

October 13, 2024



# THE IMAGE...

(Jn 12:45 & 14:9; Heb 1:3; Col 1:15)

[www.stjohnofdamascus.org](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org)

Publication of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church, Poway, CA

**16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**



### 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.



### A Word from the Holy Fathers

When your faith in the Lord, either during your life and prosperity, or in the time of sickness and at the moment of quitting this life, grows weak, grows dim from worldly vanity or through illness, and from the terrors and darkness of death, then look with the mental eyes of your heart upon the companies of our forefathers, the patriarchs, prophets, and righteous ones ... These living examples, which are so numerous, are capable to strengthen the wavering faith of every Christian in the Lord and in the future life.

—St. John of Kronstadt



**Include Something in the Bulletin or  
Be Included in our Weekly E-mails**  
E-mail [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)



## Parish Life

### **SAVE THE DATE St John's 50th Anniversary May 4, 2025**

The weekend of Sunday May 3 and 4, 2025 we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our beloved parish.

His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin along with other special guests will be with us.

There will also be a celebratory banquet at Vintana Wine + Dine in Escondido

More details to follow



### **Auxiliary Baking & Cooking Dates Helpers Needed!**

The Auxiliary will be baking/cooking every Thursday in October.

Sessions usually begin at 9am and go until noon.

Please consider helping and bring a friend!

Questions? Speak with Tanya Franchak, Phyllis Brown and Linda Kedroff.



### **Sunday Counters—2 People Needed**

Some of our Counters have had to step down for personal reasons. We are in need of 2 or so more people to fill "the ranks" to allow for people to only have to count 1 weekend a month.

We have a written "how-to" document to help new recruits as well as our 8 other experienced counters.

Please consider being part of this important ministry.

### **Luncheon Fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research Today**

Please join us today after Divine Liturgy for a luncheon in memory of Lori Wesdell. A luncheon is being sponsored by Mike Wesdell and others to raise funds for breast cancer research. Come enjoy the food and offer a donation.



### **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***



### **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.

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### **Resurrection—Tone 7**

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen, //  
granting the world great mercy.

#### **Fathers—Tone 8**

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!  
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.  
Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.  
O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

### KONTAKIA

#### **Resurrection—Tone 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith; //  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

#### **Fathers—Tone 6**

The Son who shone forth from the Father was ineffably born, two-fold in nature, of a woman.  
Having beheld Him, we do not deny the image of His form,  
but depict it piously and revere it faithfully.  
Thus, keeping the True Faith,  
the Church venerates the icon of Christ Incarnate.

#### **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 7** (*Resurrection*) — The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)

V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)

**Tone 4** (*Song of the Fathers*) — Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Your Name forever! (*Daniel 3:26: Song of the Three Holy Children v.3*)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — 2 Cor 6 1-10

6 Since we are God's fellow workers, we also entreat you not to receive his grace in vain, <sup>2</sup> for he says,

At a favorable time I listened to you;

In a day of salvation I helped you.

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our ministry may not be blamed. <sup>4</sup>Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, <sup>5</sup>in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings, <sup>6</sup>in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in sincere love, <sup>7</sup>in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, <sup>8</sup>glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought of as deceivers, and yet true; <sup>9</sup>unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

### Epistle — Hebrews 13:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

<sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

<sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

<sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

<sup>14</sup>For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

<sup>16</sup>But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

### ALLELUIA

**Tone 7** — V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps. 91:1)

V. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps. 91:2a)

**Tone 1** (*Fathers*) V. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Ps. 49:1)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Luke 8:5-15

<sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

<sup>8</sup>But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

<sup>9</sup>Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

<sup>10</sup>And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

<sup>11</sup>Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

<sup>13</sup>But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

<sup>14</sup>Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

<sup>15</sup>But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

### Gospel — John 17:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup>as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

<sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

<sup>4</sup>I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

<sup>6</sup>I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

<sup>7</sup>Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. <sup>8</sup>For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

<sup>9</sup>I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup>And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup>Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

<sup>12</sup>While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup>But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

## Our Life in Christ—Icons in the Church

In the Orthodox Church the icons bear witness to the reality of God's presence with us in the mystery of faith. The icons are not just human pictures or visual aids to contemplation and prayer. They are the witnesses of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us, and so of our own presence to the Kingdom of God in the Church. **It is the Orthodox faith that icons are not only permissible, but are spiritually necessary because "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1.14). Christ is truly man and, as man, truly the "icon of the invisible God" (Col 1.15; 1 Cor 11.7; 2 Cor 4.4).**

