

November 26, 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

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 8

VENERABLE ALYPIUS THE STYLITE

REPOSE OF ST. INNOCENT THE
WONDERWORKER,
BISHOP OF IRKUTSK (1731)

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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

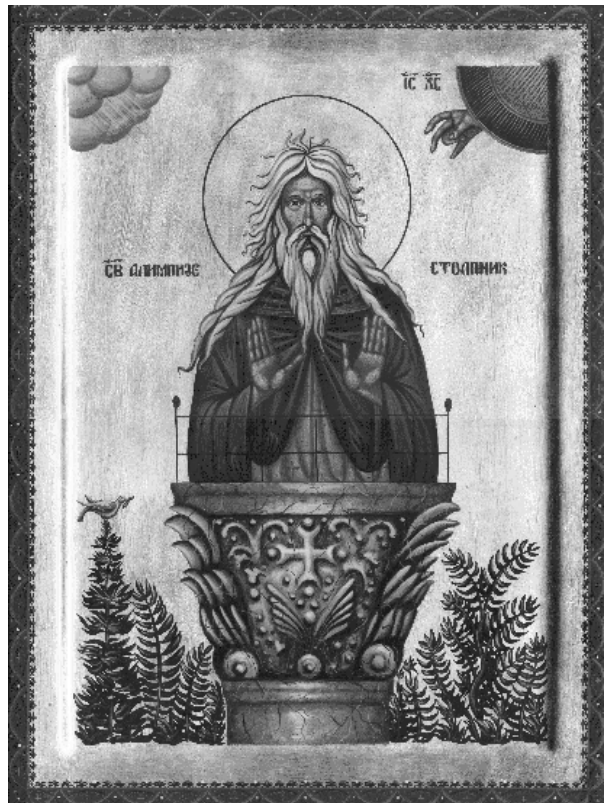
The Holy Spirit gives man the power to resist the delusions of the world so that although he makes use of earthly good, yet he uses them as a temporary visitor, without attaching his heart to them. But a man who has not got the Holy Spirit, despite all his learning and prudence, is always more or less a slave and worshipper of the world.

—*St. Innocent of Irkutsk*

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

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



St Alypius the Stylite

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

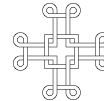
Sunday Commemoration Loaves— Fr Michael

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.

St Nicholas Day Children, Bring Your Shoes Next Sunday!

In connection with the feast of St Nicholas coming up on Dec 6 all our children and youth are welcome to bring an extra pair of shoes next Sunday to leave in the hall. St Nicholas has a tradition of filling the shoes of children with treats and little gifts.

Children can come on Wed Dec 6 to the Akathist to St Nicholas to pick up their shoes and any gifts St Nicholas has left.



STEWARDSHIP (PLEDGE/TITHE) FORMS FOR 2024

PLEASE SUBMIT BY DEC 1

It is once again time to fill out and submit our tithe/pledge forms so that we can prepare for the coming year. Dmitriy Panasenکو will have forms for everyone. There are 3 parts:

- General Information—names, addresses, birthdays, name days, wedding anniversaries, etc.
- Time & Talents—indicate by number who in your family would like to be involved in which areas of ministry in the parish for the coming year. This section also includes consent or non-consent to use photos of you, and a place to indicate your desire to officially be a member of the parish.
- Financial Offering—indicate what your financial offering for the year will be. There is a chart to remind us to consider offering the “first fruits” of the blessings we receive.

Please submit your forms by **Dec 1** to Ed Lump, Dennis Stavrou or Fr. Michael. Thank you!

Parish Life

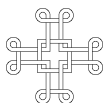
Christmas Bake Sale—Dec 16 Get Your Orders In & Help Where You Can

Each year our Auxiliary has three “Bake Sales.” Our Christmas bake sale is right around the corner. The Auxiliary has been working hard preparing the menu/flyer and the cooking begins this week.

Upcoming Cooking Days

- Wednesday Nov 29 9am-12pm (Pierogies)
- Thursday Nov 30 9am-12pm {Pierogies}
- Tuesday Dec 5 9am-12pm (Stuffed Cabbage)

Please help where you can!

