



St. John Melkite Catholic Church

330 N Westmore Ave – Villa Park, Illinois 60181 www.stjohnmelkite.church

Office (708) 680-2210 / Email: stjohn.chicago@melkite.org

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

Sunday, April 12, 2026 Sunday of Saint Thomas

الأحد، 12 نيسان 2026 أحد القديس توما

Welcome one, welcome All

To the faithful of St. John, the Apostle: welcome home. May the Lord bless this new chapter with peace, faith, and love.

Easter Petitions:

6. That our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may grant us triumph over the conspiracies of our visible and invisible enemies, let us pray to the Lord.

6. لأجل ان يمنحنا الرب يسوع المسيح مخلصنا الانتصار والغلبة على مشورات الاعداء المنظورين وغير المنظورين، الى الرب نطلب

7. That He may enable us to crush under our feet the Prince of Darkness and his powers, let us pray to the Lord.

7. لأجل ان يسحق سريعاً تحت أقدامنا أركان الظلام وكل قواته، إلى الرب نطلب

8. That He may fill our hearts with the joyful glory of his Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

8. لأجل ان يُظهرنا لامعين مبتهجين بمجد قيامته المقدسة، الى الرب نطلب

9. That we may enter the Chamber of his Divine Wedding Feast and rejoice with the Angels and the Saints in the Church Triumphant, let us pray to the Lord.

9. لأجل ان نكون مستحقين نعمة الولوج إلى خدر عرسه الالهي غير الموصوف، ومسرورين بشركة خدامه العلويين وكل طغمات القديسين المتمتعين به في الكنيسة المنتصرة، الى الرب نطلب

ANTIPHON PRAYER

1. O Christ God, You showed Thomas your side from which gushed blood and water, symbol of Baptism. You invited him to touch the wound by which mankind was healed from its ancient deep wound. We ask You to strengthen our faith in your Divinity and Humanity so that we may become witnesses to your glorious Resurrection by our words, our deeds, and our way of life.

For You are our Resurrection, O Christ, 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.



صلاة الأنديفوننة

أيها المسيح الإله، يا مَنْ أظهرَ لتوما جنبه الذي خرج منه الدم والماء، رمز المعمودية، ودعاه ليَلْمَسَ الجُرْحَ الذي به شُفِيَ الإنسانُ من الجرح العظيم، ثَبَّتَ إيماننا بلاهوتك، فُصِبِحَ شُهوذاً لقيامتك المجيدة بأقوالنا وأفعالنا وسيرتنا الجديدة. لأنك أنت قيامتنا أيها المسيح الإله، وإليك نرفع المجد، وإلى ابيك الأزلي وروحك القُدوس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين. أبيبك الأزلي وروحك القُدوس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين.

ANTIPHON OF PASCHA

-Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth.

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia

-Sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise.

Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka. Haleloueya.

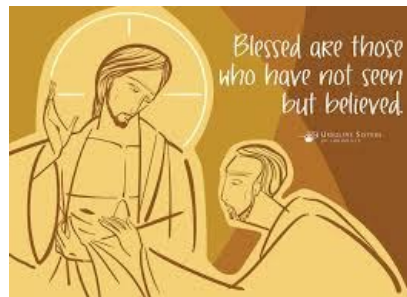
-Say to God how tremendous are your deeds! For your great strength your enemies fawn upon You.

الأنديفوننة الاولى للعيد

1. هَلِّلُوا للرب يا جميع الارض خَلِّصْنَا يا ابنَ الله، يا مَنْ قامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأموات، نَحْنُ المُرَنِّمِينَ لَكَ هَلِّلُوا .

2. ألا اشيدوا باسمه. اجعلوا تسبيحه مجيداً

3. قولوا لله ما ارهب أعمالك. ولعظم قدرتك يتملق أعداؤك



ENTRANCE HYMN:

In the assemblies bless God, the Lord, from Israel's wellsprings.

في المجامع باركوا الله الرب من ينابيع إسرائيل .

