



St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church

200 E. North Avenue – Northlake, Illinois 60164 www.stjohnmelkite.church

Office (708) 680-2210 / Email: stjohnthebaptist.northlake@melkite.org

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

Sunday, February 22, 2026 First Sunday of Lent

الأحد، 22 شباط 2026 الأحد الأول من الصوم العظيم المقدس

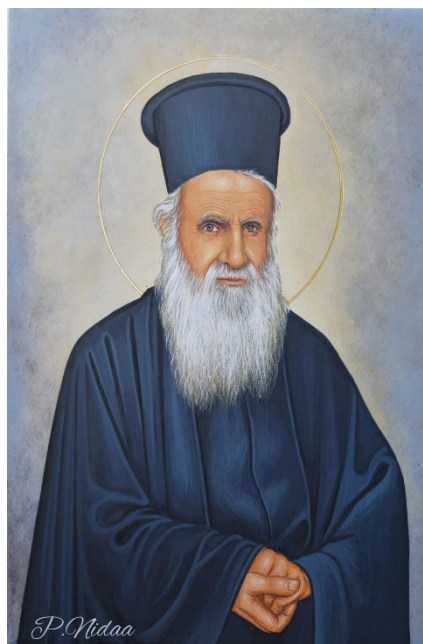
Congratulations for our Melkite Church for the first recognized and official beatified priest The Blessed Fr Beshara Abu Mrad

Suggested prayer:

Merciful Savior, you who never cease to pour down your grace in abundance upon your priests, those who are your special inheritance, for their holiness and for the benefit of their flocks, we beseech you to look down and glorify your faithful servant Father Beshara Abu Mourad, who went before you following the paths of perfection in the religious life and of the priestly calling, and was your servant all the days of his life. If it be your will, O Lord, show in him your power that he may gleam like a shining star in the vault of our Church of the East, already resplendent with the glory of its saints. Let all know that the wells of sanctity have not yet run dry in your holy Church. Let the brow of your faithful priest be encircled by the crown of the canonization that we may find in him a perfect model and follow the example of his virtues. So may your holy name be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

To find out more about his life and movie, visit this link: (Arabic with English caption)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MwS_Qge7JI



ANTIPHON PRAYER OF THE FIRST SUNDAY of Lent:

O Christ God, You condescended to be incarnate, taking the form of a slave. You became like one of us by the body to make us participants in your glorious likeness. Wherefore we paint your image on icons and we honor it by mouth and heart asking for the grace to be healed by its power. For it belongs to You to have mercy on us and to heal us, O Christ God, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving, and worship, and to your Eternal Father, and to your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and always...

HYMNS

Before Your most pure image, we bow in worship, O Good One, begging forgiveness of our stumbling, O Christ God: because You chose of your own free will to ascend upon the cross in the flesh in order to deliver from the enemy's yoke those You had created. For this reason, we cry out to You in thanksgiving: "You our Savior have Filled all things with joy when You came to save the world."

نشيد أحد الارثوذكسية باللحن الثاني
لصُورَتِكَ الطَّاهِرَةِ نَسْجُدُ أَيُّهَا الصَّالِحِ، مُلْتَمِسِينَ
الصَّفْحَ عَنْ زَلَّاتِنَا، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهِي. فَإِنَّكَ رَضِيتَ بِاخْتِيَارِكَ أَنْ
تَصْعَدَ بِالْجَسَدِ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ. لِتُنْقِذَ الَّذِينَ جَبَلْتَهُمْ مِنْ عِبُودِيَّةِ الْعَدُوِّ.
فَذَلِكَ نَهَيْتُ إِلَيْكَ شَاكِرِينَ: لَقَدْ مَلَأْتَ الْكُلَّ فَرَحًا يَا مُخْلِصَنَا، لَمَّا
أَتَيْتَ لِتُخَلِّصَ الْعَالَمَ.



Egypt not fearing the king's wrath: for he persevered as if he were seeing the One who cannot be seen. By faith, he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the one who destroyed the first-born might not touch these. By faith, they passed through the Red Sea, as through dry land — whereas the Egyptians attempting it were swallowed up. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after people had gone around them for seven days. By faith, Rahab the prostitute who had received the spies in peace did not perish with the unbelievers.

