



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mon Dec 9-Fri Dec 13

Fr Michael travels to MA to help his mother

Tues Dec 10

9am-12pm — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Wed Dec 11

9am-12pm — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Thurs Dec 12

9am-12pm — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Mon Dec 16

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101
(via Zoom AND in person in Church Hall)

Mon Dec 16 (continued)

8:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Sat Dec 21

11am-2pm — Auxiliary Cooking Day
6:00pm — Vespers & Litya for St John of Damascus

Sun Dec 22

After Divine Liturgy — Youth Christmas Program

Mon Dec 23

11am — Sacrament of Confession
4:30pm — Sacrament of Confession
6:30pm — Sacrament of Confession

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

Many Years!*Name Days*

Rebekah Jones	12/8
Sbdn Herman (Ken) Telles, Birdie (Lucy) Worth, Anna (Lucy) Jones	12/13

Birthdays

Desirée Geralt, George Rahal	12/11
Daria Kedroff	12/12
Sbdn Herman (Ken) Telles, Leo Keeling	12/13

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, Rev. John Robinson, Retired & Pdn. George Shumaik

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

December 8, 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

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 7
VENERABLE PATAPIAS OF THEBES



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**

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



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

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



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

**St John's 50th Anniversary
New Date
May 25**

Due to scheduling conflicts we have had to move the date of the celebration of our beloved parish's 50th Anniversary to May 25.

His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin will be with us.

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks!



Sunday Counters—I Person Needed

Some of our Counters have had to step down for personal reasons. We are in need of 1 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.



**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.

**Adopt a Poway Family
Gifts Due Dec 8
Unwrapped**

Our local Poway Unified School District is once again coordinating an "Adopt a Family" program for local families.

This year St John's is adopting 3 families.

All gifts need to be returned to the church today UNWRAPPED.

If you have a questions, please contact Ken Telles.



**Youth Christmas Program
Sunday Dec 22
Mark Your Calendars**

This year our Christmas Youth Program will take place on Sunday Dec 22 after the Divine Liturgy.

They will be present "The Gift of the Magi"

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan on attending!



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.

BE PATIENT AS MUCH AS GOD IS PATIENT WITH US

— Archimandrite Andrew Konanos

God waited for the time when He could take human flesh on Himself. I was impressed by the words of Saint Isaac the Syrian, where the elder argues that the Lord was incarnated not just to forgive our sins, but mainly to show how much He loves us.

He was incarnated because of love. He could forgive our sins anyway, with His Divinity. After all, He is God, He does what He wants. He can forgive with His word, His wish. Who can resist God's will? It is not the problem. According to Saint Isaac's words, He wanted to become like us so much that He was incarnated. He wanted to join us and took human flesh on Himself because of unlimited love. I am a human, He also became a human. For so many centuries God in patience kept this infinite love in Himself. Ever since He created man, He had been waiting for the right time for incarnation. God Himself was patient. When God was born, He displayed patience again. He waited silently. Although from the age of twelve He could impress the audience with His word, He waited until He was thirty to go to synagogue and come out from the unknown to public service, to develop His cause, to preach, and to do miracles.

Learn how to be patient. That is what we are talking about today. Be patient as much as God is patient with us. If you are not patient, you may take wrong action. I am sure that you have experienced this in some instances. A person, who does everything in a rushed way, acts incorrectly, makes many mistakes, because their thoughts are scattered. They must take the lesson of patience again.

You should wait as the Lord waited. The Lord was also waiting for Judas. Three years of patience. God was also waiting for the Holy Apostles, but especially Judas. He was waiting for three years for him to change, to repent. He gave him a lot of chances, we do not know how many, but certainly a lot. He waited, looked at him with love, and waited again. He waited until He saw that Judas will not change. One evening he went to seize the Lord with lighted lanterns and sticks, with Roman guards. However, the Lord was waiting for him. He was waiting to kiss him with love, not to give him a treacherous kiss. They say, if Judas went to Christ Crucified on the Cross, God would have said to him again, "You came? I was waiting for you". Judas would have said, "But, Lord, I have betrayed You. I denied You. I led them here to crucify You. I am the reason that led You to the Cross, I helped them find and bind You". The Savior would have answered, "Judas, I have loved you to this hour and waited for you patiently. And now if you repent, I will forgive you". He would have given him courage. He would not have taken away such hope from him. He would never have given him an opportunity to lose faith in power of repentance. But Judas did not come to the Cross. Do you know why? Because he had no patience. Only regret arose inside him, but for repentance to come it was necessary to show patience. Yet there was none. Judas fell into panic, selfishness, became agitated, did not set hopes on God or believe in power of repentance and Christ's love. Due to being desperate, impatient, not having waited enough for God's grace, which could have changed him, he went and ended his life. This life and the other one.

