

July 7, 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

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF
NORTH AMERICA

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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 Orthodox Church has never perceptibly changed from Apostolic times, and, therefore, no one can go astray in finding out what she teaches. Like her Lord and Master, though at times surrounded with human malaria — which He in mercy pardons — she is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Hebrews 8:8) ... the mother and safe deposit of “the truth as it is in Jesus” (Eph.4:21).

—St Raphael of Brooklyn

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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.



*Come, let us assemble today
and glorify the luminaries of the
North American lands,*

*the glorious martyrs and holy bishops
who confirmed our faith,*

*the righteous dwellers in the wilderness and
guides of the spiritual life!*

Let us cry out to them in joy://

*“All Saints of North America, known and unknown,
pray to God for us!”*

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

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>

Or visit our website at:

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

Please Sign-up for Fellowship Hour

We have posted the sign-up sheet for Fellowship Hour meals for the second half of the year. 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.

Dates for 2024

FASTS

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

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas Dec 25-Jan 4

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.

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.)

New Adult Ed Class Life in the Early Church: The Apostolic Fathers Next Class Monday July 22 —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.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure
body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life
to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O
Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

All Saints of North America—Tone 8

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of
salvation,
the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord,
all the saints who have shone in them.
By their prayers keep the Church and our land in
abiding peace
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 1

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.
Human nature praises You as God, for death
has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and
cries to You:
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O
Christ!”

All Saints of North America—Tone 3

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to
God in the lands of North America
now stands before us in the Church and invisibly
prays to God for us.
With them the Angels glorify Him,
and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep
festival with them;
and together they all pray for us to the Pre-
eternal God.

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 1 (*Resurrection*) — Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
You! (*Ps 32/33:22*)

v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

Tone 7 (*All Saints of North America*) — Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His
saints. (*Ps 115/116:15*)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Romans 2:10-16

¹⁰ On the other hand, glory, honor, and peace [are] for everyone who does good; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, ¹¹ because there is no partiality with God. ¹² Hence, all those who have sinned apart from the law will also perish without the law, [and] as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ by showing that the practical expression of the law is written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness, and their thoughts alternately accuse or defend them). ¹⁶ This is for the day when, according to my [proclamation of the] gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Epistle — Hebrews 11:33-12:2

³³ Through faith, they overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! ³⁸ They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. ³⁹ All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise ⁴⁰ because God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

12 And so, seeing that we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross, despising its shame, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

ALLELUIA

Tone 1 — V. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

Tone 1 — V. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you righteous! (Ps. 31:11a)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gospel — Matthew 4:18-23

¹⁸ Walking by the sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea since they were fishermen. ¹⁹ He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fish for people!"

²⁰ Immediately, they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. ²² At once, they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³ Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Gospel — Matthew 4:25-5:12

²⁵ Great crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

The sermon on the mount

⁵ Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up to the mountain and when he had sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He began to speak and to teach them, saying:

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted!

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth!

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
after righteousness,
for they shall be filled!

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy!

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God!

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God!

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

¹¹ Blessed are you when people revile you,
persecute you,
and say all kinds of evil against you falsely
for my sake! ¹² Rejoice, and be extremely
glad,
for great is your reward in heaven!

Indeed, this is how they persecuted the prophets
who were before you!

Our Life in Christ

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR BLESSED FATHER HERMAN OF ALASKA

In 1970, when our Church first received its autocephaly from the Russian Church, it immediately did two things. First, it changed its name from the somewhat unwieldy “the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America” to the more accurate “the Orthodox Church in America”. Secondly, it canonized Herman of Alaska. This latter task was then ours to do; the rule says that whichever Church possesses the relics of a saint is the Church charged with the task and privilege of canonization. Thus, for example, although Saint Tikhon was the ruling bishop of the American diocese, he died on Russian soil and therefore the Russian Church, which retains his relics, was the Church which got to canonize him, regardless of any connection Saint Tikhon might have had with the American Church. Bishop Tikhon may have had a special love for his American children and left his heart in San Francisco, but he left his relics in Moscow, and whoever retains the relics, retains the joyful task of canonization. Thus in like manner, after 1970 the Blessed Father Herman of Alaska was ours to canonize.



It is significant that the first saint of North America was a simple missionary, one who continued to embrace humility all the days of his life, even to the point of shunning ordination. He lived and died as a simple missionary to this land, and it is as a missionary that he points the way forward for us today. For we Orthodox in North America are very different than our Orthodox older brothers in other lands.

Take Russia, for example. Orthodoxy was planted there before Russia was Russia, and before the words “Russia” or “Ukraine” had any national meaning. In 988, it was simply the land of the Rus’, and the land’s nationhood post-dated the planting of the Orthodox Church there. Orthodoxy thus grew up with the nation, and became part of the country’s DNA. The Orthodox Church is thus now firmly ensconced in Russia, to the point where it is hard to imagine that

country without also seeing it standing under the three-barred cross of Orthodoxy.

Or take Greece, for another example. The Gospel was planted in Hellenistic soil long before those living on the soil became the nation of Greece. When Paul brought the Church there, he found Macedonia in the north and Achaia in the south; the unified country of Greece came much much later. Even in Byzantine times the term “Greek” did not mean “inhabitants of the former Macedonia and Achaia” but rather “pagan”. Once again we see the Church predating the nation so that the nation evolves and grows up with ecclesiastical blood flowing through its veins. The Church is thus ensconced in Greece as it is in Russia, and it is not surprising if its bishops swagger just a bit. After all this time, they are somewhat entitled.

Our Life in Christ

It is otherwise here in North America. Here the nations of America and Canada have existed before Herman and the other missionaries ever arrived. And, praise-worthy evangelistic enthusiasm notwithstanding, it seems unlikely that Orthodoxy will ever convert North America in the way that it once converted those in the land of the Rus' or those in Macedonia and Achaia. Orthodoxy became ensconced there; it will not become similarly ensconced here, so that our bishops should not plan on swaggering culturally here anytime soon. We will never be the ones in charge, as we are in Russia and Greece. We will remain missionaries.

The example of Saint Herman of Alaska reveals that this is perfectly fine. Becoming ensconced or culturally dominant is not our goal; faithful proclamation of the Gospel is. Obviously we have to aim at converting absolutely everyone, since God loves absolutely everyone. But our evangelistic zeal should not blind us to the real situation. The reality is that the cultural tide is now flowing against us, and in a few generations America will not be a Christian country in any sense that Saint Herman (or Saint Paul) would recognize. Indeed, in Canada this has already happened. Radical secularization continues apace throughout the continent, and the Land of the Free seems determined to become the Land of the Secular. And in this land, missionaries will be needed. Perhaps it is providential therefore that the first saint of the land was just such a missionary. We need the example of the simple missionary Herman of Alaska now more than ever.

O Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray unto God for us!

—Fr Lawrence Farley, oca.org/reflections



LOOKING AHEAD

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

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

Wed July 24

7:00am — Weekday Divine Liturgy

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

7:00pm — Inquiring Minds w/ Fr Michael (Church Hall & via Zoom)

Monday July 29

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

Wed July 24

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

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

Many Years!

Newly Illumined Sarah Sophia Hubler & Marianna Monica Jubler

Birthdays

Alla K. Cline	7/7
Rebekah Jones	7/9
Tessa Sophia Stavrsou, Iryna Thayer	7/11

Wedding Anniversaries

Emily & Anthony Lorelli	7/10
Gene (Nectarios) & Judy Francello	7/11
Bob (Vladimir) & Irene Stone	7/12

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

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