



## St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church

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Prayers Hotline, <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DjekhCR0tVC5kGH3KLYBav>

**Sunday, January 18, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday After the Holy Cross**

الأحد، 18 كانون الثاني 2026 الخامس عشر بعد الصليب

### Antiphon Prayer:

Gracious Lord, God of all, Guide for the lost, Light for those in darkness. Our eyes turn to you, hear our prayers. May the sun of your glory shine forth, giving life and light to all, from the East to the West, and from the North to the South. Let the morning rays of your eternal spring awaken us who await your coming. O Jesus Christ, Light from the Light, dwell within us, who have come together to worship your holy and precious name. Let your life-giving radiance kindle within us a deeper love for one another. May your brilliant light stir us to ever more flourishing unity. Like diverse flowers in the garden of your Kingdom, may your divine brilliance cause us to bloom in harmony. And so, all as one, may we always joyfully praise and glorify you, and the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### Hymns:

#### **Troparion of the Resurrection**

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

#### **نشيد القيامة بالحن السابع**

لاشيت بصليبك الموت، وفتحت للص الفردوس، وأبطلت نوح حاملات الطيب، وأمرت رسلك أن يكرزوا مبشرين بأنك قد قمت، أيها المسيح الإله، مانحاً العالم عظيم الرحمة.

#### **Troparion of the patron of the church**

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our eagerness to render you due



honor, we fall short when singing your praise. Your glorious birth saved your mother from the shame of barrenness, returned to your father the power of speech, and proclaimed to the world the Incarnation of the Son of God.

### **Kontakion of the**

#### **Presentation of our Lord:**

O Christ our God who through your birth have sanctified the virginal womb and have now blessed the

arms of Simon, today You have come to save us. O Lord, 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.

#### **قنداق دخول ربنا يسوع المسيح الى الهيكل**

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من بمولده قدس المستودع البتولي، وبارك يدي سمعان كما يليق. لقد بادرت الآن أيضاً وخلصتنا. فأحفظ رعيته بسلام في الحروب. وأيد الحكام الذين أحببتهم أيها المحب البشر وحدك .

#### **Epistle:** Hebrews: 13:7-16

Precious in the Lord's eyes is the death of his holy ones.

How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done to me?

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

BRETHREN, remember your superiors who spoke to you the word of God. Consider how they ended their lives and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes, and forever. Do not be led away by various and strange doctrines. For it is good to make the heart steadfast

by grace, not by food, in which those who walked found no profit.

We have an altar, from which they have no right to eat who serve the tabernacle (Cf. Lv.16:17). For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the Holies by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people by his blood, suffered outside the gate.

Let us therefore go forth to him outside the camp, bearing his reproach; for here we have no permanent city, but we seek for the city that is to come. Through him, therefore, let us offer up a sacrifice of praise always to God, that is, fruit of lips praising his name. And do not forget kindness and love, for by such sacrifices God's favor is obtained.

Alleluia

Happy the man who fears the Lord! He will joyfully agree with his commands.

His holiness shall endure forever and ever

### مقدمة الرسالة

كريم لدى الرب موثٌ صفيه

بماذا نكفئ الرب عن كل ما أحسن إلينا

الرسالة (العبرانيين 7: 13-16)

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين يا إخوة، أنكرُوا مُدْبِرِكُمْ الذين كلموكم بكلمة الله. تأملوا في عاقبة تصرّفهم وأقتنوا بإيمانهم إن يسوع المسيح هو هو أمس واليوم وإلى الدهور لا تتخذوا بتعاليم متنوعة وغريبة. فإِنَّه يحسن أن يُنَبِّت القلب بالنعمة، لا بأطعمة لم تنفع الذين جروا بموجها إن لنا مذبحاً لا يحق للذين يخدمون المسكين أن يأكلوا منه، لأنّ الحيوانات التي يدخل رئيس الكهنة الأقداس بدمها عن الخطيئة، تُحرق أجسامها خارج المحلّة. لذلك يسوع أيضاً تألم خارج الباب، ليقدس الشعب بدمه الخاص فلنخرج إذن إليه إلى خارج المحلّة حاملين عازره لأنه ليس لنا ههنا مدينة باقية، لكننا نطلب الآتية فلنقرب به إذن ذبيحة الحمد لله كل حين، وهي تمرّ الشفاهة المعترفة لاسمه، لا ننسوا الإحسان والمواساة، فإن الله يرتضي مثل هذه الدّباح. هلوليا

