

St. John Of the Desert

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LAUGHING DEATH TO SCORN

He shows not only that death has been put to an end, but also that thereby he who is ever showing that war without truce against us—I mean the devil—has been brought to nothing; since he fears that death is not out of reach of the devil's tyranny. "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life." When anyone has determined to disregard even this, of what then will he be the slave? He fears no one, he is in terror of no one, he is higher than all and freer than all. For he who disregards his own life will much more disregard all other things. And when the devil finds a soul such as this, he can accomplish in it none of his works. Why? Tell me, shall he threaten with loss of property and degradation and banishment from one's country? But these are small matters to him who "counts not even his life dear,"⁵⁰ according to the blessed Paul. You see that, in casting out the tyranny of death, he also overthrew the strength of the devil. For him who has learned to study innumerable truths concerning the resurrection, why should he fear death? Why should he shudder any more?

Therefore, do not be grieved, saying, "Why do we suffer such and such things?" For so the victory becomes more glorious. And it would not have been glorious unless by death he had destroyed death; but the most wonderful thing is that he conquered him by the very means by which he was strong, showing at every point the abundance of his means and the excellence of his plans. Let us not then prove false to the gift bestowed on us. "For God," he says, "did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power and love and self-control." Let us stand then nobly, laughing death to scorn. CHRYSOSTOM: ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 4.6-7.

The "image" of God" in us is our true nature and it is good, not flawed, all that is made by God is good. In the Eastern Church "grace" is called "uncreated energy" because it is God's energy – all other energy is created energy because God is the only uncreated one. After the fall of Adam, the world created by God was thrown into chaos, making it necessary for man to struggle to bring this "image" to fruition or 'likeness' by overcoming or transcending the temptations of this worldly life.

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.

MARCH 25, 2018

PALM SUNDAY - FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

JOHN 12:1-18

HEBREWS 2:11-18

FEAST TONE

Tuesday, March 27	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Service
Wednesday, March 28	7:00 pm	Repentance & Holy Oil Anointing
Thursday, March 29	7:00 pm	Crucifixion of Our Lord
Friday, March 30	12:00 pm	Vespers/Descent of the Cross and Parish Soup
	7:00 pm	Office of the Burial of Christ
Saturday, March 31	11:00 am	Blessing of the New Light and Triumph over death
	8:00 pm	Hajmeh/Resurrection Divine Liturgy
	(+) Munther & Anton Hattar (+) Alan Herro, (+) Andres Bolinaga, (+) Adeeb Khoury, Simone Boutros, Lindsey Ishak	
Sunday, April 1	10:30 am	Resurrection Divine Liturgy
		Flowers ' Intentions

This week's Ascetical practices

Abstinence: Monday through Sunday

Fast: Monday through Saturday - Prepare and receive Reconciliation (Confession)

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, Lindsey Ishak.

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

Today's Intentions

- For the Health and Salvation of Kh. Simone by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Health and Salvation Lindsey Ishak by Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Mk Basil
- For the Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- For the Repose of the Soul of Munther Hattar by Dr. Farouk & Mary Habra
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga
- For the Repose of the Soul of Rebecca Nassif Bahou by Nadia Hattar & Salimeh Hanna Family
- For the Repose of the Soul of Michelle Habra by Dr. Farouk & Mary Habra

IS ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT CHURCH YOUR HOME?

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: 63 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 77 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 22

Tithing: 910.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 54.00 - Stole Offerings: 80.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 70.00 - Marked Fund: 25.00

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

3-18-2018

PARISH GUIDELINES

MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist)

One month advance notice to complete required canonical instructions

MYSTERY OF HOLY CROWNING (Marriage)

Six months advance notice to complete required canonical instructions

HOLY CONFESSION

Before or after all services or anytime upon request.

HOLY ANOINTING

On demand upon the request of the ill person or his/her immediate family only.

FUNERALS

Contact the pastor before making funeral arrangements.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

There is no charge for the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, however, an offering of thanksgiving is customary. The Parish Pastoral Council suggests for **Active Parishioners**, \$250 for Baptism, \$500 for Wedding, \$500 for Funeral, \$75 for Memorial, and \$10 for Remembrance. The use of the Davis Hall after Memorials is \$150 and (a plausible \$100 for Insurance). For **Non-Active Parishioners** check with the Pastor.

Active parishioner means PRAYING with us, INVOLVED with the life of the community and SUPPORTING the Church (Tithing) in Thanksgiving to the Lord (The Financial support is monitored by Family envelope); however, participation in our prayers and social life is evaluated for each parishioner independently of his/her Family. A minimum participation of 30% in our prayers and our activities is required. Members over 18 years of age should be registered separately from their families.)