

# St. John the Baptist Melkite Catholic Church

200 E. North Avenue – Northlake, Illinois 60164

Email: [stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com)

Office (858) 280 6131

**Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 11:00 A.m.**



**Sunday, December 20 2020 20 كانون الأول 2020**

**Sunday Before the Nativity of our Lord – Genealogy**

**الاحد الذي قبل الميلاد – المعروف بأحد النسبة**



**Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Melkite Catholic Church**

200 E. North Ave.  
Northlake, IL 60164



**SUNDAY**

**La Divina Misa en  
español 9:00 AM**

**DIVINE LITURGY AT  
11:00 AM**

[stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com)

[www.stjohnmelkite.com](http://www.stjohnmelkite.com)

**Rev. Fr. Rezkallah Samaan:**

(858) 280- 6131

**St. John the Baptist, Hall Phone:**

(858) 280 6131

**Proto Dn. Antoine Shehata:**

(847) 227-8884

**Deacon Fadi Rafidi:** (708) 473 -  
5455

Para **La Comunidad Hispana** por  
favor llamar

Fr. Sergio Ayyala: (630) 936-1839

E-Mail:

[stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com)

**St. John's Office Information**

Office Phone: (858) 280-6131

**Office Hours:**

**Thursdays & Friday**

**09:00 AM to 01:00 PM**

**Please do not call later than 8:00  
PM, unless it is an emergency.**

**All other times, please call the  
cellular phone.**

***Confession:***

*Available before or after any  
service, or by appointment.*

***Baptism:***

*Please contact the pastor in advance  
to arrange for the required  
instructions.*

***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.*

***Communion of the sick:***

*Sick parishioners may receive the  
Holy Communion at home. Please  
advise the pastor whenever this  
sacrament is needed.*

***Anointing the sick:***

*Please contact the pastor at any time  
for this mystery.*

***“And eternal life is this: to know you the only true God,  
and the one you have sent Jesus Christ”***

**Troparion of the resurrection (4<sup>th</sup> tone)**

The women disciples of the Lord, \* having learned from the angel the joyful announcement of the resurrection, \* and having rejected the ancestral sentence, \* proudly told the apostles: \* “Death is despoiled. Christ God is risen, \* bestowing to the world great mercy.”

نشيد القيامة بالحن الرابع: إن تلميذات الرب عرفن من الملاك بشرى القيامة البهيجة. ونبذن القضاء على الجدين،  
وقلن للرسل مفخرات: لقد سلب الموت، ونهض المسيح الاله، واهباً للعالم عظيم الرحمة.

### **Troparion of the Ancestors of Christ, )2<sup>nd</sup> Tone) BDW p. 550 (PLC**

p.301), (ED p. 1198)

Faith can accomplish great things. Through it, the Three Holy Children rejoice in the flames as if they had been in refreshing water, and Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

### **نشيد الاباء بالحن الثاني**

ما أعظم مفاعيل الايمان الباهرة، فيه كان الثلاثة الفتية القديسون يبتهجون في ينبوع اللهب كأنهم على ماء الراحة.  
ودانيال النبي بات يري الاسود كالغنم. فبتضرعاتهم، أيها المسيح الاله، خلص نفوسنا.

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

### **نشيد لشفيح الكنيسة**

### **Kondakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord (3<sup>rd</sup> Tone)**

**BDW p. 554, ED p. 1204**

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word Who is, in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded: with the angles and the shepherds, glorify Him Who chose to be seen as a new-born Babe, while remaining God in all eternity.

### **نشيد الختام (قنداق) مقدمة ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح بالحن الثالث**

اليوم العذراء تأتي الى المغارة، لتلد الكلمة الكائن قبل الدهور، ولادة يُعجزُ بيأنها. فأطربي ايتها المسكونة إذا سمعت،  
ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، مَنْ شاء ان يظهر طفلاً جديداً. وهو الاله الذي قبل الدهور.

### **Epistle :Heb 11:9-10; 32-40 Sunday before the Nativity**

-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, Abraham lived in the Land of the Promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise, for he was looking for the city with fixed foundations, of which city the architect and builder is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barac,

Samson, Jephthe, David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies. Women had their dead restored to them though resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and blows, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, cut to pieces, put to the question, killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, distressed, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves and holes in the ground. And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God has something better in store for us, so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

### Alleluia

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds You did in their days, in the days of old.

