

September 12, 2021



# THE IMAGE...

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

[www.stjohnofdamascus.org](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org)

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

**12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 3**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE**  
**ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**  
**AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE**  
**THEOTOKOS**

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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 and fill out a visitor card.

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**A Word...**

The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary's birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the "Vessel of Light," the "Book of the Word of Life," the "Door to the Orient," the "Throne of Wisdom" is being prepared on earth by God himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

*Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko*

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**Include Something in the Bulletin**

E-mail [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)

Dear Beloved in Christ,  
Greetings with the Feast!

It has been 5 weeks (almost 6) since my surgery and my recovery has been deepened by the prayers and loving offerings from all of you.

The cards,, notes and the meals were concrete reminders for me of how connected I have become to you all over this past year. To be separated but NOT alone gave me hope, joy and strength.  
THANK YOU!

By God's Grace I have been able to attend services this past week and I am increasingly resuming my regular duties (hence last week's e-mail & monthly calendar and now this bulletin). It is my hope that next weekend I will be back before the altar serving.

With the new Church year, we are yet again beginning our educational efforts for young and old. We will be reaching out to and welcoming newcomers. We will continue to offer the Lord's gifts entrusted to us to those in need. We will continue to constitute the People of God, His Church showing people The Way (the early name for the Faith) for their as well as our salvation and the salvation of the world.

As we move from one feast to another this week and throughout the coming year, I am excited about the Lord restoring and deepening and expanding our parish's ministry as His people here in San Diego North County

With love in Christ,

## Parish Life

### Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary will hold cooking days (making pierogies) on Monday 9/20 and 9/27 starting at 9am.

They will also have a meeting on 9/19 after services.

If you would like to be a part of this hospitality & cooking/baking ministry now is a great time to start. See Tanya Franchak for more info: tmfranchak@yahoo.com & (619) 818-2311



### Orthodox Christianity 101 Class Begins Mon Sept 27

This 14 session class introduces people to the basic teachings and life of the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is excellent for new inquirers, those preparing for baptism and/or chrismation, as well as people who may have grown up in the Church but may desire a refresher in the basics of our Faith.

**Tell your friends & friends. All are welcome.**

To register email [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org) or call 858-674-1931



### Wed Adult Ed Class—Begins 9/22 The Book of Daniel: Faith in Adversity 7-8:30pm

Fr Michael and participants will be reading and discussing the Book of Daniel and what it shows us about keeping our faith while living in adverse conditions. We will also touch on the prophetic elements in the books.

Classes which are discussion based (rather than lecture) are held weekly at 7:00-8:30pm.

**People can attend via Zoom (see our parish website calendar). We are planning to have a hybrid model where people can also attend in person.**

### Sat Adult Ed Class 1:00pm The Names of Jesus

Our Saturday Adult Education Series is discussing the book “The Names of Jesus – Discovering the Person of Jesus Christ Through Scripture” by Protospesbyter 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. While the book is long, each chapter is rather short. This coming week’s “Names” are: Jesus the Son of Man, Jesus the Man and Jesus the Last Adam (Chapter 12-14).

The book is available from multiple sources including a Kindle version at Amazon. 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.



### 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](mailto:powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org)**

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

#### Nativity of the Theotokos—Tone 4

Your nativity, O Virgin,  
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!  
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,  
has shone from you, O Theotokos.  
By annulling the curse,  
He bestowed a blessing.  
By destroying death, He has granted us  
eternal life.

### KONTAKIA

#### Resurrection — Tone 3

On this day You rose from the tomb, O  
Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of  
Your power.

#### Nativity of the Theotokos—Tone 4

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin,  
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,  
Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death.  
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of  
sin, celebrate and sing to you://  
“The barren woman gives birth to the  
Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

### PROKEIMENA

**Tone 6** — *(Cross)* O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. *(Ps 27/28:9)*

*v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me. (Ps 27/28:1)*

**Tone 3** — *(Song of the Theotokos)* My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior. *(Luke 1:46-47)*

### ALLELUIA

**Tone 1** — V. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. *(Ps. 88:18b)*

V. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. *(Ps. 88:20)*

**Tone 8** - V. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! *(Ps. 44:9a)*

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### EPISTLE — GALATIANS 6: 11-16

<sup>11</sup> See with what large letters I write to you with my own hand! <sup>12</sup> Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised, only so that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. <sup>14</sup> As for me, I shall find glory in nothing, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> In Christ Jesus, circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; only a new creation {matters}. <sup>16</sup> To those who live by this rule, may there be peace and mercy upon them, and on the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup> From now on, let no one cause me any trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body.

