

St. John Of the Desert

Melkite Catholic Church
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Rev. Peter Boutros - Pastor
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Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Zyad Abyad (Chairperson) - Zyad@stjohnofthedesert.com
Paul Davis (VC), Kh. Simone (Sec.)

There will be a preliminary meeting of the ladies of the parish on Sunday, January 8, 2012 after the Divine Liturgy in the hall, to see if there is an interest in forming a Ladies Guild Group. If you are an active parishioner who comes to pray with us on a regular basis, please come to this meeting to show your interest. So, mark your calendar for the date and time.

Under the direction of Jocelyn Abyad, the Children Religious Education students performed a live nativity play in church on Christmas Eve, before the Divine Liturgy. With the help of the teachers and some of the parents, the children excelled in the performance. It was truly a pleasure to see how they had learned their lines in a relatively short time and delivered them so easily. We can hardly wait to see the video. May God bless you all for a wonderful endeavor and a powerful testimony for the Nativity of our Lord.

There is a sign-up poster in the hall for different maintenance jobs that need to be done around the church. Unfortunately, very few of you signed-up and offered to help. We will have "Work Days" and you will be notified if you marked your name. Soon we will have a work day to remove the Christmas Decoration around the church and hall. I urge you to be involved in your church with a spirit of stewardship for the talents that God gave us. If you can help in any way, please sign your name on the poster in the hall today. Thank you.

HOUSE BLESSING

It is our tradition, that we bless our homes after the Theophany of our Lord. This year Father Peter will bless homes during the period of January 9 to February 1, 2012. Please, please, please do not combine the blessing with food. Fr. Peter DOES NOT EAT! Just prepare a candle, icons and assemble your family for about an hour.

SPONSORS FOR BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Church law requires that all sponsors for baptisms must be practicing (Catholic/Orthodox) Christians, and if married, validly married in the Church, inasmuch as they are guarantying that the person they are sponsoring will be brought up and/or live out their faith in the Catholic religion to which they already belong and practice. Protestant Christians may serve as witnesses, provided that at least one sponsor is Catholic.

Please bring food and other necessities so that they can be given to the needy through the St Vincent de Paul Society. Please bring Peanut butter, Soups, Jelly, breakfast cereals (not the ones with lots of sugar, please), Canned meats and vegetables, disposable diapers & detergent, etc. Put your donations under the table in the Narthex.

Many parents do not register their children in our Melkite Eastern Christian Formation. Do you want our tradition to die out with your generation? Just sending your children to Roman (Latin) Catholic schools is not sufficient. Read about this subject at:

www.StJohnOfTheDesert.com

Tell Father if you agree.

Do not forget the hungry! (Collection Basket at the door)

JANUARY 1, 2012

CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD – ST. BASIL THE GREAT

LK 2:20-21 & 40-52

COL 2: 8-12

TONE 4

St. John of the Desert Calendar

Thursday, January 5, 2012 7:00 pm Vespers/Divine Liturgy - Theophany of our Lord
Followed by the Blessing of Water - Bring your bottle
(+) Ghattas, Miriam, Iskandar, Michael, Khalil & Sami Gharib, (+) All the Dead in the Gharib and Sayegh Family, (+) Gloria Herro,
Refga Sayegh & Family, Munira Gharib & Family, Enaam Hweimel & Family, Rev. George Gallaro
Sunday, January 8, 2012 10:20 am Doxology
10:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Social Hour
Rev. George Gallaro, (+) Nellie O'Connor, (+) Gloria Herro, (+) Shirley Brown, (+) Jubrail Naber

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of Rev. George Gallaro
- For the Health and Salvation of Mk. Basil Isaaks
- For the Health and Salvation of Paul & Shirley Davis on the occasion of their 46th. Anniversary
- For the Health and Salvation of Samira Horan by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Health and Salvation of Sue Bieber by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Health and Salvation of Bo Bolinaga by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Health and Salvation of Nadia Demian and Ray Weirick by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Ebrahim Al-Masri by Wael & Fadia Ishak
- For the Repose of the Soul of Sae'd, Wardeh, Fadi, Nasri, Martha, Nawaf and Hayat Ishak and Joseph Joseph by Wael & Fadia Ishak
- For the Repose of the Soul of Gloria Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Nellie O'Connor by Paul & Shirley Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Georges & Tina Saada by Kh. Simone
- For a Special Intention

Flowers' Intentions:

(+) Maroun Khattar John & Reina Haddad
(+) Maroun Rachid John & Reina Haddad

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eric Rimmer, Mary Kostisak, Andre and Osama Eid, Lynn Hume, Linda Herro, Kafa Dababneh, Camille Holt, Refga Sayegh, Bo Bolinaga, Pauline Hamra, Sue Bieber, Ray Weirick, Bill Estes, Samira Horan and Nadia Demian.

Fast and Abstinence until Noon on Thursday, January 5, 2012

The past is gone! Today is the beginning of a New Year. If you are like me, you probably wonder what new opportunities will present themselves to you, what new challenges the Lord is going to send your way, or what new graces He is going to accord you. I had many plans in the past and I am convinced, at last, that these plans go up in smoke and His plan prevails. I finally understood that the Lord will make a green pasture for me if I trust in Him and follow His plan. He shows us the way if we just look at Him. As Bishop Nicholas reminded us "God is with us" and He will guide our every step by His presence. I urge all of you today, to make your New Year's resolution to be more attentive to the direction of the Lord for your life.

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: Gifts to the Appeal will continue to be received and credited to your parish until 31 January 2012 for anyone who makes an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation. Your gift means so much to so many! Our Father and Shepherd Bishop Nicholas thanks you for your generous support and asks God's abundant blessings upon you and all your family in the New Year.