

December 19, 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

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 1

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

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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

“The unapproachable God in His tender mercy approaches me; He wills to be born in the flesh in the city of Bethlehem. He receives human nature from a Virgin maiden. Let us eagerly run to greet Him, crying out in fear: O Lord, glory to Thee.

—*Matins for Sunday before the Nativity*

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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 with your request.



Parish Life

Auxiliary Christmas Bake Sale THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT Items Still Available After Church

Our Christmas Bake Sale proved to be very successful yet again thanks to our bakers & cooks and helpers over the past weeks and on Saturday.

If you have not picked up your order yet please do so after church today.

There are also items available for folks who would like to pick something up but were not able to put in an advance order.



Diamond Circle Christmas Gathering Dec 28, 11am-2pm

The Diamond Circle will meet December 28, 11 AM - 2 PM at Joe & Cora Temnick's home for a Christmas pot luck.

To find out more about the Diamond Circle (our Seniors group), speak to Patty or Jim Pelachik.



Use Amazon Smile & Support St John's

Amazon has a program that if you select Amazon Smile in your app settings (settings, amazon smile) or go to smile.amazon.com when you shop you can select a charity (ie, St John of Damascus Church) & a percentage of most purchases goes to the parish at no additional cost to you.

If you purchase Amazon gift cards through our scrip program the parish gets a double donation!

Dec 26—Church School Christmas Youth Program

On Sunday Dec 26 our Church School will present its Christmas Youth Program after Divine Liturgy.

We will also have a POTLUCK Fellowship Meal on that day.

Plan on staying and supporting our children & youth!



Church School Christmas Project Socks & Toothbrushes the Homeless

Our children and youth are collecting socks and toothbrushes for the homeless right here in San Diego County.

There is a Christmas tree in the hall which we will decorate with the items.

Please participate .



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!

Today's Worship—Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure
body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O
Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest
mankind!”

Holy Fathers—Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain
of flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were
sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our
souls!

KONTAKIA

Holy Fathers — Tone 6

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called
on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,//
for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost
will!”

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 ((Holy Fathers) - Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)

V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)

ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — V. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)

V. For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle—Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23, 32-40

⁹ By faith, he lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ Indeed, Abraham looked for the city which has foundations and whose architect and builder is God.

¹⁷ By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac [in sacrifice]. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, ¹⁸ the very one of whom it was said, "In Isaac will your seed be called."

¹⁹ Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead. ²⁰ By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. ²¹ By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph's sons and bowed down, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. ²³ By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

³² What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. ³³ Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! ³⁸ They wandered in deserts, mountains,

caves, and the holes of the earth. ³⁹ All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise ⁴⁰ because God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

Dates for 2021

FAST SEASONS

Nativity Fast/Advent Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas Dec 26-Jan 4

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gospel — Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the origins of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ² Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron. Hezron became the father of Ram. ⁴ Ram became the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon. Nahshon became the father of Salmon. ⁵ Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse. ⁶ Jesse became the father of King David. David became the father of Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon became the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam became the father of Abijah. Abijah became the father of Asa. ⁸ Asa became the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram. Joram became the father of Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah became the father of Jotham. Jotham became the father of Ahaz. Ahaz became the father of Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh. Manasseh became the father of Amon. Amon became the father of Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the exile to Babylon. ¹² After the exile to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel became the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim. Eliakim became the father of Azor. ¹⁴ Azor became the father of Sadoc. Sadoc became the father of Achim. Achim became the father of Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud became the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan. Matthan became the father of Jacob. ¹⁶ Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. ¹⁷ And so, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the exile to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Christ, fourteen generations.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened like this: after his mother, Mary, was promised in marriage to Joseph but before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, her betrothed, who was a righteous man did not want to make her a public spectacle and so intended to put her away quietly. ²⁰ But as he was thinking about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for what is conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son and you shall give him the name Jesus because he will be the one to save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this happened so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*²³ Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bring forth a son.
They shall call his name Emmanuel;
which means, 'with us [is] God.'*

²⁴ Joseph arose from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him: he took his wife to [live with] him, ²⁵ and had no relations with her before she had brought forth her first-born son; and he named him Jesus.



