

September 4, 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

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 3

HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS OF ANTIOCH

PROPHET & GODSEER MOSES

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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

For God as the Creator of all things knows our nature thoroughly and has ordered all things for our benefit. If someone wants to be saved, no person and no time, place, or occupation can prevent him

St. Peter Damascus

+

**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly
(NEWS@StJohnofDamascus.org)
E-mails**

E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org
with your request.

·:THE RICH YOUNG MAN·:



Parish Life

Bulletin Bible Question "Test" Drawing Winners

This year every week the bulletin have had a Bible Question connected to the Old Testament. A "test" was distributed and whoever completed it (you could use past bulletins to help) and submitted it by Aug 15 was entered into a drawing for a gift card to their favorite store and/or restaurant. This year we received submissions in two age groups. Those receiving the gift cards are:

Teen: **Kelvin Brown**

Adult: **Ed Klavzar**



Scrip Sales Coordinators Needed

We need 2-3 people to sell scrip gift cards.

Please consider helping with this substantial fund raiser and speak to Carmen Brown, Tanya Franchak of Fr Michael if you are interested.



Purchase Gift Cards Through Our Scrip Coordinator & Help our Parish

Scrip gift cards raise money for St. John's Auxiliary. When you buy Scrip cards, the store makes a donation with NO extra expense. Use the cards for your regular monthly purchases or gifts for loved ones and support our parish's ministry. Cards are available for gas, groceries, Amazon, restaurants and many other stores.

See Carmen Brown after Liturgy for more information or to purchase your cards.

Church School Registration Begins for 2022-2023

Registration for this coming year's church school program is beginning. Registration forms will be distributed to families beginning this weekend. Parents, please complete the forms and return them ASAP so our teachers can plan appropriately. Please see Bill Moision to get a form for your family.

NOTE: Church school will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Youth Choir will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Some dates:

Beginning of Church School 9/18
Church School BBQ 9/25

OCA Parish Development Webinars

Thursday September 15: 7:30 PM (EDT) - Sarah Byrne Martelli, an Orthodox chaplain and bereavement counselor, will share tips about *"Being a Ministry of Presence to the Grieving"* based on her book "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians".

Thursday September 22 7:30 PM (EDT) - Kenny Kidd, executive director of FOCUS North America, notes that many people believe that only larger parishes in urban areas can successfully provide food, clothing, and shelter to the impoverished around them. Kenny will dispel that myth in his session: *"Creating Opportunities to See and Serve Our Parish Neighbors"*.

Thursday September 29 7:30 PM (EDT) - Father Justin Patterson, pastor at Saint Athanasius Church, Nicholasville, KY will review seeming 'failures' that eventually led to future ministry progress in his segment titled *"Hopes and Hurdles: Three Stories of Challenges in Growing Parish Ministry"*.

Attendees must register for each webinar separately. (No series registration.). Each webinar is available without charge. More information about each webinar and the links for registration can be found at <https://www.ocadwpa.org/2022parishdevforumencorewebinarseries>

Parish Life

Church School for Children & Youth 1st & 3rd Sunday of Month Youth Choir 2nd & 4th Sunday of Month Fr Michael & Teens 2nd Sunday of Month AFTER Choir

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.



NEW Ministry - Ongoing Food Drive for San Diego County Food Bank

Families, including low-income military families, and fixed-income seniors rely on the Food Bank to put food on the table. Currently, 1 in 7 adults, and 1 in 5 children face food insecurity in San Diego County

To help with this, St John of Damascus is hosting a long-term food drive. We encourage you to bring nonperishable food items to church and place them in the red barrels in the hall. (NO GLASS CONTAINERS OR HOMEMADE ITEMS). Besides bringing the food to church and placing them in the barrels, there are 2 other options available:

Food items can be purchased via a Virtual Food Drive Page from your computer or smartphone using link <https://fooddriveonline.org/sandiegofoodbank/> or,

a monetary donation can be made using link <http://www.sandiegofoodbank.org/donate>

Online Giving System

We have an online giving system that enables people to be able to manage their giving to our church.

You can set up automatic ongoing donations each month to cover your pledges. You can also use the system to make occasional donations for things like charities, flowers, candles, memorial donations, etc. You can even pay for your bookstore purchases.

There is an option to cover the bank processing fees if you would like to do that.

Not only is this a convenience for you it helps reduce the work required of our Counters on Sundays

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/StJohnofDamascusOrthodoxChurch/donations>



**Scan with your phone to be taken to our
secure online giving system.
You can set up 1-time or recurring gifts**

Monthly Collections

As we continue to restore many of the beloved practices of our parish we are reinstating our monthly Sunday collections:

- 2nd Sunday of the Month—Seminarian at St Herman's Seminary in Alaska
- 3rd Sunday of the Month—Charities (local needs, IOCC, Project Mexico, etc.)

The basket will be placed out for the veneration of the cross at the end of Liturgy.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection — Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

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. Babylas — Tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,
you became a successor to their throne.
Through the practice of virtue, you found the
way to divine contemplation, O inspired one
of God;
by teaching the word of truth without error, you
defended the Faith, even to the shedding of
your blood.//
Hieromartyr Babylas, entreat Christ god to
save our souls!

Prophet Moses – Tone 2

You ascended to the heights of the virtues,
Prophet Moses;
therefore, you were deemed worthy to see the
glory of God.
Having received the grace-filled tablets of the
Law,
and bearing the grace of the writing within
yourself,
You were the honorable praise of prophets,
and a great mystery of piety.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O
Merciful One, leading us from the gates of
death. On this day Adam exults as Eve
rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they
unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy
power!

