

# St. John Of the Desert

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## Bishops' Statements

**State-sponsored executions** - "For the Catholic community, this issue — like all life issues — is more than public policy. It involves our faith and the central principle that human life is sacred. Church teaching on the life and dignity of every human person should guide all our decisions about life, including the use of the death penalty. We are called to reflect on what the Lord's command, 'You shall not kill' (Ex 20:13) means for us today. ... It is time to turn away from a deeply flawed system of state-sponsored executions to a way of protecting society and holding accountable the truly guilty in a way that reflects our society's best values." - "A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death," U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (2005)

**Health Care Reform** - On March 8, the chairmen of four committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote to Congress, outlining their priorities for health care reform. They asked Congress to consider the following:

1. Respect for life and dignity
2. Honoring conscience rights
3. Access for all
4. Truly affordable
5. Care that is comprehensive and of high quality

On Friday evening and on Saturday morning we had two wonderful events; I'm talking about our second Teens retreat and our sixth Children retreat. The theme for this year's retreat was "We Will Rise!" While having fun our children learned about their Faith. Under the direction of Jocelyn Abyad and thanks to the few helpers, this year's retreat was a remarkable success. May God bless all of you!

On June 3, Saturday of the Dead, we will have a Memorial Service offered by all the Eastern Catholic Churches of Phoenix, in English, Arabic, Chaldean and Slavic languages. This Service is to pray for all our Dead Parishioners, Relatives and Friends and will take place at our Eastern Catholic Cemetery at Holy Redeemer.

**Child-like Simplicity** - "Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven'" (Mt 19:13, 14)

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, ..." Mark 10:14

"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.

APRIL 30, 2017

SUNDAY OF OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN

ACTS 6:1-7

MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8

TONE 2

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!

Thursday, May 4	7:30 pm	Children Internet Education
Sunday, May 7	9:00 am	Children Religious Education
	9:30 am	Confessions
	10:30 am	Divine Liturgy followed by the Social Hour (+) Anton Hattar

### Today's Intentions

- Repose of the Soul of George Haddad by Sami Haddad
- Repose of the Soul of Deacon Tom Hook by Kh. Simone

**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, Rt. Rev. Charles Aboody, Jennifer Rimmer, Paul Davis, Jacques Rainis, Elizabeth Nahhas, Mk. Brendan, Mk. Basil and Samira Abou-Eid.

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

**The National Association of Melkite Women (NAMW) will have their annual Fundraiser for our Seminarians. The ladies have decided to hold a raffle for this purpose. The sale will start today and will go on until May 7, the day we will have the drawing. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Please be generous as the amount we will raise will help our seminarians with the purchase of their books, tuition etc. Thank you and God bless you!**

### Eastern Catholic Bible Conference

Event Date: May 19 & May 20, 2017

### Genesis in the Eastern Christian Traditions

The "Book of Beginnings" regarding the story of creation and redemption. Come learn about the Eastern Catholic approach to this text and the implications for the Church's faith, worship and spirituality!

**Talks Include:** The Book of Beginnings: Stories & Themes - Wisdom's World: Creation in the Psalms & Wisdom - Genesis in the New Testament - From Eden to Eden: Genesis in Salvation History - Genesis in Eastern Christian Catechesis

**Speakers:** Father Hezekias Carnazzo, Father Sebastian Carnazzo, Father Alexander Wroblicky, 'Pani Katie Matlak, Father Deacon Daniel Dozier

Friday 6:30-9pm and Saturday 10am-4:30pm (\$30 per participant)

### Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 63 Souls (Combined) - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 28

Tithing: 1,087.00 - Bulletin Ads: 0.00 - Building Fund: 0.00 - Feasts: 105.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 2.00 - Stole Offerings: 10.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - Marked Fund: 171.00

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**

4-23-2017