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

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.

Many parents do not register their children in our Melkite Eastern Christian Formation. Do you want our tradition to die out with your generation? Just sending your children to Roman (Latin) Catholic schools is not sufficient. Read about this subject at:
www.StJohnOfTheDesert.com

Tell Father if you agree.

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

DECEMBER 18, 2011

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - GENEALOGY

MT 1:1-25 HEB 11:9-10 & 32-40 TONE 2

St. John of the Desert Calendar

(+) 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 Followed by the Nativity of our Lord Divine Liturgy then by a light reception*
Sunday, December 25	*10:30 am*	*Nativity of our Lord Divine Liturgy*

(+) Gloria Herro, Sue Bieber

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of Souad Tadros by Fadya & Feda Aranki
- 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 Paolo Contu-Owens by Marty Nagy
- 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 Nellie O'Connor by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Dunya Lynne Aziza by Sondos Kassier
- 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, Sue Bieber and Nadia Demian.

SPONSORS FOR BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Church law requires that all sponsors for baptisms must be practicing (Catholic/Orthodox) Christians, and if married, validly married in the Church, inasmuch as they are guaranteeing that the person they are sponsoring will be brought up and/or live out their faith in the Catholic religion to which they already belong and practice. Protestant Christians may serve as witnesses, provided that at least one sponsor is Catholic.

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 prepare our hearts and our homes to receive the greatest gift in human history—Christ our God—let us remember our Melkite Church by which Christ comes to our families and loved ones. Please give a special end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton to support all the vital works of our Church in America.

REMEMBER THE MELKITE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL: Give the lasting gift of the Melkite Faith to your children's children, and help to ensure that our beautiful Melkite heritage continues to flourish for generations to come. Simply add the following statement to your last will and testament: I hereby bequeath to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton the following sum: $_____. Contact Bishop Nicholas personally to inform him of your generous bequest: 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.