St. Babylas – Tone 4

You guarded the mighty works of faith in your
heart,
therefore, you did not fear the tyrant;//
preserve us as well, Hieromartyr Babylas, good
servant of Christ!

Prophet Moses – Tone 2

The choir of prophets rejoices with Moses and
Aaron today,
for the fulfillment of their prophecy is in our
midst.
The Cross, by which You have saved us,
shines forth today.//
By their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on
us!

Steadfast Protectress of Christians – 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 and to intercede
for us, O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle—1 Cor 15: 1-11

¹ Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, ² by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel — Matt 19: 16-26

¹⁶ And behold, one came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

²³ And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

PROKEIMENON

Tone 3 (Resurrection) — Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Ps 46/47:6)

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
(Ps 46/47:1)

ALLELUIA

Tone 3 (Resurrection) — V. In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps. 30:1a)

V. Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps. 30:2b)

Orthodox Christians & Death - Part 4

(See previous week's bulletin for Parts 1, 2 & 3)

Regarding Cremation

The Orthodox Church does not, as a whole, bless cremation. Sources state that the original ban arose because cremation was commonly practiced in pagan and possibly Gnostic circles. The creators of the canon law saw cremation as denying the value of physical creation, and specifically the human body. The Church has always stood squarely against the dualistic opposition between spirit and matter or the spiritual and the physical. We read in the earliest accounts that the martyrs' bodies — even after they had been burned at the stake and reduced to charred skeletons, as was St. Polycarp of Smyrna — were treated by the faithful with the utmost respect as they were taken for burial — an early indication that Christians shunned the common Roman pagan practice.

Today some would propose that the practice of cremation be explored anew, in light of the fact that the practice's association with paganism or gnosticism is no longer a reality. Proponents of this line of thinking may also assert that cremation is a less expensive way to dispose of the body than the increasingly expensive — and often non-Christian — burial practices common in many cultures and societies, such as in the United States. The vast majority of Orthodox, however, contend that cremation, for whatever reason, and regardless of its detachment from pagan thought or ritual, in every instance denies the value of the human body and of material creation in general. For that reason, it is to be avoided as an option. Additionally, the phenomenon known as incorruption — in which the body remains in a state of preservation and may even exude a fragrant odor of sanctity — is another argument against the practice of cremation. If the Lord grants this to faithful of His choosing, cremation could obliterate the effects — though by the same token, even charred skeletal remains have been known to exude this fragrant odor.

In a few extreme circumstances and for good cause in recent times, cremation has taken place with the knowledge of the Church. In each case, however, the actual cremation did not occur until after the funeral service, at which the body of the deceased has been present. This does not represent standard practice, however, and in each instance there were extenuating circumstances that led the Church to apply the principle of *economia*. In any event, the diocese's bishop shall be involved in any discussion regarding cremation.

The Church does not appear to condemn cremation outright, provided that there is a valid reason for it. (See "Funeral Guidelines—Orthodox Church in America," page 16.) In Japan, for example, the state requires cremation, including for Orthodox Christians. There have also been exceptions made in cases of epidemics or fear of disease, for various reasons. In general the image of the body being buried as it awaits the resurrection is more in keeping with the image given to us by Christ, Who likens burial with the planting of a seed that later blossoms into a living plant.

This is just a very brief overview in regard to the Orthodox Church's position on cremation. There have been numerous articles written on the subject. If you would like to read more about it, please see Fr. Michael.

Next week some conclusions and a check list.

Parish Life

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

Counters — TBD

Social Media —Evan Keeling & Iryna Thayer

Electric 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 Vice-President—Patty Pelachik

Prospora — Fr Michael

Readers at Divine Liturgy—Bill Moision

Saturday Adult Ed — Dn George Shumaik

Security Committee — John Thayer

Sunday Commemoration Loaves— Fr Michael

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.

Join a Parish Ministry!

With the new Church year approaching in September, now is wonderful time to pray and consider joining one of our parish ministries.

While people are welcome to inquire about any ministry, the FOLLOWING MINISTRIES ARE SEEKING MORE HELP:

Church School (Teachers & Helpers)
Greeters
Candle Stand
Koliva Makers
Commemoration Loaves Bakers
Security Committee
Auxiliary Bakers
Scrip Card Coordinators/Sellers

We are also looking to begin a **NEW** ministry:
Flowers/Decorating of the Church Temple

This group of people will work together to beautify our church for all the major feast days.

If you have an interest in helping with this or any of the ministries please see the person listed in the ministry directory or contact Fr Michael.



Auxiliary Cooking Days in September

The Auxiliary will be cooking the following days in the church hall.

Thursday Sept 15— Stuffed Cabbage

Thursday Sept 22—Stuffed Cabbage

Please consider and helping (training is offered for new folks). See Tanya for details



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Wednesday Sept 7

10:30am — Father's Café

In Person in Church Hall & via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for St John the Baptist

Thursday Sept 8—Nativity of the Theotokos

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy

Tuesday Sept 13

6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for the Exaltation of the Cross

Wednesday Sept 14 Exaltation of the Cross

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Thursday Sept 15

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Sunday Sept 18

After Liturgy—Molieben for Beginning of Instruction

1st Day of Church School

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

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

Many Years!

Birthdays

Ana Griebing, Anna Chkhikvishvili, Anna Hubler, Anna Kaminskaya, Anna Rahal, Anne Cooper, Annie Keeling, Kimberly (Anna) Klavzar, Patricia (Anna) Pelachik 9/9

Birthdays

Mark Rahal	9/4
Gene (Nectarios) Francello	9/5
Barbara Anderson	9/6
Edward Lump, Pres. Mary Velonis	9/9

Wedding Anniversaries

Heather & Daniel Federoff	9/5
Kelly & David Martot	9/6

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