**Stichon:** The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their trials.

### مقدمة الرسالة

### رسالة الاحد الذي قبل الميلاد

-مباركٌ أنتَ ايها الربُّ أله آباؤنا، ومسيحٌ وممجدٌ أسمك الى الدهور  
-لأنك عادل فيما صنعت بنا، وأعمالك كلها صدقٌ، وطرقك استقامة

### الرسالة (عبرانيين 11 : 9-10 و 32-40)

يا أخوة، بالأيمان نزلَ ابراهيم الى ارض الميعاد نزوله في بلاد غربة، وسكنَ في أخبيةٍ مع اسحقَ ويعقوبَ الوارثين معه للموعَد نفسه، لأنه كان ينتظرُ المدينة ذات الاسس، التي اللهُ صانعُها وبارئُها. وماذا أقولُ أيضاً؟ انه يضيقُ بي الوقتُ ان اخبرت عن جذعونَ وبارقَ وشمشون، ويفتاحَ وداودَ وصموئيلَ والانبياء، الذين بالأيمان قهروا الممالكَ وعملوا البرَّ، ونالوا الموعَدَ وسدوا افواه الاسود. وأطفأوا قوة النارِ ونجوا من حد السيف، وتقووا من ضعفٍ وصاروا أشداء في القتال، وكسروا معسكراتِ الاجانب، واسترجعت نساءَ أمواتهن بالقيامة، وآخرونَ قد عُذِّبوا بتوتيرِ الاعضاءِ والضرب، ولم يقبلوا النجاة ليحصلوا على قيامة أفضل. وآخرونَ قد ذاقوا الهزءَ والسياطَ والقيودَ أيضاً والسجن. رجموا، نشروا، امتحنوا، ماتوا بحد السيف، ساحوا في جلود الغنم والمعز، مُعوزين، مُضايقين، مجهودين. ولم يكن العالم مستحقاً لهم، تائهيين في البراري والجبال والمغاورِ وكهوفِ الارض. فهؤلاء كلُّهم المشهودُ لهم بالأيمان لم ينالوا الموعَد، لان الله قد سبقَ فنظرَ لنا شيئاً أفضل، لكيلا يكملوا بمعزلٍ عنَّا.

### هللوا

-اللهمَّ بأذاننا قد سمعنا، وآباؤنا أخبروا بالعملِ الذي عملته في أيامهم، في الايام القديمة

-الصديقونَ صرخوا والربُّ استمع لهم، ومن جميع مضايقيهم نجَّاهم.

**Gospel: Sunday before the Nativity, Matthew 1: 1-25 (*Genealogy of Christ*)**

The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah whose mother was Tamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, Abijah begot Asa. And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus, Who is called Christ. So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations. And from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary His mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;*" which is interpreted, "God with us." So, Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called His name Jesus.

انجيل الاعد الذي قبل الميلاد

(الانجيل متى 1:1-25)

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن ابراهيم. فإبراهيم ولد اسحق، واسحق ولد يعقوب، ويعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته. ويهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تامار، وفارص ولد حصرون، وحصرون ولد آرام. وأرام ولد عميناداب، وعميناداب ولد نحشون، ونحشون ولد سلمون، وسلمون ولد بوعز من راحاب، وبوعز ولد عوبيد من راعوت، وعوبيد ولد يسى، ويسى ولد داود الملك. وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لاورياً. وسليمان ولد رعبام، ورعبام ولد أيبا، وأيبا ولد آسا. وآسا ولد يوشافاط، ويوشافاط ولد يورام، ويورام ولد عزيا. وعزيا ولد يوآثم، ويوآثم ولد آحاز، وآحاز ولد حزقيا، وحزقيا ولد منسى، ومنسى ولد آمون، وآمون ولد يوشيا، ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل يكنيا ولد شلتائيل، وشلتائيل ولد زربابيل. وزربابيل ولد أبيهود، وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم، وألياقيم ولد عازور. وعازور ولد صادق، وسادوق ولد آكيم وأكيم ولد أليهود. وأليهود ولد ألعازر، وألعازر ولد متان، ومتان ولد يعقوب. ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم، التي منها ولد يسوع الذي يدعى المسيح. فكل الاجيال من ابراهيم الى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن داود الى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن جلاء بابل الى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً. أما مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا: لما خطبت مريم أمه ليوسف ووجدت من قبل أن يسكنها معاً حبلى من الروح القدس. وإن كان يوسف رجلاً صديقاً ولم يرد أن يشهرها، عزم على تخليتها سراً. وفيما هو يفكر في ذلك إذا بملاك الرب قد تراءى له في الحلم قائلاً: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم، فإن المولود فيها هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابناً فتسميه يسوع، لأنه هو الذي يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم. وكان هذا كله ليتيم ما قال الرب بالنبي القائل: ها إن العذراء تحبل وتلد ابناً ويسمى عمانوئيل، الذي ترجمته الله معنا. فلما نهض يوسف من النوم فعل كما أمره ملاك الرب، فأخذ أمراًته. ولم يعرفها حتى ولدت ابنها البكر، فسماه يسوع.

