

# 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

JANUARY 5, 2025  
SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY  
FOR FAMILY CATECHESIS & FORERUNNER

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Armand Joseph Caron by Ann Marie Roubachewsky  
For the Health & Salvation of Salem Qardahji by Mary and Lawrence Qardahji  
For the Health & Salvation of Kari Swope by Arlette Khouzam  
For the Repose of the Soul of Mousa Alebrahim by Rasha & Rabeh Awad  
For the Repose of the Soul of Ghassan S. Ishak by Rima 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: 2 TIMOTHY 4:5-8

GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

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



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Monday, January 6** 7:00pm **Theophany Divine Liturgy** followed by the Blessing of Water and Cookies and Cocoa Social  
**Saturday, January 11** 5:00pm **Faith Foundations**- Vespers, Potluck and Bible Study  
**Sunday, January 12** 10:20am **Divine Liturgy** followed by Men's Group

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*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!

We are excited to announce that we will be expanding our church building! 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: January 19, 2025 Following Liturgy  
 Men's Group: February 9, 2025 Following Liturgy  
 Family Catechesis: February 2, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
 Forerunner Program: January 26, 2025 @12:30 pm  
 Byzikids & Byziteens: February 7, 2025 @ 9:00 am  
 Women at the Well: January 17, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
 Crafty Ladies: February 5, 2025 @ 10:30 am  
 Faith Foundations: February 8, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 69  
 Collection of December 29, 2024  
 Tithe: \$832.00 \* Stole Offering \$10.00  
 Coffee Collection:\$30.00 \* Candles: \$430.00  
 Flowers \$0.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
 Building Fund: \$0.00 \* Other: \$70.00  
 Online Giving: \$578.48  
**Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00**

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

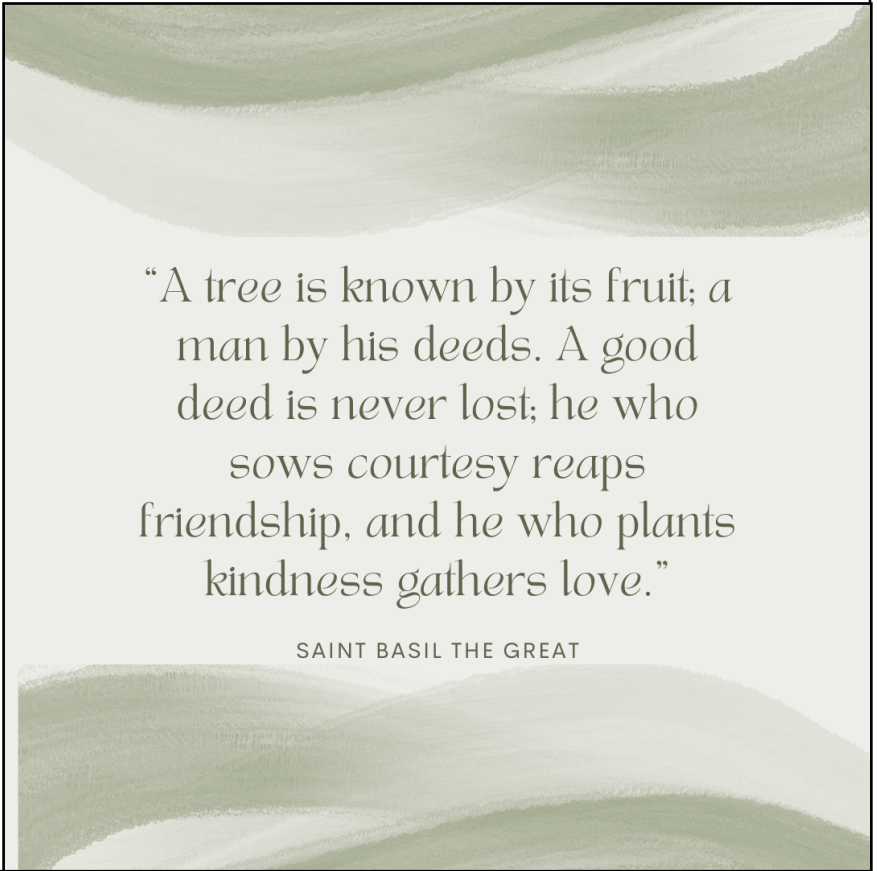
**The Lord chooses the "foolish" to confound the "wise"...** If there is one thing God really does not like, it is when human beings boast about their "wisdom" and "knowledge."

**From Holy Scripture...** For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

**In God's presence, consider...** Am I wise in my own eyes? Am I conceited? Do I secretly disdain and disfavor those around me who seem less knowledgeable or less sophisticated than I?

**Closing prayer...** My God! How often I fall into the trap of egoism and pride. Help me to become, as Blessed John Henry Newman said, as ordinary an individual as others; my weapons should be but unaffected humility and unpretending love.

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



*"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."*

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT



TITHE HERE



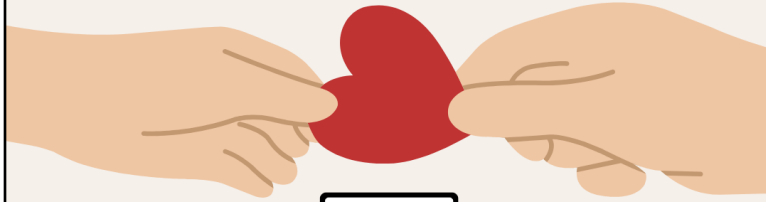
time, talent & treasure



VOLUNTEER

# 5X MATCH

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



Church Expansion

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR Theophany Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water



MONDAY

6

JANUARY

AT 7 PM



### Cookies & COCOA



Ladies' Guild will provide  
treats following the prayers!

## Faith Foundations

Vespers, Potluck & Bible Study  
2nd Saturday of each month  
5pm to 8pm

# House Blessings

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.

Calendars are available now in the  
narthex- one per family please.

AVAILABLE  
AVAILABLE  
AVAILABLE  
**AVAILABLE**



## 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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