The iconostasis or icon screen in the Orthodox Church exists to show our unity with Christ, his mother and all the angels and saints. It exists to show our unity with God. The altar table, which stands for the Banquet Table of the Kingdom of God, is placed behind the so-called royal gates, between the icons of the Theotokos and Child and the glorified Christ, showing that everything which happens to us in the Church happens in history between those "two comings" of Christ: between his coming as the Saviour born of Mary and His coming at the end of the age as the King and the Judge.

The icons on the royal gates witness to the presence of Christ's good news, the gospel of salvation. The four evangelists who recorded the gospels appear, and often also an icon of the Annunciation, the first proclamation of the gospel in the world. In Greek the gospel is the *evangelion*, the authors of the gospels the *evangelistoi*, the annunciation the *evangelismos*.

Over the doors we have the icon of Christ's Mystical Supper with his disciples, the icon of the central mystery of the Christian faith and the unity of the Church in the world. It is the visual witness that we too are partakers in the "marriage supper of the lamb" (Rev 19.9), that we too are blessed by Christ "to eat and drink at my table in my kingdom" (Lk 22.30), blessed to "eat bread in the Kingdom of God" (Lk 14.15).

Over and around the central gates are icons of the saints. The deacon's doors in the first row (for the servants of the altar) usually have icons depicting deacons or angels, God's servants. The first row also has an icon of the person or event in whose honor the given building is dedicated, along with other prominent saints or events. Depending on the size of the iconostasis, there may be rows of icons of the apostles, the major feasts of the Church, the prophets and other holy people blessed by God, all crowned on the top by the cross of Christ.

Besides the iconostasis, Orthodox Church buildings often have icons or frescoes on the walls and ceilings. The "canon" of Church design is to have the icon of Christ the Almighty in the center of the building, and the icon of the Theotokos with Christ appearing within her found over the altar area. This latter icon is called the "image of the Church" since Mary is herself the prototype of the entire assembly of believers in whom Christ must dwell. In the altar area it is also traditional to put icons of the saints who composed Church liturgies and hymns. Directly behind the altar table there is usually an image of

## Our Life in Christ—Icons in the Church

Christ in glory—enthroned or transfigured or resurrecting, and sometimes offering the eucharistic gifts.

—Fr Thomas Hopko

# Come and Be...

*Be a part of St. John of Damascus' iconographic witness to the Kingdom of God.*



Our three year project will enhance not only the beauty of our church but also reinforce the reality of God's presence with us for icons bridge the gap between the divine and the worshippers, enhancing our worship experience. These new icons will be added throughout the church interior.



Your donation can sponsor an icon of your choosing, serving as a lasting memorial for your family and loved ones.

A list of specific icons, their location within the church and their pricing is available upon request.

*Please see Father Michael for further details.*





## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Sept 13-17

Fr Michael, Patty Pelachik & Caitlin Gannon Travel to OR for  
Diocesan Meetings  
No Classes This Week

### Thurs Oct 17

9:00am — Auxiliary Cooking Day

### Sat Oct 19— Memorial Saturday

8:30 — 3rd Hour & Liturgy w/ Remembrance of the Departed  
4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

### Mon Oct 21

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101  
(in person & via Zoom)

### Tues Oct 22

11:30am — Diamond Circle  
7:00pm — Parish Council

### Wed Oct 23

10:30-11:30am — Father's Café  
7:00pm — Praying the Services: Vespers  
(in person & via Zoom)

**For more dates & links please visit our website: [www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar)**

## Many Years!

Newly Illumined Dakota Gabriel Walko & Jaclyn Juliana Lukehart

### *Name Days*

John Thayer 10/15 Luke Jones 10/18

### *Birthdays*

David Ezekiel Boyles 10/15 Katherine Koroleva 10/17  
James Sullivan 10/19

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

Margie (Marie) & William Hicks 10/14  
Terrance & Susan (Ruth) Miller 10/19

### PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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**Attached Clergy:** V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired, Rev. John Robinson, Retired & Pdn. George Shumaik

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