



St. John Of the Desert
 Melkite Catholic Church
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The Ultimate Coming of Christ

The Scriptures do not depict Christ's birth as the ultimate point in the story of God's dealings with us. Instead we are told to look ahead to that final stage in history. In the imagery of Luke's Gospel, there shall be a great banquet – the triumph of the Messiah – and many shall be invited to share in that feast. St Paul is a bit more direct: "Christ shall appear, and when He does, you also will be revealed in glory with him" (Col 3: 4).

The great banquet is the final triumph of Christ which we proclaim in the Creed: "He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead..." and the revelation of those who are in Christ as well. "I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come." And so our celebration of Christ – whether spread out throughout the liturgical year or experienced in each Divine Liturgy – always directs us to look ahead to "His glorious second coming."

An invitation demands a response – are you interested or not? According to St Paul the response we are meant to give is to "put off the old man with its deeds" and put on the new man, renewed after the image of Christ. We have already done so in baptism, Paul says, but we must continue to life according to the new life we have received, not the old one we have put aside.

The Nativity Fast is a time set aside to reflect on our "record" as new men and women, who have renounced lust, greed, wrath and the other deeds of the old man we find mentioned in Col 3:8-10. We are invited to reaffirm our commitment to humility, forgiveness and love (verses 12-14) as well as to refocus on the mystery of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, come to invite us to the great banquet.

Rev. Fred Saato Pamphlets - Modified

The Nativity of Our Lord proclaims that by our Baptism we have received the message of the great love God has for all people and proclaim that love to all we meet and so make present the Kingdom of God on earth by service to others and by working for justice and peace.

Tell Father if you agree.

We have been invaded by a large amount of termites. The company that treats the property proposed a treatment that will cost \$3150 and will require two days to complete. They guaranty that this will take care of the problem. We have secured two other bids by other companies who came higher than the our actual company. However, they all came up with the same treatment for the problem. If we do not treat the entire building we risk damaging the icons on the walls and this will be a very expensive problem. I am asking all of you who can help financially to see me since we really do not have funds to cover these emergencies.

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2011
 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**

LK 14:16-25

COL 3:4-11

TONE 1

St. John of the Desert Calendar

Saturday, December 17	5:00 pm	Vespers followed by the PPC Meeting
Sunday, December 18	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	10:20 am	Doxology
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy Followed by the Social Hour
		(+) Dunya Lynne Aziza, (+) Nellie O'Connor, (+) Gloria Herro, Sue Bieber
Wednesday, December 21	7:00 pm	Penance Service at St. Joseph
Saturday, December 24	7:00 pm	Carols and Children's Nativity Pageant
	8:00 pm	Nativity of our Lord Divine Liturgy - Followed by light reception
Sunday, December 25	10:30 am	Nativity of our Lord Divine Liturgy

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of Sue Bieber by David Bieber
- For the Health and Salvation of Bo Bolinaga
- For the Health and Salvation of Karen Haddad
- For the Health and Salvation of Nadia Demian by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Gloria Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Wesley Sons by Michael & Enas Baqseh
- For the Repose of the Soul of Nellie O'Connor by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Bishop Andrew Pataki
- For a Special Intention

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

I would like to extend a great big "Thank You" to all the people who came to help during the two work days at St. John of the Desert. The camaraderie among workers and the togetherness was refreshing and enjoyed by all who came. I appreciate your love and dedication to your church. Everyone certainly did a great job in decorating the church and the hall for Christmas, don't you think? May God bless you all!

There is a sign-up poster in the hall for different maintenance jobs that need to be done around the church. Unfortunately, very few of you signed-up to offer to help. We will have two "Work Days" next Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10, 2011 which will also include the Christmas Decoration around the church and hall. I urge you to come and be involved in your church. The work will start both days at 7am until the work is done. Please sign your name on the poster in the hall today, or just show-up on any of these days. Thank you.

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: As we travel with the Virgin to Bethlehem where she will give birth to the greatest gift in human history—God's Only-Begotten Son—let us remember our Melkite Church by which Christ comes to us. **Please give an end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Church** in America and support our Church in its vital mission. Help produce **SOPHIA** magazine, assist in the spiritual renewal of our parishes, support the vocation recruitment and the training of our seminarians, assist our missions, and give support to our elderly priests. Please give generously; **YOUR Melkite Church needs YOU!**