

December 29, 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

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 3

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY

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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 Son of God has become Son of Man
in order to make us, men, sons of God,
raising our race by grace to what He is
Himself by nature, granting us birth from
above through the grace of the Holy Spirit
and leading us straightway to the kingdom
of heaven, or rather, granting us this
kingdom of heaven within us.

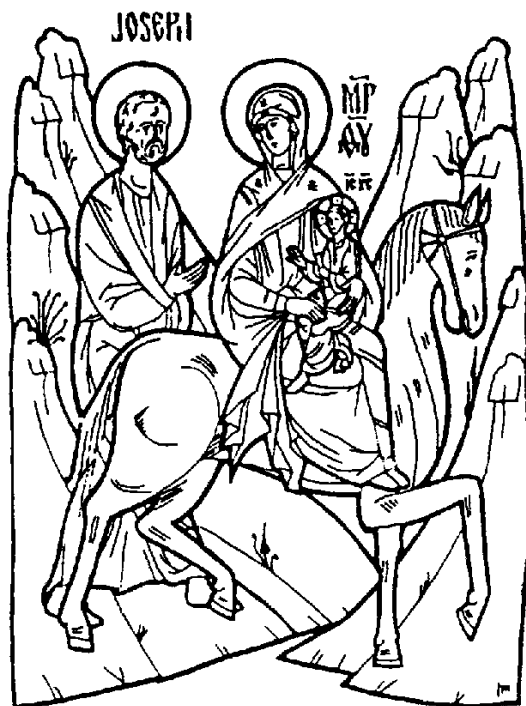
— *St. Symeon the New Theologian*

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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.

∴ THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT ∴



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

Parish Life

SAVE THE DATE St John's 50th Anniversary May 25, 2025

The weekend of Sunday May 24 and 25, 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



All-American Council July 14-18, 2025 Phoenix, AZ

The 21st All-American Council will take place in Phoenix, AZ at the Grand Arizona Resort from July 14-18, 2025.

We will be sending our usual clergy and lay delegate to the Council but other parishioners are welcome and encouraged to come as well.

There will be a special celebration in connection with the glorification of Matushka Olga of AK, Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for hotel, scheduling and other information.



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**

Youth Christmas Program Sunday Dec 22 Today

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!



Youth Sunday Sunday Feb 2

This year our parish's annual "youth Sunday" will take place on Sunday Feb 2 in connection with the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple which is also the World Day of Orthodox Youth.

Our younger members will take on various aspects of the Divine Liturgy.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.



Dates for 2024

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas

Dec 25-Jan 2

Parish Life

House Blessings

Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent (Jan. 7 - Mar. 3) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.

Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.



Metropolitan TIKHON Request Parishes Reflect for All-American Council Wednesdays June 15-29—7:00pm

In preparation for the All-American Council coming up this summer in Phoenix, His Beatitude is asking for parishes to submit reflections on this moment in the life of the Church. A companion study guide has been made available to help guide these discussions.

We will be exploring this study guide on Wednesdays beginning January 15 through January 29.

Discussions will take place in person in the church hall as well as via Zoom.



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

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."



Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 2

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your
Godhead.

And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

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 2 (Resurrection) The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)

V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. (Ps. 117:18)

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



ALLELUIA

Tone 2 — V. May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps. 19:1)

V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

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

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gal 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.'

Matt 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."

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 than we do, the weight and the



Our Life in Christ

Cross of a year: our Patriarchs, the Bishops, the priests, the monks, the believers of the Church of 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).*

Dec 25-Jan 2
Fast Free

Monday December 30
6:00pm—Adult Ed: Orthodox Christianity 101

Wednesday January 1
10:30am—Coffee & Cookies with Father (Father's Café)
Open Discussion/Questions

Friday Jan 3
Strict Fast
9:00am — Royal Hours for Theophany

Sunday January 5—Eve of Theophany
6:00pm—Vigil for Theophany

Thursday January 6—Holy Theophany
8:30am — Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of
Water

Mon January 6-March 3
Annual House Blessings—Contact Fr Michael to Schedule

Monday January 13
7:00pm—Adult Ed: Orthodox Christianity 101

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

Many Years!

Name Days

Joseph Temnick, Joseph Sheeler David Boyles David E Boyles, James Pelachik (Sunday after Nativity)
Caitlin (Juliana) Gannon, Jaclyn (Juliana) W 1/2

Birthdays

Debra Anne Sependa, Elisabeth Koroleva 1/1

Wedding Anniversaries

Dmitriy & Caitlin (Juliana) Panasenko 12/29

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

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