

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.

I would like to thank all the parishioners who donated money to pay the exterminator to get rid of the termites; times are difficult and with the Christmas Season upon us, I know you made a sacrifice and it is truly appreciated. May God bless you and give you back a hundred fold. By the same token I would also like to thank those who baked cookies and sold them and brought \$205 for the church.

A great big thank you goes to the crew that came early on Friday morning to paint and do odd jobs needed around the church. One of the big jobs they did was to paint the main gate and grease its wheels; have you noticed how beautiful it is? Thank you all and God bless your handy work.

Kh. Simone and I would like to thank all those who sent us Christmas cards and those who gave us Christmas gifts. We are grateful for your generosity and good wishes. God bless you.

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.

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)

DECEMBER 25, 2011 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

MT 2:1-12

GAL 4:4-7

TONE 3

St. John of the Desert Calendar

Sunday, January 1, 2012	10:50 am 11:00 am	Doxology Circumcision of the Lord – St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy (+) Nellie O'Connor, (+) Gloria Herro, (+) Georges & Tina Saada
Thursday, January 5, 2012	7:00 pm	Vespers/Divine Liturgy - Theophany of our Lord Followed by the Blessing of Water - Bring your bottle

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of Refga Sayegh & Family by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of Munira Gharib & Family by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of Paul & Shirley Davis & Family by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of Fr. Peter & Kh. Simone by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of Sue & David Bieber & Family by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of Zyad & Jocelyn Abyad & Family by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of John & Evelyn Davis by Munira Gharib
- For the Health and Salvation of Nadia Demian and Ray weirick by Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Sue Bieber by David Bieber
- 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 a Special Intention

Flowers' Intentions:

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| (+) Al & Evelyn Thomas by Farouk & Mary Habra | (+) Nellie O'Connor by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Antoine & Paule Habra by Farouk & Mary Habra | (+) Peter & Nabihah Davis by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Andre Habra by Farouk & Mary Habra | (+) Rosemary Petersen by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) James Saunders by Farouk & Mary Habra | (+) George Petersen by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Amy Saunders by Farouk & Mary Habra | (+) Bill Gedeon by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Joseph Lutfy by Joseph and Gerard Lutfy | (+) Evelyn Ajamie by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Alyce Lutfy by Joseph and Gerard Lutfy | (+) Madelyn Balady by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Ellen Lawrence by Maryann Weirick | (+) Zelma Malouf by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Emile Eid by Joe and Amal Abyad | (+) Selma Maher by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Renee Abyad by Joe and Amal Abyad | (+) Gloria Herro by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Nick, Victoria & Kenneth Baiad by Paul & Shirley Davis | (+) Virginia Tannous by Paul & Shirley Davis |
| (+) Mary Baiad, Adele Malkoon by Paul & Shirley Davis | |

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 and Nadia Demian.

There will be No Fast and Abstinence until Thursday, January 5, 2012

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL: Give thanks to God for the Divine Gift of His Son and for all the blessings you received in 2011 by giving a generous gift to our Melkite Eparchy in America. The annual Bishop's Appeal officially ends in all the parishes of our Eparchy on 31 December 2011. However, 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.