

June 23, 2024



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

The grace of the Holy Spirit which is given mystically to every Christian when he is baptized acts and is manifested in proportion to our obedience to the commandments of the Lord. That is, if a Christian obeys the commandments of the Lord more, grace acts with him more, while if he obeys them less, grace acts within him less.

—*St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain*

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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.



O Heavenly King, *
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, *
Who art everywhere and fills all things. *
Treasury of Blessings * and Giver of life: *
Come and abide in us, * and cleanse us from
every impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One!

Parish Life

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](https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/StJohnofDamascusOrthodoxChurch/donations)

Or visit our website at:

www.stjohnofdamascus.org and click on DONATE and then "Donate Now."

Dates for 2024

MOVABLE FEASTS

Pentecost June 23

FASTS

Dormition Fast August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Pentecost June 23-29
After Christmas Dec 25-Jan 4

Keep Informed Receive Weekly E-mails About Parish Life

We are an active community with a lot going on. These days it is especially helpful to keep up to date on things taking place in our parish.

We have an email group
"News@stjohnofdamascus.org"

It is all those who are interested in the activities of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church.

**To be included E-mail Fr Michael at
info@stjohnofdamascus.org**



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—Seminarians at St Herman's Seminary in Alaska & Peter Anderson
- 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.

Parish Life

New Adult Ed Class

Life in the Early Church: The Apostolic Fathers

Next Class Monday July 1 —7pm

Did you ever wonder what life in the early Church was like? What happened in those earliest days after the Apostles?

The class will discuss an overview of the Apostolic Fathers, who were the disciples of the Apostles.

We will introduce some of their writings and the issues they were addressing making connections with our current times and the issues the Church faces today.

Classes (Mondays at 7pm) will be offered in person and via Zoom.

New Monthly Adult “Class” Inquiring Minds w/ Fr Michael Wednesday July 24 — 7pm

We have completed this year’s Orthodox Christianity 101 class. Our next session will begin in the fall.

Until that time, we are having a monthly gathering for ANYONE (inquirers, catechumen, longtime Orthodox Christians) to gather to ask questions about the Faith and discuss life in the Church. Class.

Class will be in person in the church hall and via Zoom (see parish calendar online for the Zoom link.)

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.

Visit the Scip Table in the hall after Liturgy for more information or to purchase your cards.

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
August 6	Transfiguration
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos

	SUMMER FASTS
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.

New Pertson Needed to Coordinate Scrip Program

After a number of years faithfully coordinating our Scrip Program, Carmen Brown will be stepping down in August.

Please consider volunteering for this important fundraising activity. Speak to Carmen for details on what the responsibilities are.

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.//

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)

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)

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."

Our Life in Christ—Feast of Mid-Pentecost

WITNESSES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

—FR ALEXANDER MEN

When the Temple guards, the soldiers who kept order in the House of God, were sent by the Temple authorities to seize the Lord, they achieved nothing, having been unable to lay hands on Him. When they were asked sternly why they had not brought Him, they replied: “No one has ever spoken like this Man” [cf. John 7:46]. There was some sort of power in the words of Christ the Savior, but not in those of His disciples — for Divine might spoke in Him, while human weakness spoke in them. Even after the disciples had seen the Risen One with their own eyes, they hid in fear behind locked doors, still disbelieving and doubting. Even when they saw Him on the mount in Galilee, as the Evangelist Matthew relates, some worshipped Him, while others doubted, having assumed that it was an apparition.

But several weeks later, on the Feast of Pentecost, everything changed. Less than a month had passed since the Lord had died on the place of the skull, in full sight of all, and then risen, appearing only to the faithful. Then suddenly there was a great noise and troubled voices — and Christ’s disciples came out of the house and witnessed to the Risen Christ before a whole crowd.

Everything in them had changed: their fear — gone without a trace; their timidity — gone without a trace; their inability to express themselves — gone without a trace. They spoke in such a way that everyone understood them, even those who had come from afar and understood their language poorly. Regardless, their words were reaching everyone. But why was that? What was going on? It was because the Lord’s

Divine power had come to them. It was not by their humanity, nor by their flesh and blood, but rather by the Spirit of God that they were able to bear witness and state outright: “This Jesus, God has raised from the dead, whereof we are all witnesses” [Acts 2:32].

This is an important word that we should take to heart: witnesses. Every Christian is a witness to God. Think of what a witness is in our ordinary lives. In court, a witness is someone who must truthfully relate that which he saw and heard, honestly and truthfully relating what he knows to be



Our Life in Christ

true. Sometimes there are false witnesses and libelers, but a true witness speaks only the truth — and not just the truth, but the truth that he knows well. Thus, the power of Christian witness is that we speak of the Lord, Whom we know; of grace, which we have experienced; of blessing, which we have felt; and of faith, which we have in our hearts. If we do not have the Spirit, if we do not have this power, then we are poor witnesses. The Apostles said: “He was raised by God, of which we are witnesses,” because they knew this, saw this with their own eyes, and experienced this.

By partaking of the Holy Mysteries and turning to the Lord in prayer, do we not touch Him? All true faith means touching the Lord. If we have living contact with God, with the Risen Christ Who saves us, that means we can honestly and boldly witness to the world about our trust, our hope, and our joy. Our joy is the Lord Who has loved the world, saving every person and searching for every lost soul. We do not simply say this from hearsay. We should be witnesses to His Spirit and witnesses to His power.

Let us today pray for that which is most important: that the Lord’s Spirit, promised to each and every one of us, might come to us and touch our hearts; that we might not speak vainly, but from the experience of our own hearts, that we know our Lord and have experienced the touch of the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God; and, therefore, that we have the right to say: “Yes, we know Him Whom we have loved; Who has loved, saved, and granted us eternal life.” To Him we all cry out: “O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Give of Life, come and dwell in us.” Amen.

Source: pravmir.com



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mon June 24-Fri June 28

Fast Free Week

Fr Michael travels to attend St Eugene's Orthodox Youth Camp

Sun June 30

After the Veneration of the Cross—Monthly Memorial Service

Monday July 1

7:00-8:30pm — Adult Ed: Life in the Early Church— The Apostolic Fathers (Church Hall and via Zoom)

Wed July 3

10:30am — Father's Café (Church Hall and via Zoom)

Sat July 6

4:30pm — Baptisms of Marianne & Sarah Hubler

July 8-19

Fr Michael Travels to MA to Help His Mother

July 21

After Divine Liturgy—Annual Blessing of Vehicles

Monday July 22

7:00-8:30pm — Adult Ed: Life in the Early Church— The Apostolic Fathers (Church Hall and via Zoom)

July 23

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

For more dates & links please visit our website: www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar

Many Years!

Name Days

Magnolia Joanne Keeling 6/27
Gary (Paul) Jollie, Peter Franchak 6/29

Birthdays

Kathrine Minakov 6/23
Grace (Victoria) Cooper, Nika Federoff Carlson 6/25

Wedding Anniversaries

Steve & Cyndi Zmina 6/28

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