

# 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 16, 2025  
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY  
FOR SOCIAL HOUR & LADIES GUILD

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Grainne Ferlmann by Jim & Roxanne Ferlmann

For the Health & Salvation of Fulton Lasota by Paul and Grace Lasota

For the Health & Salvation of Paul and Peter Ishak by Rima Ishak

For the Health & Salvation of Mary Ishak by Bassam & Jumana Ishak

For the Health & Salvation of Pinfu Augustinus Fang by Pinfu Fang

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: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:11-32

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



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Friday, February 21**

**9:30am Women at the Well**

**6:30pm Memorial Wheat Class** (see page 3 for details)

**Saturday, February 22**

**10:00am Saturday of the Dead** (see page 2 for details)

**Sunday, February 16**

**10:20am Divine Liturgy** followed by Forerunner

Commemorating: Grainne Ferlmann, +Ghassan Ishak, +Fr. John Meno

## 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: March 30, 2025 @12:30 pm  
 Byzikids & ByziTeens: March 7, 2025 @ 9:00 am  
 Women at the Well: March 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
 Crafty Ladies: March 5, 2025 @ 10:30 am  
 Faith Foundations: March 8, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 103  
 Collection of February 9, 2025  
 Tithe: \$732.00 \* Stole Offering \$122.00  
 Coffee Collection:\$30.00 \* Candles: \$0.00  
 Flowers \$0.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
 Building Fund: \$55.00 \* Other: \$1,750.00  
 Online Giving: \$1,612.01  
**Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00**

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

**On the dangers of private interpretation...** It is natural and necessary to interpret what we read. But do not presume that your own understanding of the Bible will always be consistent with its authentic, God-given meaning.

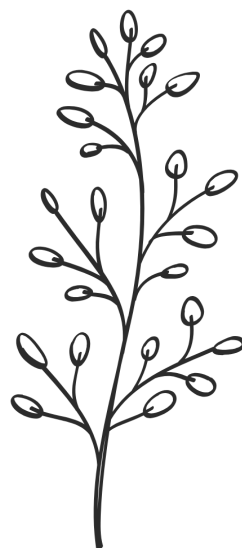
**From Holy Scripture...** First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God...And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. (2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:15-16)

**In God's presence, consider...** Do I read the Bible? Do I seek as best I can to understand its meaning? Am I respectful of the fact that Christ promised the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the Magisterium of the Church to assist it in authentically interpreting the Bible? Do I listen to the Church?

**Closing prayer...**Protect me, Lord, from the danger of "twisting" the meaning of Scripture by imposing my own assumptions and expectations upon it. Give me a humble heart to willingly be attentive to the authentic interpretation of the Bible that is delivered to me in the Church.

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

The Great Fast is almost here...  
 Do you have a plan?!



### *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.

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](mailto:JABYAD@GMAIL.COM)  
\$3/PERSON



# 5X MATCH

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



Church Expansion

## Women at the Well

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

Contact Kh. Jocelyn for details!  
[jabyad@gmail.com](mailto:jabyad@gmail.com)  
or text 480-234-9974



# 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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