And what more shall I say? For time will be too short to speak of the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms,

And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God had something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us. Alleluia

Moses and Aaron were among his priests and Samuel among those who called upon his Name. They called upon the Lord, and He answered them; from the pillar of cloud, He spoke to them.

Kontakion of the Annunciation: (Tone 8)
Triumphant Leader to you belongs our prize of victory! And since you saved us from adversity, we offer you, our thanks. We are your people O Mother of God! So, as you have that invincible power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to you: Hail, O Virgin and bride ever pure.

قنداق الختام باللحن الثامن
حَنُّ عَيْدِكَ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، نَكْتُبُ لَكَ آيَاتِ الْعَلْبَةِ يَا قَائِدَةَ قَاهِرِهِ.
وَنُقَدِّمُ الشُّكْرَ لَكَ وَقَدْ أَنْقَذْنَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ. لَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لَكَ الْعِزَّةَ الَّتِي
لَا تُحَارَبُ، أَعْتَقِينَا مِنْ أَصْنَافِ الْمَخَاطِرِ حَتَّى نَصْرُخَ إِلَيْكَ:
أَفْرَحِي يَا عَرُوسَةَ لَا عَرُوسَةَ لَهَا.

مقدمة الرسالة
مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ آبَائِنَا، وَمَسَبِّحٌ وَمُمَجِّدٌ اسْمِكَ إِلَى الدُّهُورِ
لَأَنَّكَ عَادِلٌ فِي جَمِيعِ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا، وَأَعْمَالُكَ كُلُّهَا صِدْقٌ،
وَطَرْفُكَ اسْتِقَامَةٌ

الرسالة (عبرانيين 11: 24 - 26، 32 - 40)
يَا إِخْوَةَ، بِالْإِيمَانِ مُوسَى لَمَّا كَبِرَ أَبِي أَنْ يُدْعَى ابْنًا لِابْنَةِ فِرْعَوْنَ.
وَإِخْتَارَ الْمَشَقَّةَ مَعَ شَعْبِ اللَّهِ عَلَى التَّمَتُّعِ الْوَقْتِيِّ بِالْخَطِيئَةِ. وَاعْتَبَرَ
عَارَ الْمَسِيحِ غَنَىٰ أَعْظَمَ مِنْ كُنُوزِ مِصْرَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى
النُّوَابِ. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضًا؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ
جِدْعَوْنَ وَبَارَاقَ وَشَمْشُونَ، وَيَفْتَاخَ وَدَاوُدَ وَصَمُؤِيلَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ،
الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكَ وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَتَأَلَّوْا الْمَوَاعِدَ وَسَدُّوا
أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسُودِ، وَأَطْفَأُوا قُوَّةَ النَّارِ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَيْدِ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا
مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَّاءَ فِي الْقِتَالِ وَكَسَرُوا مُعَسَّكَرَاتِ
الْأَجَانِبِ. وَاسْتَرْجَعَتْ نِسَاءُ أُمَوَاتِهِنَّ بِالْقِيَامَةِ. وَأَخْرَجُوا قَدَّ عُدْبُوا
بِتَوْبِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا النِّجَاةَ لِيُحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةِ
أَفْضَلِ. وَأَخْرَجُوا قَدَّ دَأَفُوا الْهَزَّةَ وَالسَّيَاطِ وَالْقَيْوَدَ أَيْضًا وَالسَّجْنَ.
رُجِمُوا، نُشِرُوا، أَمْتَجِنُوا، مَاتُوا بِحَيْدِ السَّيْفِ، سَاخُوا فِي جُلُودِ
الْعَنَمِ وَالْمَغْزِ، مُعُوزِينَ، مُضَائِقِينَ، مَجْهُودِينَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ
مُسْتَنْجِفًا لَهُمْ، تَانِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ وَالْجِبَالِ وَالْمَعَاوِرِ وَكُهُوفِ

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2
Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and your Name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.
For You are just in all you have done to us, and all your works are true and your ways right.
Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews
Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, denied he was a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to be afflicted with God's people rather than to have the enjoyment of sin for a time, estimating the indignities suffered by Christ to be of greater value than the Egyptians' treasures, for he was considering the reward. By faith he left

Valentine's Party THANK YOU

One more year we were able to fundraise and we are able to support the orphanages of Syria. Our gratitude is due to the Valentine's Party Committee . Nouha and all the volunteers did a wonderful job, their hard work showed in the delicious meal, the elegance and the well organization of the evening. May you all be rewarded 100 folds & more for your dedication and your great commitment.