طوبى للرجل الذي يتقي الرب، ويهوى وصياه جداً

بره يدوم إلى أبد الابد

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus' Repentance

At that time as Jesus was passing through Jericho, behold there was a man named Zacchaeus; and he was a leading publican, and he was rich. And he was trying to see Jesus, to find out who he was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So, he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay in your house today." And he made haste and came down and welcomed him joyfully. And upon seeing it, all began to murmur, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, I give one-half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have defrauded

anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he, too, is the son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

الإنجيل الأحد الخامس عشر بعد الصليب (لوقا 19: 1-10) في ذلك الزمان، كان يسوع يجتاز بأريحا، وإذا برجل اسمه زكا، كان رئيساً على العشارين وكان غنياً. وكان يطلب أن يرى من هو يسوع، ولم يستطع بسبب الجمع لأنه كان قصير القامة. فتقدم مسرعاً وصعد إلى جُمَيْرَة لِنَظَرِهِ، لأنه كان مُزْمَعاً أن يجتاز بها. فلما انتهى يسوع إلى الموضع، رفع طرفه فراه. فقال له: يا زكا أسرع أنزل. فالיום ينبغي لي أن أقيم في بيتك. فأسرع ونزل وقبله فرحاً. فلما رأى الجميع ذلك تدمروا قائلين: انه دخل ليحلّ عند رجل خاطئ. فوقف زكا وقال ليسوع: يا سيدي، هاءنذا أعطي المساكين نصف أموالي، وإن كنت قد غبتت أحداً في شيء، أزد أربعة أضعاف. فقال له يسوع: اليوم قد حصل الخلاص لهذا البيت، لأنه هو أيضاً ابن إبراهيم، فإن ابن البشر قد أتى ليطلب ويخلص ما قد هلك.



**Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup>:** 40 Day Memorial for Khoder Barhoume

\* For HPPSS for George & May Fakhoury on their 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

\*For good health and speedy recovery for all the sick among parishioners and friends. Antoine & Denise Shehata, Basemah Aranki, Julie Yff, Anthony Baroud, Nazha Massih.

In Loving Memory of: +Jamileh Akkawi; +Emile Harb +Fouad, George & Jamileh Nijmeh, +Nakhle & Nahida Nakhle.

**Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>:** 40 Day Memorial for Fouad Nijmeh

**Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>:** One year Memorial for + Semaan El Hajj.

**Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>:** Mass for All-Souls Saturday

**Weekly donations:** The 11<sup>th</sup> of January:

9am Mass: \$50; 11am Mass: \$2,046; Online Don: \$140; Candles: \$109; Mail Don: \$50; New Year's Eve profit: \$3,467;

### **A big THANK YOU**

#### **is due to the New Year's Eve Committee**

Nicola & Jaky Tamer, Sarie Haddad, Majed Dalloul, Rasha Mansour and many other volunteers. You did a wonderful job, your hard work showed in the elegance and the well organization of the evening. For Elias Tourjman & Family for his generous donation of the center peaces and covers. For Libanais for the Sweets. May you all be rewarded 100 folds & more for your dedication and your great commitment.

#### **Feed My Starving Children**

St. John will be participating in a church-wide Feed My Starving Children event (all parishioners are welcome). They ask that participants be 5 years of age or older. We have 55 spots reserved for Feb 28 at noon, so get your RSVP in quick if you plan to attend. Hope to have a great turnout during this touching and fun outing. Let me know if you have any questions :)

<http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=5160XG>



#### **2026 Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians 18-25 Jan**

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."*

*(Ephesians 4:4)*

Suggested daily prayer:

O Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, on the eve of your redemptive suffering, you fervently asked your heavenly Father that all your followers be one, as You are One with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

We implore You, divine Master, to bestow upon all Christian Churches the unity of faith, of hearts and of purpose, so that they become one flock under the leadership of One Shepherd according to your wish.

