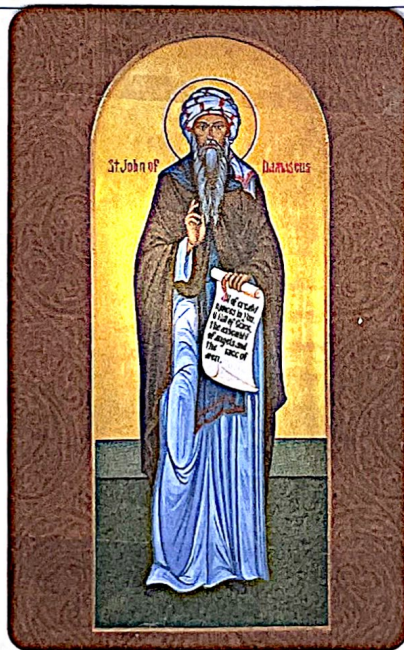




2021 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



JANUARY 1, 2022
PARISH COUNCIL
POWAY, CALIFORNIA 92064

2021 St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church Parish Council Yearbook

Dear Clergy and parishioners,

Welcome to our Parish Council yearbook which will also appear on the parish website. The hope is to give our readers a more detailed description of church events and activities of the parish council in 2021.

Hope you enjoy our yearbook. All comments, both positive and negative are welcome and appreciated.

Leo Hayes, editor

SANDYDOG1211@aol.com

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1. The Visit of St. Anna's Icon and the Dewey's Surf Band

On June 6th, Father John Parker of St. Tikhon's monastery brought this miraculous icon to our church so that we could pray to St. Anna and venerate her icon

Anna, the mother of the Holy Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She lived in Nazareth and married Joachim, a descendant of King David. St. Anna remained childless until old age. She and her husband made a promise to God that they would dedicate their child to his service if he would grant St. Anna the ability to conceive. Soon after their promise was made, an angel appeared to her and, a short time later, she gave birth to a daughter who she named Mary. The passing of St. Anna is a special feast in the Orthodox faith.

The miraculous icon of St. Anna is a fairly new icon (23 years old). The icon was commissioned by Father Athanasy in 1998 in the Mt. of Olives convent in Jerusalem. After the icon was completed and blessed at the Sepulcher of Our Lord in the Jerusalem Church of the Resurrection, the icon was brought to Philadelphia to the Russian Orthodox Church of Our Lady of Joy of All Who Sorrow.



On May 9, 2004 (Mother's Day), the icon began to stream myrrh, and on that day, one of the parishioners mentioned this miraculous observation to the parish rector, Father Athanasy. Archimandrite Athanasy, upon further inspection noticed visible streams and droplets accumulating on the cuff of St. Anna's left hand and on her left shoulder veil. Droplets were also present elsewhere on the icon. Initially, the myrrh looked like tear drops, as if St. Anna was crying.

In the fall of 2012, this miraculous icon was moved to St. Tikhon of Zadonsk monastery (in northeastern Pennsylvania, i.e. Waymart). Assistance and healings are still wrought by this miraculous icon, and St. Anna continues to work wonders for those who approach her in faith. St. Anna's intercessions has been linked to healing of cancer and other diseases. She is also known for ending droughts. Some women who had been struggling to conceive credit her with their eventual pregnancies. Underneath each of the icon's silver hands is written the name of a girl whose birth has been attributed to the saint's intercession.

One of our parishioners, who prayed to St. Anna the evening that she visited St. John's, had his prayer answered within a week of her visit. Specifically, he prayed that his daughter would find the better job that she had been seeking for some time. That Tuesday, she had an interview and by that Friday (less than a week's time from the intercession) she had a better new job.

On the evening of June 6th, after the icon of St. Anna was brought into our church, our parish had a moleben service so parishioners could pray to St. Anna and venerate her icon. There was an excellent turnout for this event. People from various parishes from San Diego and the environs attended. There was even a lady who came from the suburbs of Moscow. She was staying with

one of her relatives here. After each one of the attendees venerated the wonderful icon, each one was anointed with myrrh by Father John and then given a card replica of the icon by our Father Michael.



Father John Parker

After the service, Father John Parker gave a talk. The spiritual experience was wonderful, but the evening was not yet over!

Father John is a surfer and has some friends from the Riverside area that are musicians and also surfing buffs. The Deweys, (Armand, John, and David) as they are known, played some surfing music for us. Even Father John participated in the performance.

