

December 26, 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

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 2

2ND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

HOLY RIGHTEOUS ONES

SYNAXIS 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 from the Holy Fathers**

Babylon and Egypt represent the whole world. Even when they were engulfed in ungodliness, God signified that he intended to correct and amend both Babylon and Egypt. God wanted humanity to expect his bounteous gifts the world over. So he called from Babylon the wise men and sent to Egypt the holy family.

St. John Chrysostom

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or  
Be Included in our Weekly  
([NEWS@StJohnofDamascus.org](mailto:NEWS@StJohnofDamascus.org))**



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

## Parish Life

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

The Diamond Circle will meet December 28, 11 AM - 2 PM in the CHURCH HALL for a Christmas pot luck.

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

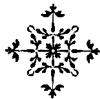


### **Save the Date! Retirement Celebration for Fr Alexander Federoff Jan 16, 2022**

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!



### **2022 CALENDARS VOLUNTARY DONATION \$5**

2022 church calendars from St. Tikhon's are here! Please take one calendar per household so that we can be sure to have enough for everyone.

Once we know every family has one people may come and ask for additional copies.

### **Dec 26—Church School Christmas Youth Program**

Today 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 .



### **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](mailto:powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org)) or our Treasurer ([treasurer@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:treasurer@stjohnofdamascus.org)) before the end of the month.

## 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!”

#### Feast—Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

#### Righteous Ones—Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
thou hast seen a Virgin great with child;  
and thou didst give glory with the shepherds;  
thou didst worship with the Magi,  
and didst receive the news from the Angel.//  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

### KONTAKIA

#### Righteous Ones — Tone 3

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,//  
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

#### Feast — Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,  
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!  
The wise men journey with the star,//  
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

### PROKEIMENON

**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)

**Tone 4** (Righteous Ones) - God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)

### 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)

**Tone 4**—V. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle—Galatians 1: 11-19

<sup>11</sup>[Regarding] the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. <sup>12</sup>I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. <sup>14</sup>I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. <sup>15</sup>But when it was the good pleasure of God (who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: <sup>17</sup>I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, 'the Lord's brother.'

### Epistle—Ephesians 6: 10-17

<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the devil's tactics. <sup>12</sup>Truly, our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness and against the evil spiritual forces of the supernatural realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the evil day comes. Having accomplished all things, may you stand your ground! <sup>14</sup>Yes, stand [firm], having the belt of truth around your waist, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>having fitted shoes on your feet so as to be ready in the Good News of peace. <sup>16</sup>Above all, take up the shield of faith which will enable you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word [spoken] by God.

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> After they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

<sup>14</sup> So Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.

<sup>15</sup> They remained there until the death of Herod, so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: Out of Egypt I have called my son.

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, he became extremely angry. He dispatched [his men] and killed all the male children who lived in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside, two years old and under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> And so, what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning: Rachel weeping for her children. She would not be comforted, because they are no more.

<sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream when he was in Egypt, saying: <sup>20</sup> "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel; those who were trying to kill the young child are dead."

<sup>21</sup> Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother, and they came into the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> However, when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> He thus arrived and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

### Gospel — Luke 18: 18-27

<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup> Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

<sup>21</sup> The ruler replied, "I have observed all these things from my youth."

<sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard these things, he said, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have, distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

<sup>23</sup> But when the man heard these things, he became very distressed because he was very rich.

<sup>24</sup> Jesus, seeing that he had become very distressed, said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter into the Kingdom of God!

