



# St. Elias Melkite Catholic Church

Serving San Jose & South Bay Area, CA

14263 Mulberry Dr, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Divine Liturgy 11:00 am

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**

**Commemoration of Paul of Thebes and John the Hutdweller**

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Holy Cross/29<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost: The Ten Lepers**

## HYMNS

**Troparion of the Resurrection (2nd tone):** When You descended to death, O immortal Life, \* You put Hades to death by the splendor of Your divinity.\* And when You raised the dead from below the earth, \* all the heavenly powers cried out to you: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

نشيد القيامة باللحن الثاني لما نزلت الى الموت، أيها الحياةُ الخالدة، أمت الجحيم بسى لاهوتك. ولما أقمت الاموات من تحت الثرى، صرخت جميع قوات السماوين: أيها المسيح ألهنا، يا مُعطي الحياة، المجد لك.

## READINGS

**COLOSSIANS 3:4-11:** Brethren, when Christ, our life, appears, then you too shall appear in glory. Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once walked in them when they were your [way of] life. But now, you too put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one that is being renewed towards perfect knowledge *according to his creator's image* (Cf. Gn.1:26) Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Sythian, no slave and freeman, but Christ is all things, and in all.

**LUKE 17:12-19:** At that time as Jesus was entering a certain village, there met him ten lepers, who stood afar off and lifted up their voice, crying, "Jesus, master, have pity on us." And when he saw them he said, "Go, show yourselves to priests." And it came to pass as they were on their way that they were made clean. But one of them, seeing that he was made clean, returned, with a loud voice glorifying God, and he fell on his face at his feet, giving thanks; and he was a Samaritan. But Jesus answered and said, "Were not the ten made clean? But where are the nine? Has no one been found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Arise, go your way, for your faith has saved you."

## COMMEMORATIONS

**Paul of Thebes:** Paul was a hermit in the Egyptian wilderness of Thebes. He was a disciple of St. Anthony the Great.

**John the Hutdweller:** John lived in the fifth century and was a model of holy detachment and mortification. After years of cenobitic life, he left his monastery and dwelt in a hut until his death.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**-Last Chance for the Bishop's Appeal:** The eparchy is still calculating totals for each parish until January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have not yet sent in your donation please do so now. If you would like to donate online, here is the link: <https://melkite.org/products-page/donation/bishops-appeal-2016>

**-Berkley Outreach:** The next Berkley Outreach Divine Liturgy will be held January 28th, 5pm, at [Gesu Chapel of the Jesuit School of Theology, located at 1735 Le Roy Ave., Berkeley, CA](#). Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

**-St. Elias Ladies Meeting:** The next Ladies Meeting will be February 11<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.

**-Bishop's Visit:** His Grace, Bishop Nicholas Samra, will be visiting us March 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy and Social afterward. More details to follow.

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**Divine Liturgy**  
Sundays: 11am  
Feastdays: See website Calendar

**Confession Times**  
Wednesdays: 5-6 pm  
Sundays: 10-11 am

**Bible Study and Adult Education**  
Wednesdays: 7-8pm

**Sunday School**  
Sundays: after Divine Liturgy

**Coffee Socials and Qurban**  
**This Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Qurban: Carnazzo  
Social: Higareda

**Next Sunday, January 22<sup>th</sup>**  
Qurban: Kaldani  
Social: Potluck

**Please Pray Servants of God**

Leila Carnazzo  
Higareda Family  
Holly Handal  
Kamal and Eugenie Neimat  
Laure Kelly  
Anastasia Kalil  
Richard Hanna  
Isaac Kaldani

**Asleep in the Lord**

Adel Saba  
Antoinette Fakhoury  
Regina Foster  
Mary Lucas  
Michael Harris  
Yusra Aboudi

**Have a name for next Sunday?**  
Email steliasmelkite@gmail.com

## ONE OF THE MOST FEARED DISEASES in the world for centuries was leprosy

Those infected might develop inflammations of the nerves, the respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. Ulcerating sores and numbness would result. When sufferers could no longer feel pain, then repeated injuries or infection due to unnoticed wounds could result in loss of fingers, toes or even noses. People with other skin ailments, such as psoriasis, were often tarred with the same brush as actual victims of leprosy.

The Scriptures record how the Israelites handled the problem: "*When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests, and the priest shall examine the diseased spot on the skin of his body; and if the hair in the diseased spot has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a leprous disease; when the priest has examined him he shall pronounce him unclean. .... But if the eruption spreads in the skin, after he has shown himself to the priest for his cleansing, he shall appear again before the priest; and the priest shall make an examination, and if the eruption has spread in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is leprosy*" (Lv 13:2-8).

