

July 11, 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

**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 2
ST EUPHEMIA THE ALL-PRAISED
BLESSED PRINCESS OLGA**

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Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow Jesus Christ & 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

For those who are well prepared, tribulations are like certain foods and exercises for athletes which lead the contestant on to the inheritance of glory. When we are reviled, we bless; maligned, we entreat; ill-treated, we give thanks; afflicted, we glory in our afflictions.

St. Basil the Great

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

Email powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org

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Include Something in the Bulletin

E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org



Parish Life

Travel Blessings

With Summer upon us, it is a time when many travel for vacations, family visits, etc.

If you are travelling please let Fr Michael know so you can receive a travel blessing after Divine Liturgy.



YOU ARE INVITED!
MARK & ANNA RAHAL
COLLEGE GRADUATION PARTY

Hosted by: George & Maha Rahal

Saturday, July 24 at 1:00 PM PT

St. John Of Damascus Orthodox Church

Please RSVP by 7/16 to Maha Rahal at text/
email to 858-386-3754 by 7/16



Keep Informed
Receive Weekly E-mails
About Parish Life

We are an active community with a lot going on. These days it is especially helpful to keep up to date on things taking place in our parish.

We have an email group
"News@stjohnofdamascus.org"

It is all those who are interested in the activities of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church. Members receive periodic notifications of special events, parish meetings and weekly newsletters.

To be included E-mail Fr Michael at
powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org

Car/Truck Blessings—Sun July 18 after Liturgy

As we did last year, in anticipation of the feast of St Elijah on July 20, next Sunday July 18 we will bless cars and trucks after Divine Liturgy. In this time of travel and increased traffic, it is a much needed blessing!



Purchase Gift Cards Through Our
Scrip Coordinator & Help our Parish

Scrip gift cards raise money for St. John's Auxiliary. When you buy Scrip cards, the store makes a donation with NO extra expense. Use the cards for your regular monthly purchases or gifts for loved ones and support our parish's ministry. Cards are available for gas, groceries, Amazon, restaurants and many other stores.

See Carmen Brown after Liturgy for more information or to purchase your cards.



Blessed Icons of St Anna

We have been blessed to receive more icons of St Anna, the Ancestor of the Lord from Fr John Parker. The paper icons have been blessed on the icon at the monastery and have been anointed with the myrrh from her as well as from the weeping icon of the Theotokos in PA that Fr John told us about during his visit.

If you would like an additional icon, please let me know. Please remember that, as these are blessed, they should be treated with reverence and not just a "collectable."

Parish Life

Auxiliary Cooking Day—Monday 7/12

This Monday our Auxiliary invites everyone to come and help make cabbage rolls to refill our stock for our next sale.

Come, help, and join the fun!



Sat Adult Ed Class 1:00pm The Names of Jesus—Sat July 17

Our Saturday Adult Education Series is discussing the book “The Names of Jesus – Discovering the Person of Jesus Christ Through Scripture” by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko. Father Hopko discusses the more than 50 names and titles given within scripture to our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ – 5 of which you have just read!

Deacon George facilitates the discussion via the Zoom format at 1:00PM on Saturdays The book is long, but each chapter is rather short. This coming week’s “Names” are:

The book is available from multiple sources including a Kindle version at Amazon. Eight copies are also available at the St John’s Bookstore for \$20.

You can also listen to the original podcasts at:

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/namesofjesus>

Filter from “Old to New” to see the episodes as listed in the book.

Digital Sign Volunteers Needed

Our digital sign is often the first experience of our church for people. John Thayer has been heading up this ministry and is willing to train people to know how to do it.

If you would like to be part of this ministry please email Fr Michael or write your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex (vestibule) of the church.

We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers



Volunteer Needed to Format QUARTERLY Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council is preparing a quarterly newsletter to help keep parishioners up to date on the work of the Council and offering parishioners an opportunity to share things with the community. Leo Hayes is coordinating this effort soliciting and gathering the articles. ***We need someone to format the articles into a newsletter format.*** If you are interested in helping in this QUARTERLY publication please speak to Leo or myself.



Church School Volunteers Needed

Our existing church school teachers need support and help. Please consider volunteering as a teacher or helper for our church school classes next year. See Bill Moision or Fr Michael if you are interested.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection - Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

St John of Damascus —Tone 8

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

St Olga— Tone 1

Giving thy mind the wings of divine understanding,
thou didst soar above visible creation seeking God the Creator of all.
When thou hadst found Him, thou didst receive re-birth through baptism.
As one who enjoys the Tree of Life, thou remainest eternally incorrupt,//
O ever-glorious Olga.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 2

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,//
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

St John of Damascus — Tone 4

Let us the faithful sing praises to John, worthy of great honor the composer of hymns. The star & 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.

Steadfast Protection — Tone 6

Steadfast protection 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!