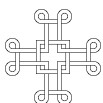


Viewing of Episode of The Chosen w/ Discussion Today

Today around 12:20pm after Fellowship Hour we will have a viewing of “Season 2 Episode 3 “Matthew 4:24”

We will have a short discussion afterwards.

All are welcome!



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.

Patronal/Altar Feast Mon Dec 4

Our patronal feast day is coming up next week.

This is an opportunity to give thanks to God for our heavenly patron St John of Damascus and all of his intercessions for us as a parish as well as each of us in the parish that receive the blessings of worshipping the Triune God and living out our faith here.

We will have clergy and faithful from area parishes with us and will be having a modest breakfast after Liturgy on Monday.

Sunday Dec 3—6pm Great Vespers w/Litya

Monday Dec 4—8:30am Hours & 9am Divine Liturgy

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

Visit www.stjohnofdamascus.org and click on **DONATE** or scan the QR below with your phone.



Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from
our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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 Alypius —Tone 1

You were a pillar of patient endurance,
having imitated the forefathers, O Venerable
One:
Job in suffering and Joseph in temptations.
You lived like the Bodiless Ones while yet in the
flesh, Alypius, our father.//
Beseech Christ God that our souls may be
saved!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and
resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Your rising from the
dead, O greatly Merciful One!

St John of Damascus — Tone 4

Let us the faithful sing praises to John,
worthy of great honor the composer of hymns.
The star & teacher of the Orthodox Faith,
the defender of its doctrine.
Through the might of the Lord's Cross he
overcame heretical error!
Now he is fervent in prayer to Christ God,
to grant forgiveness of our sins.

St Alypius —Tone 8

The Church glorifies and praises you today, O
Alypius,
as a perfect example of virtue and the boast of
ascetics.//
Through your prayers, grant remission of sins to
all who venerate your life and your struggles!

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!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 — *(Resurrection)* Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

ALLELUIA

Tone 8 — *(Resurrection)* V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our
Savior! (Ps. 94:1)

V. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of
praise! (Ps. 94:2)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Ephesians 4: 1-6

4 This is why I, being the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called. ² [Walk] with complete lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love; ³ being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.



Gospel — Luke 13: 10-17

¹⁰ Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. ¹¹ Behold, there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her, and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity!" ¹³ He laid his hands on her and immediately, she stood up straight and glorified God.

¹⁴ However, the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. He said to the crowd, "There are six days in which people should work! Therefore, come on those days and be healed, not on the Sabbath day!"

¹⁵ Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each one of you free his ox or his donkey from the stall on the Sabbath, and lead it out to water? ¹⁶ Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham who was bound by Satan for eighteen years, be freed from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"

¹⁷ As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame and all the people rejoiced over all the glorious things that were done by him.

Dates for 2023

FASTS

Nativity Fast/Advent Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas Dec 25-Jan 4

Our Life in Christ

“TO MAKE A BEGINNING” I START THE TRUE LIFE AT ANY MOMENT

—Archimandrite Symeon (Kragiopolous)

In the texts of the holy fathers we frequently encounter the exhortation: “to make a beginning.”

Someone ought not only to think that it's good to say and good to do such a thing, but should also feel the need to say “I am making a beginning”, “I will make a beginning”, at every moment. Not only should we think and feel this in the beginning of a year, not only at certain life milestones, nor only at the start of the week, but at each and every moment of our lives. Certainly, the more often someone makes a start, the better.

I fear, however, that we don't exactly know what that means, or what someone really means when he mentions this phrase.

And so, what does “make a beginning” mean?

The fathers of the Orthodox Church feel the need to make a beginning — namely to start living rightly at each moment, to start the spiritual life at every instant. Every day the saints made a start and without realizing, reached the ultimate destination. Therefore, while making a beginning, someone appears to be at the start and on this side, and yet doing this, he finds that he has reached his ultimate destination.

