

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 Zyad Abyad (623) 297-2958
DcnZyad@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

Celebration of St. John of the Desert Church's Patron - Happy Anniversary!

The feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 24) with that of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29), is the first feast of a New Testament personage which is not attendant upon a great feast of the Lord. Furthermore it must be remarked that it is directly in keeping with the feast of the Nativity according to the Flesh of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, which separates it by six months, day for day, according to the Roman calendar: eight days from the calends of July (June 24). In the East this feast was originally fixed on June 25, as evidenced by the calendar of the Melkites of Chouarizm, reported by the historian Al-Biruni.

Like the winter solstice, that of the summer was an occasion of great rejoicing among the pagans. Just as the feast of the Nativity according to the Flesh of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in the Christian calendar became the feast of the rising Sun, the Lord Jesus who is the Light of the world, thus it is admitted that the feast of John the Baptist was placed at the summer solstice since he himself said of the Lord: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

It is Saint Luke (Luke 1:1-80) who relates the Precursor's birth to us (today's Gospel at the Divine Liturgy). The son of Zachary the priest and Elizabeth the barren, the fruit of the promise by his birth untied his father's mute tongue and "filled the whole world with joy." It is at this time that his father pronounced the immortal canticle in which he sings of the realization of the promise made to Abraham, the deliverance of his people with mercy. It is there that he prophesied to his small son the grandiose role of Precursor for which God destined him, to prepare the way on earth for the Star who comes from above "to put our feet in the good way, in the way of peace."

When very young, John the Baptist went to the desert, perhaps to one of the ascetic communities of the Essenes who lived in the plain of Jordan. It is there that he began to baptize, that is to give the purification ritual to those who repented of their sins upon hearing his fiery word. It is there that he designated to his disciples the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. It was before John that Jesus received the first official witness from the Father and the Holy Spirit: "This is my beloved Son." It was also for his courage to enforce the laws of marriage that he was thrown into prison and beheaded. To "the spouse's friend, who feels the greatest joy at the spouse's voice," and who wished to disappear before him, to this second Isaia, Jesus addresses this eulogy: "What did you go out to the desert to see?...a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet...I say to you, among those born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John" (Luke 7:25-28).

"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.

JUNE 25, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ROMANS 13:11-14; 14:1-4

MATTHEW 6:22-33

TONE 2

Thursday, June 29 7:30 pm Children Internet Education
Sunday, July 2 9:30 am Confessions
10:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by the Social Hour
(+) Anton Hattar, (+) Pauline Hamra

Today's Intentions

- Health and Salvation of Claudia Abdelmalek
- Health and Salvation of Paul & John Davis, Munther Hattar and Adel Horan
- Repose of the Soul of all Alan Herro By his Family (Memorial)
- Repose of the Soul of Pauline Hamra by Paul & Shirley Davis
- Repose of the Soul of Adeeb Khoury by Nijoud Khoury

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, 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.)

Bishop Joseph Absi Elected Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch

The synod of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church elected on Wednesday Archbishop Youssef Absi as the Church's new patriarch, who received ecclesiastical communion from Pope Francis the following day. Elected June 21, Patriarch Absi, 71, succeeds Patriarch Gregorios III Laham, who retired May 6 at the age of 83.

The new patriarch was born in Damascus in 1946. He was ordained a priest of the Missionary Society of St. Paul in 1973. He became superior general of the society in 1999, and two years later was appointed curial bishop of the Melkite Patriarchate of Antioch. In 2007, he was appointed the Patriarchal Vicar of the Melkite Archdiocese of Damascus.

The Melkite Greek Catholic Church is an Eastern Catholic Church of the Byzantine rite, and it consists of some 1.5 million members. It is based in Syria and Lebanon, and most of its eparchies are in the Arab world. It also has structures to serve the Melkite diaspora in Australia, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela.

The Melkite Church traces its roots to the earliest days of Christianity, when Sts. Peter and Paul first evangelized the peoples of Syria, where followers of Christ were first called "Christians."

Pope Francis wrote to Patriarch Absi the day after his election, congratulating him and granting him ecclesiastical communion.

Necessary Weekly offering \$ 2,174.00

Attendance: 75 Souls - Number of envelopes Mailed: 75 - Number of Envelopes Returned: 19

Tithing: 1,254.00 - Bulletin Ads: 200.00 - Building Fund: 20.00 - Feasts: 0.00 - Candles: 0.00

Coffee Collection: 15.00 - Stole Offerings: 90.00 - Flowers/Memorial/Donations: 0.00 - 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

6-11-2017