

October 3, 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

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 6
HIEROMARTYR DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE

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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 from the Holy Fathers

(Re: 2 Cor 4) Both the greatness of the things given and the weakness of them that receive show the power of God, who not only gave great things but also gave them to those who are little. He used the term earthen in allusion to the frailty of our mortal nature and to declare the weakness of our flesh. For it is no better than earthenware, which is soon damaged and destroyed by death, disease and even variations of temperature. The power of God is most conspicuous when it performs mighty works by using lowly things.

—St. John Chrysostom

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Include Something in the Bulletin or Be Included in our Weekly
(NEWS@StJohnofDamascus.org)
E-mails
E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org



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

Parish Life

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary will hold cooking days (making pierogies) on Mon Oct 4 & 11 beginning at 9am.

We are also looking for donations of:

Flour, Sugar & Shelled Walnuts

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 Mondays 7pm

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 or call 858-674-1931



Wed Adult Ed Class The Book of Daniel: Faith in Adversity 7-8:30pm

Fr Michael and participants are 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.

Church School for Children & Youth 1st & 3rd Sunday of Month Youth Choir 2nd & 4th Sunday of Month

This year our Church School for children and youth on Sundays will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Our children's and youth choir (for those able to read) will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. This will allow enough time to prepare them to sing during our Youth Sunday (1st weekend of December) as well as our Christmas Program.



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.

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.

Today's Worship — Hymns

Father's Café Now In-Person as well as via Zoom Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 (ish)

Our weekly gathering for prayer, reflection & simple fellowship on Tuesdays at 10:30am is now be available for people to attend IN PERSON as well as via Zoom (see online calendar for the link).

This is an opportunity to sit and have a cup of coffee or tea (reg and decaf provided) and ask questions about the Faith or talk about whatever comes to mind (gardening, movies, history, etc.). We say a prayer, read a reflection and let the conversation (and coffee) flow.

Save the Date! Retirement Celebration for Fr Alexander Federoff Jan 16, 2022

With the pandemic occurring at the time of our dear Fr Alexander's retirement, while we did our best to celebrate and thank him for his decades of loving service, we were not able to give him the celebration we would have liked.

His Eminence is coming on January 16 for a more "robust" celebration.

Mark your calendars! More details to come!

CLEAN-UP DAY AT ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

Come help trim bushes and clean up the church grounds!

Items to bring:

- heavy-weight trash bags
- electric trimmers
- extension cords
- hand tools
- rakes and brooms
- work gloves
- your own water bottle
- sunscreen

Check with John Klavzar or
Patty Pelachik for more
detailed information

OCTOBER 9, 2021
8:30AM -1:00PM
LIGHT LUNCH AT 1:00PM



Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
glory to You.

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.

St Dionysius —Tone 4

Having learned goodness and maintaining
continence in all things,
you were arrayed with a good conscience as
befits a priest.
From the Chosen Vessel you drew ineffable
mysteries;
you kept the Faith, and finished a course equal to
his. //
Hieromartyr Dionysius, entreat Christ God that
our souls may be saved!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life,
and the God of all.

St Dionysius — Tone 8

As a disciple of the Apostle caught up to the third
heaven,
you spiritually entered the gate of heaven, O
Dionysius.
You were enriched with understanding of
ineffable mysteries
and enlighten those who sat in the darkness of
ignorance. //
Therefore we cry to you: "Rejoice, universal
Father!"

Steadfast Protectress—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 & to intercede for us,
O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 6 (*Resurrection*) — O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

ALLELUIA

Tone 6 — V. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps. 90:1)

V. He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (Ps. 90:2)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 2 Cor 4: 6-15

⁶seeing that it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷However, we have this treasure in vessels of clay, so that the amazing power may be from God and not from ourselves. ⁸We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. ⁹We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; ¹⁰and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

¹¹Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹²And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³Still, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

Gospel — Luke 6: 31-36

³¹As you would like others to do to you, do the same to them. ³²If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them! ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same! ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive [back], what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back as much. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he is kind [even] to the ungrateful and evil.

*³⁶Therefore, be merciful,
even as your Father is also merciful.*

Our Life in Christ

The Candle

What does a person first do upon crossing the threshold of a church? In nine out of ten cases, he goes to the candle stand. Our practice of Christianity, our involvement in its ritual, begins with a little beeswax candle. It is impossible to imagine an Orthodox church in which candles are not lit.