**Hymn to the Theotokos: It is truly right.**

**Kinonikon: Praise the Lord**

(Regular 141\$ + Electronic \$485)

**Total Collection: 11 /15 /20: 626\$**

**To add or remove Names from the list please call (858- 280- 6131)**

**Happiness and Prosperity** of all our beloved parishioners and friends. Especially, ALL FAMILY SUPPORTING THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME. May God remember them in his Kingdom at all time, now and always and forever and ever.

**Health & Speedy Recovery:** All Corona Patients. For all those who asked us to pray for them.

**We pray for** all our beloved ones who have fallen asleep in the Hope of the Resurrection, For all victims and martyrs in Middle East, all Corona Virus victims, Remember them O Lord and all of us, in Your Kingdom, at all times, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.



**Hall Rental:**  
 If you wish to rent the Parish Hall for a party, or schedule a wedding or baptism, call the church office at (708) 492-0391 to clear the date, and then come to the church office on Thursday or Friday to fill out the contract and pay any fees. Thank you for your cooperation

**St. John  
 The  
 Baptist  
 Assets**

The following is an update of the **47** families who pledged, donated, and paid so far:

Total Pledges:	<b>\$746,000</b>	21%
Payments Received:	<b>\$395,000</b>	52% of Pledges
Cash Available Including Payments:	<b>\$992,000</b>	28%
Sell Current Church Assets Est.:	\$1,300,000	37%
Total (Pledges, Cash, and Assets):	\$2,642,000	76%
Additional Pledges Needed:	<b>\$858,000</b>	24%
New Church Estimated Cost:	\$3,500,000	100%



**Home Blessing By request**  
 This is a Melkite Tradition that goes back many years. As we all know, it is blessing the homes of the faithful by sprinkling it with Holy Water. For the blessing of your home please call Fr. Rezkallah Samaan at: (858) 280-6131 and make an appointment with him.



**Are you receiving our e-mails?**  
 We need your help to ensure that we have everyone's e-mail. All you need to do is to send us a blank e-mail and we will make sure that your e-mail address is in our system. Please take a few minutes this week and e-mail us at: **stjohnthebaptistchicago@hotmail.com**



**Prospora**  
 St. John now offers Saleka (Wheat) & Qudas (Bread for communion) for memorials or to remember a loved one. Prices vary on tray size. Proceeds help support our Church. If you need to place an order, please call:  
 Diane Mondo: 630-696-5043    Bernadette Mady: 708-927-1988

# Homily on the genealogy of Jesus Christ

Father Filip Lommaert Sunday, December 23, 2018

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading is the reading of the Evangelist Matthew on the genealogy of Christ.

Only one other Evangelist, Saint Luke, also lists the genealogy of Christ. And he goes even further back into the Old Testament than Saint Matthew.

Where Saint Matthew traces the lineage of our Christ and Savior back to Abraham, Saint Luke traces it back all the way to Adam.

I can hear you ask: Why is it necessary to name 14 generations, then another 14 generations followed by another 14 generations?

Because this genealogy lists the generations of people from Abraham to David, from David to the Babylonian captivity of the people of Israel, and then on to the birth of Jesus.

It ends with the appearance of "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ" (Mt 1:16).

They are all the people to whose family the Lord Jesus Christ belongs through His humanity.

They are all relatives of His, and this should be enough for us to find their names deeply moving: "Christ is of their blood, Christ is of their family".

Each of them — thinking of the Mother of God — can say, 'She is a child of our family', and of Christ, 'He also is a child of our family, although He is our God, our Saviour, the very Divine Presence in our midst'.

What Saint Matthew wanted to do was to remind us of the complete history of the Old Testament, and show us how it is full of anticipation for the coming of the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Every name carries the story of a life. There is the righteous Abraham, following the Lord and sparing nothing for Him.

There is the righteous Moabite Ruth, leaving her homeland behind and accepting faith in the One God...

And there are sinners and righteous men: all ancestors of Jesus Christ in the flesh.

Let us concentrate on two people in this genealogy: Abraham and David.

Abraham was a prophet and a priest. David was a prophet and a king. Both are what we call 'types' or revelations of Jesus Christ, but neither has all three ministries.

Only Jesus Christ has all three ministries. He is at once Prophet, King and High Priest, uniting all the shared ministries of Abraham and David.

