

# 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** | marionrimmer@mail.com

**Kh. Simone Boutros** | simone@Typicon.com

**Kh. Jocelyn Abyad** | jabyad@gmail.com

MARCH 23, 2025  
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY  
FOR SOCIAL HOUR

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Repose of the Soul of Fr. Joseph S. Haggar

For the Repose of the Soul of Saba Khouzam by Arlette Khouzam

For the Repose of the Soul of Dolores Marie Kinyon by Anthony and Irma Kinyon

For the Repose of the Soul of Jamileh Ibrahim, Kamal Ishak, Bishara & Najeb Alhouch, and Mary Nawaf Ishak by Rima and George Ishak

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.

Readings  
of the Day

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:1-6

GOSPEL: MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

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



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, March 25**

**7:00pm Annunciation Divine Liturgy**

**Friday, March 28**

**7:00pm Akathist Hymns**

**Sunday, March 30**

**10:20am Divine Liturgy** followed by Social Hour & Forerunner Program

Commemorating: Amanda Ferlmann, Fr. Joseph S. Haggar, +Mary Nawaf Dakhel Ishak

**Bearing the cross means to separate our souls from the delights and pleasures of this life. If you do this, you will find your life again – resting in the hope of what is to come. Dying to ourselves means being content with the necessities of life.**

**When we want more than these necessities it is easy to sin.**

*St. Clement of Alexandria*

## St. John of the Desert is Expanding!

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: May 18, 2025 Following Liturgy  
Men's Group: April 13, 2025 Following Liturgy  
Family Catechesis: April 6, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
Forerunner Program: April 27, 2025 @12:30 pm  
Byzikids & ByziTeens: April 4, 2025 @ 9:00 am  
Women at the Well: April 11, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
Crafty Ladies: April 1, 2025 @ 10:30 am

Attendance: 103  
Collection of March 16, 2025  
Tithe: \$1,430.00 \* Stole Offering \$10.00  
Coffee Collection:\$60.00 \* Candles: \$0.00  
Flowers \$50.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
Building Fund: \$30.00 \* Other: \$35.00  
Online Giving: \$1,138.17  
**Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially: Katharina Rimmer, Dcn. Marion Rimmer, Fadia Loegering, Kathy Slonka, Kh. Simone Boutros, Khalil Haker, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Paul Davis, Maddie Carey, Wendell & Mary McGehee, Nadia Hattar  
(Names remain on the prayer list for six weeks, please call the parish office to add any names)

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

**The Resurrection proves the validity of the Church...** If Christ had not risen from the dead, Christianity would be proved false. But because Christ did rise from the dead, Christianity is proved to be true.

**From Holy Scripture...** Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)

**In God's presence, consider...** There exists plenty of good, solid, historical evidence to corroborate my belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Contemporary Pagan and Jewish authors (who were hostile to Christianity) wrote about how Christ's followers all believed in the Resurrection and were willing to endure torture and die cruel deaths rather than recant that belief.

**Closing prayer...** Lord Jesus, I believe in your glorious Resurrection and victory over death. Thank you for dying for my sins and for rising from the dead as proof that you are indeed the Son of God.

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





**Today!**

## Sacramental Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, March 23, 2025

4:00pm Confessions

5:00pm Prayers Begin

Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church

3270 Maryland Ave. Phoenix, AZ



Feast of the Annunciation

Divine Liturgy

March 25, 2025

7:00pm



### Presanctified Divine Liturgy Wednesdays at 7:00pm

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn Lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the Eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified."



**JOIN US FOR A LENTEN RETREAT  
AT ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT**

## Salvation

What is Salvation? Who can guide us to understand it?  
Discover the answers as Fr. Peter explores the  
New Testament teachings on this profound mystery.

**APRIL 5, 2025**

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**3718 E. GREENWAY RD. PHOENIX, AZ**

**\$15 - LUNCH PROVIDED**

**PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

**[WWW.STJOHNOFTHEDESERT.COM/SALVATION](http://WWW.STJOHNOFTHEDESERT.COM/SALVATION)**

### Akathist Hymns Fridays at 7:00pm

The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It consists of praises directed to the Mother of God, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," as normally, all participants stand while it is being prayed.







You are cordially invited to

# High Tea

Join us for a splendid afternoon  
from 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
Dressing up with fancy hats optional,  
but encouraged!

**LIGHT LUNCH, TEA & TREATS**  
Tickets: \$30 adults, \$15 children

**April 26, 2025**  
St. John of the Desert  
3718 E. Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or go to  
[www.stjohnofthedesert.com/hightea](http://www.stjohnofthedesert.com/hightea)



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



- SUNDAY, APRIL 13**  
*Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:20am*
  - TUESDAY, APRIL 15**  
*Bridegroom Service at 7:00pm*
  - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16**  
*Repentance & Holy Oil at 7:00pm*
  - THURSDAY, APRIL 17**  
*Crucifixion of Our Lord at 7:00pm*
  - FRIDAY, APRIL 18**  
*Vespers & Descent of the Cross at 12:00pm*  
  
*Office of the Burial of Christ at 7:00pm*
  - SATURDAY, APRIL 19**  
*Blessing of the New Light & Sacraments of Initiation at 11:00am*  
  
*Hajmeh Resurrection Divine Liturgy at 8:00pm*
- Divine Liturgy will be offered on Sunday, April 20th at 10:30am for those unable to attend the Hajmeh.*

## Reminder





**TITHE HERE**

**You can tithe online!**

## LENTEN RECIPE SWAP

BRING 10 COPIES OF YOUR FAVORITE LENTEN RECIPE TO PARTICIPATE! LET'S INSPIRE EACH OTHER WITH SOME NEW IDEAS FOR THE GREAT FAST!



**Sunday, March 30, 2025**  
During Social hour



## 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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