

St. John Of the Desert

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LENTE PREPARATION

During the Lenten Season, starting on February 5th, we abstain until Easter. We Fast from midnight to noon on Monday to Friday every week and on March 31th, with the exception on February 5th, 6th and 8th.

We will pray the Presanctified Liturgy on every Wednesday starting on February 14th. At 7:00 pm and the Acathist hymns on every Friday starting on February 16th, with the exception on March 23th and 30th.

On Friday March 9th, the Acathist hymns will be followed by a Spiritual talk "The Anaphora of St. Basil the Great"

Rule of fasting in the Eparchy of Newton

The minimum rule that Melkites in the Eparchy of Newton must observe: Fasting from all food and drink from midnight until noon must be observed on the first day of Great Lent and on the last three days of Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). Abstinance, at least from meat, must be observed on every Friday of Great Lent. These requirements are the minimum. The faithful are encouraged to do more, such as also abstaining from meat every Wednesday or throughout the whole of Great Lent.

Faith is not the acceptance of a list of doctrines or ideas; faith is not the trust we place in people who are knowledgeable in a particular area or expertise. Faith is the acceptance of the entirety of the person in whom we believe, regardless of the verifiability of what they say or claim to know. As we stand now at the beginning of our Lenten journey (having begun the fast this past week), we begin to realize how attached we are to the things of this world. Today Jesus calls us to place our trust, our belief, and yes, our faith, in him. Soon Jesus will die on the cross, and be buried in a cave. And soon, very soon, Jesus will rise from the dead on the third day. Only those who have become totally detached from the things of this world and have placed their faith in him, will rise with him from the dead.

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

"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 18, 2018
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

HEBREWS 11:24-26; 32-40; 12:1-2

JOHN 1:43-51

TONE 4

Wednesday, February 21	7:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday, February 22	7:30 pm	Children Internet Education
Friday, February 23	7:00 pm	Akathist Hymns
Sunday, February 25	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	10:20 am	Doxology
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy Followed by the Social Hour

(+) Munther Hattar (+) Alan Herro, (+) Andres Bolinaga, (+) Ibrahim Al Masri, (+) Martha Ishak, Marie-Joelle Khouzam, Fr. Basil Samra

This week's Ascetical practices

Abstinence: Monday through Sunday - Pick out an item and give it away to someone in need
Fast: Monday through Friday - Pray for the spiritual wellbeing of a specific person

Today's Intentions

- For the Health and Salvation of Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Marie-Joelle Khouzam by Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Fr. Basil Samra
- For the Repose of the Soul of George Haddad by Sam Haddad (Memorial)
- For the Repose of the Soul of George Haddad by Tony & Annie Karam
- For the Repose of the Soul of Munther Hattar by Nadia Hattar
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga

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

Fadia Loegering, Dr. Farouk Habra, Marianne Krouchian, John Davis, Jacques Rainis, Alice Harrison, Dunia Dababneh, Fr. Frank Milienewicz, Fr. Philaret Littlefield, Fr. Basil Samra, Simon Aboud, Elias Awad.

(NAMES REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 6 WEEKS, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE)

LADIES GUILD METTING TODAY, DURING THE SOCIAL HOUR

It is important to realize that faith, as with trust and belief, is always directed toward something or someone outside of ourselves. "I trust this person" or "I believe this statement." Faith is an action which goes beyond the one who has faith, and takes hold of someone or something beyond ourselves.

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 \$ 2,170.00

Attendance: 46 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 77 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 19

Tithing: 1,347.00 - Bulletin Ads: 125.00 - Building Fund: 10.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 45.00 - Stole Offerings: 132.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - Marked Fund: 19.88

Thanks for your gift of thanksgiving to the Lord!

2-11-2018

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