



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, March 8, 2026 Sunday of the Holy Cross

الأحد 8 شباط 2026 أحد الصليب المقدس



Antiphon Prayer:

O Christ God, You chose of your own free will to be raised on the Cross for the sake of mankind. Have mercy on your people called after your name. Grant to the Church, your Mystical Body, to rejoice in your might. Safeguard all the peoples that You reconciled by your crucifixion. As for us, who have been sealed by the sign of your Cross, grant that we may not be proud of anything but of your Cross, bearing at all time in our hearts and our minds, the marks of your Holy Passion.

For You are our Light and our Sanctification, O Christ our God, 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.

Antiphons of the Feast:

1. O Lord, let the light of your countenance shine upon us.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, Save us!

2. O Lord, for those who fear You, You have raised a banner to which they may flee out of the range of arrows.

3. You have ascended on high, taken captives, and received men as gifts.

1- قد ارتسم علينا نور وجهك يا رب

اللازمة: بشفاعته والدة الإله، يا مخلصنا

2- أعطيت الذين يتقونك علامة ليهربوا من وجه القوس

3- أعطيت ميراثا للذين يتقون اسمك يا رب

نشيد الصليب:

خَاصِنُ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاتِكَ، مَايْحَا الْعَالَمِ السَّلَامِ. وَاحْفَظْ بِصَلْبِكَ رَعِيَّتِكَ.

Troparion of the Holy Cross

“O Lord save your people and bless your inheritance, granting peace to the world; and protect your community by the power of your Cross.”

قنداق الختام

نَحْنُ عِبِيدُكَ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، نَكْتُبُ لَكَ آيَاتِ الْعَلْبَةِ يَا قَائِدَةَ فَاهِرِهِ. وَنُقَدِّمُ الشُّكْرَ لَكَ وَقَدْ أَنْقَذْنَا مِنَ السَّدَائِدِ. لَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لَكَ الْعُرَّةَ الَّتِي لَا تُحَارِبُ، أَعْتَقِينَا مِنْ أَصْنَافِ الْمَخَاطِرِ لِكَيْ نَصْرُخَ إِلَيْكَ: إِفْرَحِي يَا عَرُوسَةَ لَا عَرُوسَةَ لَهَا

Kondakion

At the magnificence of your virginity and your exceedingly splendid purity Gabriel stood amazed and cried out to you, O Theotokos: what praise may I offer you that is worthy of your beauty? By what name shall I call you? I am lost and bewildered. But I shall greet you as I was commanded: Hail, O full of grace.

Instead of the Trisagion

We bow in worship before Your Cross, O Master, and we give praise to Your Holy Resurrection.

Arabic: Li-sa-lee-bi-ka ya Say-yi-da-na nas-jud, wa-li-qi-yaa-ma-ti-kal-mu-qad-da-sa nu-maj-jid.

Epistle: The 3rd Sunday of Lent

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

To you, O Lord, I have called: O my Rock, be not deaf to me!

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews: 4: 14-16; 5: 1-6

Brethren, since we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens, let us hold fast out

profession of faith. For we have not a high priest unable to pity our weaknesses, but one tried as we are in all things, save sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in matters pertaining to God, so that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to have compassion on the ignorant and erring, because he himself also is beset with weakness, and therefore must make offerings for sin in his own behalf as in behalf of the people. And no one invests himself with this honor: only one who is called by God takes it, as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not glorify himself with the high priesthood, but glorified the One who had spoken to him, "You are my son, I this day have begotten you." "As he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedek" Alleluia

Remember your congregation which you have acquired from the beginning: you redeemed the scepter of your inheritance. God is our King forever: he brought about salvation in the midst of the earth.

