

June 4, 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

8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA
THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PENTECOST
FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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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

They partook of fire, not of burning but of saving fire. This is a fire that consumes the thorns of sins but gives luster to the soul. This is now coming upon you also in order to strip away and consume your sins, which are like thorns, and to brighten yet more that precious possession of your souls and to give you grace, the same given then to the apostles.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

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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



Now the apostles are clothed with the power of Christ on high, for the Comforter renews them. He is renewed in them by a mystical newness of understanding. They preach to us in strange and exalted voices, teaching us to worship the eternal yet simple nature, the Tri-Personal nature of our Benefactor, the God of all! So being enlightened by their teaching, Let us worship the Father with the Son and the Spirit, Praying that our souls may be saved.

Aposticha from Kneeling Vespers

Parish Life

Church School Volunteers Needed

Our existing church school teachers need support and help. Please consider volunteering as a teacher or helper for our church school classes next year. See Bill Moision or Fr Michael if you are interested.

Father's Café Wednesdays 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

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

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.



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.



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!

Parish Life

SUMMER IS HERE! HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH

With summer comes much needed vacations and opportunities to do fun things with friends & loved ones. As you are planning your summer be sure to keep your faith in mind. Remember to attend to your prayer life, scripture reading, and reception of the holy Sacraments.

Some dates to remember...

	SUMMER FEASTS
June 29	SS Peter & Paul
August 6	Transfiguration
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos

	SUMMER FASTS
June 12-28	Apostles' Fast
August 1-14	Dormition Fast

Also, please do what you can to **maintain your much-needed offerings of time and talent as well as your pledges and contributions over the summer.**

Unfortunately, our parish's expenses and needs do not decrease during the summer months. The water bill still needs to be paid. We still want to have fellowship meals after Liturgy on Sundays.

Regarding financial giving, people handle this differently. Some people make up for weeks away when they return. Other members keep their financial contributions regular by using their online banking system to write and send their donations to the mission each month automatically. The parish also has an online giving system on our website. Simply click the "DONATE" button.

Whatever works best for you, please keep your spiritual home in mind.

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**

FOOD ALLERGIES

There are many people who are afflicted with food allergies—some of which can be nearly lethal. If you are bringing something for the weekly potluck **please create a sign and attach it to your dish if it includes items like:**

- Peanuts/Nuts
- Shellfish
- Cantaloupe
- MSG

Thank you!

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Pentecost — Tone 8

Blessed are Thou, O Christ our God;
Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit
through them Thou didst draw the world into
Thy net.//
O Lover of mankind, Glory to Thee!

KONTAKIA

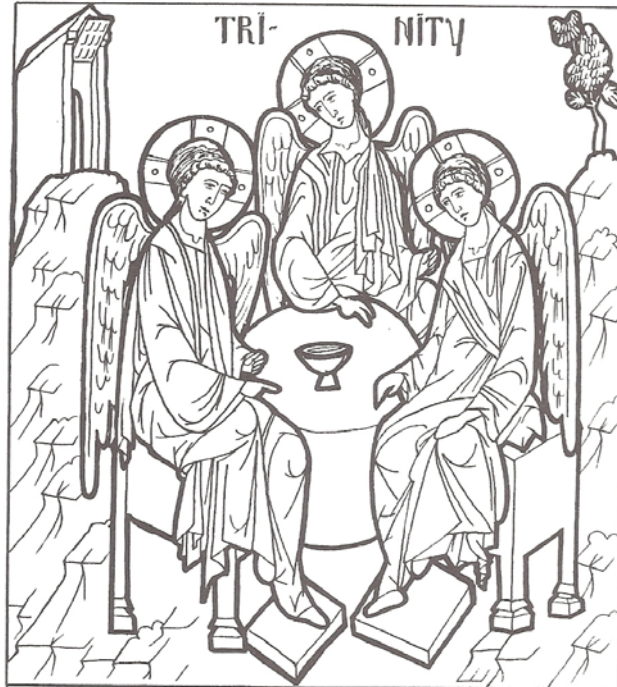
Pentecost — Tone 8

When He came down and confused the
tongues, the Most High divided the nations;
but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He
called all people to unity.//
Therefore, with one voice we glorify the most-
Holy Spirit.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 (Pentecost) — Their proclamation has gone out into all the Earth
and their words to the ends of the universe! (Psalm 18/19:4)

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament
proclaims His handiwork (v. 1)



Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Acts 2: 1-11

2 Now when the day of Pentecost came, they were all with one accord [gathered] in the same place. ² Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues that seemed like fire appeared and one [tongue] rested on each of them. ⁴ Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. ⁵ At that time {of year}, devout Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem. ⁶ When this sound was heard, a crowd formed and people were bewildered because everyone heard the disciples speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Behold, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ How is it that we hear everyone [speak] in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages [concerning] the deeds of power of God!

Gospel — John 7: 37-52; 8:12

³⁷ Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and spoke loudly, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!" ³⁸ From within whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will flow rivers of living water!" ³⁹ But he said this concerning the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴⁰ When they heard this saying, many of the people said, "This is truly the prophet!" ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ!" Still others said, "What? Does the Christ come out of Galilee?" ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ And so, there arose a division in the crowd because of him. ⁴⁴ Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him. ⁴⁵ And so, the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not bring him?"

⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No one has ever spoken like this man!"

⁴⁷ At this, the Pharisees replied, "You are not also led astray, are you?" ⁴⁸ Have any of the rulers believed in him, or the Pharisees? ⁴⁹ But this multitude that does not know the law is accursed."

⁵⁰ Nicodemus (who had come to him by night, being one of the Pharisees) said to them,

⁵¹ "Does our law judge someone without first hearing from him personally to find out what this person is doing?"

⁵² They answered him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search, and see that no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

¹² Then again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

ALLELUIA

Tone 1 — V. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. (Ps. 32:6)

V. The Lord looked down from heaven, and saw all the sons of men. (Ps. 32:13)

Our Life in Christ

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fullness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening

again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him.

In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence.

Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost" - and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches - for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit - "the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life - comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann



Our Life in Christ

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The New Creation

Leaf, vine, petal, branch, grain, the place of church this day is turned inside out. Or, rather, outside in. Trees, flowers and flowering shrubs, those works of God that normally greet us on the outside of the temple, are here in our midst. Or, we are in their midst. We are Adam and Eve in the garden. But it is not that garden, not their garden; it is a new garden. It is a new garden because Sunday is always the day of New Creation. But more. Today it is a new garden because the fullness of God’s saving plan arrives with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit returns us to Paradise—and even Paradise has been made new. The Holy Spirit makes all things new. Today we are in the garden of our recreation.

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

Prosphora — 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.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Sunday June 4

After Divine Liturgy — Vespers of Pentecost
Church School—Meet & Treats w/ Fr Michael

June 5-9

Fast Free Week

Monday June 5

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

June 12-28

Apostles Fast

June 12

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

June 13-22

Fr Michael on Vacation to Visit Family

Tuesday June 20

11:00am — Diamond Circle (Lunch at Ocean)

Sat June 24—Nativity of St John the Baptist

9:00am — Divine Liturgy

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!

Name Days

Tessa Sophia Stavrou 6/4
Vickie Anderson (old-style) 6/7

Birthdays

Kelly Martot 6/4
Aurora Solis, Ana Marie Griebing 6/6
Victoria Pluta, Birdie (Lucia) Worth, Nino Kapanadze 6/10

Wedding Anniversaries

Elaine & Sergio Perez 6/9

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