

# St. John of the Desert Melkite Catholic Church

3718 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85032

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Text the word "DESERT" to 84576 to sign up for Parish Updates

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**Very Rev. Father Peter Boutros** | Pastor | FrPeter@stjohnofthedesert.com

**Rev. Father Zyad Abyad** | Associate Pastor | FrZyad@stjohnofthedesert.com

**Rev. Deacon Marion Rimmer** | marionmrimmer@mail.com

**Kh. Simone Boutros** | khsimone@stjohnofthedesert.com

**Kh. Jocelyn Abyad** | khjocelyn@stjohnofthedesert.com

AUGUST 17, 2025  
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY  
FOR SOCIAL HOUR & LADIES GUILD

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health and Salvation of Alex Kardouh on his birthday by Youssef Kardouh

For the Health and Salvation of Raphael Moses Bonaventure McClelland on the occasion of his baptism

For the Repose of the Soul of Khalil Haker by Bassam & Jumana Ishak

For the Repose of the Soul of Ursula Smith (Memorial) by Davis Family

For the Repose of the Soul of Gabriel & Fahada Ziadat by Majed & Ragheda Ziadeh

For the Repose of the Soul of Ursula Smith by Paul & Shirley Davis

For the Repose of the Soul of Kamal Ishak, Najeb Alhouch by Rima & George Alhouch

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

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Sunday, August 24**

**10:20am Divine Liturgy** followed by Social Hour

Commemorating: Fr. Robert McTeigue SJ, +Ghassan Ishak, +Gabriel & Fahada Ziadat,  
+Ursula Smith, +Kamal ishak, +Najeb Alhouch

Readings  
of the Day

EPISTLE: FIRST CORINTHIANS 4:9-16

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:14-23

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



## PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially: Fadia Loegering, Katharina Rimmer, Dcn. Marion Rimmer, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Paul Davis, Leia Dingott, Betsy McClelland, Sarah Fisher, Grace Lasota, Izeyah Sayegh, Fr. Peter Boutros, Kh. Simone Boutros, Zaina Escobedo, Dennis Huling & Joan Daly

*In giving birth you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: September 21, 2025 Following Liturgy  
 Men's Group: September 14, 2025 Following Liturgy  
 Family Catechesis: September 7, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
 Forerunner Program: August 31, 2025 @12:30 pm  
 Byzikids & ByziTeens: September 12, 2025 @ 9:00 am  
 Women at the Well: September 19, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
 Crafty Ladies: September 2, 2025 @ 10:30 am

Attendance: 116  
 Collection of August 10, 2025  
 Tithe: \$1150.00 \* Stole Offering \$355.00  
 Coffee Collection: \$70.00 \* Candles: \$0.00  
 Flowers \$0.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
 Building Fund: \$0.00 \* Other: \$5.00  
 Online Giving: \$1,727.10

**Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00**

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

**The Lord is very close to you...** Take courage. Do not be afraid. Remember that because God loves you he has drawn near to you and desires that, empowered by his grace, you should draw near to him.

**From Holy Scripture...** O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou dost beset me behind and before, and layest thy hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.  
 (Psalm 139:1-11)

**In God's presence, consider...** Without a doubt, even the lowliest things and circumstances in this life can be channels of God's grace and reminders of his loving presence. Do I reverence and show gratitude for all the little ways in which he reveals his love for me?

**Closing prayer...** Lord, open my eyes to see how near to me you are, even in the little things of in my life, things I so easily overlook as insignificant. Teach me to recognize and be attentive to your loving providence in every good thing I encounter, large and small, visible and invisible.

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

# TITHE

*Here*

SCAN BELOW OR LEAVE  
 YOUR DONATION IN THE  
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# 5X MATCH

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





# FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Join us for an essential First Aid & CPR Training session



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT  
1:00PM TO 5:00PM

## TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cost is \$45 per person
- Space is limited, you must register to attend
- Ages 12 and up may be certified

**SAVE THE DATE** REGISTRATION DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SOON!



## SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Retreat for Women

10 AM TO 5 PM

10-11-25

Details to follow!



HOLY MYSTERY OF  
CONFESSION FOLLOWED BY

*Great Vespers*

SECOND & THIRD SATURDAYS  
OF EVERY MONTH

CONFESSIONS BEGIN AT 4PM  
VESPERS TO FOLLOW AT 5PM



September is the beginning of the new Liturgical year. There are Twelve Great Feasts in the Byzantine Liturgical Calendar. In addition to these Twelve Great Feasts, all Christians also celebrate the feast of feasts, Holy Pascha.

This is the perfect time to mark your calendar and plan ahead for our most important Feast Days and put Christ at the center of your calendar.

Sept. 8, 2025	Nativity of the Theotokos
Sept. 14, 2025	Exaltation of the Cross
Nov. 21, 2025	Presentation of the Theotokos
Dec. 25, 2025	Nativity of Christ
Jan. 6, 2026	Theophany
Feb. 2, 2026	Presentation in the Temple
March 25, 2026	Annunciation
March 29, 2026	Palm Sunday
April 5, 2026	Pascha
May 14, 2026	Ascension
May 24, 2026	Pentecost
August 6, 2026	Transfiguration
August 15, 2026	Dormition of the Theotokos

## SOCIAL HOUR MEAL SIGN UP



We have a paper on the coffee table in Davis Hall to sign up to bring food for our social hour after Divine Liturgy every week. Please consider signing up to bring a meal in the coming weeks! We need your help supporting this important time of connection & conversation. If you have questions or need ideas, please reach out to Kh. Simone or Kh. Jocelyn. Collaboration with another family is encouraged- no need to do it alone!

## 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 & ByziTeens 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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