رسالة الأحد الثالث من الصوم
حَلِّصْ يَا رَبِّ شَعْبَكَ، وَبَارِكْ
مِيرَاتِكَ.
إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُخُ، إِلَهِي لَا
تَنْصَامَمُ عَيْي.
فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسَ
الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ



يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِذْ لَنَا رَيْسُ كَهَنَةٍ عَظِيمٍ قَدِ
أَجْتَازَ السَّمَاوَاتِ، يَسُوعُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، فَلْتَتَمَسَّكَ
بِالاعْتِرَافِ. فَإِنَّ رَيْسَ الْكَهَنَةِ الَّذِي لَنَا لَيْسَ غَيْرَ قَادِرٍ أَنْ يَرْتِي
لِأَمْرَاضِنَا، بَلْ هُوَ مُجَرَّبٌ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مِثْلَنَا مَا خَلَا الْخَطِيئَةَ.
فَلتَقْبَلِ إِذْ بَدَأَ إِلَى عَرْشِ النِّعْمَةِ، لِنَنَالَ رَحْمَةً وَنَجِدَ نِعْمَةً لِلْإِعَاثَةِ
فِي أَوَانِهَا. فَإِنَّ كُلَّ رَيْسِ كَهَنَةٍ مُتَّخِذٍ مِنَ النَّاسِ، يُقَامُ لِأَجْلِ النَّاسِ
فِي مَا لِلَّهِ، لِيقْرَبَ قَرَابِينَ وَدَبَائِحَ عَنِ الْخَطَايَا، قَادِرًا أَنْ يَرِقَ لِلَّذِينَ
يَجْهَلُونَ وَيَضِلُّونَ، لِكُونِهِ هُوَ أَيْضًا مُتَلَبِّسًا بِالضَّعْفِ. وَلِهَذَا يَجِبُ
عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يَقْرَبَ عَنِ الْخَطَايَا لِأَجْلِ نَفْسِهِ، كَمَا يَقْرَبُ لِأَجْلِ الشَّعْبِ.
وَلَيْسَ أَحَدٌ يَأْخُذُ لِنَفْسِهِ هَذِهِ الْكِرَامَةَ، إِلَّا مَنْ دَعَا اللَّهَ كَمَا دَعَا
هَرُونَ. كَذَلِكَ الْمَسِيحُ أَيْضًا لَمْ يَمَجِّدْ نَفْسَهُ حَتَّى يَصِيرَ رَيْسَ كَهَنَةٍ،



بَلِ الَّذِي قَالَ لَهُ: أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ. كَمَا يَقُولُ أَيْضًا فِي
مَوْضِعٍ آخَرَ: أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ عَلَى رُثْبَةِ مَلِكِيصَادَقَ. هَلْ لَوِيَا
أَذْكَرُ جَمَاعَتِكَ الَّتِي أَقْتَنَيْتَهَا مُنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ، لَقَدْ افْتَدَيْتَ صَوْلَجَانَ
مِيرَاتِكَ.

أَمَّا اللَّهُ فَهُوَ مَلِكُنَا قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ، أَجْرَى الْخَالِصِ فِي وَسْطِ الْأَرْضِ.

Gospel: Mark 8: 34-9:1 - The 3rd Sunday of Lent,
(Taking up the daily cross)

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father." And he said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power."

الأنجيل (مرقس 8: 3 إلى 9: 1)
قَالَ الرَّبُّ: مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَتَّبِعَنِي فَلْيُنْكِرْ نَفْسَهُ وَيَحْمِلْ صَلْبِيَهُ
وَيَتَّبِعَنِي. لِأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَخْلِصَ نَفْسَهُ يَهْلِكُهَا، وَمَنْ أَهْلَكَ نَفْسَهُ
مِنْ أَجْلِي وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْإِنْجِيلِ فَذَلِكَ يُخْلِصُهَا. فَإِنَّهُ مَاذَا يُنْفَعُ الْإِنْسَانَ
لَوْ رَجَعَ الْعَالَمُ كُلُّهُ وَخَسِرَ نَفْسَهُ؟ أَمْ مَاذَا يُعْطِي الْإِنْسَانَ فِدَاءً عَنِ
نَفْسِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَسْتَحْيِي بِي وَيَكَلِمِي فِي هَذَا الْجِيلِ الْفَاسِقِ
الْخَاطِي، يَسْتَحْيِي بِهِ ابْنُ الْبَشَرِ أَيْضًا مَتَى آتَى فِي مَجْدِ أَبِيهِ مَعَ
الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْقَدِّيسِينَ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنَّ بَعْضَ الْقَائِمِينَ
هَهُنَا لَا يَدُوفُونَ الْمَوْتَ حَتَّى يَرَوْا مَلَكُوتَ اللَّهِ آتِيًا بِقُوَّةٍ. حَقًّا.

