

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 | marionmrimmer@mail.com

Kh. Simone Boutros | simone@Typicon.com

Kh. Jocelyn Abyad | jabyad@gmail.com

MARCH 2, 2025
SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE



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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Joelle Khouzam on her Birthday by Arlette Khouzam

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

For the Health & Salvation of Fadia Loegering

For the Repose of the Soul of Hind Fakhoury by Enas Dababneh

For the Repose of the Soul of Yaqoub Fakhoury by Enas Dababneh

For the Repose of the Soul of Fr. John Meno by Fr. Peter and Kh. Simone

For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Dakhel Ishak by Majdi Almasri & Abir Ishak

For the Repose of the Soul of Yaqoub Fakhoury and Hind Fakhoury by Rana Fakhoury

For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Dakhel Ishak by Wael & Fadia Ishak

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: ROMANS 13:11-14; 14:1-4

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:14-21

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



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday, March 3

The Great Fast begins

Tuesday, March 4

10:30am Crafty Ladies

Wednesday, March 5

7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 7

9:00am Byzikids Homeschool Co Op

7:00pm Akathist Hymns

Sunday, March 9

10:20am Divine Liturgy followed by Men's Group

Commemorating: Fadia Loegering, +Fr. John Meno, +Mary Nawaf Dakhel Ishak (Memorial)

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: April 13, 2025 Following Liturgy
Family Catechesis: April 6, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Forerunner Program: March 30, 2025 @12:30 pm
Byzikids & ByziTeens: April 4, 2025 @ 9:00 am
Women at the Well: March 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Crafty Ladies: April 1, 2025 @ 10:30 am
Faith Foundations: May 10, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 77
Collection of February 23, 2025
Tithe: \$1,250.00 * Stole Offering \$20.00
Coffee Collection:\$10.00 * Candles: \$250.00
Flowers \$0.00 * Bulletin Ad: \$0.00
Building Fund: \$0.00 * Other: \$0.00
Online Giving: \$1,092.35
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, Mary McGehee, Penny Koppel, Maddie Carey, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Fadia Loegering, 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)

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

God speaks to you through the Gospel... Jesus communicates his truth to us through those in the Church who have been commissioned to preach and teach.

From Holy Scripture... Because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" (Romans 10:9-15)

In God's presence, consider... Even if I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, have I really accepted him fully as the Lord of my life? Do I call upon him for salvation? Do I teach and encourage my friends and family to do so as well?

Closing prayer... Lord Jesus, I confess with my lips that you are my Lord and Savior! I believe that you will bestow your riches of grace on me. Help me to do your will, empowered by your grace, as listen attentively to those whom you have sent to preach the gospel.

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

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."

March 3, 2025: The Great Fast Begins

For more details about the Lenten season, visit: <https://melkite.org/faith/faith-worship/holy-week-traditions>



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)
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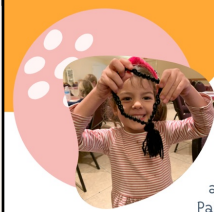


5X MATCH

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



Church Expansion



Byzikids offers support to homeschoolers of all ages and stages! Infant to Teens are all welcome to join us! The Parents receive support as well!

1st Friday of Every Month
9:00am to 11:30am
Contact Kh. Jocelyn to join
jabyad@gmail.com



Crafty Ladies

Meets the first
Tuesday of every
month at 10:30am
for knitting & lunch

EMAIL KH. SIMONE IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN!
[SIMONE@TYPICON.COM](mailto:simone@typicon.com)

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.



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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