

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

FEBRUARY 9, 2025
SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN



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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Kh Simone by Bassam & Jumana Ishak
For the Health & Salvation of Kh. Simone Boutros by Rima Ishak
For the Health & Salvation of Mary Qardahji by Qardahji Family
For a Private Intention
For the Repose of the Soul of Fr. John Meno by Fr. Zyad and Kh. Jocelyn
For the Repose of the Soul of George Haddad by Sami Haddad
For the Repose of the Soul of Lisa Marie McCarthy
For the Repose of the Soul of Tolkien Vincent
For the Repose of the Soul of Deacon Joseph Daratony

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: 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-15

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:10-14

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



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 15

4:00pm Confessions

5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, February 16

10:20am Divine Liturgy followed by Ladies Guild

Commemorating: Grainne Ferlmann, Fulton Lasota, Paul and Peter Ishak, Mary Ishak

PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially: Katharina Rimmer, Mary McGehee, Penny Koppel, Maddie Carey, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Fadia Loegering, Mary Popovich, Kh. Simone Boutros, Kathy Slonka, Dcn. Marion Rimmer, Paul Davis & Khalil Haker

(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!

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: March 16, 2025 Following Liturgy
 Men's Group: March 9, 2025 Following Liturgy
 Family Catechesis: March 2, 2025 @ 9:30 am
 Forerunner Program: February 23, 2025 @12:30 pm
 Byzikids & ByziTeens: March 7, 2025 @ 9:00 am
 Women at the Well: February 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am
 Crafty Ladies: March 5, 2025 @ 10:30 am
 Faith Foundations: March 8, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 92
 Collection of February 2, 2025
 Tithe: \$1,302.00 * Stole Offering \$222.00
 Coffee Collection:\$32.00 * Candles: \$0.00
 Flowers \$0.00 * Bulletin Ad: \$0.00
 Building Fund: \$134.00 * Other: \$50.00
 Online Giving: \$455.24
Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The law of God is written on your heart... No one needs to tell you that certain things are right and other things are wrong. You know this, deep down inside, because God inscribed this truth into your very being.

From Holy Scripture... All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus (Romans 2:12-16)

In God's presence, consider... It's not enough for me to merely hear the voice of my conscience; do I act on what it tells me? When I know, deep down, that something is wrong, do I do it anyway? Have I confessed this in the sacrament of Confession?

Closing prayer... Lord, I desire with all my heart to know, love, and live according to your truth. Help me properly form my conscience so that I may always know what is true and do what is good.

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Poetry Tea Time

FEATURING THE POEMS OF

Betsy K. Brown

March 14, 2025
 1:30pm to 3:30pm

St. John of the Desert
 3718 E. Greenway Rd.
 Phoenix, AZ 85032

Tea & Treats will be served
 Please bring your favorite poem
 to share as well!

RSVP JABYAD@GMAIL.COM
 \$3/PERSON



Divine Liturgy & Memorial Saturday of the Dead

February 22, 2025 at 10:00am

Holy Redeemer Cemetery
 23015 N Cave Creek Rd
 Phoenix, AZ 85024

Join us as we pray for all those who
 have died and bless the graves of
 our loved ones.



HOLY MYSTERY OF
CONFESSION FOLLOWED BY

Great Vespers

THIRD SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

CONFESSIONS BEGIN AT 4PM
VESPERS TO FOLLOW AT 5PM

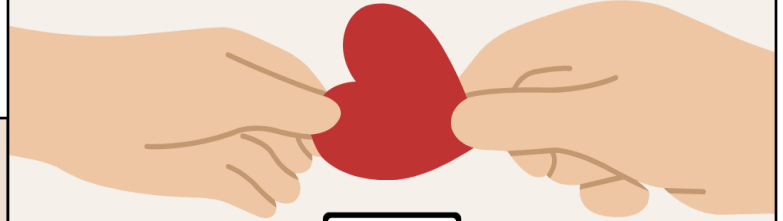
The Great Fast is almost here...

Do you have a plan?!



5X MATCH

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



Church Expansion

Memorial Wheat Cooking Class

The Ladies Guild invites you
to join us in Davis Hall on
Friday, February 21, 2025 at 6:30pm



House Blessings

SCHEDULE
SOON!
BLESSINGS
MUST BE DONE
BEFORE
MARCH 1, 2025!

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.



TITHE HERE



time, talent & treasure



VOLUNTEER

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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