

St. John Of the Desert

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THE INFIRMITY OF OTHERS IS NOT A FIT SUBJECT FOR PRAISE FOR THOSE IN GOOD HEALTH - *“What profit is there in fasting twice in the week if it serves only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity and makes you proud, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and boast about it. In another way, you provoke God’s anger by condemning and accusing other people because of this. You are puffed up, although not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness. On the contrary, you heap praises on yourself. He says, ‘I am not as the rest of humankind.’ Moderate yourself, O Pharisee. Put a door and lock on your tongue. You speak to God who knows all things. Wait for the decree of the judge. No one who is skilled in wrestling ever crowns himself. No one also receives the crown from himself but waits for the summons of the referee. ... Lower your pride, because arrogance is accursed and hated by God. It is foreign to the mind that fears God. Christ even said, ‘Do not judge, and you shall not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.’ One of his disciples also said, ‘There is one lawgiver and judge. Why then do you judge your neighbor?’ No one who is in good health ridicules one who is sick for being laid up and bedridden. He is rather afraid, for perhaps he may become the victim of similar sufferings. A person in battle, because another has fallen, does not praise himself for having escaped from misfortune. The weakness of others is not a suitable subject for praise for those who are in health.”* CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: COMMENTARY ON LUKE, HOMILY 120.5

Almsgiving is an important dimension to our “secret” life with God. This has always been a matter of getting personally involved, since people in need are not considered “social problems” but Christ, in the spirit on Matthew 25. In serving one another we are serving Christ.

Catherine Doherty, founder of the Madonna House community of Combermere, Ontario, describes how she learned this lesson from her parents, pre-revolutionary Russian nobility: *“Early in my childhood the truth that Christ is in my neighbor was shown to me by my parents’ example and words. No one was ever turned from our door, bum or beggar, woman of the streets or thief. The men were welcomed by my father. He gave them a bath himself, or Mother would do it for the women; then they would be given clothing if they needed it. They would be served by Mother and Father, and by us children – if we had been good that week, and thus worthy of serving Christ in the poor – on our best linen and from our best china in the main dining room.”* Catherine Doherty, *My Russian Yesterdays*, (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Company, 1951), p. 12.

“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 5, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:10-15

LUKE 18:10-14

ZONE 5

Thursday, February 9	7:30 pm	Children Internet Religious Education
Sunday, February 12	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	9:30 am	Confessions
	10:20 am	Doxology
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy Followed by Social and Men’s Meeting
		George Haddad, (+) Adeeb Khoury

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
- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- Repose of the Soul of Anton Hattar by Milad, George, Ghassan and Bassam Ishak
- Repose of the Soul of Andrea Negm by Kh. Simone

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, Michelle Montalvo and George Haddad.

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

Ladies Guild Meeting February 19

B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Luke 18: 10-14 - *The Lord told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and began to pray thus within himself: ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of men, robbers, dishonest, adulterers, or even like this publican. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I possess.’ But the publican, standing far off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went back to his home justified rather than the other; for anyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself shall be exalted.”*

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.

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

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 90 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 21
Tithing: 1,123.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Candles: 462.00
Coffee Collection: 50.00 - Stole Offerings: 140.00 - 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

1-29-2017