

December 31, 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

30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 5

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

**HOLY RIGHTEOUS ONES: JOSEPH THE
BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, AND JAMES,
THE BROTHER OF THE LORD**

LEAVETAKING OF THE NATIVITY

**VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF
ROME**

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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 Lord did not come to make a display.
He came to heal and to teach suffering
men. For one who wanted to make a
display, the thing would have been just to
appear and dazzle the beholders. But for
Him Who came to heal and to teach, the
way was not merely to dwell here, but to
put Himself at the disposal of those who
needed Him—and to be manifested
according as they could bear it, not
vitiating the value of the Divine appearing
by exceeding their capacity to receive it.

— *St. Athanasius the Great*

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The Flight into Egypt

Parish Life

Youth Christmas Program Today after Liturgy

Our children and youth have been preparing a program to share the joy of the season with the parish.

Next Sunday after Divine Liturgy and before our fellowship meal they will perform their presentation. Please plan on staying and keeping the spirit of the season alive for the entire feast!



SD Walk for Life Sat Jan 13 — 8:30am-12pm Waterfront Park

Orthodox Christians from parishes throughout the San Diego area will be participating in the annual SD Walk for Life on Sat Jan 13 from 8:30am-12pm. At Waterfront Park.

Everyone is encouraged to participate.



2024 Wall Calendars Available (with Feasts, Fasts, Scriptures Readings)

The wall calendars for 2024 have arrived and are available in the narthex in the back of the church. \$10 donation is requested.

Archpastoral Visit of Archbishop BENJAMIN January 20/21

His Eminence will make his regular archpastoral visit to our parish on January 20/21.

Mark your calendar and spread the word



Blessing of Water w/ San Diego Orthodox Churches Crown Point Beach 1/27 11am

Orthodox Churches in San Diego will be gathering at Crown Point Beach on Jan 27 at 11am for a blessing of the Bay.

It is a wonderful opportunity to gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other parishes.

Save the date and spread the news!



MELISSA PALUMBO TO HOLD CONCERT IN CHURCH HALL FRIDAY JANUARY 26 — 7:00PM

Melissa is a trained musician who desires to share her faith through music she composes.

Please plan on joining us on Frday 1/26 at 7:00pm to experience a performance reflecting her journey of faith in Christ.

Save the date and spread the word.

Today's Worship — Hymns

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!”

Fathers—Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain
of flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were
sheep.
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our
souls!

Forefeast—Tone 2

Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in
Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by
man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the
Queen.
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of
old.

KONTAKIA

Fathers—Tone 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself,
O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief
Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice,
beholding Him,
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the
Virgin nursing Him.

Forefeast—Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a
little child!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 — *(Song of the Fathers)* Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and
praised and glorified is Your Name forever! *(Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3)*

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — V. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)

V. For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the
flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead
by His glorious Resurrection.

Nativity—Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom.
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to You!

Righteous Ones—Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

KONTAKIA

Righteous Ones—Tone 3

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ
fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on
earth,
and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save
those who honor You!"

Nativity—Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent
One,
and the earth offers a cave to the
Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
the Wise Men journey with the star,
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a
little Child!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 — (*Feast*) Let all the earth worship You and praise You; / let it praise Your Name, O Most High! (Ps. 65:3)

V. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Tone 4 — (*Righteous Ones*) God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)

ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)

V. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. (Ps. 18:2)

Tone 4 — V. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)

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 — Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ After they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." ¹⁴ So Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. ¹⁵ They remained there until the death of Herod, so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Out of Egypt I have called my son.

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the wise men, he became extremely angry. He dispatched [his men] and killed all the male children who lived in Bethlehem and all the surrounding countryside, two years old and

under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ And so, what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning: Rachel weeping for her children. She would not be comforted, because they are no more.

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream when he was in Egypt, saying: ²⁰ "Arise! Take the young child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel; those who were trying to kill the young child are dead."

²¹ Joseph arose and took the young child and his mother, and they came into the land of Israel. ²² However, when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee. ²³ He thus arrived and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Dates for 2023

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas

Dec 25-Jan 4

Our Life in Christ

WE, CHRISTIANS, SHOULD BE A REVELATION OF NEWNESS OF LIFE: ON THE NEW YEAR

—Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

I want to say a few words about this new year which truly is the beginning of a new time and of a new era in the life of mankind.

We live now in a time when not only God has become man, has entered into the destiny of mankind, but when in the Resurrection and the glorious Ascension of God, the Son of God, our human flesh, and together with it all that is the matter of this world has been taken to the very heart of the divine mystery; and on earth we live in a time when the Holy Spirit that was given to the Church at the day of Pentecost is mighty at work, transforming the world into what it is called to be.

The Church is the place where this happens and the Christians are the people who have knowledge of it and experience of it, and every single Christian is a man to whom the Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted other men. We, Christians, in the midst of a world that seems to wax ever older, should be a revelation of newness of life, of a newness that brings forth, day after day, by the power of the Spirit of God within us and in our midst.

We have been praying that God would bless this coming year; the greatest blessing that we can bring to this world would be that we, Christians, should truly become Christ's disciples and a revelation of the love of God. Let us enter this year aware of the fact that we alone are already now in possession, however incipiently, of the things to come, that for us the future is already part of the present, not only by faith, not only in hope, but in true and real experience.

And may God give us to bring into His world this certainty of faith, this exaltation of hope and this love which is such abundance of life that he who possesses it is prepared to pour it out, to lay it down that others may live. Then really, truly for all those who come to this church, for all those who will be in touch with us this new year will be a year of blessing.

Let us remember in our prayers those who will carry more that we do, the weight and the



Our Life in Christ

Cross of a year: our Patriarch, the Bishops, the priests, the monks, the believers of the Church of Russia and of all the persecuted and oppressed Churches.

Let us pray for them, but let us also humbly ask God to hear the prayers which they pray for us that we may be worthy of our calling together with them.

Let us have faith in those who fight the good fight under conditions of life which are beyond our strength.

Let us also remember those who have departed this life and whose life indeed is our life; those whose faith has given us our faith, those whose experience of God lives in the Church, those whose faithfulness has built the Society of God. Let us remember them. May God give them peace, rest and joy. And let us so live that at the day of Judgment our life should appear like a fruitful field on which we will have sown the word of truth, the example of a true and worthy life; a field from which a harvest will be taken which will be their glory and our gratitude.

Let us now sing for all those who are alive our song of many years and then let us end by proclaiming eternal memory for them who have departed this life and who live in our heart. Amen.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mon January 1

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed January 3

10:30am — Fathers Café

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

Friday January 5—Eve of Theophany

9:00am — Royal Hours For Holy Theophany

7:00pm — Vigil for Holy Theophany

Saturday January 6—Holy Theophany

8:30am—3rd & 6th Hours

9:00am — Festal Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm — Great Vespers for the Resurrection

Mon January 8

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed January 9

10:30am — Fathers Café

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!

Newly-illuminated Vincent Constantine Palumbo & Emmanuel Scott

Name Days

Joseph Temnick, Joseph Sheeler David Boyles David E Boyles, James Pelachik

Sun after

Nativity or Dec 26

Russell (Vasily) Herbert

1/1

Caitlin (Juliana) Gannon

1/2

Birthdays

Elisabeth Koroleva

1/1

Debra Sependa

1/3

Terry Miller, Maha Rahal, Nicholas Stone

1/6

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

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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