

St. John Of the Desert

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PARAKLISIS SERVICE AND THE TRANSFIGURATION

The Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6, celebrates the physical glorification of the body of Christ. This process of glorification we call in the Eastern tradition deification, the *“becoming partakers in the divine nature”* (2 Peter 1:4) which is the goal of our life in Christ. *“God became man,”* the Fathers often said, *“so that man might become God”*.

The observance of this feast is highlighted by the Blessing of Grapes. The grape is a recognized symbol of transfiguration in Christian tradition.

The feasts of the Transfiguration and Dormition point out for us what the fullness of that divinization actually means: the transfiguration of our physical bodies that they too might share in the divine nature, as we are *“transformed from glory to glory into His very image”*

(2 Corinthians 3:18).

While we are celebrating the transformation, we know that as individuals we have a long way to go for that process to be complete. And so on each weekday of this fast, the Church serves Paraklisis, asking the Mother of God to intercede for us in furthering our transfiguration: *“Quiet the storms within me, dispelling the surge of depression.”* we pray. *“Pacify the rise of my passions and quiet the stormy turbulence of my sins, you who have given birth to the merciful Lord”*. Attend the Paraklisis service in church on Friday, Aug. 4. You may choose to add an ode from the canon of the service to your daily prayers. The text of this prayer is found in “Publican’s Prayer Book”.

I would like to bring to your attention that the display case in the hall that displays books, from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s that were brought over by our ancestors, have been yanked out of the wall; this case was fastened securely to the wall to avoid tipping over and hurting our children. While re-attaching it to the wall I noticed that the podium next to it was all smeared with crayons. I am asking all parents to please watch your children, it is for their protection. If they have crayons in their hands they should be sitting down with a paper or coloring book in front of them, not walking around. Also, it was brought to my attention that the “Baby Fuss”, which was donated to us for the entertainment of our young and not so young adults, is dangerous for the very young children who can be hit in the face by the rods going back and forth. So, I will ask you to keep your young children away from the game. Children must be at least 10 years old to play this game. **I would appreciate your cooperation for the protection of our children.**

“There is nothing more precious to a parent than a child, and nothing more important to our future than the safety of all our children.”

“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 30, 2017

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

1 COR 1:10-17

MATTHEW 14:14-22

TONE 7

Thursday, August 3	7:30 pm	Children Internet Education
Friday, August 4	7:00 pm	Paraklisis Service
Sunday, August 6	10:30 am	Transfiguration of our Lord (Blessing of Grapes) Divine Liturgy followed by the Social Hour (+) Andres Bolinaga, (+) Adeeb Khoury, (+) Alan Herro, (+) Anton Hattar

Today’s Intentions

- For the Health and Salvation of Kh. Simone on her Birthday
- Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga
- Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro
- 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 Joseph Davis
- Repose of the Soul of Shelly Stevens by Paul & Shirley Davis
- Repose of the Soul of James Susa by Paul & Shirley Davis

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 and Mk. Basil.

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

Fast (Abstinence) of the Dormition of the Virgin, which runs from the 1-14 August

“Abstinence is abstinence from meat and gravy, dairy products, eggs, milk, cheese and butter.” The Holy Fathers of the Church consider Great Lent or the Great Fast of the Great Days as a carrying out of the tithe for God. Forty days is almost a tenth of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. In fact, we read in the commandments, to carry out the tithe and receive blessing. (Deuteronomy 12:6-7) To that we add the Advent Fast, the Apostles’ Fast and the Dormition Fast. The different fasts fall in all four seasons of the year to sanctify the whole year. The Advent Fast is in autumn, the Great Fast of forty days is mostly in winter, the Apostles’ Fast is in late spring and the Fast of the Dormition in summer.

So the faithful Christian who observes the different fasts remains in a continuous relationship with the spiritual and ascetic exercises and in a spiritual watchfulness to enable the Holy Spirit to work in him. In the same way he keeps his fitness of soul and body together.

St. Paul says, explaining the true meaning of Lent, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 62 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 14

Tithing: 823.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 51.00 - Stole Offerings: 0.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - 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

7-23-2017