Blessed Simeon of Thessalonica (15th century), commentator on the Liturgy, states that pure wax symbolizes the purity and chastity of those who offer it. It is offered as a sign of our having repented of stubbornness and self-will. The softness and pliability of wax speaks of our readiness to obey God. The burning of the candle represents man's deification, his becoming a new creature through the fire of God's love.

Moreover, the candle is a witness to faith, of man's belonging to the Divine light. It expresses the flame of our love for the Lord, for the Mother of God, for the angels, or for the saints. One must not light a candle with a cold heart, merely as a formality. The external action must be supplemented by prayer, if only the simplest one, using one's own words.

A lighted candle is present at many church services. It is held by the newly baptized and by those being joined together in the Mystery of Matrimony. The funeral rite is performed amidst a multitude of burning candles. Protecting their burning candles from the wind, the faithful walk in Processions of the Cross.

There are no absolute rules as to where or how many lighted candles must be offered. Their purchase is a little sacrifice to God, voluntary and not burdensome. A large and expensive candle is no more grace-giving than is a small one.

Those who are meticulous about attending church try to light several candles during each visit: before the festal icon at the center of the church, at the icon of the Savior or of the Mother of God; for the health of their loved ones, and on the rectangular candlestand (*kanun*) before the Cross; for the repose of the souls of the deceased. If the heart so wishes, one may light candles to any saint or saints.

Sometimes it so happens that all of the spaces on the candlestand are filled, leaving no place to set a lighted candle. One should not extinguish an already-burning candle and replace it with one's own. It is better to ask one of the attendants to light it for you at an appropriate moment. One should not be upset if, at the end of the Service, your candle is extinguished; the sacrifice has already been accepted by God.

There is no reason to believe talk that one should set a candle only with the right hand, that if it should go out, it is a sign misfortune will follow, that to singe the base of the candle to make it fit more firmly into the receptacle is a deadly sin, etc. There are many such superstitions, and they are all meaningless.

The burning wax candle is pleasing to God, but He prizes the burning of the heart even more. Our spiritual life, our participation in church services, is not limited to the candle. The candle will not free us from sin, will not unite us with God, and will not give us the power to wage the unseen warfare. The candle is filled with symbolic meaning, but we are saved not by symbols, but by the full reality, Divine grace.



Our Life in Christ

Bible Question(s)

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.....

Q. IN GENESIS CHAPTER 2 WHAT TASKS DID GOD GIVE TO ADAM?

Q. ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE WERE ADAM & EVE MARRIED?

Reflection/Discussion: Why do you think Eve was created from Adam's rib, rather than another part of his body such as his head or foot?

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

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) - Last Week's Questions

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.....

Q. ON WHAT DAY DID GOD CREATE HUMANS? A. DAY 6

Q. WHAT WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT HUMANS COMPARED TO EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE COSMOS? A. HUMANS WERE THE ONLY THINGS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE & LIKENESS

Reflection/Discussion: As humans created in God's image and likeness we are made to interact with the cosmos in the same spirit and approach as God. This means that when anyone looks at us they see how God is love. Creation (and that includes the people in it) is not something to be consumed for our own purposes or ignored, but something to tend, care for, manage, help according to God's will and ways.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Saturday October 2

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

Monday Oct 4

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

Tuesday Oct 5

10:30:am — Father's Café
(In-Person & Zoom: see link on website calendar)

Wednesday Oct 6

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

Saturday Oct 9

8:30am-1:00pm — Parish Landscaping Clean-up Day
1:00pm — Adult Ed: Names of Jesus (via Zoom see online calendar for link)

Monday Oct 11

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

Tuesday Oct 12

10:30:am — Father's Café
(In-Person & Zoom: see link on website calendar)

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

Many Years!

Name Days

Dennis (Dionysius) Stavrou 10/3

Birthdays

Cortney Stavrou 10/6

Linda (Daria) Kedroff 10/7

Kathryn (Anne) Jones 10/5

Wedding Anniversaries

Eliza & David Boyles 10/4

Sally (Elizabeth) & Kyle (Jeffrey) Menig 10/5

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

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Email: info@stjohnofdamascus.org — **Phone:** (858) 674-1931

Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

Email: 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