

# St. John of the Desert Melkite Catholic Church



3718 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85032  
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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** | marionrimmer@mail.com

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

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

APRIL 6, 2025  
SUNDAY OF MARY OF EGYPT



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY  
FOR SOCIAL HOUR & FAMILY CATECHESIS

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Rosemary Luke by Kh. Jocelyn  
For the Repose of the Soul of Fr. Joseph S. Haggar  
For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Ishak by Majdi & Abir Almasri  
For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Ishak by Rima Ishak  
For the Repose of the Soul of Ghassan Ishak by Rima Ishak  
For the Repose of the Soul of Robert Chadwick Hilton by The Roubachewskys  
For the Repose of the Soul of John T. Davis by Evelyn A. Davis

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.  
\*Flower Intentions will be mentioned at the April 20th Divine Liturgy

Readings  
of the Day

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 9:11-14

GOSPEL: MARK 10:32-45

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



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, April 9** 7:00pm Great Compline  
**Friday, April 11** 9:30am Women at the Well  
**Saturday, April 12** 9:00am Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy  
Followed by **Parish Cleaning Day**  
**Sunday, April 13** 10:20am Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy & Procession followed by Men's Group  
Commemorating: +Mary Nawaf Dakhel Ishak, +Ghassan Ishak, +Bob Hilton, +John T. Davis

## 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!

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Church Expansion



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# UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: May 18, 2025 Following Liturgy  
Men's Group: May 11, 2025 Following Liturgy  
Family Catechesis: May 4, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
Forerunner Program: April 27, 2025 @12:30 pm  
Byzikids & ByziTeens: May 2, 2025 @ 9:00 am  
Women at the Well: May 16, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
Crafty Ladies: May 6, 2025 @ 10:30 am

Attendance: 111  
Collection of March 30, 2025  
Tithe: \$560.00 \* Stole Offering \$50.00  
Coffee Collection:\$25.00 \* Candles: \$420.00  
Flowers \$20.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
Building Fund: \$0.00 \* Other: \$120.00  
Online Giving: \$762.78  
**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 & The Luke Family

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

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

**Division between Christians is a grievous scandal...** Division between Christians is an unacceptable disgrace. We must seek unity based on truth, not on compromise.

**From Holy Scripture...** I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

I appeal to you, brethren, to take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering words they deceive the hearts of the simpleminded. (Romans 16:17-18)

**In God's presence, consider...** What am I doing to help foster Christian unity in my own family and social circles? Do I pray for Christ's intention "that all may be one?"

**Closing prayer...** Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life (St. Francis of Assisi).

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



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VOLUNTEER



**APRIL 12TH**  
**AFTER 9AM LITURGY**  
**ALL PARISH**  
**CLEANING**  
**DAY**

# Lazarus Saturday

Commemorates the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, and is celebrated on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. This feast, along with Palm Sunday, marks the transition from Great Lent into Holy Week.

JOIN US:  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH  
 9:00AM

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.***

# 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**

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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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