Our wonderful Auxiliary provided refreshments.

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin was born Vladimir Arsenyevich in Escondido, California on June 1, 1954, and was baptized and chrismated at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles, California, on April 27, 1972. He attended St Vladimir's Seminary in Cutler, New York where he earned a Master of Divinity degree and also a Certificate in Liturgical Music. Following his graduation, his passion for music led him to churches of music in Detroit, Michigan and Los Angeles, California. He also served as the chairman of the Department of Music for the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).

On November 13, 1987, he was ordained a deacon. He served in that capacity at Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Cathedral for 11 years. He was also the education director there. In 1988 Vladimir chose to be a monk and was tonsured by Bishop Tikhon and was given the name Benjamin. In 1991, Hieromonk Benjamin was promoted to archdeacon. On July 15, 1992, Hieromonk Benjamin was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Tikhon.

In 1999, Hieromonk Benjamin was transferred to the Diocese of Alaska where he served in various capacities at Saint Isaac Cathedral in Anchorage and Saint Herman Seminary in Kodiak. In 2002 he was elevated to the position of Archimandrite. In January 2004, Archimandrite Benjamin returned to the Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral in Los Angeles as pastor. While there he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of the West.

In March 2004, Archimandrite Benjamin was elected to the episcopacy by the Synod of Bishops of the OCA and assigned as auxiliary bishop to the Diocese of the West. On May 1, 2004, he was consecrated as Bishop of America. Also by the consent of Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco and Los Angeles in 2007, he was appointed to the episcopacy of San Francisco.

2. A Joyous Visit – April 10th and 11th

Archbishop Benjamin's annual visit to our parish this year occurred during Great Lent. Clergy and parishioners greeted him with great joy and together celebrated Liturgy on Sunday, April 11th.



He gave a short talk afterwards including remarks about the Gospel (Mark 9:17-31), and the fact that several males in his family suffered from epilepsy.

The archbishop also discussed all the tribulations of the past year due to COVID-19 restrictions. He was quite pleased with Father Michael and the way our entire parish had responded and adjusted to all the difficult restrictions of this pandemic and the fact that we didn't let that stand in the way of glorifying God. Archbishop Benjamin also mentioned that even though some of the restrictions are being loosened or removed, we still need to be considerate of each other and wear masks and practice social distancing even despite being vaccinated.

After his blessing, we gathered together for a nice luncheon and a chance to meet and talk with him.

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin was born Vincent Peterson in Pasadena, California, on June 1, 1954, and was baptized and chrismated at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles, California, on April 27, 1972. He attended St Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, New York where he earned a Master of Divinity degree and also a Certificate in Liturgical Music. Following his graduation, his passion for music led him to directorships of choirs in Detroit, Michigan and Los Angeles, California. He also served as the chairman of the Department of Music for the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).

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In March 2004, Archimandrite Benjamin was elected to the episcopacy by the Synod of bishops of the OCA and assigned as auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of the West. On May 1, 2004, he was consecrated as Bishop of Berkeley. After the retirement of Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco and Los Angeles in 2007, he was appointed to the jurisdiction of San Francisco.

On May 9, 2012, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America elevated Bishop Benjamin to the Dignity of Archbishop.

Recently Archbishop Benjamin was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Pray for him!

For those unfamiliar with the hierarchy of the Eastern Church:

Bishop

Patriarch
Metropolitan
Archbishop
Bishop
Titular/Auxiliary Bishop

Priest/Presbyter

Archimandrite
Protopresbyter
Archpriest
Hieromonk
Presbyter/Priest

Deacon

Protodeacon
Archdeacon
Hierodeacon
Deacon

3. St John of Damascus' Cell Tower

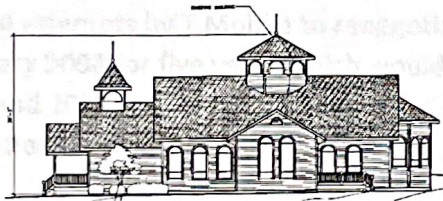
A Reflection by Fr Alexander Federoff

November 2021

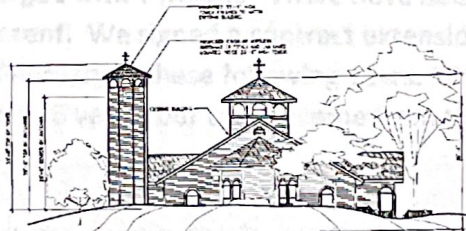
Early in 2002, St John's was contacted by AT&T to use our outside dome to attach cells for their wireless phone system. Cell phone companies were scouting the area since the Lutheran Church next door had cells attached to their steeple by Sprint. I responded that we were interested, but AT&T did not follow through with their initial contact.

