

October 22, 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

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 3

HOLY EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES ABERCIUS,
BISHOP OF HIEROPOLIS

THE HOLY SEVEN YOUTHS
("SEVEN SLEEPERS") OF EPHESUS

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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

I beg you, remember this without fail, that
to fail to share our own wealth with the poor
is theft from the poor and deprivation of
their means of life; we do not possess our
own wealth but theirs. If we have this
attitude, we will certainly offer our money,
and by nourishing Christ in poverty here
and laying up great profit hereafter, we will
be able to attain the good things which are
to come, by the grace and kindness of our
Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom be glory,
honor and might, to the Father, together
with the Holy Spirit, now and every and
unto ages of ages. Amen.

—*St. John Chrysostom*

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly E-mails**

E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org



St Abercius, Equal to the Apostles

Parish Life

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 & Sally Menig

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.

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.



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.



Sunday Youth & Children Classes

1st and 3rd Sundays—Church School

2nd and 4th Sundays — Youth Choir

**PLEASE ENTER HALL QUIETLY AFTER
LITURGY TO AVOID INTERRUPTING CLASS**

Parish Life

Brick Pavers Fundraiser— Due Nov 1

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 73 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.



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.

Auxiliary Ethnic Food & Bake Sale Save the Date—Nov 18

Our Auxiliary is working hard cooking and baking for our pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale on November 19.

Save the date. Mark your calendar. Tell a friend!



Auxiliary Cooking Days Thursdays

The Auxiliary cooking schedule is taking place on Thursdays from 9am-12pm.

Nov 1

Nov 9

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



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.

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

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 Abercius—Tone 5

You emulated the zeal of the Apostles
and shone forth like a morning star,
and your works showed your God-given power:
you guided the erring to God,//
O hierarch Abercius.

Holy Youths —Tone 4

Your seven holy martyrs, O Lord,
through their sufferings have received
incorruptible crowns from You, our God.
For having Your strength, they laid low their
adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of
demons.//
Through their intercession, save our souls!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 3

On this day You rose 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
Your power.

St Abercius—Tone 3

The whole Church honors you as a great
hierarch
and as a companion to the Apostles.//
By your prayers keep the Church unconquered
and unshaken by heresy, O glorious
Abercius.

Holy Youths—Tone 4

The Seven Holy Youths renounced the perishing
comforts of this world,
preferring the eternal things of Heaven.
They were incorrupt after death and rose from
the dead
and buried the snares of the devils!//
O faithful, let us then honor them, singing a
hymn of praise to Christ!

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 and to intercede for
us, O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

PROKEIMENA

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

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

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Galatians 1: 11-19

¹¹ [Regarding] the Good News which I preached, I proclaimed this to you, brethren, that it is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from man and I was not taught [this Good News] by man, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ You have heard about how I used to live in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure, and how I ravaged it. ¹⁴ I advanced in the Jewish religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, as I was more extremely zealous for the traditions of my forefathers. ¹⁵ But when it was the good pleasure of God (who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles), I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood: ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to visit those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Later on, I returned to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then, after three years, I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ However, I did not see any of the other apostles, except James, 'the Lord's brother.'

Gospel — Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ Now there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, feasting in luxury every day. ²⁰ A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Yes, even dogs came and licked his sores. ²² It happened that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. ²³ In hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ He cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue! For I am in agony in this flame!'

²⁵ But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But now, he is comforted here and you are in anguish.'

²⁶ Besides all this, between us and you a great gulf is fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot [do so], and that no one may cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ He said, 'I ask you therefore, father, that you would send Lazarus to my father's house; ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he might bear witness to them, so that they would not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ Abraham replied to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets! Let them listen to them!'

³⁰ But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

³¹ Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead.' "

ALLELUIA

Tone 3 — V. In You, 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)

Our Life in Christ—Keeping (and Praying) Vigil

Matins (continued)

The Canon

Each individual canon has a specific subject of celebration: the Most Holy Trinity, an event from the Gospel or from the history of the Church, prayers to the Theotokos, or the magnification of a saint or saints of the day. The Sunday canons (on Saturday evening in usual Russian practice celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and the ensuing enlightenment of the world, the victory over sin and death. Festal canons illuminate in detail the meaning of the feast and the life of the saint; as a model of the transfiguration of the world already taking place. The Church in some measure celebrates Christ's victory over sin and death by contemplating the light of this transfiguration reflected in the canons.

The canons are read, but the initial verse of each individual ode is sung by the choir. These introductory verses are known as irmoi, from the Greek verb "to tie." The Irmos presents a pattern for all of the troparia which follow within a given ode.

