

St. John Of the Desert

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THIS IS THEIR MINISTRY

“What marvel says he if [angels] minister to the Son, when they minister even to our salvation? See how he lifts up their minds and shows the great honor that God has for us, since he has assigned to angels who are above us this ministration on our behalf. As if, one should say, for this purpose he says he employs them; this is the office of angels, to minister to God for our salvation. So that it is an angelic work to do all for the salvation of the brethren; or rather it is the work of Christ himself, for he indeed saves as Lord, but they as servants. And we, though servants, are yet angels’ fellow servants. Why do you gaze so earnestly on the angels, says he? They are servants of the Son of God and are sent many ways for our sake and minister to our salvation. And so they are partners in service with us. Consider how he ascribes no great difference to the kinds of creatures. And yet the space between angels and humans is great. Nevertheless, he brings them down near to us, all but saying, “For us they labor, for our sake they run to and fro. On us, one might say, they wait.” This is their ministry, for our sake to be sent every way.

And of these examples the Old Testament is full, as well as the New. For when angels bring glad tidings to the shepherds or to Mary or to Joseph; when they sit at the sepulcher; when they are sent to say to the disciples, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?”; when they release Peter out of the prison; when they discourse with Philip, consider how great the honor is. When God sends the angels for ministers as to friends; when an angel appears to Cornelius; when an angel brings forth all the apostles from the prison, and says, “Go and stand in the temple, and speak to the people all the words of this life.”⁷¹ And even to Paul himself an angel appears. Do you see that they minister to us on God’s behalf and that they minister to us in the greatest matters? Thus Paul says, “All things are yours, whether life or death, or the world, or things present, or things to come.” Well then the Son was also sent, but not as a servant or as a minister, but as a Son and only begotten, desiring the same things with the Father. Indeed, he was not “sent,” for he did not pass from place to place but took on him flesh, whereas these change their places, and, leaving those in which they were before, so come to others in which they were not.”

CHRYSOSTOM: ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 3.4.

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

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, ...” Mark 10:14

“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.

MARCH 12, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS AND ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

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

MARK 2:1-12

TONE 2

Wednesday, March 15	7:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday, March 16	10:30 am	Crafty Ladies Meeting
	7:30 pm	Children Internet Religious Education
Friday, March 17	7:00 pm	Acathist Hymn
Sunday, March 19	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	10:20 am	Doxology
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy followed by the Social Hour
		(+) Adeeb Khoury, (+) George Haddad, (+) Saba Khouzam

Today’s Intention

- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- Repose of the Soul of George Haddad by Kh. Simone
- Repose of the Soul of Marie-Claire by Mk. Basil and Brendan

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 and Jacques Rainis.

(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)

- March 13 to April 15 on all Monday to Friday

2. Abstinence from specific foods

- From March 12 to April 15

Prayers for the Great Lent (2017)

- March 15 to April 5 on all Wednesday we celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy
- March 17 and March 24 on 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 on 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.

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 Tradition** – that which the devout follow. **The Compromise** - The First, Middle and Last weeks of Great Lent are kept strictly. (See Previous Bulletins for details)

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 55 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 24

Tithing: 2,294.00 - Bulletin Ads: 100.00 - Building Fund: 90.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 54.00 - Stole Offerings: 45.00 - 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

3-5-2017