<sup>18</sup> May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

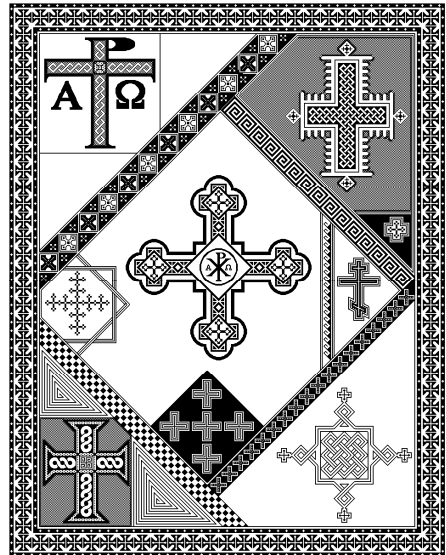
### EPISTLE — 1 COR 15 1-11

<sup>15</sup> Now I declare to you, brethren, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you accepted, in which you also stand. <sup>2</sup> And you are saved by it, that is if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you. Otherwise, you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you, first of all, what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Kephaz, then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to over five hundred brethren at once, most of whom remain [alive] until now, but some have also fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all, as to the child born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God, I am what I am. His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain, but I worked more than all of them—yet not I,

but the grace of God which was with me. <sup>11</sup> It does not matter whether is it I or they: this is what we preach, and so you believed.

### EPISTLE — PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Let the following be in your mind, which was also in [the mind of] Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> He who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God as something to be taken by force. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a bondservant, being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to [the point of] death, even death on the cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God highly exalted him, and gave him the Name which is above every name; <sup>10</sup> so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### GOSPEL — JOHN 3: 13-17

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, likewise, the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>so that everyone believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>Indeed, God so loved the world that he gave his uniquely-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Certainly, God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him.

### GOSPEL — MATTHEW 19:16-26

<sup>16</sup>Behold, a man came to him and asked, "Good teacher, what good thing shall I do in order to have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." <sup>18</sup>The man asked him, "Which ones?"

Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder.' 'You shall not commit adultery.' 'You shall not steal.' 'You shall not bear false witness.' <sup>19</sup>'Honor your father and mother;' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" <sup>20</sup>The young man then said to him, "All these things I have observed from my youth! What do I still lack?"

<sup>21</sup>Jesus replied, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, give it to the poor, and you will have [a] treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow me!" <sup>22</sup>But when the young man heard these words, he went away sad because he was a person with great possessions. <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to his disciples,

"Amen I say to you: it will be hard for someone who is rich to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! <sup>24</sup>Indeed, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

<sup>25</sup>When his disciples heard this, they were

extremely astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>26</sup>Gazing at them, Jesus answered, "By human resources, this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!"

### GOSPEL — LUKE 10:38-42, 11:27-28

<sup>38</sup>Now it happened that as they went, Jesus entered into a village, and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus' feet and listened to his word. <sup>40</sup>However, Martha was distracted with much serving. She came up to Jesus, and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Ask her to help me!"

<sup>41</sup>But Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things! <sup>42</sup>Yet one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen the good part, which will not be taken away from her."

<sup>27</sup>As Jesus was saying these things, a woman called out from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!"

<sup>28</sup>But Jesus said, "Yes, and more than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."



## Archpastoral Letter of Metropolitan Tikhon Re: 20 Year After 9/11

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**On the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001**, we remember the day as a tragedy in the truest sense of the word. It is fitting to reflect on this catastrophe with great sorrow, sobriety, and prayer.

