

St. John of the Desert Melkite Catholic Church

3718 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85032
Office Phone: 602-787-4787 | Emergency Calls: 602-284-0040 or 623-297-2958
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 | marionmrimmer@mail.com

Kh. Simone Boutros | simone@Typicon.com

Kh. Jocelyn Abyad | jabyad@gmail.com

Christ is Risen!



APRIL 7, 2024
SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS



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

LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Gunnar Shindledecker by Fr. Zyad and Kh. Jocelyn Abyad

For the Health & Salvation of Grace, Maddie & Theia Abyad on the occasion of their birthdays by Fr. Zyad and Kh. Jocelyn Abyad

For the Health & Salvation of Ghassab Marji by Myasser Marji

For the Health & Salvation of Pat Cummings by the Abyad Family

For the Repose of the Soul of Michael Thomas Richard by Fr. Peter and Kh. Simone Boutros

To request a Divine Liturgy intention, go to our website: www.stjohnofthedesert.com

Requests must be submitted by Thursday to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Readings
of the Day

EPISTLE: ACTS 5:12-20

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

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



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Friday, April 12

9:00am Byzikids Homeschool Co Op (rescheduled from 4/5)

Saturday, April 13

5:00pm Faith Foundations- Vespers, Potluck & Bible Study

Sunday, April 14

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

Commemorating: +Jalal Innabi

Monday, April 15

9:00am Viewing of Joyce Rimmer, wife of Deacon Marion, followed by Funeral Service & interment at Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

12:30pm Mercy Meal offered by the Ladies Guild at the Davis Hall pm

PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially: Jacques Rainis, Monk Basil, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Nina Batio, Mary Popovich, Maureen Doyle, Patricia Cummings & Fr. Peter. Names remain on the prayer list for six weeks, please call the parish office to add any names.

UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: April 21, 2024 Following Liturgy
Men's Group: May 12, 2024 Following Liturgy
Family Catechesis: May 5, 2024 @ 9:30 am
Forerunner Program: April 28, 2024 @12:30 pm
Byzikids Co-Op: May 3, 2024 @ 9:00 am
Women at the Well: April 19, 2024 @ 9:30 am
Crafty Ladies: May 1, 2024 @ 10:30 am
Faith Foundations: May 11, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 134
Collection of March 31, 2024
Tithe: \$1,620.00 * Stole Offering \$0.00
Coffee Collection:\$100.00 * Candles: \$725.00
Flowers \$30.00 * Bulletin Ad: \$0.00
Building Fund: \$20.00 * Other: \$40.00
Online Giving: \$931.22
Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Behold the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin... The human race contracted the deadly malaria of sin, not through the bite of a mosquito, but through the bite of an apple.

From Holy Scripture... "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 14-19)

In God's presence, consider... Sin and death entered the world because of Adam's sin. But out of love for me, in the fullness of time, the Father sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to liberate me from sin and death by his death on the Cross.

Closing Prayer... Lord, through the intercession of your mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the "woman" who brought you forth to crush the head of the serpent, I ask for pardon for my sins, peace of soul, and a holy willingness to patiently endure the effects of my sins until all is made new in heaven.

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



Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Online Giving Available



Women at the Well invites you to our

New Book Study

Catholic Mom Calm

by Sterling Jaquith

Let's find Catholic Mom Calm together!
Join us to share meaningful conversations and prayers,
embracing the joys and struggles of life as Catholic women.

Beginning April 19, 2024, we will meet the 3rd Friday
of every month from 9:30am to 11:00am.
Email Kh. Jocelyn at jabyad@gmail.com
or text 480-234-9974 for complete details!



APRIL 20, 2024

**CHILDREN 5 AND UP & ADULTS OF ALL ABILITIES
GO TO [FMSC.ORG](https://www.fmsc.org) AND USE OUR GROUP CODE
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Join us for a day of service at Feed My Starving Children.

ST. JOHN CAR MAGNETS

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

FREE! See Kh. Jocelyn to receive yours today!

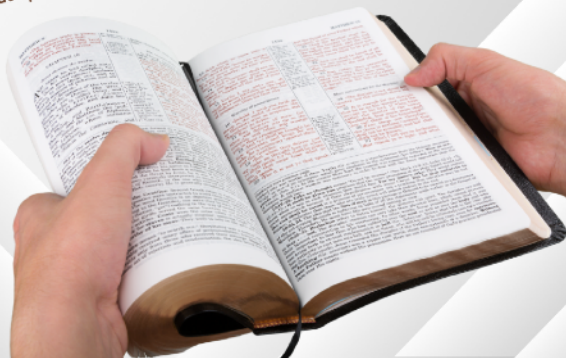


SECOND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH FAITH FOUNDATIONS ALL ARE WELCOME- BRING A FRIEND!

ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT
3718 E. Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ

Begins at 5pm

- VESPERS
- POTLUCK DINNER
- BIBLE STUDY



FAMILY CATECHESIS

learning our faith is a lifelong journey

We meet the first Sunday of every month

The entire family receives opportunities
to learn our Melkite faith more deeply.

9:30am Confession is offered for all

After Divine Liturgy, adults meet for
discussion & faith formation

At the same time, children K-5th Grade
participate in catechetical instruction



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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