HYMNS:

Troparion of St. Thomas:

While the tomb was sealed You shone forth from it, O Christ our Life, and while the doors remained closed, You stood among your Disciples, O Resurrection of all, and through them You restored a new spirit in us according to your great Mercy.



نشيد القديس توما :

إذ كان القبر مختوماً أشرقت منه إيهي الحياة. ولما كانت الابواب مغلقة وقفت بالتلاميذ، إيهي المسيح الإله قيامة الكل وجددت لنا بهم روحاً مستقيماً بعظيم رحمتك.

Kontakion of Pascha Though You went down in the tomb, O immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades and rose victorious, O Christ God. You greeted the ointment bearing women, saying “Rejoice!” You gave peace to Your apostles, and to those who had Fallen resurrection.

الفتداق بالحن الثاني وإن نزلت إلى القبر يا من لا يموت، فقد نقضت فُدرة الجحيم وفتت كظافر، أيها المسيح الإله. وللنسوة حاملات الطيب قُلت افرحن. ولرسلك وهبت السّلام، يا مانح الواقعين القيام.

Instead of the TRISAGION:

All of you who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, Alleluia.

أنتم الذين بالمسيح اعتمدتم. المسيح قد لبستم. هلوليا.



THE EPISTLE: Acts of the Apostles: 5:12-20 - SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

Great is our Lord, and great is his power, and to his wisdom there is no limit.

Praise the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

READING from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days by the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people (and with one accord, they all would meet in Solomon’s portico; but of the rest, no one dared to associate with them, yet the people made much of them. And the multitude of men and women who believed in the Lord continued to increase), so that they carried the sick into the streets and laid them on

beds and pallets, in order that, as Peter went by, at least his shadow would fall upon some of them. And crowds also came to Jerusalem from neighboring towns, and they brought the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits — and all of them were healed.

But the High Priest rose up, and all his supporters (that is, the members of the Sadducean sect), and being filled with hatred, they laid their hands upon the apostles and threw them into the public jail. But during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, and led them out, saying: “Go, and standing in the temple, speak to the people all the words of this life.”

ALLELUIA

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, let us sing gladly to God our Savior!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

مقدمة الرسالة

عظيم ربنا وعظيمة قوته، ولا إحصاء لعلمية سبّحوا الربّ فإن الترنيم صالح، لإلهنا يلدُ التسبيح أعمال الرسل (20-12:5)

في تلك الأيام، جرت على ايدي الرسل آياتٌ وعجائبٌ كثيرة في الشعب. وكانوا كلهم بنفسٍ واحدةٍ في رواق سليمان. ولم يكن احدٌ من الآخرين يجترئ ان يُخالطهم، بل كان الشعبُ يعظّمهم. وكان جماعاتٌ من رجالٍ ونساءٍ ينضمّون بكثرةٍ، مؤمنين بالربّ، حتى إنهم كانوا يخرجون بالمرضى الى الشوارع،

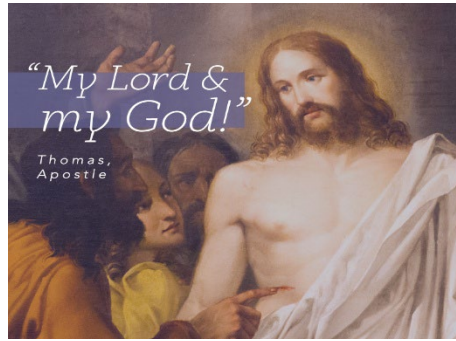
ويضعونهم على فُرشٍ وأسرةٍ، ليقع ولو ظلّ بطرس عند اجتيازهِ على بعضٍ منهم. وكان يجتمعُ ايضاً الى اورشليمَ جمهورُ المدن التي حولها، يحملون المرضى والمعدّبين بالأرواح النجسة، فكانوا يُشْفون جميعهم. فقامَ رئيسُ الكهنةِ وكل من معه، وهم من مذهب الصدّوقيين، وامتلاوا حسداً. وألقوا أيديهم على الرسل وجعلوهم في السجن العام. ففتح ملاكُ الربّ ابواب السجن ليلاً، وأخرجهم وقال: امضوا وبقوا في الهيكل، وكلّموا الشعبَ بجميع كلمات هذه الحياة. هلوليا

هلمّ نبتهج بالربّ، ونهلل لله مخلصنا فإن الربّ الهٌ عظيمٌ، ومملكٌ عظيمٌ على الارض كلها.

