



St. John Of the Desert
 Melkite Catholic Church
 3718 E. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85032
 Phone: (602) 787-4787 Fax: (602) 795-4752
 Emergency: (602) 284-0040
WWW.StJohnOfTheDesert.com

Rev. Peter Boutros - Pastor
 FrPeter@StJohnOfTheDesert.com
 Rev. Deacon Marion Rimmer (480)-275-4143
 DcnMarion@StJohnOfTheDesert.com

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
 Ziad Abyad (Chairperson) - Ziad@stjohnofthedesert.com
 Paul Davis (VC), Kh. Simone (Sec.)

Our Ego and Our Spiritual Health By Rev. Fred Saato (Modified)

A great way to deal with our ego is to ask forgiveness of others before we presume to begin the Fast. Even if I'm not conscious of having offended you, I want to clear up any thing I may have done, even in ignorance.

Some people feel that they really haven't done anything that needs to be forgiven (that ego again). After all, no one is mad at me. Father Alexander Schmemmann often pointed out that forgiveness is so important precisely because it makes us acknowledge – be it only for one minute – that our entire relationship to others is inadequate. As Adam and Eve hid from God in the Garden, so we hide from one another, routinely erecting a wall around ourselves, avoiding any real concern for other people. We make sure that we are polite and “friendly” to others, while we are actually indifferent to them, unconcerned with their real needs.

Another secret way by which we offend others is by judging them in our hearts. In words that seem particularly modern, St Macarios the Great writes, “Christians ought not to pass judgment of any kind on anyone, not on the prostitute nor on sinners nor on disorderly persons. But they should look on all persons with a single mind and a pure eye so that it may be for such a person almost a natural and fixed attitude never to despise or judge or abhor anyone or to divide people and place them into boxes” (Homilies 5.8). We know that, as we look around the church, we constantly pigeonhole people. “She’s always talking about her ailments... he’s always bragging about his latest acquisition.” We need to confess our judgmental attitudes to acquire the “pure eye” of the true Christian. So it does not matter whether we have publicly failed that person directly when asking for forgiveness, because whenever we fail to follow the Gospel, we become less than we can be and inevitably affect each other. This is why we need to ask forgiveness of all people today, right now.

It is easier to observe the Church's fasting rules, attend its additional services, and contribute to its charitable programs in a formal way without struggling against our ego. To do so empties our Fast of any worthwhile result as the following hymn from the Triodion indicates: In vain do you rejoice in not eating, O my soul! For you abstain from food, but from passions you are not purified. If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast.

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 in the Narthex.

Please, join our daily three-minutes prayer group, asking our Lord to help us cure cancer and comfort those who are suffering from cancer.

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 All Ladies of our Parish are invited to the Ladies Guild's meeting, after the Divine Liturgy

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

**FEBRUARY 19, 2012**  
**CHEESEFARE SUNDAY**

**MT 6:14-21**

**ROM 13:11-14:4**

**TONE 3**

**St. John of the Desert Calendar**

|                        |          |                                                                    |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, February 22 | 7:00 PM  | Presanctified Liturgy                                              |
| Friday, February 24    | 7:00 PM  | First Acathist Hymn                                                |
| Sunday, February 26    | 9:00 am  | Children Education                                                 |
|                        | 10:20 am | Doxology                                                           |
|                        | 10:30 am | Divine Liturgy followed by Social Hour                             |
|                        |          | (+) Alfred Sabbagh, (+) Gloria Herro, Mike Kunisch, Roman Obrycki, |
| Wednesday, February 29 | 7:00 PM  | Presanctified Liturgy                                              |
| Friday, March 2        | 7:00 PM  | Second Acathist Hymn                                               |
| Wednesday, March 7     | 7:00 PM  | Presanctified Liturgy                                              |
| Friday, March 9        | 7:00 PM  | Third Acathist Hymn                                                |
| Wednesday, March 14    | 7:00 PM  | Presanctified Liturgy                                              |
| Friday, March 16       | 7:00 PM  | Fourth Acathist Hymn                                               |
| Wednesday, March 21    | 7:00 PM  | Presanctified Liturgy                                              |
| Friday, March 23       | 7:00 PM  | Last Acathist Hymn                                                 |
| Wednesday, March 28    | 7:00 PM  | Presanctified Liturgy                                              |
| Friday, March 30       | 7:00 PM  | Compline                                                           |
| Saturday, March 31     | 1:00 PM  | Parish Retreat (Ends with Vespers)                                 |
| Monday, April 2        | 7:00 PM  | BrideGroom Service                                                 |
| Tuesday, April 3       | 7:00 PM  | Great Compline                                                     |
| Wednesday, April 4     | 7:00 PM  | Repentance & Holy Oil                                              |
| Thursday, April 5      | 7:00 PM  | Crucifixion of our Lord                                            |
| Friday, April 6        | 12:00 PM | Vespers/Descent of the Cross and Parish Soup                       |
|                        | 1:00 PM  | Spend an hour with Christ in Silence                               |
|                        | 7:00 PM  | Office of the Burial of Christ                                     |
| Saturday, April 7      | 11:00 AM | Blessing of the New Light                                          |
|                        |          | Liturgy of the Triumph over death                                  |
|                        | 8:00 PM  | Hajmeh/Resurrection Divine Liturgy and Social                      |
| Sunday, April 8        | 10:30 AM | Resurrection Divine Liturgy                                        |

**Today's Intentions:**

- For the Health and Salvation of Joseph Eid by Kh. Simone
- For the Health and Salvation of Mike Kunisch by Dave & Sue Bieber
- For the Health and Salvation of Roman Obrycki by Dave & Sue Bieber
- For the Health and Salvation of Rima Ishak by Kh. Simone
- For the Repose of the Soul of Dunya Lynne Aziza by Sondos Kassier
- For the Repose of the Soul of Gloria Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Ebrahim Al-Masri by Wael & Fadia Ishak and the Children
- For the Repose of the Soul of Sister Esther by Mary & Marti Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of Alfred Sabbagh by Kh. Simone
- For a Special Intention

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

**You can schedule Divine Liturgies, read our Bulletin, make donations, read our Parish Guidelines for Membership, or follow our Children Education Blog; all from our Web Site, [www.Stjohnofthedesert.com](http://www.Stjohnofthedesert.com).**