

September 3, 2023



# 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

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 4

HIEROMARTYR ANTHIMUS  
VENERABLE THEOCTISTUS

+

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.

+

### A Word from the Holy Fathers

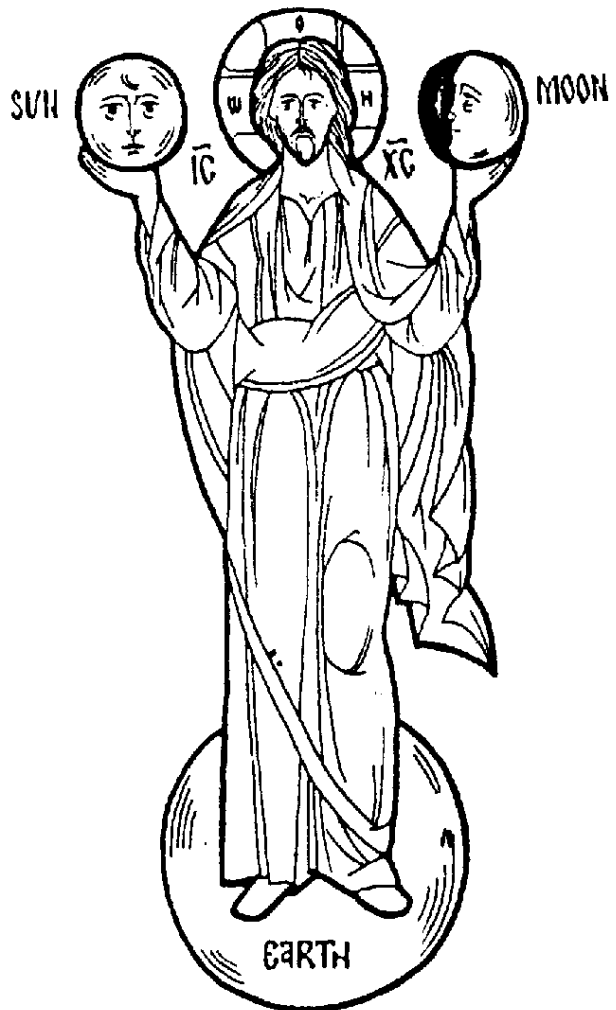
:"Maranatha" (trans. Our Lord, Come!) - By  
this one word Paul strikes fear into them  
all. But not only that; he also points out the  
way of virtue. As our love for God's coming  
intensifies, there is no kind of sin which is  
not wiped out..

*St. John Chrysostom*

+

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

E-mail [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)  
with your request.



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

## Parish Life

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2023-2024

#### THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Each year our parish education for children, youth & adults focuses on one of four themes: The Old Covenant (Testament), The Gospels, The Life of the Church, Sp. This year we will focus on the Life of the Church. This can include the Acts of the Apostles and epistles in Holy Scripture. It can also include writings and lives of saints, parts of Church history, including our history in North America as well as an other local Orthodox Church.

Classes will begin in September. If you have any ideas or questions please speak with Fr Michael.



#### 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 give as you can.

### Brick Pavers Fundraiser

Looking at the needs of the parish, the Parish Council is moving to complete the brick pavers along the walkway from the lower parking lot to the steps leading up to the church. The funds collected will be for projects like youth activities, enhancement of the area by the playground and the icon frescoes in the church.

The donation is \$200 for a brick with a name or message of your choice on it.

There are 87 remaining spaces. You can view the existing bricks for ideas.

The deadline to donate towards a brick is November 1st. Forms will be in the back of the church in the narthex and in the church hall.



#### Special Collection for Victims of Maui Fires

At the direction of His Eminence, our Archbishop Benjamin we will have a collection today for the many suffering such tremendous loss due to the recent fires on the island of Maui.

While the Orthodox Church in America does not have a parish or mission on the island, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco does.

Our collection will be sent to the mission, which has a special fund set up for relief efforts.

Please give as generously as you can.

## Parish Life

### **Auxiliary Cooking Days Thursdays—Beginning 9/21**

The Auxiliary will be recommencing cooking and baking in September on Thursdays beginning Sept 21 from 9am-12pm.

Sept 21—Pierogies

Sept 28—Pierogies

Everyone is welcome to come and help. If you have questions contact Tanya F or another member of the Auxiliary.



### **Diamond Circle Lunch at “World Famous” San Diego Chicken Pie Shop 9/19**

Our Diamond Circle will going to lunch at the “World Famous” San Diego Chicken Pie Shop! On Tuesday Sept 19. We will meet at the Church at 10:30am to carpool down.

