

May 14, 2023



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

5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA—TONE 4
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

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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

She was not prevented by any concern for losing face from spreading around what had been said to her. For the soul, once kindled by the Divine Flame, does not consider glory or shame or any other earthly consideration: only the flame that consumes it. ... She did not want them to trust only her own report but to come and make judgment about Christ for themselves ... "Come, see a man," she says. She does not say "Come and believe" but "Come and see," which is an easier matter. For she certainly knew that if they only tasted of that well, they would feel as she did.

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



Truly He desires to set the woman free from the Enemy's snares.

He drowns her sins in the waters of life,
for He alone is the compassionate Lover of
mankind.

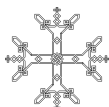
ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS ORTHODOX CHURCH + THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST + THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Parish Life

Father's Café Wednesdays May 11 In-Person as well as via Zoom 10:30-11:30 (ish)

Our weekly gathering for prayer, reflection & simple fellowship is on Wednesdays. It is at 10:30am and is available for people to attend IN PERSON as well as via Zoom (see online calendar for the link).

This is an opportunity to sit and have a cup of coffee or tea (reg and decaf provided) and ask questions about the Faith or talk about whatever comes to mind (gardening, movies, history, etc.). We say a prayer, read a reflection and let the conversation (and coffee) flow.



Dates for 2023

MOVABLE FEASTS

Ascension	May 25
Pentecost	June 4

FASTS

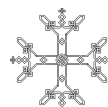
Apostles Fast	June 12-28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Pentecost	June 4-10
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

Mothers' Day Meal Today May 14

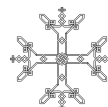
This Sunday in celebration of all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, stepmothers & foster mothers we will offering a special brunch. Moms, plan on attending and enjoying. Gentlemen (young and old), plan on helping with set-up, serving and clean-up.



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.



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. Please plan on contributing as you can.

Parish Life

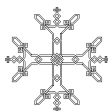
Please Sign-up for Fellowship Hour

There are a number of Sundays that have openings for people to help with our Fellowship Meal after Liturgy.

We encourage groups of 4 to alleviate the cost of trying to feed our growing parish.

Simple meals are welcome!

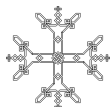
If you have any questions speak with Linda Kedroff.



Come & Get It! Cabbage Rolls & Pierogies

The Auxiliary has been hard at work and we now get to benefit from their efforts AND support their ministry which supports our church.

Stuffed cabbage rolls and pierogies (huge variety) are available for sale. Speak to someone after Liturgy to pick up a dinner (or two) for this week!



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 Directory

Below are the people who coordinate 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 — Fr Michael

Diamond Circle Seniors — Jim & Patty Pelachik

Electric Church Sign Messages—John Thayer

Fellowship/Coffee Hour — Linda Kedroff

Flowers/Decorating—Diane Worth

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

Security Committee — Parish Council

Scrip Sales—Gene Francello, Valerie Lane

Social Media —Evan Keeling & Iryna 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.

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

TROPARIA

Resurrection — Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles:

"Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!"

Midfeast — Tone 8

In the middle of the feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as Thou didst cry to all:

"If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!"//

O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

KONTAKIA

Samaritan Woman — Tone 8

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; she saw Thee, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly.//

She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Midfeast — Tone 4

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law:

"Come and draw the water of immortality!"

We fall before You and faithfully cry://

"Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!"

PROKEIMENON

Tone 3 — 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 4 — V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (*Ps. 44:3b*)

V. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. (*Ps. 44:6*)

Epistle — Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered abroad by the oppression that arose in connection with Stephen had traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they were only proclaiming the word to Jews. ²⁰ But some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, spoke to the Hellenists and preached the Lord Jesus when they arrived in Antioch. ²¹ The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of these things came to the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem. So, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced. He encouraged them all to remain close to the Lord with a resolute heart. ²⁴ Indeed, Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went out to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the Church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

²⁹ According to their ability, each one of the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea. ³⁰ This is indeed what they did, sending their gift to the presbyters through the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gospel — John 4:5-42

⁵ And so, he arrived at a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me [something] to drink." ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food).

⁹ The Samaritan woman then said to him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water!"

