

# St. John Of the Desert

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**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 Abboud, Elias Awad.

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

## 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). Abstinence, 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.

### THE FAITH OF THE MANY SUFFICED FOR THE HEALING OF THE ONE

Today we hear the beautiful story of the healing of the paralytic. The Gospel tells us that the occasion for the healing of the paralytic, the reason why Jesus healed him, was that he saw "their faith." How powerful faith is! Faith not only has the power to unite us to Christ (as we noted last week), but can also save those for whom we intercede.

All of us struggle in the faith; all of us stumble and become distracted by the enticements of the world. But if we are surrounded by faithful friends, we can be held up, and even saved from spiritual danger by them. Choosing good friends, then, is very, very important. They will either lead us to Christ, as the friends of the paralytic did, or they will lead us away from the Lord and endanger our salvation.

### CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

- What are the criteria by which we choose our friends?
- What is the most important thing I can do as a friend?
- What is an example of being a true friend, and what is an example of being a false friend?
- Have I chosen my friends well?

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 25, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS AND ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

HEBREWS 1:10-14; 2:1-3

MARK 2:1-12

ZONE 5

<b>Wednesday, February 28</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b>
<b>Thursday, March 1</b>	7:30 pm	Children Internet Education
<b>Friday, March 2</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Akathist Hymns</b>
<b>Sunday, March 4</b>	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	9:30 am	<b>Confessions</b>
	10:20 am	<b>Doxology</b>
	10:30 am	<b>Divine Liturgy</b> Followed by the Social Hour

(+) Munther & Anton Hattar (+) Alan Herro, (+) Andres Bolinaga, Fr. Basil Samra

**LENTE REFLECTION "THE CROSS IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTIANS"** Rt. Rev. David Petras

**Location - St. Stephen**

Monday, March 5 6:30 pm Lenten Reflection followed by Soup Supper.

Tuesday, March 6 6:00 pm Forgiveness Service, Confessions and Reflection.

**Friday March 9 7:00 pm Akathist hymns followed by a Spiritual talk about the "Anaphora of St. Basil the Great"**

### This week's Ascetical practices

**Abstinence:** Monday through Sunday - Prepare and receive Reconciliation (Confession)

**Fast:** Monday through Friday - Eliminate unnecessary tasks in your daily activities

### Today's Intentions

- For the Health and Salvation of Raphy Santana by Sami Haddad
- For the Health and Salvation of Fr. Peter & Kh. Simone by Muna Haddad
- For the Health and Salvation of Marie-Joelle Khouzam by Arlette Khouzam
- For the Health and Salvation of Fr. Basil Samra
- For the Repose of the Soul of Ibrahim Al Masri and Martha Ishak by Wael & Fadia Ishak
- For the Repose of the Soul of Munther and Tony Hattar by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga

**CHRIST ELEVATED HUMAN NATURE.** *He lifted up the first offering of our nature to the Father, and the Father marveled at this offering. And because of the high esteem of the one who offered it and because of the purity of the offering, he, as the father of the household shows him with his hand the place close to himself and also places the offering nearby and says, "sit at my right hand."* PHOTIUS: FRAGMENTS, HEBREWS 1.13.

**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: 90 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 77 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 31

Tithing: 1,555.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 43.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 40.00 - Stole Offerings: 157.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 20.00 - Marked Fund: 0.00

Thanks for your gift of thanksgiving to the Lord!

2-18-2018

### 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**