

# St. John Of the Desert

Melkite Catholic Church  
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## Bishop Joseph Absi Elected Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch

The synod of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church elected on Wednesday Archbishop Youssef Absi as the Church's new patriarch, who received ecclesiastical communion from Pope Francis the following day. Elected June 21, Patriarch Absi, 71, succeeds Patriarch Gregorios III Laham, who retired May 6 at the age of 83.

The new patriarch was born in Damascus in 1946. He was ordained a priest of the Missionary Society of St. Paul in 1973. He became superior general of the society in 1999, and two years later was appointed curial bishop of the Melkite Patriarchate of Antioch. In 2007, he was appointed the Patriarchal Vicar of the Melkite Archdiocese of Damascus.

The Melkite Greek Catholic Church is an Eastern Catholic Church of the Byzantine rite, and it consists of some 1.5 million members. It is based in Syria and Lebanon, and most of its eparchies are in the Arab world. It also has structures to serve the Melkite diaspora in Australia, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela.

The Melkite Church traces its roots to the earliest days of Christianity, when Sts. Peter and Paul first evangelized the peoples of Syria, where followers of Christ were first called "Christians."

Pope Francis wrote to Patriarch Absi the day after his election, congratulating him and granting him ecclesiastical communion.

### MANY WILL SIT AT TABLE WITH ABRAHAM.

*"Note how what you have heard in the Gospel as something to come has by now already happened. Jesus commends the centurion's faith, whose flesh was alien but whose spirit was of the household of faith. It was to him that he said, 'Many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness.' What sons of what kingdom? He is speaking of the people of the covenant, who received the law. To them the prophets were sent. To them was given the temple and the priesthood. They had celebrated the anticipations of things to come. Yet those things of which they would celebrate in figures they did not acknowledge in actual presence. This is why they shall 'be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' Odd, isn't it? That they would be sent away, while the Christians would be called from the east and the west to the heavenly banquet to sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, whose bread is righteousness and whose cup is wisdom."*

AUGUSTINE:SERMON 62.6.

*"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.

JULY 2, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

ROMANS 6:18-23

MATTHEW 8:5-13

TONE 3

Thursday, July 6 7:30 pm Children Internet Education  
Sunday, July 9 10:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Men's Group Meeting and the Social Hour  
(+) Adeeb Khoury, (+) Pauline Hamra, (+) Alan Herro

### Today's Intentions

- Health and Salvation of Most Rev. John Elya
- Repose of the Souls of Harden Family of Xavier Harden by Iraz Hattar and Family
- Repose of the Soul of all Alan Herro
- Repose of the Soul of Anton Hattar by Milad, George, Ghassan and Bassam Ishak
- Repose of the Soul of Pauline Hamra by Paul & Shirley Davis
- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury

### 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.)

I am respectfully asking every parishioner to consider the buildings and the grounds as well as the accommodations of St. John of the Desert as their own personal properties.

I have been surprised, disturbed, perplexed and horrified when the cleaners complained and showed us (Kh. Simone and myself) the bathrooms and their condition. Especially the women's, it was left in a real deplorable condition.

In thanksgiving for the house that the Lord has given us to use for His glory and in recognition of the gift of our parishioner who pays secretly for its cleaning, I beg you to please keep what you, your family and your children use clean and undamaged.

**HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IS AUTHENTIC TRADITION?** We believe by faith that the Church is the temple of God, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church to all truth (John 16:12-13). Authentic Tradition reflects the guidance of the Holy Spirit by its coherence and continuity. It does not contradict Scripture and is consistent with what has been upheld by the Church from the beginning.

### Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 59 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 18

Tithing: 1,707.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 200.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 145.00

Coffee Collection: 16.00 - Stole Offerings: 250.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - Marked Fund: 60.00

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

6-18 & 25-2017