¹¹ The woman replied, "Sir, you have nothing to draw [water] with, and the well is deep! Where then do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as did his children and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again! ¹⁴ But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Not only this, the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or come here to draw [water]!"

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

¹⁷ The woman answered, "I have no husband."

Jesus replied, "You said well, 'I have no husband,'

¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truthfully."

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet! ²⁰ Our ancestors expressed adoration in this mountain, and you [Jews] say that Jerusalem is the place where people should express adoration."

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you express adoration to the Father.

²² You express adoration to what you do not know. We express adoration to what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming,

and now is, when the true worshipers will express adoration to the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such [people] to express adoration to him. ²⁴ God is a spirit, and those who express adoration to him must express adoration in spirit and truth."

²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming, (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then, his disciples arrived. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What are you looking for?" or, "Why do you speak with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went away into the city, and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Christ?"

³⁰ The people [then] went out of the city, and were coming to him. ³¹ Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, "Rabbi, eat!"

³² But he told them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

³³ The disciples then said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to accomplish his work.

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are still four months until the harvest comes?' Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields! They are already white for the harvest! ³⁶ And the one who reaps is receiving his wages and gathering fruit to eternal life; so that both the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together! ³⁷ For in this, the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.'

³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored. Others have labored, and you have entered into [the rewards of] their labor."

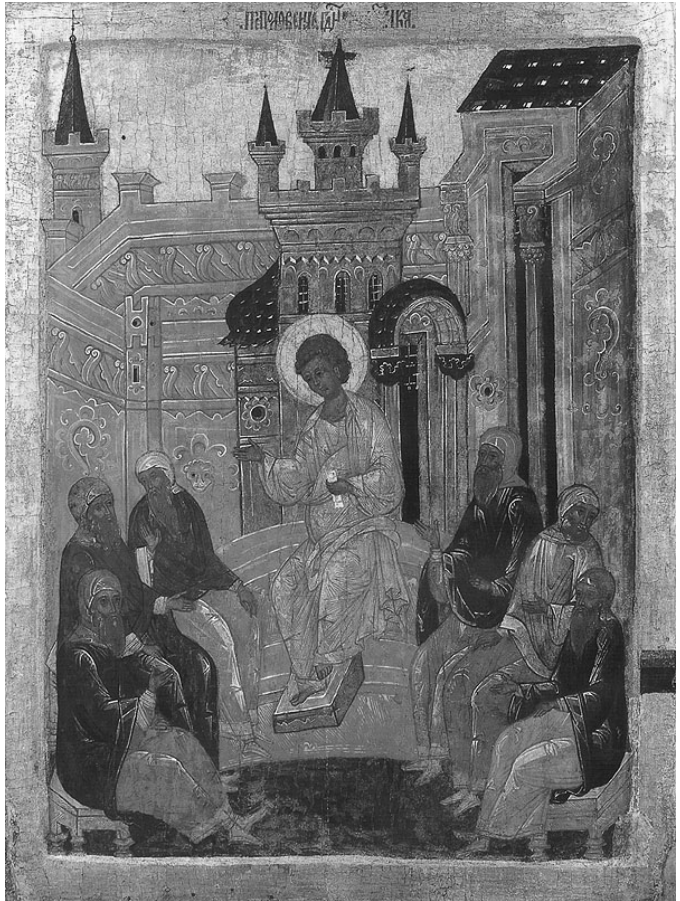
³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the word of the woman who had testified, "He told me everything that I did!" ⁴⁰ For this reason, when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them. So, he stayed there two days, ⁴¹ and many more believed because of his word. ⁴² Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, but because we have heard for ourselves and [we] know that this is indeed the Savior of the world, the Christ"

Our Life in Christ

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

In the middle of this fourth week, the middle day between Easter and Pentecost is solemnly celebrated. It is called the feast of **Mid-Pentecost**, at which Christ, "in the middle of the feast" teaches men of his saving mission and offers to all "the waters of immortality" (*Jn 7:14*). St John tells us (*John 7:14*) that "in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught." The Feast in question is the Feast of Tabernacles (celebrated in September), not Pentecost.

On this day we are again reminded of the Master's presence and his saving promise: "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink" (*Jn 7:37*). We think also once again of our death and resurrection with Christ in our baptism, and our reception of the Holy Spirit from him in our chrismation. We "look back to one, and anticipate the other" as one of the hymns of the feast puts it. We know that we belong to that kingdom of the Risen Christ where "the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price" (*Rev 22:17. Is 55:1*).