PROKEIMENA

Tone 2 (Resurrection) — The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. (Ps. 117:18)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Romans 5: 1-10

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

⁶ While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. ⁸ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Gospel — Matthew 6:22-33

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; ²³ but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

ALLELUIA

Tone 2 — V. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! (Ps. 19:1)

V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Our Life in Christ

THE WAY WE LOOK AND SEE

—Metropolitan Anthony Bloom (via pravmir.com)

We meet the world, we take cognizance of the world through our senses; and through all our senses we are not only aware of the world, but we are also involved in it, all our senses put us into contact with the world of objects, with all things around us, but also immediately introduce into us sensations and impressions which change us at times very deeply.

Our sight, of which the Lord speaks today in His Gospel, is the only way in which we can take cognizance of the world with serenity, in complete repose of all the powers of our human being—but also on condition, as the Lord puts it, that our eye be single, that it should be light, that it should allow only light to enter into our awareness through it.

One of the modern English writers gives us two images which I believe will allow us to understand something of this passage of the Gospel; in a novel “All Hallows Eve,” Charles Williams presents us with a young woman who had died in an accident and whose soul is gradually finding her way in the new world in which she has entered.

She finds herself standing on the banks of the Thames; she looks at the waters, and all of a sudden she sees these waters of the Thames as she had never seen them in the past, when her soul was endowed with a body: then, she had a revulsion against these dark, greasy, dirty waters because her imagination immediately connected them with touch and direct impressions of the body.

But now, this soul is free from the body and she sees these waters of the Thames freely, as they are, as a fact; she sees that these waters are exactly what they should be, being the waters of a river that runs through a great city, collecting all the dirt of it and carrying it away. And because she has no longer the usual revulsion of the body and of the imagination, this soul, through the opacity of these waters, begins to see in them new and new depth; deeper than this superficial opacity she discovers a layer of purer water, a greater translucence, and beyond and deeper again — a layer of transparency; and at the core of these waters that run across the great city — and this city is also called one day to become *the* city of God — she sees a stream of incredibly shining water, the water of eternal life, the primordial water created by God, the water of which Christ speaks to the Samaritan woman; because she was free from personal reaction and revulsion, the dead woman could see across the superficial darkness, the layers of light.



Our Life in Christ

Because we are continuously entangled in our own self-centered reactions, we manage to see through layers of light somewhere a darkness which at times, we create or imagine; because our eye is dark we see darkness and we are incapable of seeing the depth, the translucence and the shining. [...]

Is it not the way in which we live? We are surrounded with light and we see nothing but passing shadows or emptiness; how often a human being passes through our life without leaving any trace, passes unnoticed, in spite of the fact that there was a need, or there was a shining beauty; but it was irrelevant to us, our heart had nothing with which it could respond, and we are in a wilderness even when we are surrounded with richness.

This again comes from the way in which we look—we look without love and we see nothing, because only love can reveal things to us; and again, we are capable of seeing in a dark and evil way: how often we put evil interpretations on things which we see! Instead of seeing them as facts, we see them as we understand them from within our darkened soul and our distorted experience. How often we misinterpret the actions and words of people because we see with an eye which is already darkened!

Christ's words today call us to an extremely careful attitude—to the way in which we look and see. We must remember that if we see nothing, it comes very often from our blindness; if we see evil — it comes from the darkness within; if we have a revulsion against things, it is so often from the way in which we are centered on ourselves and cannot look with serenity, with a purity of heart. Because ultimately, we see not only with our physical eyes which convey to us impressions, we see also with a heart that can see God only when it is pure, and not only God in His mysterious being, but God in His presence through grace and beauty, and blessing. Saint Isaac the Syrian says that a man who has a clear eye and a pure heart no longer sees the darkness in the world because this darkness is superseded by the shining of the divine grace at work and resting on all things, however dark they may appear.

Let us learn this lesson at least from the Gospel. Let us be careful to see with purity, to interpret with purity of heart and to act from within love, and then we shall be able to see with freedom the light of the world and in the world, and love it, and serve it, and be in this world in the place which Christ assigned us—blessing in His own name, believing things, hoping all things and never ceasing to love even if love means laying down our life, either the life of the old Adam who must die so that the new Adam should live, or else the life of the New Adam who gives his life that the world and others may live. Amen.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday July 12

9:00am—Auxiliary Baking Day (Cabbage Rolls)

Sunday July 18

After Divine Liturgy—Blessing of Vehicles

Tuesday July 13

10:30am — Father's Virtual Café (via Zoom—see website calendar)
7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday July 20

10:30am — Father's Virtual Café (via Zoom—see website calendar)
11:00—Diamond Circle

Wednesday July 14

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Topic Responding to a Contemporary World with an Ancient Faith (via Zoom — see calendar)

Wednesday July 21

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Topic Responding to a Contemporary World with an Ancient Faith

Saturday July 17

1:00pm — Adult Ed: Names of Jesus (via Zoom see online calendar for link)

Monday July 26

9:00am—Auxiliary Baking Day

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

Many Years!

Birthdays

Rebekah Jones	07/9
Iryna Thayer, Tessa Sophia Stavrou	7/11
Daniel Federoff	7/15

Wedding Anniversaries

Gene (Nectaros) & Judy Francello	7/11
Bob & Irene Stone	7/12
Dn George & Carole (Victoria) Shumaik	7/15

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

Email: powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org — **Phone:** (858) 717-2172

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

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