

St. John of the Desert Melkite Catholic Church



3718 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85032
Office Phone: 602-787-4787 | Emergency Calls: 602-284-0040 or 623-297-2958
Text the word "DESERT" to 84576 to sign up for Parish Updates
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Very Rev. Father Peter Boutros | Pastor | FrPeter@Typicon.com

Rev. Father Zyad Abyad | Associate Pastor | FrZyad@icloud.com

Rev. Deacon Marion Rimmer | marionmrimmer@mail.com

Kh. Simone Boutros | simone@Typicon.com

Kh. Jocelyn Abyad | jabyad@gmail.com

JANUARY 12, 2025
SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY
FOR MEN'S GROUP

LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Elie Hayek by Qardahji Family

For the Health & Salvation of Deacon Robert Shalhoub

For the Health & Salvation of Elham Alhouch by Rima Alhouch

For the Repose of the Soul of Armand Joseph Caron by The Roubachewsky Family

To request a Divine Liturgy intention, go to our website: www.stjohnofthedesert.com
Requests must be submitted by Thursday to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Readings
of the Day

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:7-13

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-17

THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL WILL BE READ IN ENGLISH AND REPEATED IN ARABIC



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 18

4:00pm Confession

5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, January 19

10:20am Divine Liturgy followed by Ladies Guild

PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially:

Maddie Carey, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Fadia Loegering, Mary Popovich, Kh. Simone Boutros, Kathy Slonka, Dcn. Marion Rimmer, Paul Davis, Khalil Haker, Katharina Rimmer, Mary McGehee, Jose Serna, Penny Koppel & Kh. Jocelyn

Names remain on the prayer list for six weeks, please call the parish office to add any names

St. John of the Desert is Expanding!

We are excited to announce that we will be expanding our church building!
Please help support the project and be a part of creating a beautiful home
for our families for years to come! Scan the QR code to donate today!

Donate
Now!



Church Expansion

UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: February 16, 2025 Following Liturgy
Men's Group: February 9, 2025 Following Liturgy
Family Catechesis: February 2, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Forerunner Program: January 26, 2025 @12:30 pm
Byzikids & Byziteens: February 7, 2025 @ 9:00 am
Women at the Well: January 24, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Crafty Ladies: February 5, 2025 @ 10:30 am
Faith Foundations: February 8, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 121
Collection of January 5, 2025
Tithe: \$1,086.00 * Stole Offering \$20.00
Coffee Collection:\$60.00 * Candles: \$0.00
Flowers \$0.00 * Bulletin Ad: \$0.00
Building Fund: \$0.00 * Other: \$230.00
Online Giving: \$1,061.63
Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Speak boldly and fearlessly about Jesus Christ... You will be amazed, as the Apostles were, when you let go of your fears and let the Lord speak the truth through you.

From Holy Scripture... When they were released they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who by the mouth of our father David, thy servant, didst say by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine vain things? The kings of the earth set themselves in array, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'— for truly in this city there were gathered together against thy holy servant Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever thy hand and thy plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:23-31)

In God's presence, consider... Am I willing to speak up in defense of the truth even when there is a real risk of rejection, ridicule, harassment, or worse? Do I fear the disapproval of others more than I love the truth?

Closing prayer... Lord, I beg you to grant me the holy boldness of your first Apostles on the Day of Pentecost. Even though I do not know what exactly I should say and do, when the moment comes, I trust that you will give me the words and the courage to speak them fearlessly.

(Madrid, A Year with the Bible: Scriptural Wisdom for Daily Living.)



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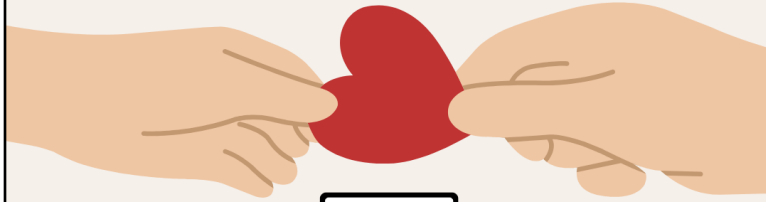
time, talent & treasure



VOLUNTEER

5X MATCH

PLEASE HELP OUR CHURCH TO EXPAND BY DONATING TO OUR BUILDING FUND-OUR MATCHING DONATION IS STILL AVAILABLE!



Women at the Well

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month
from 9:30am to 11:00am.

Contact Kh. Jocelyn for complete details!

jabyad@gmail.com
or text 480-234-9974

Postponed this month!
We will meet January 24th!

Calendars are available now in the
narthex- one per family please.

AVAILABLE
AVAILABLE
AVAILABLE
AVAILABLE



What did we celebrate on January 6? Well, it's obvious, isn't it? Just look at the icon: it's Jesus' baptism!

Actually, neither the icon nor the feast celebrates *the fact* that the Lord Jesus was baptized. Rather, we remember what happened at His baptism and what it represents for us as we live our life in Christ. We do not call this the Feast of Christ's Baptism, focusing on the historical setting. Rather we call it the Feast of the Holy Theophany, or the "*manifestation of God.*"

continue reading from the source:

<https://melkite.org/faith/sunday-after-theophany>

House Blessings

It is traditional after the Feast of Theophany to have your home blessed by the priest. Please make an appointment by calling or emailing Fr. Peter or Fr. Zyad.

Friendly Reminders:

We like to keep it simple. By opening your home, you have already done something wonderful and beautiful. Keep your preparations simple so that we can focus on spending time together and praying.

A meal is not required and donations are optional. The blessing of the home is a gift from God and like all gifts, it is free. You may choose to offer something back to God for his blessings by giving to the church.

Parish Groups

Ladies Guild (Leader: Veronica Quednau, email v.e.quednau1@gmail.com)

This group plans, reviews and coordinates our celebrations and social activities, including fundraising for the maintenance and sustenance of the Body of Christ. They promote hospitality and respond to the requests of the Parish.

Men's Group (Leader: John Nasser, email johnknasser@gmail.com)

This group advises the Pastor on pastoral, spiritual, financial and maintenance matters.

Family Catechesis & Forerunner Program (Leaders: All Clergy and Educators)

We are called to guide our children on the path towards Christ. On the first and last Sunday of each month, following the Divine Liturgy, both children and parents receive religious instruction.

Byzikids Home Educators Group (Leader: Kh. Jocelyn, email jabyad@gmail.com)

This is an Eastern Christian homeschool Co-Op which seeks to provide support and encouragement to families as they live out their faith. They support each other, pray, and share crafts and activities that enrich their homeschool education.

Women at the Well (Leader: Kh. Jocelyn, email jabyad@gmail.com)

Women of all ages gather to discuss a spiritual reflection and support each other.

Crafty Ladies (Leader: Kh. Simone, email simone@typicon.com)

The Crafty Ladies work together to create beautiful blankets which are donated to various organizations throughout the state.

They conclude their gathering by going out together for lunch.

Society of Publicans (Leader: Deacon Marion, email marionmrimmer@mail.com)

This is a prayer group that dedicates themselves to pray for the intentions of our Parish, the intentions of our Diocese, and our sister Churches in the United States. A weekly email is sent to the members of this group.

**STAY UP
TO DATE**

**TEXT THE WORD "DESERT" TO 84576
OR SCAN THE QR CODE!**



Parish Guidelines

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING - Members registered at St. John of the Desert and attend the Divine Liturgy at least three weekends each month, participate in the community life of the parish and contribute generously of their time, talent and treasure. **Members over eighteen years of age must be registered separately from their families.**

MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist) - Expectant parents should contact the pastor prior to the birth of the child. The priest can come to pray over the baby and mother in the days after birth. After forty days, Churching Prayers welcome the baby for the first time and the mother back to Church. To request the Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism), parents must be members in good standing and attend baptism preparation with the Godparents. At least one Godparent must be a member in good standing of a Melkite Church. The other Godparent may be a Catholic or Orthodox Christian in good standing.

MYSTERY OF HOLY CROWNING - Couples who wish to be married at St. John of the Desert must be members in good standing. They should contact the pastor prior to setting the date or making any other arrangements and at least six months prior to the desired date. They will need to complete our marriage preparation program. The Byzantine wedding ceremony begins in the narthex of the Church and does not feature the father walking the daughter down the main aisle. The couple approaches the Holy Mystery together as equals. There are no vows exchanged in the Byzantine Crowning ceremony.

MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION - You may go to confession before or after most services in the Church. To make an appointment for confession, please call the office.

MYSTERY OF HOLY ANOINTING - Upon the request of the ill person or his/her immediate family only.

FUNERALS - When someone passes away in your family, please contact the Pastor prior to making any arrangements with the Funeral Home. There are no eulogies given in Church. Family and friends may deliver eulogies at the mercy meal.

There is no charge for the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, however, an offering of thanksgiving is customary. For members in good standing, we suggest a donation of \$300 for Baptism, \$600 for Wedding, \$600 for Funeral, \$75 for Memorial, and \$10 for Remembrance. The use of the Davis Hall for members in good standing is \$250 and \$100 for cleaning (an extra \$100 for Insurance may be required, check with the Pastor)



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