

April 18, 2021



THE IMAGE...

(Jn 12:45 & 14:9; Heb 1:3; Col 1:15)

www.stjohnofdamascus.org

Publication of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church, Poway, CA

5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—TONE 4
SUNDAY OF ST MARY OF EGYPT

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Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow Jesus Christ and manifest the Kingdom of God in the Liturgy of His Church. If this is your first time with us, give us a chance to get to know you.

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A Word from the Holy Fathers

Believe me, I have not seen a human face ever since I crossed the Jordan, except yours today. I have not seen a beast or a living being ever since I came into the desert. I never learned from books. I have never even heard anyone who sang and read from them. **But the word of God which is alive and active, by itself teaches a man knowledge.**

St. Mary of Egypt

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For sacraments, services,
instruction, home/office/hospital visits
please contact **Fr. Michael Anderson**
858-717-2172

Email powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org
Include "News at St John's" as the subject



ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS ORTHODOX CHURCH + THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST + THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Parish Life

Lazarus Saturday Breakfast

As has been the custom here at St John's for many years, we will be having a pancake breakfast following Divine Liturgy next Saturday after Divine Liturgy

It will be a simple meal (outside with the usual precautions) but a time to strengthen bonds with fellow brothers & sisters in Christ as we prepare to enter Holy Week together.



Confessions

I am scheduled to have my 2nd dose of the Covid-19 vaccine this coming Thursday (the 23rd). I was hoping to postpone this until after Pascha but that has proved to be not possible. As I don't know how I will react, I am cancelling the 2 Confession sessions on Friday. I may not have any reaction to the vaccine, however, if I do I am concerned about people come to church thinking they will be able to participate in Confession and me having to cancel last minute. As such, I will be hearing confessions at the following times...

Wednesday (4/21) after Presanctified Liturgy

- Sunday 4/24 after Bridegroom Matins
- Monday 4/25 after Bridegroom Matins
- Tuesday 4/26 after Bridegroom Matins
- Wednesday after Matins for the Lord's Mystical Supper (which begins at 6pm)
- Thursday after Divine Liturgy (which begins at 10am)

There are also times available during the day on Mon-Thurs but we will need to schedule a time. I will not be hearing confessions after Holy Thursday, unless it is an emergency and we will need to find a time that works.

Children's Fellowship Wednesdays 4:30-5:40pm

Families with playground-aged children are welcome to gather and play on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30pm before Church services.

This kind of fellowship provides our younger members the opportunity to build relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ their own age.

If you have questions, please contact Sally Menig or Annie Keeling.



Lenten Food Drive Led by Children of St John's

Please JOIN our YOUTH in spreading the LOVE of CHRIST this Lenten Season.

The Church School students are working with the San Diego Food Bank to collect donations for needy families in San Diego County.

The Food Drive will run from **April 4th to May 3rd.**

Red bins will be placed inside the door to the hall for canned/dry goods and monetary donations can be made out to St. John's with Food Drive in the memo line.

No glass containers and no homemade items, please.

Please see the flyer for more details!

May the Lord bless our children for bringing us this opportunity to follow our Lord's commands to love our neighbor!

Let's all support their efforts!

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection - Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of
Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!”

St John of Damascus —Tone 8

Teacher of Orthodoxy, piety, and purity!
Enlightener of the universe!
And divine inspiration to monastics
by your teachings we are all enlightened,
and by your spiritual music, O all-wise John of
Damascus,
pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our
souls!

St. Mary - Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in you,
O Mother,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the
flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is
immortal. //
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary,
rejoices with the angels.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection - Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the
earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

St John of Damascus — Tone 4

Let us the faithful sing praises to John,
worthy of great honor the composer of hymns.
The star and teacher of the Orthodox Faith,
the defender of its doctrine.
Through the might of the Lord's Cross he
overcame heretical error!
Now he is fervent in prayer to Christ God,
to grant forgiveness of our sins.

St. Mary - Tone 3

Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a bride of
Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the
Cross. //
Therefore O most glorious Mary, you are a
bride of the Kingdom.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians – Tone 6

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
Constant advocate before the Creator:
Do not despise the cry of us sinners,
But in your goodness, come speedily to help us
who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our petitions and to intercede
for us, O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

Today's Worship — Scriptures

Epistle — Hebrews 9: 11-14

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Epistle — Galatians 3: 23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 — O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps. 103:26)

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps. 103:1)

Tone 4 (St. Mary of Egypt) — God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)



ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — *V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (Ps. 44:3b)*

V. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. (Ps. 44:6)

Tone 1- *V. I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. (Ps. 39:1)*

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gospel — Mark 10: 32-45

³² And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; ³⁴ and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise."

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" ³⁹ And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Gospel — Luke 7: 36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and took his place at table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it, Teacher?" ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Our Life in Christ

Paschal Celebrations!

Paschal Services

While we will be having all the usual Paschal Services (Holy Sat Vespersal Liturgy, Midnight Vigil & Liturgy on Sunday, the Agape Vespers on Sunday afternoon & Bright Monday Liturgy) we have received the blessing of the Archbishop to celebrate an **ADDITIONAL** Paschal Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning to be sure to provide everyone a chance to receive Holy Communion on this most holy of days. While we can fit many people in the church for the midnight service safely following our usual protocols, we probably won't be able to fit everyone. There will be a sign-up system for you to tell us which service(s) you will be attending (Midnight or the one later that morning). Look for information about the details early this coming week.



