

January 16, 2022



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

30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 5

**VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CHAINS OF
THE ALL-GLORIOUS APOSTLE PETER**

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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

Choice rather than human nature is the
determining factor and rather constitutes
“the human condition” than the natural
determinants. For human nature itself does
not cast one into hell, nor does it lead one
into the kingdom, but this happens by men
themselves.

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
with your request.



Parish Life

New Wed Eve Adult Ed Class Whose Who in the Canon of St Andrew of Crete (Old Testament) Begins Wed - 7pm

As we continue our study of the Old Testament this year, our next Adult Ed class will focus on all the Old Testament figures mentioned in the Canon of St Andrew of Crete sung during Great Lent,

We will focus on how St Andrew uses these people as examples to guide us to repentance.



Retirement Celebration for Fr Alexander Federoff POSTPONED

We regret that the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and banquet reception will be postponed due to significantly high numbers of COVID cases in San Diego County that are expected to persist for at least several weeks.

The celebration will be rescheduled, as conditions allow, to an available date after the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha.

We will contact you in advance with a new announcement.



Please Sign-up for Fellowship Hour

We have posted a sign-up sheet for Fellowship/ Coffee Hours for the next few months. There are many Sundays open.

We typically have 3 or 4 families sign up to avoid it being a burden on anyone.

Having something simple to eat enables people to stay for fellowship and build relationships.

Please take part and sign up for a Sunday or 2!

Elections for Parish Council

Our Parish Annual Meeting is approaching. If you are a voting member and a regular participant in the Sacraments and would like to be considered to serve as a Parish Council Member please see Fr Michael.



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.



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
info@stjohnofdamascus.org**

Today's Worship—Hymns

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.

Dates for 2022

MOVABLE FEASTS

Palm Sunday	April 17
Pascha	April 24
Ascension	June 2
Pentecost	June 12

FASTS

After Meatfare	Feb 28-Mar 6
Great Lent	Mar 7-April 17
Holy Week	April 18-23
Apostles Fast	June 20-28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

Publican & Pharisee	Feb 13-19
Bright Week	April 24-30
After Pentecost	June 12-18
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

OT Bible Question "Test" Due Jan 31

As we continue our exploration of the Old Testament this year we have completed the 1st half of our bulletin bible questions. The questions are available in the narthex. Whoever completes the "test" (you can use past bulletins to help) and submits it will be entered into a raffle by age group for a gift card to their favorite store and/or restaurant.

Ministry Coordinator Directory

Below are the people who lead various ministries in our parish. Feel free to contact them to find out how to offer your God-given time and talents to the life of our community.

Adult Ed — Fr Michael

Altar Servers—Subdeacon Ken Telles

Auxiliary President — Tanya Franchak

Candle Stand — Gene Francello

Choir—Carole Shumaik

Church School — Bill Moision

Church Sign Messages—John Thayer

Fellowship/Coffee Hour — Linda Kedroff

Diamond Circle Seniors — Jim & Patty Pelachik

Greeters — Valerie Lane

Handmaidens — Sally Menig & Desiree Geralt

Koliva — Fr Michael

Parish Council President—Patty Pelachik

Prospora — Fr Michael

Readers at Divine Liturgy—Bill Moision

Saturday Adult Ed — Dn George Shumaik

Sunday Commemoration Loaves— TBD

Consider taking part and helping this group make St John's the wonderful lively parish it is. For information on how to contact any of the above please speak with Fr Michael.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the
flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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!

St Peter—Tone 4

Thou didst come to us without leaving Rome
through the precious chains that thou didst wear.
First-enthroned of the Apostles,
we bow down to them in faith and pray://
"Through thy prayers to God grant us great
mercy!"

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O
Lover of man,//
and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

St Peter — Tone 2

Christ the Rock radiantly glorifies the Rock of
Faith,
the first-enthroned of the disciples;
He calls us to honor the miracles wrought through
Peter's chains,//
so that He may grant us forgiveness of our sins.

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!

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle—Colossians 3: 12-16

¹² As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. ¹³ Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

¹⁴ Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel — Luke 18: 18-27

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

¹⁹ Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. ²⁰ 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.' "

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

²² 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."

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

²⁴ 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!

²⁵ 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!"

²⁶ Those who heard this exclaimed, "Then who can be saved?"

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

PROKEIMENON

Tone 5 (Resurrection)- Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

ALLELUIA

Tone 1 — V. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)

V. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

Our Life in Christ—Sanctity of Life Sunday

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

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we witness our society becoming increasingly polarized and divided, we approach the anniversary of one of the most bitter of these divisions: the legalization of abortion in the United States of America. We grieve on this anniversary for the many lives cut short, the emotional and psychological devastation done to so many women, the numerous wounded families, and the persistent hostility embittering our society.

The Orthodox Church continues to hold fast to its ancient belief that all human life, from conception in the womb to our very last moment, is sacred to God. For the Holy Scripture tells us that “God did not make death, and He does not delight in the death of the living. For He created all things that they might exist” (Wis 1:13–14). So we say, humbly but firmly, that the willful destruction of a person in the womb is an evil act and a rejection of a gift of God.