We need patience. It takes time for planted seed to blossom, it is the only way it will bear fruit. Whoever you are, you constantly plant seeds around you. Be sure that your seed will bear fruit. What you sow will surely grow. Yet we also have to wait for the blossoming of seeds. It will not happen instantly. What you say to your child today will leave a trace. You will not see a miracle in five minutes, but it is possible, of course. It is obvious that God can show you a quick and sudden change as soon as you say the words. Yet, as always, to keep all of us in patience and humility, for us to learn to hope for His help and protection, He says, "Wait. You said it well. Did you say something nice to your child? Do not worry, it will not go away. You will see". Teach your child by your own example. At times like this you sow seeds in their heart, but you have to wait for these seeds to come up.

**SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
AUXILIARY**

ETHNIC FOODS and BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 21, 2024

11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

16903 Espola Road, Poway, CA 92064

Pierogies, many varieties!!

Cheese • Potato/Cheese • Sauerkraut • Sweet Cabbage

Cherry • Prune • \$10.00 per dozen

Sausage & Cheese • The Polish • Fiesta!

▲ Cheeseburger • Loaded Baked Potato • \$12.00 per dozen

Stuffed Cabbage Rolls - \$20.00 per doz.

Spanakopita - \$18.00 per doz.

Walnut, Poppy Seed, and Apricot rolls - \$18.00 ea.

Baklava - \$18.00 per doz. **Fruit Cakes** - \$25.00 ea.

Piroshky - \$20.00 per doz. **Apple Strudel** - \$10.00 ea.

Tea Breads (Banana Nut, Cranberry, Pumpkin) - \$10.00 ea.

Quiche (Sausage & Cheese, Broccoli & Bacon, and

Spinach & Bacon) - \$15.00 ea.

Russian Tea Cakes, Christmas Cookies - \$12.00 per doz.

Mini Chocolate Cheesecakes - \$2.50 ea.

Large Chocolate Chip Cookies - \$2.00 ea.

Advance Orders Only / Pick-Up in our Church Hall

TO ORDER, PHONE:

Tanya: (619) 818-2311 or Mike: (858) 344-2981

or email: auxiliary@stjohnofdamascus.org

Save the date!

Saturday, April 12th, 2025 is our Easter Bake Sale!

Auxiliary Baking

We are grateful to God for all the folks who helped with the many aspects of our Auxiliary's Thanksgiving Bake Sale. Preliminary numbers are showing we raised about \$7,000. A number of people came into our church to see what an Orthodox Church looks like and hear a little bit about our faith.

If you have not picked up your order yet, please do so today.

We now jump right in to getting reading for our **Christmas Sale on Dec 21**. Below are cooking/baking days in Dec. Cooking is from 9am-12pm. Please come & help if you can.

Tues Dec 10

Wed Dec 11

Thurs Dec 12



**Orthodox Christianity 101 Class
Mondays 6pm**

This 14 session class introduces people to the basic teachings and life of the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is excellent for new inquirers, those preparing for baptism and/or chrismation, as well as people who may have grown up in the Church but may desire a refresher in the basics of our Faith.

Tell your friends. All are welcome.

To register email info@stjohnofdamascus.org or call 858-717-2172

NO CLASS THIS WEEK 12/9

Auxiliary Christmas Ethnic Foods & Bake Sale

**Saturday Dec 21
Get Your Orders In!**

On Saturday Dec 21 from 11:00am—2:00pm our Auxiliary will be having its Christmas Ethnic Foods & Bake Sale.

Pre-orders are taken by phone, with drive-through pick-up and payment on the day of the event.

All our traditional ethnic foods and freshly made baked goods will be available. A menu flyer with ordering instructions will be emailed and posted soon. We encourage you to order early.

To be added to the Auxiliary's e-mail list and receive this year's menu immediately, send an email to Auxiliary@stjohnofdamascus.org or speak to Mike Wesdell.



Dates for 2024

FASTS

Nativity Fast/Advent Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas Dec 25-Jan 4

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.

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 Patapias—Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Father,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh
for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. //
Therefore your spirit, venerable Patapius,
rejoices with the angels.

PROKEIMENON

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)

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!”

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 Patapias—Tone 3

Your temple is found to be a source of healing,
and the people flock to it eagerly, O saint.
They seek the healing of their diseases
and the forgiveness of their sins, //
for you are a protector for all those in need,
venerable Patapius.

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 & to intercede for us,
O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴ He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation.
¹⁵ He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. ¹⁶ He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. ¹⁸ Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. ¹⁹ And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners! Instead, [you are] fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. ²² In him, you too are built up into a dwelling place of God in [the] Spirit

Gospel — Luke 17:12-19

¹² As he entered into a certain village, ten men who were lepers met him, and they stood at a distance. ¹³ They lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”
¹⁴ When Jesus saw them, he told them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And it happened that as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks; and this man was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine [others]?”
¹⁸ Was no one found who came back to glorify God, except for this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go your way. Your faith has healed you!”

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)