Even in the ancient world people believed that this long-term infection was contagious: that it was passed somehow from person to person. As a result those infected were often banished from contact with their family and community until proved infection free or until their death. As we read in Leviticus, "*The leper who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean; he shall dwell alone in a habitation outside the camp*" (Lv 13:45, 46). The ten lepers whom Jesus healed as recorded in St. Luke's Gospel had at some point been declared "unclean" and isolated from others. This is why, as Luke records, they "stood at a distance" (Lk 17:12) and called out to the Lord for mercy. There was no medical treatment for this disease which could allow patients to remain in their community until the 1980s!

**How the Lord Treated Lepers:** The ten lepers of Lk 17 were not the only ones the Lord Jesus encountered according to the Gospels. Cleansing lepers, along with healing the blind, the lame and the deaf were considered signs that Jesus was the Messiah. In Mt 8:1-4 and Mk 1:40-44 26:6 we read of a healing accomplished by physical contact: Jesus "*stretched out His hand and touched him*" (Mt 8:3). In contrast, He healed the ten lepers in Luke at a distance, sending them off to the priests apparently unhealed. The ten did not doubt Jesus; they went their way as He directed them and along the road their healing was manifested. In both cases the lepers were sent to the priests to verify their healing. Leviticus 14 gives detailed instructions on what was to be done if a leper was now clean, including bathing, shaving and sacrificing three lambs as well as being anointed with oil. Only then would the leper be considered ritually clean. The Samaritan, however, returns directly to Jesus. He would never be deemed ritually pure by a Levitical priest. This freed him to recognize the One who made him clean.

**Leprosy an image of Sin:** In the Old Testament contact with what we might call the ultimate examples of our physical nature (childbirth, menstruation, or contact with the dead) rendered Israelites "ritually unclean." Before they could worship in the temple they would need purification. To be "unclean," then, was a sign of ritual impurity. This, in turn, would become a *symbol* for sin. Thus the Prophet Isaiah spoke of the entire nation as unclean: "*We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment*" (Is 64:6). Many Jewish and Christian commentators through the ages have seen leprosy as the Scriptures' most vivid image of sin. Leprosy starts as an invisible infection which slowly dominates the victim's life. Leprosy defiles and deforms the sufferers, isolating them from others. Ultimately the body becomes numb to further injury as leprosy destroys the ability to feel pain. It is an image of sin which, untreated, makes people its captive, contaminating and destroying them from within. Then, insensitive to wrongdoing, the victim becomes less able to see the effects of sin in the world. Lest this spreads, the sinner must be isolated from God's People. Often during history, however, people have come to believe that leprosy was an actual *punishment* for sin, particularly sins against chastity. Some saw this as a mercy from God: the sinner was punished in this life to spare a worse fate in the next.

**Giving Thanks Like the Samaritan:** The grateful Samaritan has always been seen as an example to believers, calling us to be thankful for God's blessings to us. Many of us, however, are only thankful when we receive special blessings from God. We forget that in every circumstance of our life, every person we encounter is an opportunity for furthering us on the path to salvation. As St Paul noted, "*We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose* (Rom 8:28). Gratitude should be our daily attitude.

**The fifth-century Syriac Father St John the Solitary** offers this plan to develop an attitude of daily thanksgiving within us: "When evening comes, collect your thoughts and ponder over the entire course of the day: observe God's providential care for you; consider the grace He has wrought in you throughout the whole span of the day; consider the rising of the moon, the joy of daylight, all the hours and moments, the divisions of time, the sight of different colors, the beautiful adornment of creation, the course of the sun, the growth of your own stature, how your own person has been protected, consider the blowing of the winds, the ripe and varied fruits, how the elements minister to your comfort, how you have been preserved from accidents, and all the other activities of grace. When you have pondered on all this, wonder of God's love toward you will well up within you, and gratitude for His acts of grace will bubble up inside you."

**From the Prologue of Ochrid for July 23:** Does anyone envy the leper? No one envies him. Why then do some envy the evil man when evil is a greater sickness than leprosy? Leprosy is a disease of the flesh but evil is a disease of the soul. A leper can be healthy within while he is unhealthy on the outside. However, the evil man can be healthy on the outside but his interior is ill, his heart is sick. Greater value has a tree that is sick on the outside but has a healthy core than a tree that is healthy on the outside but has a rotten core. Thus, leprosy is a lesser evil than evil i.e., than sin....Does the physician envy the sick person? He does not envy him. Neither does the righteous one envy the sinner. If you do not know whether you are righteous examine your heart: do you envy the sinner? If you envy the sinner then you are not righteous; if you do not envy the sinner, then rejoice, O righteous one of God. ... The righteous one recognizes the sickness of sin, horrifying and deadly, and does not envy the sinner but pities him.