Gospel of John 20: 19-31 (Skeptic Thomas)

When it was late, that same day, the first of the week, though the doors where the disciples gathered had been closed for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and

stood in the midst and said to them, "Peace be to you!" And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore rejoiced at the sight of the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." When he had said this, he breathed upon them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side I will not believe." And after eight days, his disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being closed, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be to you!" Then he said to Thomas. "Bring here your finger, and see my hands; and bring here your hand, and put it into my side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." Many other signs also Jesus worked in the sight of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.



الأنجيل (يوحنا 20: 31-19)

في عشية ذلك اليوم عينه، وهو الأول في الأسبوع، والابواب مغلقة، حيث كان التلاميذ مجتمعين خوفاً من اليهود، جاء يسوع ووقف في الوسط وقال لهم: السلام لكم. ولما قال هذا أراهم يديه وجنبه، فرح التلاميذ إذ أبصروا الرب. وقال لهم يسوع ثانية: السلام لكم، كما أرسلني الأب كذلك أنا أرسلكم. ولما قال هذا نفخ فيهم وقال لهم: خذوا الروح القدس. من غفرتم خطاياهم تُغفر لهم، ومن أمسكتكم خطاياهم أمسكتكم. وان توما أحد الاثني عشر الذي يُقال له التوأم، لم يكن معهم حين جاء يسوع. فقال له التلاميذ الآخرون: إننا قد رأينا الرب. فقال لهم إن لم أر موضع المسامير في يديه، وأضع إصبعي في موضع المسامير، وأضع يدي في جنبه لا أومن. وبعد ثمانية أيام كان تلاميذه أيضاً داخلًا وتوما معهم. فأتى يسوع والابواب مغلقة ووقف في الوسط وقال السلام لكم. ثم قال لتوما: هات إصبعك الى ههنا. وعاین يدي،

وهات يدك وضعتها في جنبي، ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً. أجاب توما وقال له: ربي والهي! قال له يسوع: لأنك رأيتني يا توما أمنت طوبى للذين لم يروا وأمنوا. وآياتٍ أُخرٍ كثيرة صنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه لم تُكتب في هذا الكتاب. وإنما كُتبت هذه لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع المسيح هو ابن الله. ولتكون لكم اذا آمنتم، الحياة باسمه.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS: O shining light, Mother of God, honorable without compare; you are higher in dignity than any other human being. We magnify you with hymns.

النشيد لوالدة الاله: ايتها المصباح الساطع الضياء، وأم الاله، والشرف الذي لا قياس له، يا أرفع البرايا كلها، بالتسابيح نعظمك.

KINONIKON: "Exalt the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, Zion! Alleluia!"

ترنيمه المناولة:

إمدحي يا اورشليم الرب، سبحي إلهك يا صهيون، هلوليا.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: Christ is risen

Instead of Blessed be the name of the Lord...

Christ is risen... (3 times)

بدل (ليكن اسم الرب مباركاً...) يرتم المسيح قام (3 مرات)

After the dismissal:

"Christ is Risen! - He is truly Risen!" (Three times) -

"Glory to the Resurrection of Christ on the third day! - We adore his holy Resurrection on the third day!"