An event from the Old Testament which embodies a transfiguring, that is, a prophetic and symbolic meaning relevant to the New Testament, serves as the pattern for each introductory irmos. For example, the irmos of the first ode commemorates, in Christian terms, the Hebrews' miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. In this irmos, the Lord is glorified as the all-powerful deliverer from evil and slavery. The irmos of the second ode is taken from the song of denunciation spoken by Moses in the Sinai desert to awaken a spirit of repentance in the Hebrews fleeing from Egypt. The second ode is sung only during Great Lent. The irmos of the third ode is based on the song of thanksgiving sung by Anna, mother of the prophet Samuel, for having been given a son. In the irmos of the fourth ode, we hear a Christian interpretation of the appearance to the prophet of the Lord God, Habakkuk; as seen in the brilliant sunlight streaming from behind the wooded mountain. In this vision, the Church perceives the glory of the coming Savior. In the fifth ode, whose theme comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah, Christ is glorified as the bringer of peace. It also contains the prophecy of the Resurrection from the dead. The sixth irmos is taken from the story of the prophet Jonah, cast into the sea and swallowed up by a whale. In the eyes of the Church, this event serves to remind the Christian that he has sunk into the abyss of sin. The irmos also expresses the idea that there is no sorrow or misfortune in which the heartfelt prayer of the faithful cannot be heard. The irmoi of the seventh and eighth odes of the canon are based on the song of the three Hebrew children who were cast into the fiery Babylonian furnace. This event is a prefiguring of Christian martyrdom. Between the eighth and ninth odes, a song in honor of the Theotokos is chanted. It begins with the words, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior." It is accompanied by the refrain, "More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim." The deacon chants the beginning of this glorification of the Mother of God. After censuring the altar and the right side of the iconostasis, he stops before the icon of the Theotokos on the iconostasis, and, raising the censer chants: "The Theotokos and the Mother of the Light let us magnify in song." The choir responds with the magnification of the Mother of God.

During the chanting of the magnification (or on feast days, the 9th Ode of the Canon), the deacon censes the entire church. Then the troparia of the final ode of the canon are read, and for the last time in the Vigil, we hear the *Small Litany*, "Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord."

During the Resurrectional All-night Vigil, and following the *Small Litany* and the priest's doxology, the deacon exclaims "Holy is Our God," and this phrase is then echoed thrice by the choir.

Our Life in Christ—Keeping (and Praying) Vigil

The Exapostilarion

In monasteries which follow the order of service to the letter and in churches in which the All-night Vigil actually does last all night, sunrise coincides with this point in the service. Special hymns celebrate its approach. The first is known as the Hymn of Light, or Светилен — Svetilen (in Russian), a term referring to the heralding of the approaching light. This type of hymn is also known by the Greek term *exapostilarion*, which means “I send out,” because a chanter is in fact “sent out” from the kliros to the center of the church to chant the exapostilarion. The renowned hymns “I see Thy Bridal Chamber adorned, O My Savior,” and “The Wise Thief,” heard during Passion Week, are examples of Exapostilaria/Svetilny. Among the best known of the Hymns of Light for the Mother of God is “The apostles, from the ends . . .” sung during the Dormition of the Mother of God.

After the Hymn of Light, the verse “Let every breath praise the Lord” is sung, and Psalms 148, 149, and 150 (LXX) are read. These three psalms are known as the Psalms of Praise, for in them the term “praise ye” is often repeated. Special stichera, known as the Aposticha for the praises, are combined with these psalms. They are usually sung at the close of Psalm 149 and after each verse of the short 150th Psalm. As in the case of the other stichera during the Vigil, the Aposticha for the praises glorify a Gospel event, an event in the life of the Church, or a saint or saints being commemorated on that day.

The Great Doxology

As we have already noted, in ancient times and even today in monasteries where the All-night Vigil indeed lasts all night, the sun rises during the second half of the Vigil. At this point, the Lord, the Giver of Light, is praised in a special, ancient Christian hymn, the Great Doxology, which begins with the words, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.” But before this, we see the priest through the open doors of the altar as he stands before the Holy Table and exclaims, “Glory to Thee, Who Hast shown us the light.”

In the All-night Vigil, Matins concludes with the Augmented Litany and with the Litany of Supplication, the very same Litanies which were read earlier in the Vigil, during Vespers. They are followed by the priest’s closing doxology and by the Dismissal. The priest addresses the Mother of God with the prayer: “O Most Holy Theotokos save us!” The choir responds with a glorification of the Theotokos: “More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim. . . .” Thereafter, the priest again glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ with the doxology “Glory to Thee O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.” The Choir responds with “Glory; both now and ever...” showing thereby that the glory of Christ is as well the glory of the All-holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And thus ends the Vigil as it began, with a glorification of the Holy Trinity.

Conclusion

The All-night Vigil grew and was completed at the Tomb of the Lord in the church in Jerusalem. Overall, it is the night services at the Tomb of the Lord which are the cradle from which grew a marvelous garden, the daily cycle of Orthodox services. Its finest flower is the All-night Vigil.

How good it would be to train ourselves and the members of our households to come to love this Service. One could, at first, attend the All-night Vigil only once every two weeks, once per month, or on feast days. One need only begin, and the Lord will reward him with a precious spiritual honor: The Lord will visit his heart, will take up residence in it, and will open up to us the broad, spacious, and extremely rich world of Church prayer. Let us not deprive ourselves of this opportunity.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Oct Mon 23– Fri 27

Fr Michael & Mary Caetta Travel to Diocesan Assembly: Santa Rosa, CA

Sun Oct 29

After Divine Liturgy — Altar Server Workshop

Mon Oct 30

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Tues Oct 31

7:00am — Monthly Weekday Divine Liturgy

Wed Nov 1

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm—Adult Ed: Lives of the Apostles

Thurs Nov 2

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Sat Nov 4

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

Mon Nov 6

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

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

James Sullivan 10/23

Birthdays

Emmet Budde	10/21	Lucas Castañeda	10/22
Joseph Sheeler	10/23	Katya Sheeler	10/24
Vickie (Vera) Federoff, Wayne Henry, Artem Bishaev			10/26
Andrew Steven Cooper			10/27

Wedding Anniversaries

Dennis (Dionysius) & Cortney Stavrou 10/22

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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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