<sup>25</sup> Indeed, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone who is wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

<sup>26</sup> Those who heard this exclaimed, "Then who can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus replied, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

### Dates for 2021

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

After Christmas

Dec 26-Jan 4

## Pastoral Message from Archbishop BENJAMIN

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the West,

Dearly beloved:

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

*O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory, and we saw Him; and He had no form or beauty....*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference.” (Isaiah 53:1-2; 61:1-3)*



Once again, we gather together at the Cave to wonder at the Mystery of the pre-eternal Son of God coming into creation as a little Child. The earth opened wide its mouth and received the One who filled its darkness with Light. We are called in our celebration to open wide the caves in our hearts. The words of the Prophet Isaiah quoted above are not chanted in the services of the Feast, but they point to the Incarnation. In those words, we ponder two things. The prophet proclaims the coming of the Messiah as a Child, and not only a Child, but a Root planted firmly in the desert. But there is no earthly or human beauty in this Child. Rather, the Messiah comes into the world in a rather matter-of-fact way — by His Mother giving birth. Except for the angels singing to the shepherds, and the wise men being led by a star, nobody knew. Nobody came. That reality is the reality that comes down to us to this day. The Child we proclaim and celebrate today can only be seen by those looking for Him. As we ponder the Cave, the Child and the miracle of God made man, may we be found looking for Him.

The second reality is the words of the Lord Himself through the Prophet Isaiah. He comes into the world to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to captives, and sight to the blind and to comfort all who mourn. This season is so difficult in our contemporary culture. Everything has screamed at us for months: “Christmas is coming! Get your shopping done! Be happy! What’s for Christmas dinner?” and on and on. Yet this season is also when suicides spike, when broken families have no one to gather with, “seasonal affective disorder” afflicts many people, and when we are still dealing with COVID and threats of lockdowns and quarantines. There are people hospitalized, people dying, people lonely, not to mention those hungry, homeless and destitute. Some just want to “go home for Christmas.” Some are afraid to die. Some are afraid to open their own “caves” to the Child.

But the miracle is two-fold. The Child comes into the world for the person that is poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, and mourning. That person, of course, is me. Each of us has brokenness in our lives that can only be healed by the Child being born in us and growing within us. But He did not just come “for” each of us; He came to “become” us. We can turn to Him in our loneliness and destitute condition because He is already there waiting for us, broken, lonely and destitute Himself. But when we enter into the Child who has no form or beauty, we ourselves are clothed with form and beauty!

## **Our Life in Christ**

My beloved flock, may the Child come into the world this day heal every brokenness, cure every ill, and give the form and beauty of God Himself to all who come to worship Him in this broken world. May the hope given to us this day never fade away no matter the difficulties facing us. May the Gift that is placed in our hands this day always be received as the only gift that matters.

**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

**In the new-born Child,**

**† Benjamin**

**Archbishop of San Francisco and the West**

### **Bible Question(s) - Last Week's Questions**

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

**14. Q. WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF RACHEL'S DEATH? A. She died giving birth to Benjamin**

**Q. WHAT ARE NAMES OF THE SONS OF JACOB? A. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph & Benjamin**

**WHICH SONS WERE BORN OF RACHEL? A. Joseph & Benjamin**

**Q.HOW OLD WAS ISSAC WHEN HE DIED? 180 years**

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.



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Sunday Dec 26

Youth Christmas Program & **Potluck**

### Monday Dec 27

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

### Tuesday Dec 28

10:30am — Fathers Café (in person & via Zoom)

### Monday Jan 3

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

### Tuesday January 4

10:30am—Father's Café

### Wednesday January 5—Eve of Theophany

*Strict Fast*

9:00am — Royal Hours for Theophany

6:00pm—Vigil for Theophany

### Thursday January 6—Holy Theophany

8:30am — Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

12:00pm — Blessing of Water at Lake Poway

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

## Many Years!

### *Name Days*

Joseph Sheeler, Joseph Temnick, James Pelachik, David Boyles—Sunday after Nativity  
Steve Brown—12/27 Caitlin (Juliana) Gannon—1/2

### *Birthdays*

Eisabeth Koroleva 1/1  
Terry Miller, Maha Rahal, Nicholas Stone 1/6

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

Dale & Tanya Franchak 12/28 Caitlin Gannon & Dmitriy Panasenکو 12/29  
George & Maha Rahal 1/8

*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