Soon after, Cingular Wireless contacted me. We arranged a meeting where I was the only representative from St John's and they had a team of eight gentlemen attend. I was impressed because each person had his area of expertise. There was an architect, structural engineer, landscape expert, lawyer and permit advisor. They bounced off each other and described how they wanted to proceed. We held a special Parish Meeting on October 27, 2002, which approved the Cingular Wireless drawings, so we decided to move ahead.

Original Church built in 1993



Church with proposed cell tower 2003



The first step in getting approval for the Conditional Use Permit was to hold a community meeting of surrounding property owners on May 29, 2003. This meeting was held at St John's with a half dozen locals attending. I welcomed one man who walked in with a large bag of files who told me "after I heard what he had to say that he probably would not be welcomed." During the meeting he spoke against having the cell tower nearby. His dissertation was anti-technology. He even somehow brought up the Challenger explosion. Not sure how that related to a cell tower.

The first meeting with the Poway City Council was held in July 2003. Cingular Wireless presented information about the health affects of radio waves and precedence that cell towers could not be opposed due to health concerns. Our anti-technology neighbor showed up and gave his presentation to the council. When he mentioned a lawsuit that was brought against the City of El Cajon, you could see the faces of the Council members change. It was decided to postpone a decision until the next City Council Meeting.

At the August 20, 2003 Poway City Council meeting, staff reported that the lawsuit with the City of El Cajon was not related to our proposed cell tower. It had something to do with zoning. Darrell, our Cingular Wireless representative, told me I had to address the council because he felt they were leaning toward denying the project. (This was the third time Cingular Wireless was trying to get a tower in the City of Poway.)

When I addressed the City Council, I mentioned that radio waves were all around us. Can the ordinary person explain how we can drive 60 mph and turn on a radio and get clear music. Anyone remember when your mother told you not to sit too close to the TV or you could go blind. Today we sit in front of a computer monitor for hours! Everyone uses cell phones and complains if they have a bad signal or no coverage at all. (I recall one of the council members asked our neighbor if he used a cell phone. He answered "yes but said only sporadically.") After my talk the Council unanimously approved the project.

We signed a lease contract on August 8, 2002 with rent income of \$1,250 to commence January 2004 or thirty days after the beginning of construction. The term of the Lease was five years and the contract could be terminated with a 30 day written notice. Cingular Wireless was a division of Pacific Bell. In 2005 Cingular Wireless merged with T Mobile. There have been several attempts by T Mobile to renegotiate a lower rent. We signed a contract extension in February 2008 for five years which would renew in February in these following years: 2013, 2018 and 2023, each with a 8% increase. Over the last 18 years, our total income from the cell tower has been \$277,676.18

Last year, 2020, T Mobile merged with Sprint. Before the merger, the former Sprint tower at the Lutheran Church was retrofitted to 5G. T Mobile has also updated our cell tower to 5G. Several companies have contacted us to purchase our cell tower contract. In March 2018, we had one of those companies present a proposal during Coffee Hour. The parish consensus was not in favor of selling the cell tower lease.

Whatever the future will be, we have been blessed with the extra money to do many things we may not have been able to do without these extra funds. This income has never been used for basic expenses to operate the church. This has been a Godsent blessing!

4. Carole Shumaik's Birthday Celebration

On Sunday, May 30th, the parish celebrated Carole Shumaik's 70th (actual day is June 3rd) and 40 plus years as our wonderful choir director. Father Michael gave a presentation about our choir director and thanked Carole for her many years of hard work and supervising beautiful church music for all of us to hear and enjoy. He also presented her with a gift.

Our parish council also bestowed a nice gift on Carole. In addition, our choir director received gifts from various church members as an expression of their gratitude and appreciation for her many years of labor and also to help her to celebrate two monumental events in her life.