Sunday February 22nd:

For the good intentions of the Akkawi Family
For the new church project. For good health and speedy recovery for all the sick among parishioners and friends. Antoine & Denise Shehata, Antoinette Mansour, Basemah Aranki, Julie Yff, Anthony Baroud, Nazha Massih, Iskandar Serhan, Elie Ghawi, Dolores Maalouf, Mary Jabbour, Violet Daoud, Abe and Tony Baroud, Joseph Alcheikh.

In Loving Memory of: +Jamileh Akkawi; +Emile & Clotilde Harb +Fouad Nijmeh +Khoder Barhoume + Sami & Elizabeth Mondo +Farid & Hilda and Victor Farah.

Wednesday February 25th: English Mass

7:30pm and Great Complines 8:00pm

Friday February 27th Arabic Mass 7:30pm and

Acathist 8:00pm Followed by a Talk with DR

Dima Arbach Dalloul on **Habits for wellbeing**

and resilience: *How to identify and create realistic life style that supports your goals.*

Sunday March 1st: In Gratitude and for HPPSS for Razan Dababneh and her Family.

Weekly donations: The 15th February:

9:00am Mass: \$65 11am Mass: \$1,239; Online Don: \$181; Mailed Don: \$50; Candles: \$107; Rent: \$1000.

1st Reconciliation and Solemn Communion

If you would like to register your child (age 8-11) for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confession, please contact Dr Dima Arbach (905)570-7195 to register your son or daughter.

الأرض. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ الْمَشْهُودُ لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوْعِدَ، لِأَنَّ
اللَّهَ قَدْ سَبَقَ فَتَنَّرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، لِكَيْ لَا يُكْمَلُوا بِمَعْزَلٍ عَنَّا.
هلوليا

مُوسَى وَهَرُونَ بَيَّنَّ كَهَنَتَيْهِ، وَصَمَوِيلُ بَيَّنَّ الدَّاعِينَ بِاسْمِهِ
كَانُوا يَدْعُونَ الرَّبَّ فَيَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُمْ، فِي عُمُودِ الْغَمَامِ يُكَلِّمُهُمْ.

Gospel: John 1:43-51 - (Call of Nathanael)

At that time Jesus was about to leave for Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the son of Joseph of Nazareth." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him and said of him, "Look, a true Israelite in whom there is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "Where do you know me from?" Jesus answered him and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him and said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are King of Israel." Answering, Jesus said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, you believe. Greater things than these shall you see." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

