

St. John Of the Desert

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Our **Epistle Readers' schedule** will come to an end on Sunday, June 25th. If you wish to continue to read the Epistle for the next six months, or if you wish to join the group of readers, please put your name on the list that you will find on the table in the Narthex and we will make a new schedule for the next six months, starting in July 2nd. There will be a brief training for all new readers.

The Fast of the Apostles

In all the historic Churches of East and West the forty days of Pascha recall the time that the risen Christ spent with His disciples.

Christ's disciples responded to the gift of the Spirit on Pentecost by immediately going out to people and doing the work which Christ has given them to do: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"* (Mt 28:19). Beginning with St Peter's first address to the Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 2:14-40) the followers of Jesus took the message first to Jews and then to Gentiles throughout the world. They expressed their joy by getting down to the business of their ministry.

It is now time for us to get to work as well. These fifty days from Pascha to Pentecost plus the week-long observance of this latter feast have been times of celebration, roughly coinciding with times of celebration in our secular society as well – Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, graduations, and the like. But to remind us that our Christian feasts are about the Lord Jesus and His Holy Spirit, not about the pleasure of celebrating, we now return to our ordinary Christian life: exchanging celebration for more intense prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The time from Pentecost to the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) is called the Fast of the Apostles. Since the date of Pentecost depends on when Pascha falls, this Fast may last as long as a month or as little as a few days. In Melkite practice this Fast is usually observed for no more than ten days, from June 19-28.

Since this Fast connects the feasts of Pentecost and the chief Apostles it is a good time to reflect on what these Apostles did after Pentecost as contained in the Book of Acts. We also do well to pray for the Church which, based on their teachings, we have come to speak of as "One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic." Besides the Feast of the Apostles, this time includes the remembrance of the Nativity of St John the Baptist, (June 24) patron of our Parish.

"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.

JUNE 11, 2017
SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

HEB 11:33-40;12:1-2

MT 10:32-38; 10:27-30

TONE 8

Thursday, June 15 7:30 pm Children Internet Education
Sunday, June 18 10:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by the Social Hour
Fathers of our Parish, (+) Nicholas Baiad, (+) Peter Davis, (+) Pauline Hamra, (+) Adeeb Khoury

Today's Intentions

- Health and Salvation of Natalia Mae Nasser on the occasion of her Baptism
- Health and Salvation of Paul Davis for his Birthday by Kh. Simone
- 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
- Repose of the Soul of Om Basheer Sweidan by Nijoud Khoury
- Repose of the Soul of Barbara Jean Kazarian by Jocelyn Abyad

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, 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.)

Tomorrow, June 12, is the traditional beginning of the Apostles' Fast. The Melkite Church approves the starting of this Fast on June 19. This Fast continues until June 29, the Feast of Apostle Peter and Paul. Traditionally, this is a period of abstinence from certain foods (meats, dairy, sweets, etc.) according to our medical and physical abilities. I encourage you to remember, during this period, the poor, the hangry and peace in the world.

MEN'S MEETING DURING THE SOCIAL HOUR

It is necessary for all young people who reach 18 years of age to register, separately from their families, as parishioners with their own entity. The status of the parents as active or non-active parishioners does not apply to children over 18 years of age. Registering separately gives them responsibility for their own spirituality and prayers, keep them active in their own ministry and reinforces in them the sense of potential leaders.

His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS is pleased to announce the establishment of two new Melkite Outreaches to serve the needs of our Melkite faithful: one in Las Vegas, Nevada, and one in Palm Springs, California. At this time, we are attempting to contact all our Melkite brothers and sisters who live in these areas. If you know any Melkites in these places please send their names and contact information to Father James Babcock for Las Vegas, and Father George Bisharat for Palm Springs. Please pray for the success of these new initiatives of our Melkite Church.

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 65 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 24

Tithing: 2,009.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 43.00 - Stole Offerings: 73.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - Marked Fund: 10.00

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

6-4-2017