

# 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@Typicon.com

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

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

**Kh. Simone Boutros** | simone@Typicon.com

**Kh. Jocelyn Abyad** | jabyad@gmail.com

## Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!



On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

*Luke 12:1-6*

**MAY 4, 2025**  
**SUNDAY OF OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN**



**PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY**  
**FOR SOCIAL HOUR & FAMILY CATECHESIS**

### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Saturday, May 10**

**4:00pm Confessions**

**5:00pm Vespers**

**Sunday, May 11**

**10:20am Divine Liturgy** followed by Social Hour & Men's Group

Commemorating: Private intentions, +Henne & Maysoon, +John Litschauer

**Readings  
of the Day**

**EPISTLE: ACTS 6:1-7**

**GOSPEL: MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8**

**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: Katharina Rimmer, Dcn. Marion Rimmer, Fadia Loegering, Kathy Slonka, Kh. Simone Boutros, Khalil Haker, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Paul Davis, Maddie Carey, Wendell & Mary McGehee, Nadia Hattar, The Luke Family, Leia Dingott, Betsy McClelland, Sarah Fisher & Grace Lasota

*(Names remain on the prayer list for six weeks, please call the parish office to add any names)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: May 18, 2025 Following Liturgy  
Men's Group: June 8, 2025 Following Liturgy  
Family Catechesis: June 1, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
Forerunner Program: May 25, 2025 @12:30 pm  
Byzikids & ByziTeens: Aug. 1, 2025 @ 9:00 am  
Women at the Well: May 16, 2025 @ 9:30 am  
Crafty Ladies: June 3, 2025 @ 10:30 am

Attendance: 108  
Collection of April 27, 2025  
Tithe: \$882.00 \* Stole Offering \$0.00  
Coffee Collection: \$25.00 \* Candles: \$580.00  
Flowers \$0.00 \* Bulletin Ad: \$0.00  
Building Fund: \$0.00 \* Other: \$40.00  
Online Giving: \$992.34

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

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Jim Ferlmann on the occasion of his birthday by Roxanne and James Ferlmann

For the Health & Salvation of Florence Joy Marco on the occasion of her baptism

For the Health & Salvation of Kellen Thomas

For the Health & Salvation of Tabitha Dingott

Private intentions by Nadia Hattar

For the Repose of the Soul of Henne & Maysoon by Majed & Ragheda Ziadeh

For the Repose of the Soul of Irene Virginia McCarthy

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.

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

**Courage and Faith of the Ointment-Bearing Women...** Today, we commemorate the Ointment-Bearing Women, who, driven by profound love and courage, approached the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body. In the dim light of dawn, their devotion led them to the astonishing truth of His resurrection. Their faithfulness echoes the apostles' service, where the early Church responded to the needs of the community with wisdom and dedication. These examples call us to trust in God's transformative power and to serve His people with selfless devotion, even in the face of doubt or difficulty.

**From Holy Scripture...** "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here." (Mark 16:6)

**In God's presence, consider...** Do I approach life's challenges with the courage and love exemplified by the Ointment-Bearing Women? How can I serve others faithfully, trusting in the risen Lord to guide my actions? When confronted with the mystery of the resurrection, do I allow my heart to embrace the joy and hope of Christ's victory over death? In what ways can I bear witness to His resurrection in my daily life?

**Closing prayer...** O Lord, You revealed Your glory to the faithful women at the tomb, transforming their sorrow into joy. Grant us their courage, love, and steadfast faith that we may serve You with unwavering commitment. Strengthen us to proclaim Your resurrection with boldness and gratitude, crying out, "The Lord, our life, is risen!"



*Offer a Divine Liturgy  
for a friend or family member!*



1. Visit [www.stjohnofthedesert.com](http://www.stjohnofthedesert.com)
2. Select "Request a Divine Liturgy Intention"
3. Complete the form and submit your stipend!
4. We will send a personalized card letting them know that we're praying for them!



## Calling all Artists!

"St. Barbara's Tower" in Davis Hall is in need of help! We are looking for volunteers who can help paint the walls in a stone mural fashion. Please email Kh. Jocelyn if you are interested in helping out! [jabyad@gmail.com](mailto:jabyad@gmail.com)



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We are expanding our church building! Please help support the construction and be part of creating a beautiful home for our families for years to come!

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Church Expansion





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

## Baby Shower

IN HONOR OF THE

*Theotokos*

**Sunday, May 18th during Social Hour**

BRING IN NEW ITEMS FOR ANY BABY OR EXPECTING MOTHER AS A GIFT TO MOTHER MARY. SUGGESTED ITEMS INCLUDE MATERNITY CLOTHES, DIAPERS, WIPES, BOTTLES, FORMULA AND BABY CLOTHES.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT  
AID TO WOMEN PREGNANCY CENTER

## DIVINE LITURGY

for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 29 at 7:00pm

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through Your blessing they were confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.



## PENTECOST

Sunday June 28, 2025

Wear green to the  
Divine Liturgy to celebrate!

## FLOCKNOTE

Keep updated  
on the latest  
parish news  
& events



Scan to register & join groups

## ST. JOHN CAR MAGNETS

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

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## 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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