

September 19, 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

**13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 4**  
**SUNDAY AFTER THE**  
**ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**  
**MARTYRS TROPHIMUS, SABBATIUS, AND**  
**DORYMEDON OF SYNNAIDA**



**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.



### **A Word from the Holy Fathers**

We celebrate the feast of the Cross which drove away darkness and brought light. We are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing...Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor Hades despoiled."

—*St. Andrew of Crete*



**Include Something in the Bulletin**

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

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Greetings with the Feast!

Today we officially begin our Christian education efforts for the 2021-2022 Church Year.

It is crucial for every parish to educate the faithful to guide them to a closer relationship with their God and Savior as well as to educate others about the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught and lived in the Orthodox Church for over 2,000 years.

In the past I have typically used a four-year cycle when approaching education in a parish to be sure we are "covering all our bases" and not leaving something out.

The cycle is:

Year 1—Old Testament

Year 2—Gospels: Life of Jesus

Year 3—Life of Church (including Acts, epistles & Church History all the way to present day)

Year 4—Feasts/Spirituality

This year will be "Year 1" and our children and youth church school as well as our Wednesday evening adult education classes will focus on the teachings and stories found in the Old Testament. While we won't all be talking about the exact same thing on any given week, we can learn from each other. I encourage everyone to ask your fellow parish members what they talked about this week so we can all grow together.

Let us all grow in our faith!

With love in Christ,

## Parish Life

### Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary will hold cooking days (making pierogies) on Tuesday 9/21 (CHANGE OF DAYS) and Monday 9/27 starting at 9am.

They will also have a meeting today 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](mailto: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@stjohnofdamsacus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamsacus.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.



### 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.

## 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!”

#### **Cross —Tone 1**

O Lord, save Thy people,  
and bless Thine inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Thy Cross, //  
preserve Thy habitation!

#### **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!

### 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!

#### **Martyrs — Tone 8**

As the foundation of athletes and the  
confirmation of piety,  
the Church honors and glorifies thy brilliant  
suffering,  
wise and glorious Trophimus, ever-praised and  
blessed athlete. //  
Together with thy fellow sufferers, ask  
cleansing for those who hymn thee, for thou art  
invincible.

#### **Cross—Tone 4**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the  
Cross for our sake,  
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy  
Name, O Christ God;  
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy  
power,  
granting them victories over their adversaries //  
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy,  
Thy weapon of peace!

### **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**

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — Galatians 2:16-20

<sup>16</sup> knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

<sup>17</sup> But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

<sup>18</sup> For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

<sup>19</sup> For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### Epistle — 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24

<sup>13</sup> Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! <sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.

<sup>15</sup> Now I beg you, brethren (you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to serve the saints), <sup>16</sup> that you also be in service to people like this, and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. <sup>17</sup> I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus; for what was lacking on your part, they supplied. <sup>18</sup> They refreshed my spirit and yours; show therefore your appreciation to such people.

<sup>19</sup> The Churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you much in the Lord, together with the Church that is in their house. <sup>20</sup> All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss!

<sup>21</sup> This greeting is by me, Paul, with my own hand. <sup>22</sup> If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Maranatha! <sup>23</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. <sup>24</sup> My love is with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## PROKEIMENON

**Tone 7** (*Sunday after*) — Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!  
(Ps 98/99:5)

*v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! (Ps 98/99:1)*

## ALLELUIA

**Tone 1** (*Sunday after*) — V. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old! (Ps. 73:2)

V. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!  
(Ps. 73:13)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Mark 8:34-9:1

<sup>34</sup> When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

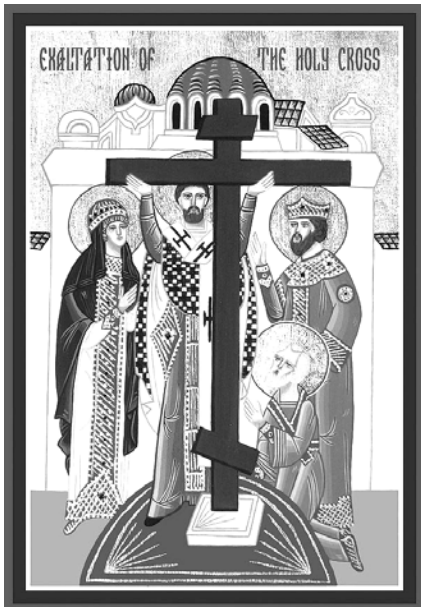
<sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

<sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

<sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

<sup>1</sup> And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."



### Gospel — Matthew 21:33-42

<sup>33</sup> Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower, and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. <sup>34</sup> When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his slaves to the farmers, to receive his fruit. <sup>35</sup> But the farmers took his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. <sup>36</sup> Again, the owner sent other slaves, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Then he sent his son to them, saying: 'They will respect my son!' <sup>38</sup> But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, 'This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup> And so they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?"

<sup>41</sup> They answered him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season."

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*'The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?'*

### Dates for 2021

#### **FAST SEASONS**

Nativity Fast/Advent      Nov 15-Dec 24

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

After Christmas              Dec 26-Jan 4

## Our Life in Christ

### Why Read the Old Testament?

Marcion was a heretic in the second century (100s) who said that the Old Testament was un-Christian, and that the God of the Old Testament was not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that Christians should avoid the Old Testament since it was the work of an "inferior deity." The Church of his day rejected his approach and said that the Old Testament was the work of the Christian God and that we should accept the Old Testament Scriptures as a part of the Christian Bible (Bible means "collection of books"). But despite the Church's emphatic and decisive rejection of Marcion, we can often tend to shy away today from the Old Testament.