For Orthodox Christians, the darkness of abortion transcends the political. It extends even beyond morality and ethics. It cuts to the heart of our faith in the Resurrection. On that bright morning of Great and Holy Pascha, Christ forever destroyed death, the last enemy of mankind (cf. 1 Cor 15:26). The empty tomb ennobles humanity and transforms us into a people forever dedicated to life, utterly opposed to death in all its forms. All people, even those still unborn, are created for eternity with God, and it is our unshakable conviction in the Risen Christ which makes the thought of the termination of a child unimaginable.

We also know that the unequivocal message of the New Testament is that followers of Christ are to “love one another” with the same self-sacrifice with which Christ loved us (cf. Jn 13:34). I encourage all Orthodox Christians to show that Christ-like, self-sacrificial love in the face of this darkness. I ask that we assist mothers in every way possible to relieve them of the temptation to abortion. Likewise, support the fathers as they step up to embrace their new and blessed family responsibility.

As we “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15) we must not condemn others but leave judgment to the Lord. Our call is a call to repentance, beginning with ourselves, so that we might restore the likeness of God and become bright mirrors reflecting the light of Christ to a wounded, confused, and anxious people. Let the only thing that our society sees in us be overflowing love, piety, and forgiveness to all. We remember with gratitude that the Lord always gives us, personally and as a nation, a path out of our sin through repentance—even sin as devastating and horrific as abortion. Let our parishes and communities become beacons of that divine love and forgiveness, where all human life is valued as deeply as Christ values it, as we forever speak with a Paschal voice: “Christ is risen and life reigns.”

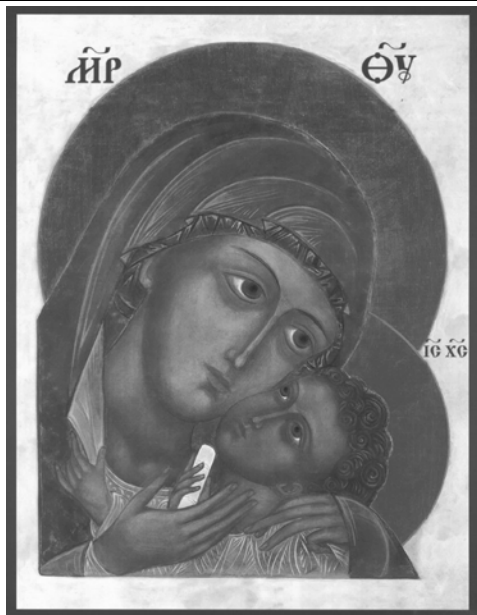
May the Holy Spirit, whom we confess in the Creed as “the Lord, the Giver of life,” ever inspire us with love, humility, and conviction as we speak to this issue.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada



Our Life in Christ

Preparing for Your House Blessing

Sanctification of the home

The blessing of homes with holy water maintains the spiritual association between the 'home or family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings.

The sanctification of the home takes place with prayer and the sprinkling of holy water. The priest, at this annual visit, asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. Everyone of the house, prays together for the living and the dead of the family, and all who live and have lived in the house. They all sing the hymn of salvation and process from room to room while the priest blesses the house.

Preparation

Traditions of the ceremony differ according to local custom, but these general guidelines should be observed:

- A candle with an icon and some holy water should be placed in a suitable place, such as kitchen or dining room table, or a home altar.
- Also, a list of first names for whom prayers are to be offered, including members of the family and all those living in the house. The list should have a clear distinction between the living and the dead.
- If it is the practice to give the priest a gift, it should not be placed with the holy objects on the table. It can be prepared in advanced, but given at the conclusion of the service.

The ceremony

When the priest comes, all who are present in the house should gather around the icon with the candle. They should, if they are able to join in, say the Trisagion Prayers and sing of the Troparion of the Feast of Epiphany. Then a family member leads the priest through the house with the candle. As he goes, he sprinkles holy water, and prays for a blessing upon each room and the activity that goes on there. When they have gone through the entire house, the family gathers again around the table and the priest blesses each person present.

**Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent
(Jan. 6 - Mar 6) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.
Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.**

*The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying,
'Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom,
the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God,
of Christ who has appeared'.*

— from the Great Blessing of the Waters



LOOKING AHEAD

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

January 6-March 5

Annual House Blessings—Contact Fr Michael to Schedule

Monday Jan 17

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

Tuesday January 18

10:30am — Father's Café

Wednesday January 19

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Whose Who in the Canon of St Andrew (OT)
In-person & Via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

Monday Jan 23

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

Tuesday January 24

10:30am — Father's Café
7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday January 25

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Whose Who in the Canon of St Andrew (OT)
In-person & Via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

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

Many Years!

Name Days

Tanya (Tatiana) Franchak 1/12
Carmen (Anthony) Brown 1/17
Ethan (Athanasius) Menig 1/18

Birthdays

Susan Miller, Pauline Somers, Dennis Stavrou 1/17
Kelvin John Brown 1/18
Josephine Grace Lorelli 1/20
George Darjania, Max Federoff 1/21

Wedding Anniversaries

Bill & Therese Moision 1/19

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

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

Church: 16903 Espola Rd Poway — **Mailing Address:** PO Box 28291 San Diego, CA 92198

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

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