

January 23, 2022



# 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

**31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 6  
HOLY NEW MARTYRS & CONFESSORS OF  
RUSSIA**

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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**

Now that he was delivered from his blindness, did he neglect the duty of loving Christ? He certainly did not. It says, "He followed him, offering him glory like to God." He was set free from double blindness. Not only did he escape from the blindness of the body but also from that of the mind and heart. He would not have glorified him as God, had he not possessed spiritual vision. He became the means of others giving Christ glory, for it says that all the people gave glory to God.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or**



"Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" ...  
Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your  
faith has healed you."

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

## Parish Life

### Blood Drive—Need 25 Commitments

As many of you may have heard there is a significant shortage of blood donations currently. We are investigating hosting a blood drive in response. We need at least 25 people committed to giving blood to host the drive. Once we have that number of people we can schedule the event. Please consider signing up. There is a form on the Calendar/Schedules bulletin board in the hall.



### 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.



### 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.

### 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. It is now January. 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.

A list of people we have received forms from is posted on the bulletin board in the hall. Please check to see if your name is listed.



### 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.

## Today's Worship—Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### **Resurrection—Tone 6**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave,  
seeking Thy most pure body.  
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.  
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //  
glory to Thee.

#### **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!

#### **New Martyrs of Russia—Tone 4**

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in  
joy,  
praising her new martyrs and confessors;  
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers,  
right-believing princes and princesses,  
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox  
Christians.  
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ  
during the days of godless persecution,  
they preserved the truth by the shedding of  
blood. //  
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord,  
preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the  
age.

### 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.

#### **New Martyrs of Russia—Tone 3**

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white  
robes before the Lamb of God,  
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of  
victory:  
"Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and  
honor,  
and power, and strength be to our God //  
unto the ages of ages. Amen."

#### **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—1 Timothy 1:15-17

<sup>15</sup> This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the first. <sup>16</sup> This is how I obtained mercy, so that in me as 'the first,' Jesus Christ might show all his patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the eternal King, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

### Epistle—Romans 8 28-39

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> Whoever God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that his Son might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Whoever God predestined, he also called. Those whom he called, he also justified. Those whom he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also give us all things with him freely? <sup>33</sup> Who could bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies! <sup>34</sup> Who is the one who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes and rather, who is risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> Even as it is written:

For your sake we are killed all day long.  
We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> Indeed, I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### 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)

**Tone 7** (New Martyrs)- God is our refuge and strength, / a help in afflictions that severely befall us. (Ps. 45:1)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Luke 18: 35-43

<sup>35</sup> As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. <sup>36</sup> Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant. <sup>37</sup> People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. <sup>38</sup> He began to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>39</sup> Then those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>40</sup> Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, <sup>41</sup> "What do you want me to do?"

The man replied, "Lord, that I may see again!"

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you."

<sup>43</sup> Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God.

### Gospel — Luke 21: 8-19

<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Watch out that you do not get led astray, for many will come in my Name, saying: 'I am he,' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not follow them!" <sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup> There will be great earthquakes, famines, and plagues in various places. There will be fearful events and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> But before all these things [happen], you will be placed under arrest and be persecuted; you will be handed over to synagogues and prisons, and brought before kings and governors for my Name's sake. <sup>13</sup> But it will turn out for you as an occasion to bear witness. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to ponder in advance how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or withstand. <sup>16</sup> You will be handed over even by parents, relatives, friends, and brothers. Some of you will be put to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all for my Name's sake, <sup>18</sup> yet not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance acquire your lives.

### ALLELUIA

**Tone 6** — V. He who dwelleth 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)

**Tone 4** - V. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps. 33:17)

## Our Life in Christ

### 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

### **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**

### **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.



## **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 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)

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

## Many Years!

### *Birthdays*

Charlene Hayes, Kathleen Callahan, Elaine Kowalik, 1/24

*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](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org)

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

**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