After Liturgy, with the special efforts of Nino, our Georgian friends, and others, we were all treated to a fine ethnic luncheon. To help our choir director and church attendees celebrate these jubilees, a birthday cake and refreshments were also provided.

Below is a brief bio of Carole's musical career submitted by her husband Deacon George.

Carole grew up on the Southside of Chicago in Flossmoor, Illinois. She attended a non-denominational community church where she enjoyed singing in the choir, with her fondness for many of the traditional Protestant hymns continuing to this day. Her interest in music included playing the piano. Her ability to read music became an important asset when she was called to sing and direct others in the beautiful antiphonal hymnology of the Orthodox Church.

She attended the University of Colorado where she met her husband, George. They were married in 1972 at the historic Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago. Residing in Denver while George attended medical school, they were both quickly involved as founding families of Saint Herman Orthodox Church in Littleton, Colorado. Carole quickly became the logical choice to sing and lead the small choir of the faithful in that mission parish. She continued in that role until 1975 when George's scholarship obligation to the U.S. Navy brought them to San Diego.

Once again, they became involved in the fledgling mission of St. John of Damascus Church. Carole was immediately active in the choir and shared the directing responsibility with Bonnie Moision and Helen Levenetz. With George's appointment as a faculty member in the Emergency Department at the UCSD School of Medicine in 1982, their brief sojourn to San Diego evolved into a permanent residency.

There were breaks in Carole's "full-time" position with the addition of each of their three daughters. She is quick to acknowledge that the choir, just as all of Christian worship, is a liturgical ministry, involving many. As time marches on, she is actively training others to assume the responsibility of directing by giving them the most useful tool of instruction, i.e. experience. May God grant her many years!

Submitted by deacon George

5 CHURCH BUILDING REPAIR AND PAINTING REPORT

During the year the parish council decided that we needed a team of property managers to periodically inspect the church buildings and grounds. Three volunteers took on this responsibility and met quarterly to inspect for any possible improvements and repairs.

This committee consists of Gene Francello, Leo Hayes, and Mike Wesdell.

A termite inspection was conducted, and minor termite presence and wood rot was noticed. A company was hired to replace the damaged wood areas and kill the termites.

Because our church structure is made entirely of wood, the condition of the paint is important for visual appeal, but mostly to protect the surfaces from the elements. The team determined that we should also paint the entire exterior. This was scheduled after the completion of the wood repairs. The same color scheme was kept. The painting of the exterior was completed in early November.

The interior of St. John of Damascus Church was also painted after all existing cracks were repaired. The color was kept the same. This project was completed in mid-November. The front door of the structure was also given a nice new coat of varnish.

The committee continues to look at other repairs and improvements that may be needed.

Any observations that anyone notices that need attention, please notify one of our committee members.

In keeping with being good steward we are thankful that we can maintain this beautiful church property that God has given us to worship and enjoy.

Submitted by Gene Francello

6 Auxiliary Report

Our church auxiliary consists of several members. Under the leadership of Tanya Franchak, they have been instrumental in helping raise funds for our parish and help the less fortunate in our community through various projects.

Our main source of income has been our 3 annual bake sales. We have had some volunteers, in addition to our committee members, help in the baking, organizing, and selling of various ethnic baked goods.

Auxiliary President

Also, the generous donations of flour, sugar, walnuts and other ingredients, as well as, the numerous hours of labor by our church members helped us minimize our expenses in preparing 29 different items.

We have had 2 sales so far this year. One during Lent and one on November 18th (Thanksgiving sale). A very big "thank you" to everyone who came to work at our 2 sales. We did very well, especially at our last one (over \$8,300) thanks to you.

Now on to Christmas and beyond!

Our Christmas Bake Sale is on December 18th which leaves us only time for a quick breath before we re-start our preparation work. There will be cooking/baking sessions in the church hall on December 7th, 8th, and 9th.

The December Bake will follow the same successful format, but this depends on having adequate help during the event. We desperately need workers to help with the many tasks involved that day. There will be live Christmas music and a trivia contest (must be present to win) to add to the fun and fellowship. After all, it's all about "baking spirits bright"! Watch for sign-up sheets to be posted soon. Please share some of your time, as we are busy during the holiday season.

Retirement plans for Father Alexander are also moving along. We look forward to the celebration

on January 16th to honor to honor Father Al, who has meant so much to our Parish and to all of us.