We remember the lives that were cut short in the collapse of the towers of the World Trade Center, the damage to the Pentagon, and the wreckage of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. There were almost three thousand people who never came home, taken from their family and friends who were left to grieve and try to make sense of their loss. Many more were injured and forever scarred, both physically and emotionally. Even those who were not present at the sites of the attacks have vivid imagery of that day come into their minds unbidden.



The repercussions of that terrible day have unfolded and consequences have been felt in all corners of the world. The pain of the terrorist attacks has led to the pain of the past two decades where we have seen “wars and rumors of wars” (Matt. 24:6). On this somber occasion I encourage you to consider with renewed faith the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Soon we will celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Look to the Life-giving Cross for healing, as God told the Hebrew people to look to the bronze serpent in the wilderness (Num. 21:4-9). Fixing our gaze on the Cross cures the serpent’s bite and reminds us that even great suffering cannot separate us from the love of God.

Recall that the Cross, an instrument of death, was revealed by God as the “invincible trophy” (Kontakion of the Cross) which puts evil to flight. By virtue of the Cross, the power of God is manifest and enables us to do difficult things — even forgiving those who carried out these appalling attacks.

Great tragedies in our world call us to repentance, and anniversaries like today remind us that we are sojourners and exiles here on earth (1 Pet. 2:11). We look with hope towards the Kingdom of God. Always do we, as St. Paul remarked, “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one” (Heb 11:16).

Let us continue to remember in prayer all those who lost their lives, the survivors who continue to live with disability, the first-responders who carry emotional burdens of that day, and the families and friends of the victims who have suffered their grief over these twenty years.

May the Lord bring His comfort to all.

Yours in Christ,  
+Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

## Our Life in Christ—Remembering 9/11

### List of Orthodox Christians Who Perished in the Attack on 9/11

While our love and faith in the Lord calls us to pray for all the souls who perished because of the terrible acts of that day, some may not know that there were Orthodox Christians included in that number. Below are the names of some of those brothers and sisters in Christ.

*“With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy departed servants,  
where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting!”*

Joanna Ahladiotis  
Anastasios (Ernest) Alikakos

Alan Bondarenko

Katerina Bantis

Lieutenant Peter (Panagiotis) Brennan

Anthony Demas

Kontantinos Ekonomos

Anna Fosteris

Peter Hansen

Vassilios Haramis

John Katsimatidis

Danielle Kousoulis

Eskedar Melaku

George Merkouris

Peter Constantine Moutos

James Nicholas Papageorge

George Paris

Theodore Pigis

Daphne Pouletsos

Anthony (Tony) Savas

Derek Statkevicus

Andrew Stergiopoulos

Michael Tarrou

William Tselepis

Prokopios (Paul) Zois

### **Dates for 2021**

#### **FAST SEASONS**

Nativity Fast/Advent    Nov 15-Dec 24

#### **FAST-FREE WEEKS**

After Christmas    Dec 26-Jan 4



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Mon Sept 13

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day (Pierogies)  
6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for the Elevation of the Cross

### Tues Sept 14—Elevation of the Holy Cross

STRICT FAST

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy

### Saturday Sept 18

1:00pm — Adult Ed: Names of Jesus (via Zoom see  
online calendar for link)  
4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal (in church temple)

### Sunday Sept 19

BEGINNING OF CHURCH SCHOOL

After Divine Liturgy — Molieben for Beginning of Instruction  
Auxiliary Meeting & Children's Church School

### Monday Sept 20

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day (Pierogies)

### Tuesday Sept 21

11:00am — Diamond Circle Gathering (in hall)  
7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom)

### Wednesday Sept 22

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Book of Daniel—Faith in Adversity  
*Hybrid Format Zoom (see online calendar) & In Person*

**For more dates please visit our website: [www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar)**

## Many Years!

### Name Days

Sophia Geralt, Tessa (Sophia) Stavrou, Matushka Vickie (Vera) Federoff, Vera Klavzar 9/17

### Birthdays

Caitlin (Juliana) Gannon, Challen Henry 9/12      Veronica Rahal 9/14  
Bill (Vladimir) Moision, Liam Sullivan 9/16

### Wedding Anniversaries

Sarah & Alan Michaud 9/13

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

**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