

# St. John Of the Desert

Melkite Catholic Church  
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His Holiness, Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of His Beatitude Patriarch Gregorios III Laham, effective today, 6 May 2017. Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart, Archbishop of Aleppo, has been named Administrator of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church until a successor can be elected by the Holy Synod.

Deaconesses in the Church When we hear the term "deacon" we think of the sacred minister in our own day with his extensive role in the Liturgy In fact, diakonos is simply the Greek word for a servant such as a waiter or messenger. In the early Church, the deacon's first role was that described in Acts 6: distributing food to the poor, leaving the apostles free to devote themselves "to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). St Paul uses the same term to refer to certain women in his communities such as Phoebe (Rom 16:1), whom he says has been a help to many. Writing to the Philippians he mentions two women, Euodia and Syntyche, and asks his readers to help these women "who labored with me in the gospel" (Phil 4:2). In AD 112 the Roman governor Pliny the Younger wrote to the Emperor Trajan concerning Christians in his province, Bithynia. He had questioned two ministrae ("female slaves" or "maidservants") called deaconesses, he wrote, but does not describe their role in the community. We first see specific roles of deaconesses in the Didaskalia. Their duties include: Visiting Women in Their Homes –"There are houses to which you cannot send a deacon to the women, on account of the heathen, but may send a deaconess... to visit those who are sick, and to minister to their needs, and to bathe those who have begun to recover from sickness;" Assisting in Baptisms of Women – "Also, because in many other matters the office of a woman deacon is required. The Fourth-century Syrian book of Church order, the Apostolic Constitutions, Book II, adds "And when she who is being baptized has come up from the water, let the deaconess receive her, and teach and instruct her how the seal of baptism ought to be (kept) unbroken in purity and holiness. For this cause we say that the ministry of a woman deacon is especially needful and important."

On June 3, Saturday of the Dead, we will have a Memorial Service offered by all the Eastern Catholic Churches of Phoenix, in English, Arabic, Chaldean and Slavic languages. This Service is to pray for all our Dead Parishioners, Relatives and Friends and will take place at our Eastern Catholic Cemetery at Holy Redeemer.

*"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.

MAY 7, 2017  
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

ACTS 9:32-42

JOHN 5:1-15

TONE 3

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!

Thursday, May 11 7:30 pm Children Internet Education  
Sunday, May 14 9:00 am Children Religious Education (LAST CLASS)  
10:30 am Divine Liturgy and Men's Meeting during the Social Hour (Happy Mother's Day)

Mother's DAY Intentions, (+) Pauline Hamra, (+) Adeeb Khoury, (+) Alan Herro

### Today's Intentions

- Health and Salvation of Paul Davis by Kh. Simone
- Repose of the Soul of Anton Hattar by Milad, George, Ghassan and Bassam Ishak
- Repose of the Soul of Pauline Hamra by John & Evelyn Davis
- Repose of the Soul of Pauline Hamra by Paul & Shirley Davis
- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury
- Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro 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:**

Fadia Loegering, Munther Hattar, Dr. Farouk Habra, Marianne Krouchian, John Davis, Rt. Rev. Charles Aboody, Jennifer Rimmer, Paul Davis, Jacques Rainis, Elizabeth Nahhas, Mk. Brendan, Mk. Basil and Samira Abou-Eid.

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

**The National Association of Melkite Women (NAMW) will have their annual Fundraiser for our Seminarians. The ladies have decided to hold a raffle for this purpose. The sale and drawing are today. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.**

### Eastern Catholic Bible Conference

Event Date: May 19 & May 20, 2017

### Genesis in the Eastern Christian Traditions

The "Book of Beginnings" regarding the story of creation and redemption. Come learn about the Eastern Catholic approach to this text and the implications for the Church's faith, worship and spirituality!

**Talks Include:** The Book of Beginnings: Stories & Themes - Wisdom's World: Creation in the Psalms & Wisdom - Genesis in the New Testament - From Eden to Eden: Genesis in Salvation History - Genesis in Eastern Christian Catechesis

**Speakers:** Father Hezekias Carnazzo, Father Sebastian Carnazzo, Father Alexander Wroblicky, 'Pani Katie Matlak, Father Deacon Daniel Dozier

Friday 6:30-9pm and Saturday 10am-4:30pm (\$30 per participant)

### Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 63 Souls (Combined) - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 22

Tithing: 684.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 340.00

Coffee Collection: 30.00 - Stole Offerings: 324.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - Marked Fund: 70.00

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**

4-30-2017