If you have any questions please speak with Patty Pelachik



### **Altar Server Meeting/Training Sun Oct 29—Mark Your Calendars**

It is important for altar servers to be “in sync” when serving. We will be hosting a meeting/training on Sunday Oct 29 after Divine Liturgy (and folks have had a chance to eat a bit).

We will be going over “norms” for things like entrances, proper use of fans, candles, etc.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

### **Sunday Youth Activities to Begin in September**

With the beginning of the new Church Year our Sunday youth activities with restart in September.

Sept 3 — Church School Teacher Meeting

Sept 10 — Youth Choir (Carole Shumaik)

Sept 17 — Church School

Sept 24 — Church School BBQ

If you have questions speak to Bill Moision or Sally Menig



### **Girls 7+ Welcome to Participate in Handmaidens**

If there are any girls aged 7 and up that are interested in training to be a Handmaiden, please talk to Sally Menig or Desiree Geralt



### **Support our Parish Through the Auxiliary’s Scrip Program**

Purchase gift cards for your regular expenses through St John’s Auxiliary Scrip Program (gas stations, grocery stores, retail stores, etc) & at no extra cost to you the parish will receive a percentage of your purchase.

See Carmen Brown after Liturgy to purchase gift cards.

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### Resurrection —Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of  
Your Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,//  
granting 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 Anthimus —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.//  
O Hieromartyr Anthimus, entreat Christ God to  
save our souls!

#### St Theoctistus —Tone 8

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,  
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in  
abundance.  
By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the  
whole universe.//  
Our holy Father Theoctistus, pray to Christ our  
God to save our souls!

### KONTAKIA

#### Resurrection —Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the  
earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//  
He has risen on the third day!

#### St Anthimus—Tone 4

Living hon'rably as a priest,  
you completed the course of martyrdom;  
you extinguished the worship of idols  
and became a champion of your flock, O divinely  
wise one.  
Therefore, we honor you,  
mystically crying out://  
“Through your prayers deliver us from calamity,  
ever-memorable Anthimus.”

#### 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!

### PROKEIMENON

**Tone 4** (*Resurrection*) — O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all.  
(Ps. 103:26)

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps. 103:1)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24

<sup>13</sup> Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous! Be strong! <sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.

<sup>15</sup> Now I beg you, brethren (you know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to serve the saints), <sup>16</sup> that you also be in service to people like this, and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. <sup>17</sup> I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus; for what was lacking on your part, they supplied. <sup>18</sup> They refreshed my spirit and yours; show therefore your appreciation to such people.

<sup>19</sup> The Churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you much in the Lord, together with the Church that is in their house. <sup>20</sup> All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss!

<sup>21</sup> This greeting is by me, Paul, with my own hand. <sup>22</sup> If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Maranatha! <sup>23</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

<sup>24</sup> My love is with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Gospel — Matthew 21:33-42

<sup>33</sup> Hear another parable. There was a man who was the owner of a household. He planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower, and leased it out to farmers. He then left for another country. <sup>34</sup> When the season for the fruit drew near, he sent his slaves to the farmers, to receive his fruit. <sup>35</sup> But the farmers took his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned yet another. <sup>36</sup> Again, the owner sent other slaves, even more than the first time; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Then he sent his son to them, saying: 'They will respect my son!'

<sup>38</sup> But the farmers, when they saw the son, said to each other, 'This is the heir! Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup> And so they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Therefore, when the lord of the vineyard returns, what will he do with those farmers?"

<sup>41</sup> They answered him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and he will lease out the vineyard to other farmers who will give him the fruit in its season."

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

'The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

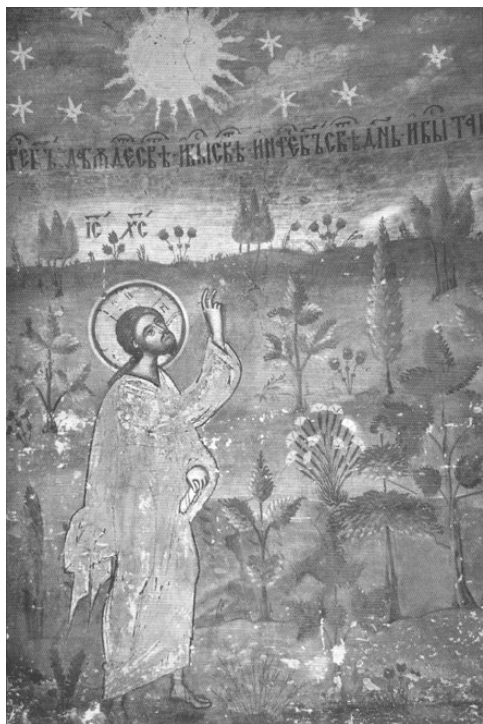
'The [very] stone which the builders rejected was made the head of the corner. This was from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

### 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)

## Our Life in Christ—The Church New Year (Sept 1)



It's our Ecclesiastical New Year, but you will not see any fireworks. It quietly comes once a year in September so that members of the Orthodox Faith can again experience, participate, and remember the 12 Great Feasts of our Church. This succession of feasts allows us to live the life of Christ from his very birth, or rather, from the birth of his mother. The church allows us to participate in the life of Jesus through Scripture, through icons, and through the liturgy. Orthodox Christians will draw on all three sources in order to enrich the lives and increase their knowledge and relationship with God.

