

# St. John Of the Desert

Melkite Catholic Church  
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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.

## WHY IS THE CROSS THE SIGN OF OUR SALVATION?

*In the Gospel today, we hear Jesus' teaching that if someone wants to follow Him, he must "deny himself, and take up his cross." Why is self-denial and the cross the necessary "road" which the followers of Jesus must walk if they are going to find eternal life? The key which unlocks the answer to the mystery of the cross is found in Saint Paul's Epistle proclaimed in the Church today. "For we have not a high priest unable to pity our weaknesses, but one tried as we are in all things, save sin."*

*When Jesus was born of the Ever-Virgin Mary, he took to himself all that we are, except sin. And when he did this, he embraced the totality of our humanity, even the effects of sin. Yes, the Word of God united himself to all that we had become – to our tears, to our sorrow, to our sickness, and even to our death. And in this act of total love he redeemed and lifted up our fallen state as a way of salvation. Because God has been united to our life in every way except sin, our difficulties, challenges, hardships, sicknesses, and even our death have become the road to everlasting life. In them, we meet God himself.*

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 4, 2018**  
**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS**

HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:1-6

MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

tone 6

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

**Monday, March 5** 6:30 pm  
**Tuesday, March 6** 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday, March 7** 7:00 pm  
**Thursday, March 8** 7:30 pm  
**Friday March 9** 7:00 pm

**Sunday, March 11** 9:00 am  
10:20 am  
10:30 am

**Location - St. Stephen**

*Lenten Reflection followed by Soup Supper.  
Forgiveness Service, Confessions and Reflection.*

**Presanctified Liturgy**

Children Internet Education  
Akathist hymns followed by a Spiritual talk  
**"Anaphora of St. Basil the Great"**

Children Religious Education

**Doxology**

**Divine Liturgy** Followed by the Social Hour

**Men's Group Meeting**

(+) Munther Hattar (+) Alan Herro, (+) Andres Bolinaga, (+) Teeter Francies, (+) Firas Sweidan

## This week's Ascetical practices

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

**Fast:** Monday through Friday - Replace some of your discussions with silence and meditation

## Today's Intentions

- For the Health and Salvation of Arlette Khouzam by Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Nathanael and Sophia by Muna Haddad
- For Muna's Private Intention by Muna Haddad
- For the Repose of the Soul of Teeter Francies by Arlette Khouzam
- For the Repose of the Soul of Naseeb Elya by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Emile Elsabee by Arlette Khouzam
- For the Repose of the Soul of Munther and Tony Hattar by Nadia Hattar
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga

## Please Mark your Calendar,

On Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am, we will be cleaning our church and hall in preparation of the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. All men and women of our Parish are encouraged to help. O Lord sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house!

**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: 52 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 77 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 19

Tithing: 514.00 - Bulletin Ads: 125.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Feasts: 20.00 - Candles: 285.00

Coffee Collection: 34.00 - Stole Offerings: 95.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 150.00 - 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**

2-25-2018