

St. John Of the Desert

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ANGELS, MARTYRS AND SAINTS ARE THE FLOWERS OF THE WORLD

It is pleasing to note that lilies spring not from the barrenness of mountains and the wildness of forests but from the loveliness of gardens. These are the fruit-bearing gardens of diverse virtues, as it is written, "A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed." Where there is integrity, chastity, piety, faithful silence of secrets, the radiance of angels, there are the violets of confessors, the lilies of virgins, the roses of martyrs. And let no one think it is inappropriate to compare lilies with angels, when Christ called himself a lily, saying, "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." Christ is fittingly a lily, because where there is the blood of martyrs, there is the Christ, who is a flower exalted, undefiled and blameless, in which the roughness of thorns does not offend but enveloping grace begins to shine. Roses have thorns which are the torments of the martyrs. The indivisible Godhead, which did not feel torments, has no thorns. Therefore, if lilies, like angels, are clothed beyond the glory of men, we should not despair of the mercy of God toward us—we to whom through the grace of the resurrection the Lord promises the likeness of angels. In this passage, Jesus also seems to touch on the question which the apostle did not overlook, either—the question that the nations of this world would ask, namely, how will the dead rise and with what manner of body will they come? By saying, "Seek the kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well," Jesus indicates that grace will not be lacking for the faithful in the present or in the future, if only those who desire the heavenly do not seek the earthly. It is unseemly for the soldiers of the kingdom to worry about food. The King knows how to feed, cherish and clothe his household, and therefore he said, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you." AMBROSE: EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 8.128-130.

We cannot be followers of Christ in isolation. We must be connected to THE community of Faith; The Church (the Ecclesia), the Body of Christ.

"For just as the body is one has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and all were made to drink on one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many." 1Cor 12:12-14

When we say, "I don't need to go to Church," we're also saying, "I don't need any of you!" This directly contradicts what St. Paul is saying. REV. R. ANDREWS - St. George Orthodox Church

"To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them."

St. Thomas Aquinas

Do not forget the hungry!

(Collection Basket in the Narthex)
Please bring Peanut butter, Soups, Jelly, breakfast cereals (not the ones with lots of sugar, please), Canned meats and vegetables, disposable diapers & detergent, etc. Put your donations in the Narthex.

NOVEMBER 19, 2017

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS - THE FOOL

EPHESIANS 2:14-22

LUKE 12:16-22

TONE 7

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|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, November 21 | 7:00 pm | Entrance of Mary to the Temple | Divine Liturgy |
| Thursday, November 23 | 9:00 am | Thanksgiving | Divine Liturgy |
| | 10:00 am to 1:00 pm | | Thanksgiving Meal in Davis Hall |
| Sunday, November 26 | 10:20 am | Doxology | |
| | 10:30 am | Divine Liturgy | Followed by the Social Hour |

Fr. Peter, Dunia Dababneh, (+) Alan Herro, (+) Andres Bolinaga, (+) Adeeb Khoury

Today's Intentions

- For Jackson Luke Shalhoub on his Baptism by Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Dunia Dababneh
- For the Healing & Recovery of Fr. Peter by The Haddad Family
- For the Health and Salvation of Shirley Davis on her Birthday
- For the Repose of the Soul of John Mensour by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Khalil & Nadia Alnweiser by George & Vicky Ishak
- For the Repose of the Soul of Ghazala Al Fares by George & Vicky Ishak
- For the Repose of the Soul of Saleh Elias by George & Vicky Ishak
- For the Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- For the Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: MAY OUR PRAYERS BRING HEALTH, HEALING AND HOPE TO THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, ESPECIALLY:

Fadia Loegering, Munther Hattar, Dr. Farouk Habra, Marianne Krouchian, John Davis, Jacques Rainis, Alice Harrison, Dunia Dababneh, Fr. Philaret Littlefield, Sami Shakkour, Mk Bredan, Mk Basil. (NAMES REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 6 WEEKS, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE OR EMAIL TO EXTEND.)

Is Christmas just around the corner? Well, I guess it is! So...it is time to think about decorating the hall. You will find a sign-up sheet in the hall if you wish to help in making the hall "Christmassy". But, there is a catch! We also need your help in dismantling the decorations. Please think about it and sign-up the sheet if you are willing to help. The dates are Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 to put up the decorations and January 6th, 2018 to take down the decorations. If we do not have at least 8 people for each day, there will be NO Christmas decorations this year!

LADIES GUILD MEETS TODAY DURING THE SOCIAL HOUR

Please Support our Food Bank - Try to bring to Church, next Sunday, something for the poor and needy who come begging at the door of our Church. Our pantry is almost empty. We need small diapers and food. May our Lord bless you!

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 59 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 77 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 21
Tithing: 912.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 20.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00
Coffee Collection: 30.00 - Stole Offerings: 40.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - Marked Fund: 0.00
Thanks for your gift of thanksgiving to the Lord!

WHILE SHOPPING, PLEASE REMEMBER THE POOR

Canned Fruits, Canned Roast Beef, Granola Bars, Jelly, Protein Bars, Tomato Paste, Tomato Sauce, Water Bottles, Spaghetti, Rice, Dry Foods, Canned Vegetables, etc.

For all your Gifts, please call St. John of the Desert Gifts at (602) 363-GIFT

11-12-2017