Kinonikon: "Let the light of your Face shine on us, O Lord" Alleluia.

ترنيمة المناولة

لِيَرْتَسِمَ عَلَيْنَا نُورُ وَجْهِكَ يَا رَبِّ. هَلْ لَوِيَا



Weekly donations: The 1st of March:
 9:00am Mass: \$30 11am Mass: \$1,843; Online
 Don: \$206; Candles: \$109; Rent: \$1500.

Sunday March 8th:

For HPPSS for Goerge Fakhouri and Family, for the healing of their sick and the rest of the souls of their departed ones.

For our country and for our troops deployed abroad and for peace and the end of war.

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, Nazha Massih, Iskandar Serhan, Elie Ghawi, Dolores Maalouf, Mary Jabbour, Violet Daoud, Abe and Tony Baroud, Joseph Alcheikh.

In Loving Memory of: +Jamilah Akkawi; +Sleiman Fakhouri, +Younan & Labibe Fakhouri, +Iskandar & Margo Adasse, +George Safadi, +Sami & Elizabeth Mondo +Farid & Hilda and Victor Farah +Sobhi Azar +Fadwa Besharat. +Emile & Clotilde Harb +Fouad Nijmeh +Khoder Barhoume

***Ladies Society** meeting after Mass in the church.

Coming this week:

Wednesday March 11th: English Mass 7:30pm and Great Complines 8:00pm

Friday March 13th: Arabic Mass 7:30pm and Acathist 8:00pm Followed by a Spiritual reflection given by Fr Wissam Mansour.

Future Events:

Sunday March 15th:

Memorial Mass for the rest of the soul of Fadwa Besharat

Friday March 20th: Arabic Mass 7:30pm and Acathist 8:00pm Followed by a talk given by Dr Ghassan Aldurra.

Friday March 27th: The raising of Lazarus Mass 7:30 pm followed by the Passion of Christ Movie with commentary.

Sunday March 22 & 29 Bake Sale

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.



Don't miss the **Kashaf (drums) training** in preparation for Palm Sunday and Good Friday procession, every Sunday before Mass.

With our deepest gratitude for the instructors.

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 RECIEVE OUR BULLETIN:

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



Blessed Fr Beshara Abou Mrad

Congratulations for our Melkite Church for our first recognized and beatified priest

To find out more about his life and movie, visit this link:

(Arabic with English caption) Siraj al wadi, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MwS_Qge7JI

[MwS_Qge7JI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MwS_Qge7JI)

To read his original biography

English translated version :

<https://obslb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The-Servant-of-God-Fr-Bechara-Abou-Mourad-Maria-Louise-LOMBA.pdf>

Original Arabic version:

<https://obslb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Biographie-du-P.-Bchara-Abou-Mrad-C.-Bacha-ARABE1.pdf>

Psalm 22

(For the leader;
A psalm of David)



My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish?

My God, I call by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I have no relief...

All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me.

“He relied on the LORD—let him deliver him; if he loves him, let him rescue him.”

... Do not stay far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help...

Like water my life drains away; all my bones are disjointed. My heart has become like wax, it melts away within me.

As dry as a potsherd is my throat; my tongue cleaves to my palate; you lay me in the dust of death...

They have pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones.

They stare at me and gloat; they divide my garments among them; for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, LORD, do not stay far off; my strength, come quickly to help me.

Deliver my soul from the sword,

...Then I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the assembly I will praise you...

For he has not spurned or disdained the misery of this poor wretch, he did not turn away* from me, but heard me when I cried out.

...And I will live for the LORD

...The generation to come will be told of the Lord...the deliverance you have brought.