I will give an example without delay so as to initiate us into the theme a little. A small child desires to climb the staircase which leads to his house. He raises his little foot to the first step and tries to raise his other foot too. He doesn't manage to, and falls. The little child tries again, and again doesn't manage; and again he tries, and again he falls. He continues his effort, without considering that he failed once, twice ... This reality of failure does not bother him at all. The child's mother watches him from the upper landing, without him noticing. Seeing her child's effort, and that he isn't at all bothered by his failure, she descends, takes the child in her arms, and the child ascends the staircase outright.

We could say that somewhat this resembles man's attempt to live the spiritual life. Man needs to show that he wants to spiritually progress, and to attract God, by his labours. For, if man doesn't do that which he can, God won't do what we as humans choose not to do. Man is unable to create a spiritual life on his own. Rather, the spiritual life is a gift of uncreated Grace.

I dare say that we now better understand how the saints, while making a continuous beginning, reached their ultimate destination.



Our Life in Christ

OUR FINANCIAL OFFERINGS—PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE FORM BY DEC 1

Often people ask, “How much should I give to the Church?” We remember the full tithe, or 10%, that was due to God under the old covenant. But under grace in Christ, we understand that ALL we have comes from Him, we are just stewards of these gifts, and we will be held accountable for how we managed these gifts. We give as a reflection of our relationship with the One who gave us these gifts. We give to increase His Kingdom.

Our own parish, in fact, does not require a specific financial sum to be considered a full member. It is up to each of us to consult God in prayer, to seek His will for us in this regard. In truth, what is most important is the spirit with which our gift is given.

- ◆ *He [Jesus] looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had.” (Luke 21:1-4)*
- ◆ *Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. (2 Corinthians 9: 7-8)*

The following chart is provided as a resource.

Percentage Giving—Approximate Proportionate Gift Per Week						
If Annual Income is:	3%	4%	5%	8%	10% weekly	12%
\$20,000	\$12	\$15	\$19	\$31	\$38	\$46
\$25,000	\$14	\$19	\$24	\$38	\$48	\$58
\$30,000	\$17	\$23	\$29	\$46	\$58	\$69
\$35,000	\$20	\$27	\$34	\$54	\$67	\$81
\$40,000	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$62	\$77	\$92
\$45,000	\$26	\$35	\$43	\$69	\$87	\$104
\$50,000	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$77	\$96	\$115
\$55,000	\$32	\$42	\$53	\$85	\$106	\$127
\$60,000	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$92	\$115	\$138
\$65,000	\$38	\$50	\$63	\$100	\$125	\$150
\$70,000	\$40	\$54	\$67	\$108	\$135	\$162
\$75,000	\$43	\$58	\$72	\$115	\$144	\$173
\$80,000	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$123	\$154	\$185
\$85,000	\$49	\$65	\$82	\$131	\$163	\$196
\$90,000	\$52	\$69	\$87	\$138	\$173	\$208
\$95,000	\$55	\$73	\$91	\$146	\$183	\$219
\$100,000	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$154	\$192	\$231

Please take this time to pray about your situation and what an appropriate pledge would be based upon the gifts God has given you. We will need your pledge form completed and submitted by November 30 so that we can prepare next year’s budget.

You may submit your form to Fr. Michael. Thank you!



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mon Nov 27

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed Nov 29

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed—NO CLASS

Thurs Nov 30

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Sat Dec 2

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

Sun Dec 3—Youth Sunday

8:30am — 3rd & 6th Houts

9:00am—Divine Liturgy

6:00pm — Great Vespers w/ Litya for St John of Damascus

Mon Dec 4—Parish Feast Day

8:30am — 3rd & 6th Hours

9:00am—Festal Divine Liturgy w/ light breakfast following

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed Dec 6—St Nicholas

10:30am— Father's Café

6:00pm — Akathist to St Nicholas

7:00pm — Adult Ed—The 12 Apostles: A Primer

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

Andrew Cooper 11/30

Birthdays

Peter Anderson 11/27

Jordan (Maximos) Ward 11/28

Fr Michael Anderson, Andrew Lump 11/29

Cora Temnick 11/30

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