The Troparion & Kontakion of the Midfeast hint at the encounter of Christ and the Samaritan Woman in just a few days.

Troparion

In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink [*John 7:37*]. O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!"

Kontakion

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all cried to all in the midst of the Feast of the law:
Come and draw the water of immortality!

We fall before You and faithfully cry: Grant us Your bounties, for You are the Fountain of our life!

Parish Life

Mother's Day – A Holy Day—Protodeacon George Shumaik

Julia Ward Howe, most notable as the author of the lyrics of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, was the first to propose Mother's Day in 1870 essentially as a war protest. She had become increasingly distraught over the horrific effects of the Civil War and called on mothers to unite in protest over the futility of their sons killing the sons of other mothers. Her effort gained some momentum among woman's groups in larger US cities and was celebrated on June 2nd for several years but ultimately faded to obscurity as Mrs. Howe was unable to continue her financial support.

Several years later, Anna Reeves Jarvis from West Virginia reinvigorated the effort by leading a group of women in Mother's Friendship Day whose mission was to reunite families that had been torn apart by the Civil War. After her death, her daughter, Anna M. Jarvis took up the calling and in remembrance of her Mother, the first Mother's Day celebration was held at St. Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia on May 10, 1908. At this celebration, Anna M. instituted the tradition of presenting carnations to the Mothers – red in honor of those living and white in honor of those deceased. Anna M. was relentless in promoting her holiday and after much effort, convinced the US Congress to make it a national holiday. In 1914 Woodrow Wilson signed the proclamation making the second Sunday of May, Mother's Day. Interestingly, one of the requirements of the legislation is that each year, the sitting President must re-proclaim the holiday.

A sad footnote to the Anna M. Jarvis story is that she died blind, poor and childless spending the last years of her life in a failed attempt to save her Mother's memorial celebration from being overrun by commercial enterprise, primarily the floral industry who ironically funded her care until she died in 1948. Today, Mother's Day or some version of it is celebrated in more than 70 countries. There is broad range of emphasis depending on culture with most embracing the American secular humanistic roots and less so a spiritual or religious context. Mother's Day has also been a fulcrum of political debate related to woman's rights, the feminist movement and in recent years a return once again to war protest.

If you search the rubrics of the Orthodox Church in America, you will not find a feast or holy day called Mother's Day. Yet, it would be unusual not to find Mother's Day listed on the May calendar in every Orthodox parish across the land linked to some type of festivity - a luncheon, a picnic, a dinner. In essence, the Church has seized this secular holiday and made it Her own without ceremony or proclamation and perhaps in ignorance of its historical roots. Thanksgiving, praise and remembrance are the hallmarks of Orthodox worship. When we gather as Church, the Body of Christ, "in this world but not of this world", we can take anything that is good, wholesome and true, offer it to God and make it Holy. What can be more good, wholesome and true than honoring motherhood? Therefore, in place of a "guilt offering" at the altar of capitalism for words unspoken or love unexpressed, let us instead offer in person and before God our thanksgiving, praise and remembrance for all Mothers who have and are now sacrificing to bring life, health, security and love to their offspring. In the words of Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann "To love is to remember. And to remember with love is truly to understand that which one loves and remembers, to appropriate it as God's gift." Amen.





LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday May 15

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Tuesday May 16

11:00am — Diamond Circle Meeting

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday May 17

10:30am — Father's Café In Person in Church Hall & via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

Monday May 22

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wednesday May 24—Eve of Ascension

10:30am — Father's Café In Person in Church Hall & via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for Ascension

Thursday May 25—Ascension of our Lord

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

Monday May 29

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wednesday May 17

10:30am — Father's Café In Person in Church Hall & via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

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

Alina Macrina Panasenko	5/14
Sophia Geralt	5/15
Rdr John Klavzar, Art (Artemis) Sladack	5/16
Evan (Evangelos) Keeling	5/17
Elaine Mayol Perez	5/18

Wedding Anniversaries

Michael & Desiree Geralt	5/15	Anne & Nathan Cooper	5/19
James & Elena Sullivan	5/18		

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

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