(الانجيل (يوحنا 1: 43-51)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، أَرَادَ يَسُوعُ الْخُرُوجَ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ، فَوَجَدَ فِيلِبُّسَ،
فَقَالَ لَهُ: اتَّبِعْنِي. وَكَانَ فِيلِبُّسُ مِنْ بَيْتِ صَيْدَا مِنْ مَدِينَةِ أَنْدَرَاوَسَ
وَبَطْرُسَ. فَصَادَفَ فِيلِبُّسُ نَتْنَائِيلَ فَقَالَ لَهُ: إِنَّ الَّذِي كَتَبَ عَنْهُ
مُوسَى فِي النَّمُوسِ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ قَدْ وَجَدْنَاهُ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ بْنُ يُوْسُفَ
مَنْ النَّاصِرَةِ. فَقَالَ لَهُ نَتْنَائِيلُ: أَمِنْ مِنَ النَّاصِرَةِ يُمْكِنُ أَنْ يَكُونَ
شَيْءٌ صَالِحٌ؟ قَالَ لَهُ فِيلِبُّسُ: تَعَالَ وَانظُرْ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعَ نَتْنَائِيلَ
مُغْبِلًا إِلَيْهِ، فَقَالَ عَنْهُ: هَذَا فِي الْحَقِيقَةِ إِسْرَائِيلِيُّ لَا غَشَّ فِيهِ. فَقَالَ
لَهُ نَتْنَائِيلُ: مِنْ أَيْنَ تَعْرِفُنِي؟ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: قَبْلَ أَنْ يَدْعُوكَ
فِيلِبُّسُ، وَأَنْتَ تَحْتَ التِّينَةِ، رَأَيْتَكَ. أَجَابَ نَتْنَائِيلَ وَقَالَ لَهُ: يَا مُعَلِّمُ،
أَنْتَ هُوَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، أَنْتَ هُوَ مَلِكُ إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ:
لَأَنِّي قُلْتُ لَكَ إِنَّ رَأْيَكَ تَحْتَ التِّينَةِ آمَنْتَ. إِنَّكَ سَتَعَابُنِ أَعْظَمَ مِنْ
هَذَا. وَقَالَ لَهُ: الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّكُمْ مِنَ الْآنَ تَرَوْنَ السَّمَاءَ
مَفْتُوحَةً، وَمَلَائِكَةُ اللَّهِ يَصْعَدُونَ وَيَنْزِلُونَ عَلَى ابْنِ الْبَشَرِ.

St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church

200 E. North Ave.,
Northlake, IL 60164

Fr. Imad Barakeh b.s.o (708) 916-2068 Fr.Imad.Barakeh@melkite.org

For Spanish Community: Fr. Sergio Ayala (630) 936-1839

OFFICE PHONE

(708) 680-2210
option 1: Priest or office
option 2: Spanish
option 3: Hall Rental

EMAIL

stjohnthebaptist.northlake@melkite.org

ONLINE GIVING

<https://stjohnmelkite.flocknote.com/give/25225>
or scan the QR Code

WEBSITE

<https://stjohnmelkite.church>



TO BE ADDED TO OUR PARISH DIRECTORY AND TO RECEIVE OUR BULLETIN:

Please email your full name and email to stjohnthebaptist.northlake@melkite.org



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>



**SETON
ACADEMY**
CATHOLIC MONTESSORI

Prospective Family

COFFEE & TOUR

9:15 am

February 25 ◦ March 25 ◦ April 29 ◦ May 27

Faithfully educating 3 year old Primary -
14 year old Middle School for 47 years.

Scan the QR code to reserve
your spot at the Coffee & Tour!



Villa Park, Illinois

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دمشق - قضاة
الرقم الصربي 21100000874
رقم الإحصاء: 1254
تاريخ الفاتورة: 2026-2-17
رقم الفاتورة: ((HOS1322))
رقم المشفى
الطبيب المشرف: د. فادي الأحمر
تاريخ الدخول: 2026-2-14
تاريخ الخروج: 2026-2-17

الخدمات	العملية	الطبيب	القيمة الاجمالية
الأطباء			106,705
أجور الجراح	في دمشق	د. فادي الأحمر	89,030
استشارة تخصصية		د. وفا الحلبي	800
أجور طبيب التخدير	في دمشق	طبيب التخدير	16,875
الإجراءات التشخيصية والعلاجية			2,700
التحاليل المخبرية			1,250
خدمات طبية			1,050
الضمانات			400
أجور المشفى			61,503.75
الإقامة	درجة أولى (3 يوم)		21,000
غرفة العمليات	في دمشق		37,500
خدمات			3,003.75
الأدوية والمواد للمستهلكات			4,851.25
نوازل و مواد التخدير	في دمشق		4,851.25
الأدوية			13,330
مواد طبية			3,180
مواد الصلوات			7,730
			7,730
			200,000 القيمة الاجمالية

فقط مائتان ألف ليرة جديدة سورية لا غير .

Thank you for your generous donations

Dear beloved parishioners and friends

Thank you for your continual generosity. Your kindness is truly remarkable. Please find below a recent receipt of how your gifts were used for a good purpose and helped paying the fee of a surgery in Damascus. May God bless the patient with full healing and speedy recovery and bless you abundantly and protect you and your beloved ones from every harm, sickness or disease.

With my deepest gratitude,

Abouna Imad