Weekly donations: Holy Week and

Easter Celebrations: Good Friday: \$3,653; Easter (total): \$7,944; Online Donation: \$1,160; Candles: \$352; Easter Flowers: \$50; Rental: \$1500;

Holy Land collection: \$1,987; Memorial: \$100;

1st Mortgage Donation By Moussa Akkawi & Family: \$5,000 (1/60)

Mass intentions Sunday April 12 :

For WBHPPSS of the Ferrayi family and in gratitude for the 1st coffee hour sponsoring,

For good health and speedy recovery for all the sick among parishioners and friends. Antoine & Denise Shehata, Antoinette Mansour, Basemah Aranki, Iskandar Serhan, Elie Ghawi, Dolores Maalouf, Mary Jabbour, Abe and Tony Baroud,

Zein Tannous Bertacchi, Michel Rayyan, Ramez Dalloul.

WBHPPSS of Chawki & Mary Rayan and family, Jeries Akkawi & family, Fares Akkawi & family, Farid & Suzi Bichara; the Natour Family, Moussa Akkawi & family, the Habeeb family, the Rayan family. Marie Arbash & Family, for Randy and Jeff Cash and their families, for Jonny and Ronnie Rayyan and their families.

For the rest of the soul: +Elie and Hneneh Ferraye; +Emil, Nayla, & Chafik Cheboub; +Elie & Isabel Assaf; +Ferris Shadid; +Emile Chedid; +Dr Ibrahim Fakhouri; +Fahdeh & Jiries Fakhouri; +Elias, Evon, and Youssef Najjar; +Samir Mansour; +George Khoury; +Wadie & Marie Saad Bichara; +Yacoub, Roger, Robert, Raymonde Fathallah; +Bahga, Yacoub, Elias, Victoria Kerko; +Odeh & Jamileh Akkawi; Rada, Hana, Nejme Akkawi, Ameen Zawaydeh +Emile & Clotilde Harb; +Antoine Karam; +Dr Adel Rabbat; +Fouad Nijmeh; +Khoder Barhoume; +Matanios & Nezha Aldurra. + Michel and Lydia Makdah, + Sobhi Azar. + Jamil Sami Alnemri, +Hikmat & Hanan Rafidi, +James, Marcelle, George & Rosemay Maloyan; +Constantine, Catherine, Hanan & Helena Akkari; +Mikhael, Neeme, Rebhi, Yaakoub, Azizi and Hanna Rayan; +Aziz, Badiiaa, Saliba, Jaleel, Beshara and Abila Shinnara Fareed Elaassaas, +the Deceased members of the Shawa Family, and the deceased members of the Shadid Family.

Thank you from the bottoam of my heart

To all those who served, decorated, donated, volunteered, sing, asked to help, for the Kashaf band leaders and kids, for the Ladies Society and for their dedication, the bake sale, the eggs hunt and Sunday School team, the altar servers, the office manager Norma Jean and her son Roberto Williamson and Maria Hernandez for setting up and prepare the church for us to come to a clean church, for the Rayyan young adults who helped ornat the tomb of Christ. We are blessed beyond to have you, thank you for all that you do.

Saint John Melkite Catholic Church

330 N Westmore Ave, Villa Park, IL 60181

Administrator: Fr Imad Barakeh (708-916-2068)

Fr.Imad.Barakeh@melkite.org

Spanish Community: Fr Sergio Ayala

Fr.sergio.ayala@melkite.org

Office Phone: 708-680-2210

Office hours: Mon, Tue, Wed 9am-1pm

Office manager: Norma Jean Williamson

Email: stjohn.chicago@melkite.org

Website: www.stjohnmelkite.church (under construction)

If you would like to be added to our parish directory and receive our bulletin: Please email your full name and address and phone number to:

stjohn.chicago@melkite.org

Donate online:

<https://stjohnmelkite.flocknote.com/give/25225>



Doubting Thomas Learns to Believe

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples. They were amazed and full of joy! But one disciple was not there when Jesus came.
His name was **Thomas**.

When the other disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas had a hard time believing.

He said, "Unless I see Jesus and His hands for myself, I will not believe."

A few days later, Jesus came again. This time, Thomas was there.

Jesus spoke kindly to Thomas. He did not sound angry or upset.

Jesus showed Thomas His hands, and said, "Stop doubting and believe."

When Thomas saw Jesus, he knew it was true. He believed that Jesus was alive!