With the rising and setting of the sun, with the moon and the stars, we learn that there exists a daily rhythm. The succession of days teaches us the weekly cycle, the seven days modeled on the account of creation (Gen. 1-2:4). The liturgical year is in harmony with the seasonal cycle, according to the order to nature. Our feasts are inserted into the created world and give it all its meaning. This is no accident, for God has sent his Son into this world and is thus bodily linked to the cosmos. Each feast is an encounter between heaven and earth, between the Creator and his creature. The heavens are rent (Is 64:1), and God descends toward us, dwells in created matter and infuses it with his Light.

The expectation of the Lord takes place in winter, in darkness: the birth of Christ comes as the solstice, "the Sun of Righteousness": "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light..." (Is 9:2; Mt 4:16).

Our hope increases as we prepare for Pascha, during Great Lent: the resurrection of Christ coincides with the renewal and awakening of nature.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit illumines the world and everything is enlivened. Nature is in its full glory. At the height of summer, Christ our true light, the uncreated Sun, appears transfigured on the mountain.

After Dormition, after the departure into heaven of the Mother of God, everything begins again. Autumn teaches us humility. The sun shines less brightly, less strongly, but with more gentleness. The days shorten, trees lose their foliage, the earth becomes barren, rests, and prepares itself for another cycle.

We are temporal beings and cannot deny the order to nature. The Church, by associating the seasonal cycle with the life of Christ, redeems time. Through Christ and the Holy Spirit everything receives life: the seasons, just as the liturgical cycle, never repeat themselves. Everything is always new (Rev 21:5).

An excerpt from [The Incarnate God: Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, Volume 1](#)

*Catherine Aslanoff, Editor of the French Edition – Translated by Paul Meyendorff*

## Our Life in Christ—The Church New Year (Sept 1)

### **Troparion for the New Year in the 2nd Tone**

*Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.*

### **Kontakion in the 4th Tone**

*You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.*

### **September 1st has also been dedicated as the Day of Prayer for All Creation**

**Below is a selection of hymns for the services for this commemoration.**

From the verses on “Lord I Call” at Great Vespers—*Christ Saviour, Lover of mankind, who brought all things into existence from nothing, and with ineffable wisdom arranged for each one to accomplish unerringly the goal which you laid down in the beginning, as you are powerful, bless the whole creation which you fashioned.*

From the Aposticha at Great Vespers—*Merciful God, who love mankind, look with an eye of compassion on the works of your hands and set free the expanse of the atmosphere from dread destruction and death-dealing emissions and every poisonous pollution, through which death and danger threaten. Take pity then on what you have fashioned and give to all the prudence not to act senselessly, whose result is corruption, and grant to all pardon, salvation and your divine mercy.*

Troparion Tone 4—*Lord and Saviour, who as God brought all things into being by a word, establishing laws and governing them unerringly to your glory, at the prayers of the Mother of God, keep secure and unharmed all the elements which hold the earth together, and save the universe.*





## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Wed Sept 6

10:30am — Father's Café  
6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

### Thurs Sept 7

6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for the Nativity of the Theotokos

### Fri Sept 8—Nativity of the Theotokos

8:30am 3rd Hour 8:45am Festal Divine Liturgy

### Sun Sept 10

After Divine Liturgy—Youth Choir

### Tues Sept 12

7:00pm—Parish Council Meeting

### Wed Sept 13

10:30am — Father's Café  
6:00pm — Vigil for the Exaltation of the Cross

### Thurs Sept 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*Strict Fast*

8:30am 3rd Hour 8:45am Festal Divine Liturgy

### Sat Sept 16

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

### Sun Sept 17

After Divine Liturgy — 1st Day of Church School

### Tues Sept 19

10:30am—Diamond Circle Meet at Hall

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

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

## Many Years!

### *Name Days*

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

### *Birthdays*

Mark Rahal 9/4 Gene (Nectarios) Francello 9/5  
Anthony Boquero, Barbara Anderson 9/6 Edward Lump, Presbyteria 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](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