory of the holy Hieromartyr and Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, first Bishop of Jerusalem

The Holy Apostle Jacob, the Brother of God (Adelphotheos) was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos. From his early years Jacob was a Nazarene, a man especially dedicated to God. The Nazarenes vowed to preserve their virginity, to abstain from wine, to refrain from eating meat, and not to cut their hair. The vow of the Nazarenes symbolized a life of holiness and purity, commanded formerly by the Lord for all Israel. When the Savior began to teach the nation about the Kingdom of God, Saint Jacob believed in Christ and became His apostle. He was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

Saint Jacob presided over the Council of Jerusalem and his word was decisive (Acts 15). In his thirty years as bishop, Saint Jacob converted many of the Jews to Christianity. Annoyed by this, the Pharisees and the Scribes plotted together to kill him. They led the saint up on the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple and asked what he thought of Jesus. The holy Apostle began to bear witness that Christ is the Messiah, which was not the response the Pharisees were expecting. Greatly angered, the Jewish teachers threw him off the roof. The saint did not die immediately, but gathering his final strength, he prayed to the Lord for his enemies while they were stoning him. Saint Jacob's martyrdom occurred about 62 A.D.

The holy Apostle Jacob composed a Divine Liturgy (which we are celebrating today), which formed the basis of the Liturgies of Saints Basil the Great and John Chrysostom. The Church has preserved an Epistle of Saint James (Jacob), one of the books of the New Testament. <sup>1</sup>

Lesson: Jeremiah 26:8-15

**Reader:** A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**A**nd when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered about Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. Then the priests and the prophets said to the princes and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying, "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will repent of the evil which he has pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

**People:** Alleluia (x3)

**Cantor:** Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world their message. (Ps. 18:5)

**People:** Alleluia (x3)

**Cantor:** The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands. (Ps. 18:2)

**People:** Alleluia (x3)

**EPISTLE: Galatians 1:11-19**

**Reader:** A reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**B**RETHREN, I give you to understand that the Good News that was announced to you by me is not of man. For I did not receive it from man, nor was it taught to me [by man], but I received it by a revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of the way I lived before in Judaism: how I persecuted the Church of God and ravaged it beyond measure. And I advanced in Judaism above many of my contemporaries in my nation, showing much more zeal for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased him who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Gentiles, immediately, without taking counsel with flesh and blood and without going up to Jerusalem to those who were appointed apostles before me, I retired into Arabia and again returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went to Jerusalem to see Peter, and I remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles, except James, the Lord's brother.

**People:** Alleluia (x3)

**Cantor:** The heavens shall proclaim your wonders, O Lord, and your truth in the assembly of the saints. (Ps. 88:6)

**People:** Alleluia (x3)

**Cantor:** God is glorified in the council of His saints, great and awesome to all those around Him. (Ps. 88:8)

**People:** Alleluia (x3)

Credits: 1. OCA

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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

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 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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