

St. John Of the Desert

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In the New Testament physical healings and other miracles generally point to spiritual healing. Here the woman's illness and her healing contact with Christ direct our minds to reflect on our own spiritual condition.

Most Christians today look upon the idea of ritual impurity in the Old Testament manner as antiquated and not part of our spirituality. Yet, each of us is unfit for contact with the Holy One because we share a nature scarred by sin and subject to death. We need to touch the hem of Christ's garment for our broken nature to be restored.

For us who live in the time after Christ's resurrection the "hem of His garment," the physical realities which convey His divine power to us, are the Holy Mysteries. In baptism we rise with Him from the death of our broken humanity. In the Eucharist we become more deeply one with Him in His Body, the Church. We come to Him in the various circumstances of our life – our need for physical or spiritual healing, our desire to experience His blessing on our families and our ministries – seeking to be transformed by His presence. And when we approach the water, chrism, oil, or crowns with the faith of this unnamed woman in the Gospels we are touched by the power going out from Him through them as well.

It is all too easy for us, particularly those raised in the Church, to approach the Holy Mysteries as if they were acts of ritual cleansing as described in the Torah. We can bring our children for baptism because that's what we do with babies to make them Christians. We can approach the mystery of confession legalistically, so that we can get a pass to receive the Eucharist. Approaching any of the mysteries as if they were rites of passage or ritual purifications – or as anything other than reaching out to touch the hem of Christ's garment – turns them into "works of the Law." And, as St Paul insists, "by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified" (Gal 2:16).

Our sacramental contacts with Christ are meant to affect our life. The Holy Mysteries are not simply "rites," ceremonial moments that we perform then return to ordinary life without their affecting the way we live. On the one hand we live and worship as Christians only because we have "touched" Christ. He alone is holy, He alone is Lord.

On the other hand we know that our baptismal union with Christ does not guarantee that we will live the life we have received. As with the woman in the Gospels, our contacts with Christ are simply part of the story. The way we live determines how the story develops and will end.

Rev. Fred Saato Pamphlets - Modified

To all the parents who made goodies with their children, the children and all who supported the CRE Bake Sale last Sunday, I would like to extend a great big THANK YOU! It was a great success that raised over \$250 for the classrooms building project. As you know, the donation basket for the Sunday coffee hour is totally dedicated to this project, so please continue your support, our children need classrooms to facilitate their learning of our faith: they are, after all, the future of our Church.

Do not forget the hungry! (Collection Basket at the door)

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

7TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

LK 8:41-56

GAL 2:16-20

TONE 4

St. John of the Desert Calendar

Saturday, November 12	5:00 PM	Vespers Followed by the PPC Meeting
Sunday, November 13	9:00 AM	Children Religious Education
	10:20 AM	Doxology
	10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy Followed by the Social Hour
(+) Nellie O'Connor, (+) Marie Maroun Elya Hayek		

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of John Skaff by Joseph Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Ogonie El Miri by Robert & Samia Monroe (Memorial)
- For the Repose of the Soul of Jay Jabour by Mary Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Rose Petersen by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Nellie O'Connor by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Philip Duhaime by Dcn. Marion & Joyce Rimmer
- For the Repose of the Soul of Ibrahim Al Masri by Mary Ishak

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Fr. Stephen Washko, Eric Rimmer, Mary Kostisak, Andre and Osama Eid, Lynn Hume, Linda Herro, Kafa Dababneh, Camille Holt, Refga Sayegh, Bo Bolinaga and Pauline Hamra.

Some of the advertisers in our Sunday Bulletin are not renewing their ads as we are not patronizing their businesses. However, if you do patronize their businesses, please be sure to let them know that you saw their ad in our bulletin, so when the time to renew comes, they will continue to advertise with us. By the same token, please try to get new ads from any of the people you patronize: hairdressers, lawyers, etc. A business card size is \$100 for a whole year and \$200 for double the size. These ads help us pay for the Sunday Bulletin.

Come, plunge and swim in the Deep Water of the Liturgy

On Sunday, November 13, 20, and 27 at 1:00 pm

Each session (about two hours with a ten minutes break) will include a presentation, a group discussion and Q/A sessions. (What is the Divine Liturgy? Why we do what we do at the Divine Liturgy? How one participates in the Divine Liturgy?)

PLEASE SIGN THE LIST IF YOU ARE COMING

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: Get personally involved in making sure our precious Melkite heritage and tradition is passed on faithfully to future generations. Evangelization, spiritual renewal, promoting vocations, education, seminary training...the Bishop's Appeal supports all these and much more. If you enjoy reading the beautiful and informative SOPHIA magazine, please help defray the cost of its production and distribution. Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal helps our Eparchy to continue to produce SOPHIA magazine and to bring it to your home. Please respond with a generous heart. If you have not already sent your gift, please do so today so that 100% of our parish will respond to Sayidna's call. Extra appeal envelopes are available in the narthex.

Baby-sitting will be provided