Grant us, Lord, to love one another as You loved us, so that, seeing our unity, the world may believe in You and embrace your message of peace and love. For You are the Prince of Peace and Lover of mankind and to You we render glory, and to your Eternal Father, and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen

اسبوع الصلاة لأجل وحدة الكنائس صلاة يومية

أيها السيد الرب يسوع المسيح إلهنا، يا من في عشية آلامه الخلاصية صليت بحرارة إلى ابيّة السّمّائي، ليكون جميع أتباعه واحداً كما أنت واحد مع الأب والروح القدس، نتوسّل اليك أيها المعلم الإلهي، أن تنعم على كنائسك بوحدة الايمان ووحدة القلوب ووحدة العمل الرّسولي تحقيقاً لرعبتك في أن تكون رعيةً واحدة تحت إمرة راع واحد.

هَب لنا، أيها الربّ، أن نُحبّ بعضنا بعضاً كما أنت أحببتنا، بالبذل والعطاء، حتى إذا شاهد العالم وحدتنا في الايمان، آمن بك واعتنق انجيلك ومجد معنا، بقم واحد وقلب واحد، اسمك الجدير بكل كرامة والعظيم الجلال ايها الأب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلّ أوانٍ وإلى دهر الداهرين. آمين



DEPART FROM CHICAGO  
TRAVEL DATE: 2 MAY – 10 MAY, 2026

# HOLY LAND

*Pilgrimage*



**08 DAYS**

**TOUR COST \$3300**  
INCLUDING FLIGHTS

Single supplement \$700

**WHAT IS INCLUDED**

- From Chicago to Tel Aviv R/T
- Professional, licensed English speaking guide
- Air conditioned bus throughout
- Accommodation in superior first class hotels
- Daily breakfast and dinner
- All entrance fees listed in the itinerary
- Tips, service charges, and taxes included
- Group Mass coordination

**WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED**

- Lunches
- ETA for Israel : <https://israel-entry.piba.gov.il/apply-for-an-eta-il-1>
- Meals or drinks not listed, room service, laundry
- Personal expenses and any services not specifically listed as included

**Payment and Registration ▶**

Registration ends March 1st | Places are limited

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**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
\*\*\*THE 25TH ANNUAL\*\*\*  
VALENTINE'S DAY FUNDRAISER**  
Benefitting the Orphans of the Middle East

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH**

**St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church  
200 E North Ave, Northlake IL, 60164**

**Live Performance Featuring:  
ANDRE IBRAHIM & BAND**



**TICKETS \$125**

**Appetizers 7:00 PM, Dinner 8:00 PM**

**For more information:  
JoAnn Fakhouri 708-691-4461  
Pierre Azar 224-402-2000**

### The Road to Pascha and Pentecost 2026

January 25	The Publican and Pharisee
February 1	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
February 2	(Presentation of Our Lord into the Temple)
February 7	All-Souls Saturday
February 8	(Meat-Fare)
February 15	(Cheese-Fare)
February 16	Lent and the Great Fast
February 22	Sunday of Orthodoxy & Icons
March 1	Sunday of the Holy Relics
March 8	Veneration of the Cross
March 15	St. John of the Ladder
March 22	St. Mary of Egypt
March 25	Annunciation to the Mother of God
March 28	Lazarus Saturday
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 2	Great and Holy Thursday
April 3	Great and Holy Friday
April 4	Great and Holy Saturday
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 12	Apostle Thomas

April 19	Myrrh-Bearing Women
April 26	Healing of the Paralytic
April 29	Mid-Pentecost
May 3	Samaritan Women at the Well
May 10	Man Born Blind
May 14	Feast of the Ascension
May 23	All-Souls Saturday
May 24	Pentecost - Descent of the Holy Spirit
May 25	Memorial Day
May 31	All Saints Sunday
June 24	Nativity of John the Baptist
June 29	Peter & Paul

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**ONLINE GIVING**  
<https://stjohnmelkite.flocknote.com/give/25225>  
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**WEBSITE**  
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**TO BE ADDED TO OUR PARISH DIRECTORY AND TO RECIEVE OUR BULLETIN:**  
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