At this festive season, the Auxiliary remembers to share our blessings with those in need. We have contributed to St. John's shoebox campaign and will also be lending support to two needy Poway area families and to the homeless.

"God Bless us, everyone"!

Yours in Christ,

Tanya Franchak,

Auxiliary President

7 Bookstore report: Items for sale

St. John's bookstore provides a service to parishioners and visitors by offering a variety of Orthodox products for sale. In addition to books, prayer and service books, we carry icons, baptismal crosses, prayer ropes, incense and assorted gift items. We also have honey and olive oil from the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga.

Group 3 (12-18) Nathan Cooper

Profits from our bookstore sales are used to help fund the parish education program.

The bookstore is in our parish church hall.

If you have any questions or special requests, please speak with Evan Keeling or e-mail

sjodbookstore@gmail.com.

Submitted by Evan Keeling

Bookstore Manager

The theme for all classes this year will be Old Testament. Our classroom materials include Orthodox material from our Church Library, Internet, OCEC for use by our teachers. We are always looking for ways to improve our education program. This year we are using an internet lesson program from Orthodox Journeys for our teachers/parents.

I would like to thank all our dedicated teachers who take the time to instruct our children on the teachings of the Orthodox faith. I want to thank all of you for your support, and especially all our parents for their continued help and assistance.

Your servant in Christ,

Bill Winkler,

Church school coordinator

8. Church School Report for 2021

The enrollment for the 2021-2022 church school program began with 20 students enrolled in four groups:

Group 1 (3-5) Sally Menig, Annie Cooper

Group 2 (6-11) Desiree Geralt, Kathryn Jones

Group 3 (12-18) Nathan Cooper

Group 4 (Youth Choir) Carole Shumaik

Church school is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and choir practice is held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. During the announcements in Church the children are dismissed for classes or choir practice. We are following all Covid-19 guidelines during our class meetings.

Group 1 meets in the church hall. Group 2 meets outside on the patio near the church hall and Group 3 meets in the area near the playground. This year we will have our Christmas Program with our annual special guest. The children will make Christmas Cards and participate in the Shoebox gift program. We are planning a St Nicholas Celebration when children put their shoes in the church hall and received gold coins the next day. We are also planning youth Sunday/St John of Damascus names day when the children participate in the liturgy with singing and helping with the liturgy. Later in the year They will lead the food drive for the San Diego Food Bank.

The theme for all classes this year will be Old Testament. Our classroom materials include Orthodox material from our Church Library, Internet, OCEC for use by our teachers. We are always looking for ways to improve our education program. This year we are using an internet lesson program from Orthodox Journeys for our teachers/parents.

I would like to thank all our dedicated teachers who take the time to instruct our children on the teachings of the Orthodox faith. I want to thank all of you for your support, and especially all our parents for their continued help and assistance.

Your servant in Christ,

Bill Moision,

Church school coordinator



The Diamond Circle

The Diamond Circle is a group of children who, during the year, are chosen to be the "Diamond Circle" and to participate in a special program. The group was formed in 1961 and is open to all children.



9 The Diamond Circle

The Diamond Circle is a group of our senior members, their spouses and friends who like to get together, participate in community activities and share a meal and fellowship in a relaxed setting. The group was formed on February 27, 2018. It is open to all church seniors.

Over the past three years (excluding much of 2020 and part of 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions), the group has engaged in various activities. These include the following:

1. Visit to Bernardo Winery
2. Learning how to draw
3. Playing Bingo and Bunco
4. Visit to a monastery in Temecula
5. Harbor cruise of San Diego Bay
6. Helping the Auxiliary with baking for our 3 annual bake sales
7. A trip to Julian
8. A chance for stardom by attending the taping of "The Price is Right"
9. Watching videos
10. A Christmas Party

The Diamond Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and all seniors are welcome! Contact Jim or Patty Pelachik if you would like more information and have any suggestions for further activities.

10. Landscaping Projects

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many services that were needed to maintain the church grounds were put on hold. Our church hires a gardener monthly to cut the lawn around the church property, but regular maintenance of the bushes is not contracted. By spring 2021, our property had sprouted new growth on our existing bushes and flower beds and things started looking neglected. The St. John of Damascus Church parish council saw the need to intervene and decided to send out a call for volunteers (see following page for our last ad) to trim bushes and clean out flower bed areas booming with growth.