Basket Blessings

We will bless paschal baskets this year, though we will follow appropriate safety protocols.

Baskets will be blessed at the following times....

After the Midnight Paschal Services
(no fellowship meal)

After the Sunday morning Paschal Divine Liturgy

After Paschal Vespers Agape Service

Sunday (4/18) Auxiliary Meeting & Paschal Bake Sale

Today will be a meeting of the Auxiliary after the Divine Liturgy. New members are always welcome. Come and be part of this wonderful service organization at St John's.

The Auxiliary will also be selling Paschal Basket items in time for the feast. Everything will be available to pick up starting Friday April 30 and until Pascha in the hall after services.

Phyllis B and Tanya F have the order forms for whoever is interested to return them back by Palm Sunday April 25th



Paschal BBQ & Egg Hunt

After the Paschal Agape Vespers we WILL have our lamb BBQ and Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Details to come!



Donations for Paschal Flowers

We are collecting donations for flowers for Holy Week & Pascha. Please give as you are able and include "flowers" on your check



Our Life in Christ—THE LONELINESS OF CHRIST & OUR LONELINESS

During the last days of His earthly life Jesus Christ was left alone to face those who hated Him, endure sufferings and death. He drank to the bottom the cup of suffering that was prepared for Him and underwent the most horrible thing that a person could experience: a profound loneliness and feeling of being abandoned by God.

He was alone in Gethsemane, for His disciples were fast asleep. He was alone at the court of the high priests, alone during His interrogation by Herod, alone at the tribunal of Pilate, for His disciples had fled. He was alone when He went to Golgotha, and a passer-by, and not His beloved disciple, helped Him to carry His cross. He was alone on the cross and died alone, having been abandoned by all.

While on the cross Jesus cried to His Father: “My God, My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?” (Mt. 27:46). The pain of all mankind and every person was contained in this cry, the pain of everybody who feels alone and abandoned by God.

It is painful to be abandoned by one’s friends and close ones, but there is something still more horrible – when it seems that God has left you, when an insurmountable wall has been raised between you and God and He neither hears, nor sees, nor notices you.

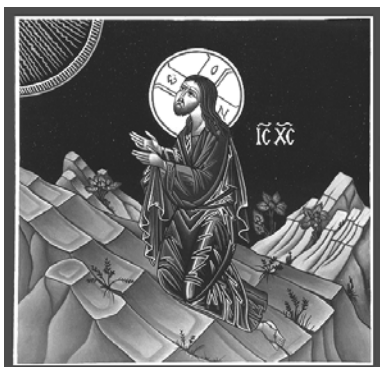
If you suffer from loneliness, remember how lonely the Saviour was during the last days of His life.

If your close ones or those under your care have turned away from you, if you have been slandered undeservedly, if people call you a heretic and destroyer of traditions, if they bear false witness against you and say that you deserve to die, remember that the Lord Himself underwent all these.

If he who lived with you under one roof, communed from the same chalice, ate your bread, he whom you trusted with all your love, with whom you shared your thoughts and feelings, from whom you hid nothing and for whom you spared nothing, if this person betrayed you, turned away from you, “raised his heel to smite you” and spat on you, remember that Jesus also underwent this.

If your cross weights upon you so heavily that you are not able to carry it, and if those close to you do not want to help you carry it, be thankful, perhaps, to the passer-by who will help you carry it for at least part of the way.

If the feeling of being totally abandoned by God has overwhelmed you and it seems that there is no God, that He has turned away from you or does not hear you, do not despair, for Christ also underwent these horrible and bitter experiences.



If people condemn you and blaspheme, smite you in the face and spit on you, nail you to the cross and give you bile instead of water, pray for them, for “they know not what they are doing”.

In fear and trembling, bowing before the holy tomb of Jesus in silence and reverence, let us thank the Lord for He was alone so that we might not be alone, He was abandoned so that we might not be abandoned, He suffered insults and mockery, slander and humiliation, suffering and death, so that in the midst of any suffering we might feel that we are not alone, that the Saviour Himself “is with us unto the end of the ages”.

by Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev



LOOKING AHEAD

*The following are services and parish events **IN ADDITION** to the usual weekend services (Sat 6pm & Sun 8:30am).*

Tuesday April 20

10:00am — Father's Café (Now on ZOOM)

Wednesday April 21

4:30-5:40 — Children's Fellowship

6:00pm — Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday April 23

CONFESSIONS CANCELLED—Call Fr Michael to Schedule

Saturday April 23—Lazarus Saturday

8:30am — Divine Liturgy & Breakfast

6:00pm — Vigil for Palm Sunday w/ Palm Blessing

Sunday April 24

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

Monday April 25

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday April 26

10:30am — Father's Virtual Café

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday April 27

6:00pm — Matins for the Institution of the Lord's Supper

For more dates please visit our website: www.stjohnofdamascus.org

Many Years!

Birthdays

Panayiota Rahal	4/11
Tanya Franchak	4/14
Marie Kopcha	4/15
Mark Griebing	4/16
Gini Callahan	4/22
Steve Brown	4/23

Wedding Anniversaries

Vladimir & Helen Korolev 4/11

Confessions are held on Saturdays after Great Vespers or by appointment with Fr Michael.

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

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Attached Clergy: V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired & Dn. George Shumaik

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS CHURCH + THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST + THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA