

# St. John of the Desert Melkite Catholic Church



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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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD



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

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Michelle O'Loughlin by Jim & Roxanne Ferlmann  
For the Repose of the Souls of Azar Afisa & Nour Mardiane & Dunia Hattar by Bashar & Abir Dababneh  
For the Repose of the Soul of Ghassan Ishak by Majdi & Abir Al Masri  
For the Repose of the Soul of Jalal Innabi by Zaina and Jose  
For the Repose of the Soul of Nabil Gharfeh by Amal Gharfeh  
For the Repose of the Soul of Steven McNeil

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

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Saturday, September 14**

**9:00am Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Sunday, September 15**

**10:20am Divine Liturgy** followed by Ladies Guild

Commemorating: Michelle O'Loughlin, +Louise Lane

Readings  
of the Day

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 2:16-21

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:13-17

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



## PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially: Khalil Haker, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Mary Popovich, Fadia Loegering, Katharina Rimmer, Kim Fritges, Paul Davis, Maddie Carey, Samira Abou Eid, Elias Ishaq, Rick Reardon, Annarose Newman & Alexandria Titone

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



TITHE HERE



time, talent & treasure



VOLUNTEER

# UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: October 20, 2024 Following Liturgy  
Men's Group: October 13, 2024 Following Liturgy  
Family Catechesis: October 6, 2024 @ 9:30 am  
Forerunner Program: September 29, 2024 @12:30 pm  
Byzikids Co-Op: October 4, 2024 @ 9:00 am  
Women at the Well: September 20, 2024 @ 9:30 am  
Crafty Ladies: October 2, 2024 @ 10:30 am  
Faith Foundations: September 21, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 92  
Collection of September 1, 2024  
Tithe: \$960.00 \* Stole Offering \$30.00  
Coffee Collection: \$145.00 \* Candles: \$400.00  
Flowers \$0.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
Building Fund: \$0.00 \* Other: \$60.00  
Online Giving: \$1,165.38  
**Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00**

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

**The importance of prayer and fasting...** This biblical lesson reminds us that prayer and fasting are powerful spiritual weapons that are often overlooked and neglected.

**From Holy Scripture...** And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd about them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed, and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you discussing with them?" And one of the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." (Mark 9:14-29)

**In God's presence, consider...** Is fasting part of my prayer life? What challenges do I face that may require prayer and fasting to overcome?

**Closing prayer...** Lord, you designed my human nature to experience hunger for food. Teach me to see in that natural hunger my deeper, supernatural longing for you. Help me conquer with prayer and fasting anything in this life that would prevent me from drawing closer to you.

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

THIS KIND CANNOT  
BE DRIVEN OUT BY  
ANYTHING BUT

**PRAYER**  
& Fasting

Mark 9:14-29

FEAST OF THE  
EXALTATION OF  
THE CROSS



The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.



**CONFESSION**

*Mystery of Repentance*

You may go to confession before or after most services in the church. To make an appointment for confession, please call the office. We also set aside the following regular times as well:

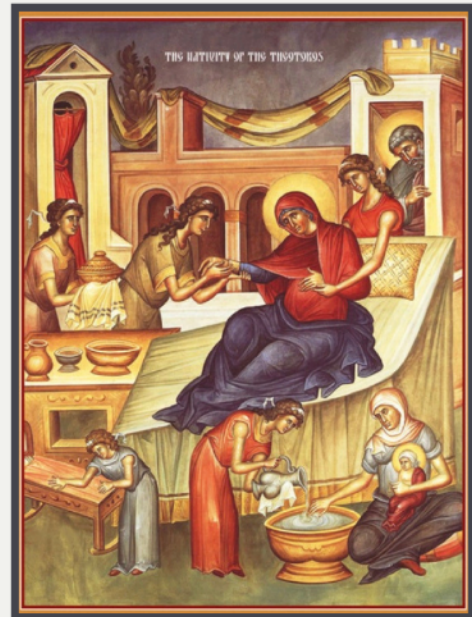
FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

9:30am to 10:20am

THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

4:00pm to 5:00pm

FEAST OF THE  
NATIVITY OF THE  
THEOTOKOS



The Virgin Mary was born to her parents about 16 or 17 years before the birth of Christ. Her father Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, while her mother Anna was descended from the priestly tribe of Levi. They lived faithful lives, but were never granted children, and they were widely ridiculed by their fellow Jews. Joachim and Anna desperately prayed for a child, and promised that they would dedicate it to the Lord.

Their prayer was heard, and Anna conceived a daughter. They named her Mary, and true to their word, Joachim and Anna dedicated their daughter to the Lord when she was three years old.

**OCTOBER 5**  
9AM - 12 PM  
**ALL PARISH  
CLEANING  
DAY**



YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Finding Treasure

A WOMEN'S RETREAT ON FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIP

*A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;  
he who finds one finds a treasure.*

*Sirach 6:14*

St. John of the Desert invites all women to join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, food, and fun.

SEPTEMBER | 28 | 10AM TO 4PM

ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT  
3718 E. Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032

\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION  
LUNCH PROVIDED

REGISTER HERE:  
[www.stjohnofthedesert.com/treasure](http://www.stjohnofthedesert.com/treasure)

September is the beginning of the Liturgical year. Here are 3 Steps to help your family grow closer to Christ and participate more fully in the life of the Church this year!



### HOME CALENDAR

Add Church Feast Days to your family calendar for the whole year ahead.



### PLAN AHEAD

Request time off of work or school to be able to attend prayer services.



### CHECK BACK IN

As the feast approaches, we will post the exact schedule for services in the bulletin.



YOU ARE INVITED TO



# MEN'S MEET UP

PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP  
TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM  
AT ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT

CONTACT JOHN NASSER OR LIAM  
TURAN FOR MORE DETAILS

# Save The Date

St. John of the Desert will be hosting the National Melkite Clergy Conference

JOIN US FOR  
DIVINE LITURGY  
& DINNER  
THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 10, 2024

It's time to register for

# Family Catechesis

Check your email!

Learning our faith is a lifelong journey! We have classes for kindergarten through adult! An email was sent to all parishioners to register. See Fr. Ziad or Kh. Jocelyn with any questions!



## 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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