Parish Council President

On June 26th, about a dozen volunteers, brought their trimmers, other equipment, and leaf bags. They worked a few hours and cleaned out a few flower beds and trimmed back a few of the overgrown bushes and oversized trees.

The resulting effort was very rewarding, and the grounds looked much better, but there seemed to be so much more to do! The day was closed with a light lunch supplied by St. John's auxiliary and we rested while enjoying some good fellowship.

Then, after the long summer, the volunteer crew, consisting of about the same number of people as the previous time, met again on October 9th and trimmed back more bushes and cleaned up additional flower beds. This time, the group focused on cleaning out the growth of bushes surrounding the church building which were in the way of the workers contracted to paint the wooden trim. As a result of these hard-working volunteers, there was hardly any obstruction, and this allowed the painters to do their best caulking and painting job to give our wonderful church a fresh new look.

Again, the workday concluded with a light lunch provided by St. John's auxiliary, and some good Christian fellowship.


The group will meet again in January 2022, weather permitting, to continue to trim back more bushes and any other excessive growth.

Please come join us in January and offer just a few hours of help to clean and beautify our church.

Watch for information in our church bulletins, St. John of Damascus website or contact Patty Pelachik or John Klavzar for additional information,

Submitted by Patty Pelachik

Parish council, President



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

HVAC and SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

11a. Breath of Fresh Air

Among the daily things we have seen change since the COVID-19 outbreak, awareness of the indoor space and air quality surrounding us has certainly grown. Numerous businesses and medical institutions with few options began to upgrade their buildings and workspaces in various ways to cope with operating indoors during a long pandemic period. We are now more informed about how effectively circulating and cleaning the air we breathe will dramatically lower COVID risks and make us feel better overall.

The upgrade project for our buildings' heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems began during the months we were attending services outdoors to provide protection upon returning inside. We surveyed available treatment options and selected a highly effective "whole-house" purification and air scrubber system. The process works by producing and circulating low level hydrogen peroxide molecules that both sanitize the air and ionize particles for easy trapping. By circulating the air continually through high density filters, we have ensured all types of contaminants are neutralized and filtered.

The upgrades were made to all HVAC indoor units in both buildings, comprising a total of 8 independent systems. In the process, we also made structural repairs to duct work, drainage lines, and other components to bring all systems up to a like-new condition.

Professionally serviced, our heating and air conditioning systems will now supply a vastly improved indoor air supply which is 99% free of viruses, bacteria, mold, pollens or other contaminants. We can now breathe easier and comfortably enjoy the interior beauty of our church at every service.

11b. Security Enhancements Begin at St John's Church

We are pleased to see completion of the first project under our ongoing security grant program administered through the California Office of Emergency Services! A sturdy lock controlled by a keypad and enhanced hardware with locking bars have been installed on the front double doors of the church. This upgrade will provide us the same convenience of keyless entry to the front of the church as we have had for the social hall, with a stronger security mechanism to protect from intruders.

Remember when entering the church on your own through either the back door, or now through the front door – the church is alarmed at all entry points. When entering on your own, you must

know the interior security alarm code and know how to use it to turn off the alarm; else a security guard will be sent out.

Next up should be installation of protective metal screens in the church Narthex, covering the inside of our two front windows. These barriers will protect against any possible smash and enter or grab types of threats to the church.

We are also nearing the bidding phase for our parking lot lighting system upgrade, which will bring us a full replacement of all existing outdoor light standards with new and brighter LED style globes. We expect the current lighting system to remain operational for quite some time; however, age and obsolescence of its sodium vapor type bulbs are a risk. Look for the start of this project to in early 2022.

Submitted by Mike Wesdell

Acknowledgements

This yearbook took a lot of planning and I could not have done this undertaking without the support of several people.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge Father Michael for his wonderful idea of a Parish Council Yearbook. Secondly, all his support and advise in making sure that this publication meets proper guidelines. Next, a big thank you to Father Alexander for his informative article on our church's cell tower, which has generated monies for various church needs (e.g. church playground).

Also, I would like to express gratitude to Deacon George for writing a biography about our wonderful choir director Carole's musical career.

A big thanks to all our parish council members, especially to those that submitted articles and ideas, as well as, support for this yearbook.

Finally, I appreciate the efforts of Mary Caetta who has spent many hours formatting this publication.

God bless all of you.

The editor