In the days of St. Justin Martyr in the second century, the Old Testament was read along with the New Testament Scriptures when the Church met together on Sunday morning for their celebration of the Eucharist. Later these Old Testament readings were dropped. While the Psalms remain everywhere in our worship (entire psalms, prokeimena, alleluia verses, etc), the lectionary of Great Lent and Holy Week which leads us through books such as Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Job, etc., vesperal Old Testament readings on the Twelve Great Feasts (which, unfortunately, many Orthodox Christians hardly if ever hear since they don't attend vespers), many of these holy writings are NOT read as the People of God, the Church gathered to worship and to give thanks and repent. Marcion may well smile at us from wherever he is. It is almost as if we agreed with him, and banished the Old Testament from our public reading of the divine scriptures. Our Orthodox laity are not as well served liturgically in the lectionary as they could be regarding the Old Testament.

If you doubt this, try this simple test: when next the bishop visits your parish and the choir sings the customary hymn, "The prophets proclaimed you from on high, O Virgin: the Jar, the Staff, the Tables of the Law, the Ark, the Candlestick, the Mount Uncloven, the Golden Censer, the Tabernacle, the Gate Impassable, the Palace and Ladder, and the Throne of Kings!", ask anyone present to explain why the Virgin Mary is proclaimed to be the Jar, the Staff, and all those other things. It is possible that the person asked may immediately respond, "The Jar? Oh, that's because the jar in Exodus held the manna, and Christ is the divine manna and bread of God, whom the Virgin held in her womb." Possibly, but not likely. Odds are most present will have no idea why the hymnographer would describe the Virgin using these titles, and I suspect that most of them have never really read the Old Testament where these stories are told. The Old Testament remains for most Orthodox a closed book as if the Bible began not with Genesis, but with the Gospel of Matthew.

The Old Testament is the collection of writings recording the God of persons (of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of Israel) leading a people, who He *chose* to be His people. It is this people from whom, in the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, He would unite Himself to this world to save it (and those in it Who choose Him back). With this understanding, in the Old Testament, we see what many call a love story. A story in which God continually pursues His people so that they might be a "light to the nations." We see God teaching His people what it means to be faithful, humble, and to love. Unfortunately, we see in the Old Testament scriptures His chosen people, choose the ways of the world over being what He called them to be. Sound familiar?

While it is true that as Orthodox Christians must unabashedly declare that we read the Old Testament through the lens of Gospels — the lens that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." - we must know them to understand just "How great is our God, Who does wonders." Many brilliant pastors and saints of the Church urged people to read the Gospels BEFORE reading the Old Testament, but ALL the Holy Fathers & Mothers urge us Orthodox Christians to read those scriptures.

## Our Life in Christ

With this knowledge (and experience) of the Savior of the World, it is important for Orthodox to begin our private and devotional Bible reading of Genesis and to continue reading so that we have a familiarity with the temptations of being human and the continual faithfulness of God shown in Old Testament. Jesus and all the New Testament writers QUOTED the Old Testament. It is what they meant when they referred to "the Scriptures." The writer of the hymn, "The prophets proclaimed you" clearly assumed that this was the case, which is why he multiplied his typological descriptions of the Virgin as he did. We will not only be able to understand the hymns of the Church such as "The prophets proclaimed you", but also the New Testament since the New Testament assumed familiarity with the Old Testament. Our Bible is thicker than some might think and contains riches and revelations we might scarcely expect.



This year every week the bulletin will have a Bible Question connected to the Old Testament. After Christmas a "test" will be included in the bulletin. Whoever completes the "test" (you can use past bulletins to help) and submits it will be entered into a raffle for a gift card to their favorite store and/or restaurant.

### **Bible Question(s)**

**ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.....**

**ON WHAT DAY DID GOD CREATE LIGHT?**

**ON WHAT DAY DID GOD CREATE THE SUN?**

**Reflection/Discussion:** What do you think this has to say about Who God is and His relationship to the Cosmos (the Church's word referring to all of Creation)?

**Answers will be included in next week's bulletin. Stay tuned!**



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Sunday Sept 19

#### BEGINNING OF CHURCH SCHOOL

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

### Tuesday Sept 21

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day (Pierogies) - NEW DAY  
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 for link) & In Person*

### Friday Sept 24

10:30am — Funeral for Irene Gill

### Saturday Sept 25

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

### Sunday Sept 26

10:30am — Monthly Memorial Service for Departed—Please submit  
the names of your beloved departed who have a connection with the  
month of September to Fr Michael either by email, text, or written  
note before Liturgy on Sunday.

### Monday Sept 27

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day (Pierogies)  
7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101: Hybrid Format: In-Person at  
church hall or via zoom (see online calendar for link)

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

## Many Years!

### *Name Days*

Tekle Griebing, Peter Anderson 9/24

### *Birthdays*

Sadie (Grace) Perez, Elena Sullivan, Valerie Lane 9/19

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

Nika & Craig Carlson, Peter & Megan Franchak 9/20

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

### PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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

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