

St. John Of the Desert

Melkite Catholic Church
3718 E. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85032
Phone: (602) 787-4787 Fax: (602) 795-4752
Emergency: (602) 284-0040
WWW.StJohnOfTheDesert.com

Rev. Peter Boutros - Pastor
FrPeter@StJohnOfTheDesert.com
Rev. Deacon Marion Rimmer (480)-275-4143
DcnMarion@StJohnOfTheDesert.com
Rev. Deacon Ziad Abyad (623) 297-2958
DcnZiad@stjohnofthedesert.com
Kh. Simone - Secretary@stjohnofthedesert.com
Jocelyn Abyad - Education@stjohnofthedesert.com
Jumana Ishak - LadiesGuild@stjohnofthedesert.com
Loretta Curfman (602) 363-GIFT / Gifts@stjohnofthedesert.com

Rule of fasting in the Eparchy of Newton

The minimum rule that Melkites in the Eparchy of Newton must observe: Fasting from all food and drink from midnight until noon must be observed on the first day of Great Lent and on the last three days of Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). Abstinance, at least from meat, must be observed on every Friday of Great Lent. These requirements are the minimum. The faithful are encouraged to do more, such as also abstaining from meat every Wednesday or throughout the whole of Great Lent.

SUNDAY OF OUR FATHER JOHN CLIMAKOS

In the Epistle appointed for this Sunday, we learn about the "oath" which God has made with us. What is an oath? Saint Paul tells us in the epistle that it is a "promise," a "guarantee," a "sure and firm anchor of the soul," the "final settlement" of disagreements. When two people swear an oath, they are promising to be of one mind in regards to the thing promised. The oath is the outward sign of the interior union of the two parties. In the case of Jesus, the oath and promise that he makes with us is that he will take us with him beyond the "veil," and make us partakers of the divine nature.

In other words, Jesus promises us that He will give us His life. Today the Lord swears an oath to us that if we willingly die to our old selves through "prayer and fasting" and promise to give ourselves to him, then the demons of our former life will be cast out, that our sins will be washed away, and that we will rise with him in His resurrection on the third day. We have hope then, having promised our life to the Lord, that when the day of Pascha arrives, we who have died with him will receive a new life in him.

GOD'S PROMISE WILL NEVER BE CHANGED. *"Through this" oath "God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise" that God's promise, because indeed it is God's, will never be changed. God's oath was infallible in its being interposed, that is, between God, the angel and Abraham.* EPHREM THE SYRIAN: COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.

We cannot be followers of Christ in isolation. We must be connected to THE community of Faith; The Church (the Ecclesia), the Body of Christ.

"For just as the body is one has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and all were made to drink on one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many." 1Cor 12:12-14

"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.

MARCH 11, 2018
SUNDAY OF OUR FATHER JOHN CLIMAKOS

HEBREWS 6:13-20

MARK 9:17-31

TONE 7

Wednesday, March 14	7:00 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday, March 15	7:00 pm	Thursday of Repentance
Friday, March 16	7:00 pm	Akathist Hymns
Sunday, March 18	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	10:20 am	Doxology
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy Followed by the Social Hour

Ladies Guild Meeting

(+) Munther Hattar (+) Alan Herro, (+) Andres Bolinaga, (+) Adeb Khoury

This week's Ascetical practices

Abstinance: Monday through Sunday - Ask forgiveness from somebody you offended.

Fast: Monday through Friday - Reduce unnecessary talks.

Today's Intentions

- For Muna's Private Intention by Muna Haddad
- For the Health and Salvation of Kh. Simone by Arlette Khouzam
- For the Repose of the Soul of Teeter Francies by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Munther Hattar
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alan Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Andres Luis Bolinaga
- For the Repose of the Soul of Firas Sweidan by Michal Sweidan
- For the Repose of the Soul of Gertrude Kosko by Dcn. Marion & Joyce Rimmer
- For the Repose of the Soul of Salwa Haddad by John & Reina Haddad
- For the Repose of the Soul of George Haddad by Sami Haddad

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: MAY OUR PRAYERS BRING HEALTH, HEALING AND HOPE TO THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, ESPECIALLY:

Fadia Loegering, Dr. Farouk Habra, Marianne Krouchian, John Davis, Jacques Rainis, Alice Harrison, Dunia Dababneh, Fr. Frank Milienewicz, Fr. Philaret Littlefield, Fr. Basil Samra, Simon Abboud, Elias Awad.

(NAMES REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 6 WEEKS, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE)

Men's Group Meet during the Social Hour

Please Support our Food Bank - Try to bring to Church, next Sunday, something for the poor and needy who come begging at the door of our Church. Our pantry is almost empty. We need small diapers and food. May our Lord bless you!

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,170.00

Attendance: 62 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 77 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 24

Tithing: 1,459.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 43.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 81.00 - Stole Offerings: 10.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 131.00 - Marked Fund: 25.00

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

3-4-2018

PARISH GUIDELINES

MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist)

One month advance notice to complete required canonical instructions

MYSTERY OF HOLY CROWNING (Marriage)

Six months advance notice to complete required canonical instructions

HOLY CONFESSION

Before or after all services or anytime upon request.

HOLY ANOINTING

On demand upon the request of the ill person or his/her immediate family only.

FUNERALS

Contact the pastor before making funeral arrangements.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

There is no charge for the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, however, an offering of thanksgiving is customary. The Parish Pastoral Council suggests for **Active Parishioners**, \$250 for Baptism, \$500 for Wedding, \$500 for Funeral, \$75 for Memorial, and \$10 for Remembrance. The use of the Davis Hall after Memorials is \$150 and (a plausible \$100 for Insurance). For **Non-Active Parishioners** check with the Pastor.

Active parishioner means PRAYING with us, INVOLVED with the life of the community and SUPPORTING the Church (Tithing) in Thanksgiving to the Lord (The Financial support is monitored by Family envelope); however, participation in our prayers and social life is evaluated for each parishioner independently of his/her Family. A minimum participation of 30% in our prayers and our activities is required. Members over 18 years of age should be registered separately from their families.)