Our Life in Christ

A Special Time—Our Christmas Gift to the World

We share again this message with the prayerful hope that it may contribute in us the spirit of this holy season:

This is a most special time for all as we near the Nativity of Christ, or Christmas. It is a time during which we prepare in many ways. There is appropriate criticism that this Great Feast Day is being secularized by a fallen society. However, even this world, entered into by Christ, cannot hide nor overcome the reality of our Lord's Nativity, His coming to us in the flesh.

Trees, lights, garland, snowmen, Santas, are all decorations found in the secularized world, and yet all point in some way to a happening that was Holy—the incarnation of God in the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Many times in history, Christians have come upon societies in which God was alien to the people. And many times, Christians infused those societies with Christian ideas and ideals. From the earliest records of the Bible, we see that the Chosen Jewish people turned from the worship of golden images and pagan symbols, and embraced the one true God, Yahweh. And later, a Jewish teacher, Jesus Christ, would come, and through His teachings, the Gentiles of those times would be converted from false gods and rituals, and embrace Him as the Son of God.

Today is very similar, as Christians encounter many non-believers. We are not called to conquer them with swords, but to offer them the teachings of Christ in words and actions, and win them, too, with love. Christ's lessons to us speak of the truth of God and those actions of love and forgiveness, of caring and compassion.

That is the Christmas gift we can offer all those with whom we have contact—in our Churches, our homes, in our schools, at our workplaces, in chance encounters, in communities and throughout the world.

And this year when we hear so much about the secularized world, let us resolve to be different and to infuse that world again with the Holy. May every festive light remind us of His light, which could not be overcome by the world's darkness; every twist of garland, remind us of His seamless robe; every snowflake of His gentle and pure coming; and every tree of his saving acts upon the Cross.

May we have a joyful Nativity.



2022 Membership/Pledge Drive

December is the time for our membership and pledge drive to help us prepare our budget for next year. Please take a moment to complete the attached membership and pledge (time, talent & financial) form (3 pages) and return it to myself (powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org) or our Treasurer (treasurer@stjohnofdamascus.org) before the end of the month.

Our Life in Christ

Bible Question(s)

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.....

- Q. WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF RACHEL'S DEATH?**
Q. WHAT ARE NAMES OF THE SONS OF JACOB? WHICH SONS WERE BORN OF RACHEL?
Q. HOW OLD WAS JACOB WHEN HE DIED?

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. HOW DID JACOB TRY TO ESSUAGE ESAU'S ANGER? A. HE PRAYED & THEN PREPARED FLOCKS OF VARIOUS ANIMALS IN STAGES TO OFFER ESAU AS A GIFT.**
Q. THE NIGHT BEFORE JACOB & ESAU WERE REUNITED WHAT DID JACOB DO? HE WRESTLED ALL NIGHT WITH A MAN WHO HE ACKNOWLEDGED AS GOD ASKING FOR HIS BLESSING.
A. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTERWARDS? WHAT CHANGED? A. HIS NAME WAS CHANGED FROM JACOB TO ISRAEL WHICH MEANS "GOD PREVAILS"
Q. WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF JACOB & ESAU'S MEETING? A. ESAU EMBRACES JACOB AND THE TWO ARE RECONCILED



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday Dec 20

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Orthodox Christianity 101
In-person & Via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

Tuesday Dec 21

10:30am — Fathers Café (in person & via Zoom)
7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday Dec 22

11:00am — Sacrament of Confession
4:00pm — Sacrament of Confession
6:00pm — Sacrament of Confession

Friday Dec 24—Christmas Eve

10:00am — Vespers & Divine Liturgy for Eve of Nativity
6:00pm — Vigil for Nativity

Saturday Dec 25—Christmas Day

8:30am — Hours & Festal Divine Liturgy
6:00pm — Great Vespers

Sunday Dec 26

8:30am — Hours & Divine Liturgy
Youth Christmas Program & **Potluck**

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

Many Years!

Newly Illumined Ivan Sadybekov & Luka Stewart-Barjadze

Birthdays

Irene Stone	12/19
Vera Klavzar, Abigail Lorelli	12/20
Nick Spanovich	12/22
Kyra Federoff Toth	12/23
Matushka Victoria Anderson, Fadwa Harb	12/24

Wedding Anniversaries

Mark & Katrina Griebing	12/21
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Confessions are held on Saturdays after Great Vespers or by appointment with Fr Michael.

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Web: www.stjohnofdamascus.org

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

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