The genealogies in the gospels of Saints Matthew and, also of Luke, are made to and from Joseph.

Both Gospels are absolutely clear that this is not done to give the impression that Jesus came from Joseph's seed.

Jesus is born from the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.



The point is rather that Joseph is Jesus' father according to the law, and it is from the father that one's lawful descent is to be traced.

Jesus' legal father is "Joseph, son of David," the legal husband of Mary (Mt 1:20).

One other important point is made in listing the human generations which led to the birth of Jesus.

God is faithful to His promises even though His chosen people are often not faithful. Among the people from whom Jesus came are both sinners and heathens.

Jesus comes not only from the righteous and holy, but from the wicked and sinful.

And He comes not only from Jews, but also from Gentiles.

The names of the four women specifically mentioned in St. Matthew's list-- Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba)-- were noted, not to say notorious, Gentiles, including one of David's own wives, the mother of Solomon.

The point we see here is one which is beautifully made in an early Christian hymn quoted in the Bible in the second letter to Timothy:

If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him,

He also will deny us; If we are faithless,

He remains faithful-- for He cannot deny Himself. (2 Tim 2:11-13)

This is the wonderful witness of the genealogies of Jesus: If we are faithless, the Lord God remains faithful - for he cannot deny Himself!

This is again beautifully expressed in the Vespers of the Sunday before the Nativity which were heard last evening:

“Behold, the time of our salvation approacheth; Make thou ready, O cave;

For it is time for the Virgin to give birth;

And thou, Bethlehem of Judah, rejoice and be happy;

For from thee shall shine forth our Lord.

Listen, O mountains and hills and the regions about Judah;

For Christ cometh to save man whom he did create; For he is the Lover of mankind.”

But how do we know who these people were? It is all rather difficult to understand.

Why aren't we told immediately that which is necessary for our hearts?

And here is what is most important – the difficult beginning of the Gospel, which requires some effort from all of us, denotes the entire spiritual life.

It is not to be read as a newspaper, magazine or online article to be discarded afterwards.

This is the Word of God, and it demands of us a degree of concentration, it demands of us work of the mind and the heart!

If you persist and complete the labor of reading the first verses, and then go on to read further, you will find that it becomes easier. And, you will be rewarded.

But if, upon opening the Holy Book, you say: “I cannot understand these words and I will not read further” – then you will be left without the Word of God.

What this means is, that it is necessary not to just simply read, or just read from time

to time, or just browse through the Bible; you have to become deeply immersed in the Word of God in mind and in heart.

And you will see that these names have meaning; that these verses about the genealogy of Jesus Christ tell about Him as the King and Savior who was foretold. They tell us that the Lord became human in the flesh, that He became one of us. That he had grandfathers and great-grandfathers, just like we do. He came into the family of mankind.

In this book it was possible to write the kinship of all people, millions and billions of them – and they all became related to our Savior in the flesh.

He became related to us, He became flesh through a Nazarene Woman, through the Virgin Mary.

Calling Christ the Savior is important but it is far more important to call Him "Our Savior" or "My Savior".

In other words, our relationship with Him must be a personal one, because He did not only come to save mankind in general but much more importantly: He came to save each one of us.

We only have two more days of waiting and fasting to go, before we welcome our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

But, for quite a few in our parish, there is still a fortnight to go before they celebrate the nativity.

Allow me to warn you though, as I do during each fast. We all know that fasting is a really important part of our life as Orthodox Christians.

But, we should not strive to become more perfect in Christ by fasting if it involves pride, or if it endangers our health.

If you have a medical condition or if you are ill, please, please be careful. It is this time of year when many are suffering from colds and other winter related ailments. If you are in doubt or have questions, please talk to Father Chrysostom, or myself, and we will be more than happy to advise you on this.

Having listened to today's Gospel story, of how it was predicted in a dream to Joseph, that his wife would bear a son, to Whom he should give the name Jesus, which means "the Lord's Salvation", a Son who will save people from their sins.

And this signifies that God is with us! For this reason joy approaches!

All of us, bent over by the burden of our sins, cares, sorrows and illnesses, should now straighten up and look in front of us to meet the Lord as sung in the words of St. Gregory the Theologian: "Christ is born – come meet Him halfway!"

And we go to meet Him – after all, He was born not only then, but He is born for us now, because He lives amongst us!

He who opens his heart to Him will then dwell with Him and will know the meaning of the following words:

"God is with us! Understand, all nations, and submit yourselves."

For they mean: "understand, unbelievers, and bow down before Him", "for God is with us!" Amen.