

St. John Of the Desert

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"You are not your own."

"Independence" is one of the great "rights" of man that is held to be sacred and inviolable for Americans. The Epistle proclaimed in the Church today, however, challenges our modern notion of independence when it proclaims Saint Paul's teaching that we were "purchased with a price" and that we are not our own, but that we belong to the Lord.

On the day of our baptism, each one of us was incorporated into the church and made members of Christ's body, and sharers in his eternal life. Just as the parts of the body are interdependent, and ultimately totally dependent the soul and spirit for life, so it is with Christ and the members of his Church. Each of us derives our spiritual life from Christ, and receives that life through other members of the body of the Church. As such, none of us is "independent," but rather we are totally dependent upon one another, and all of us are dependent upon Christ.

From the important biblical concept of spiritual dependence, we can understand the need for us to live a life in conformity with him from whom we received it, and on whom we depend for everything.

Applying the parable of the prodigal son to the above explanation helps this truth take flesh in our imagination, and allows us and those whom we teach to better understand what life is like away from our source of life, and what it is like to return in our hearts to our King and our God.

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 6:12 - 20 - "Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are fitting. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of anyone. Food is for the belly, and the belly for food, but God will destroy both the one and the other. Now, the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. For God has raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a prostitute? By no means! Or do you not know that one who cleaves to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For the two, it is said, shall be one flesh (Gn.2 : 24). But he who cleaves to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee immorality. Every sin a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been bought at a great price. Glorify God therefore in your body and in your soul which both are God's."

"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.

FEBRUARY 12, 2017
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

FIRST CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

LUKE 15:11-32

TONE 6

Thursday, February 16	10:30 am	Crafty Ladies Meeting
	7:30 pm	Children Internet Religious Education
Sunday, February 19	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	10:20 am	Doxology
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy
		Followed by Social and Ladies Guild Meeting
		George Haddad, Paul Davis, (+) Adeeb Khoury, (+) Andrea Negm

Today's Intention

- Health and Salvation of Paul Davis
- Health and Salvation of George Haddad to Sami Haddad
- Health and Salvation of Jacques Rainis by Kh. Simone
- Health and Salvation of Stephanie Rimmer by Dcn. Marion & Joyce Rimmer
- Health and Salvation of Marie Therese Spiro by Arlette Khouzam
- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- Repose of the Soul of Said, Wardeh and Fadi Ishak by Milad & Ibtisam Ishak
- Repose of the Soul of Andrea Negm by Kh. Simone
- Repose of the Soul of Ata Al Khoury by Milad & Ibtisam Ishak

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

Pauline Hamra, Fadia Loegering, Munther Hattar, Dr. Farouk Habra, Alan Herro, Marianne Krouchian, John Davis, Rt. Rev. Charles Aboody, Jennifer Rimmer, Paul Davis, Jacques Rainis and George Haddad.

(NAMES REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 6 WEEKS, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE OR EMAIL TO EXTEND.)

Today, Men's Group Meets during the Social Hour

Documents from the sixth through the eighth centuries attest to a growing custom in the East of observing one week in preparation for the Great Fast. Today this pre-Fast period in the Byzantine Churches consists in the following: Two Sundays in which the Gospel readings at the Divine Liturgy invite us to reflect on humility (Pharisee and Publican) and God's ever-welcoming love (Prodigal Son). Meat-Fare Week and Cheese-Fare Week.

AVOID SLAVERY TO DESIRES: "Paul means that if we are free to choose, then we should remain free and not become a slave to any particular desire. Anyone who orders his desires properly remains the master of them, but once he goes beyond this limit he loses control and becomes their slave." **CHRYSOSTOM - HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 16.11.**

KEEP THE PARISH DATABASE CURRENT - UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, EMAIL, ETC.

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 64 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 23
 Tithing: 2,502.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 10.00 - Candles: 0.00
 Coffee Collection: 25.00 - Stole Offerings: 67.00 - 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

2-5-2017