Jesus then said something very important. He said that people who believe **without seeing are blessed too**.

That means Jesus is happy when we trust Him, even when we have questions. When we are unsure, we can always come to Jesus — just like Thomas did.

Big Truth for Kids

It's okay to ask questions.
Jesus helps us learn to trust and believe in Him.

What helps you trust Jesus, even when you don't understand everything?

Saint John's Melkite Catholic Church

Sacraments & Services

Confession: Friday: 6:30 pm at the church, or before or after any service, or by appointment.

Communion of the sick: Sick parishioners may receive communion at home. Please advise the priest whenever this sacrament is needed.

Last rites are considered as an emergency and priority, ASAP contact the priest.

Baptism: Please contact the parish priest to arrange the required instructions one month prior

Marriage: A notice of at least 6 months should be given to the pastor, before the proposed wedding date to arrange for the required interview and instructions.

Anointing of the sick: Mass and distribution of the **Oil of the sick**, Friday after 7:30 pm Arabic Mass

Home Blessing By request, please contact Father

Prospora

If you would like to offer a **Memorial (Neyaha)** at the end of the Mass for your beloved departed one's anniversary, or for the occasion of a **Third or Ninth or 40 Days Memorial**, you may order:

Sleeka, wheat (\$150) from Bernadette 708-927-1988

Memorial Korban sweet and small individual wrapped bread (\$1.50 each, \$250 total) from Caroline 847-401-1037

Korban Koddas for remembrance during 2nd procession (\$7 each, medium size) this is the Holy Bread for Communion and distribution after Liturgy. 3 breads are usually needed for a regular Sunday. Please contact Bernadette 708-927-1988.

Liturgy Intentions

The church doesn't sell Masses or Sacraments, but if you would like to add a name to the list of Mass intentions, please write it on your envelope or talk to the priest, and specify the number of Masses, considering a Mass intention is valued universally for \$10. In our church, Mass intentions are considered as donations, and it goes under the same account.

Parish Hall rental

Please call the church office: (708) 680-2210 option 2 and make reservation with our office manager.

Prayer Hotline

A powerful prayer group for anyone (women and men) who feel called to lift others up in prayer. Anyone who needs prayers can send in a request, and each of us will say one Our Father and one Hail Mary for their intention. It's a beautiful way to get united in faith and support each other and those in need, even from a distance. If you'd like to be part of the prayer group. Please let Abouna add your phone number. Let's be a quiet force of love, strength, and faith for others.

Church Dress Code

As women and men of faith, it is important that we honor God not only in our hearts and actions, but also in how we present ourselves—especially in His house. Dressing modestly and respectfully for church reflects reverence for the sacred space we gather in and sets an example of humility and grace. While style and personality vary, we encourage attire that is clean, tasteful, and not distracting to others. This doesn't mean being overly formal or rigid, but rather choosing clothing that shows dignity, respect for oneself, and a desire to glorify God. Let our outward appearance reflect the inward beauty of a heart devoted to Him.

Coffee Hour

These are general guidelines to sponsor a coffee hour on Sunday. We encourage any parishioner or family to sponsor coffee hour after 11 am Divine Liturgy

1st Plan the Sunday you would like to sponsor and

2nd Reserve your Sunday by contacting Abouna or the office manager.

3rd Write one check for \$135, and the church will take care of all items for you.

Or 3rd Write a Check for \$35.00 with a memo stating: Coffee hour to cover: \$10 For Mass intention and \$25 to cover the hall expenses towards coffee and cream and sugar and napkins and other utensils.

4th Coffee hour is NOT a burden; it is NOT a full meal; it is a simple treat or a light snack.

5th Simple coffee hour of Bagels and cream cheese, or Croissant and finger cheese, or Doughnuts, or Cookies. Not to exceed the amount of \$100 and not to break your budget is sufficient.

6th We invite our community members to be considerate of each other, to give a chance for everyone to grab a bite, and by NOT grabbing extra food for absent family members unless there are leftovers, by NOT filling plates for the table which will end up thrown away. Thank you for your cooperation.