

St. John Of the Desert

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Two Categories of People

Lessons from the Fathers: Saint Paisios of the Holy Mountain

I know from experience that in this life people are divided in two categories. A third category does not exist; people either belong to one or the other.

The first one resembles the fly. The main characteristic of the fly is that it is attracted by dirt. For example, when a fly is found in a garden full of flowers with beautiful fragrances, it will ignore them and will go sit on top of some dirt found on the ground. If the fly could talk, and you asked it to show you a rose in the garden, it would answer: "I don't even know what a rose looks like. I only know where to find garbage, toilets and dirt." There are some people who resemble the fly.

The other category is like the bee whose main characteristic is to always look for something sweet and nice to sit on. When a bee is found in a room full of dirt and there is a small piece of sweet in a corner, it will ignore the dirt and will go to sit on top of the sweet. Now, if we ask the bee to show us where the garbage is, it will answer: It only knows the good things in life and is ignorant of all evil. This is the second category of people who have a positive thinking and see only the good side of things. They always try to cover up the evil in order to protect their fellow men; on the contrary, people in the first category try to expose the evil and bring it to the surface.

When someone comes to me and starts accusing other people and puts me in a difficult situation, I tell him the above example. Then, I ask him to decide to which category he wishes to belong, so he may find people of the same kind to socialize with. Be the Bee!

RULE FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE - Three approaches to fasting and abstinence have developed. These might be called the Law, the Tradition, and the Compromise.

The Law – that which is required (The minimal obligations for the Eparchy of Newton) The first day of Great Lent and the last three days of Holy Week, All Fridays of Great Lent are days of abstinence from meat, Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence

The Tradition – that which the devout follow Every day of Great Lent is a day of fast and abstinence, On Saturday and Sunday fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, Saturday and Sunday are not Fast days – food may be taken at any time, Certain feast days are treated like Saturday and Sunday.

The Compromise - The First, Middle and Last weeks of Great Lent are kept strictly. The other weeks are relaxed, Abstinence from meat on all days of Lent, Abstinence from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent.

"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 19, 2017

SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE

FIRST CORINTHIANS 8:8-13; 9:1-2

MATTHEW 25:31-46

TONE 7

Thursday, February 23

7:30 pm

Children Internet Religious Education

Sunday, February 26

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, (+) Zalpha Khnanisho

Today's Intention

- Health and Salvation of Hannah Mariam Abyad on the occasion of her Baptism
- Health and Salvation of George Haddad to Sami Haddad
- Health and Salvation of Wael & Basel Ishak on their Birthday by Mary Ishak
- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- Repose of the Soul of Fernande Parent
- Repose of the Soul of Andrea Negm by Kh. Simone
- Repose of the Soul of Naifeh Nader

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.)

FAST AND ABSTINENCE FOR THE GREAT LENT (2017)

1. Fast from Midnight to Noon (No Food)

- February 22 and 24

- February 27 to April 15 on all Monday to Friday

2. Abstinence from specific foods

- From February 22 to April 15

Prayers for the Great Lent (2017)

- March 1 to April 5 on all Wednesday we celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy

- March 3 to March 24 on all Friday we celebrate the Acathist Hymn

March 30 we celebrate Thursday of Repentance

April 8 we celebrate Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy

The Holy Week schedule will be announced later.

Please be sure to mark the communal prayers in your calendar and schedule time for personal prayers. Do not forget the poor and make sure this is a period of simplicity, basic living and silence.

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

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 72 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 26

Tithing: 1,519.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 3.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 44.00 - Stole Offerings: 11.00 - 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

2-12-2017