

January 19, 2025



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

30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 5

VENERABLE MACARIOS THE GREAT OF EGYPT

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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 Light came into the world to give sight to the blind and faith to those who lacked it. When he approached the blind man, he cried out and said, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." The beggar's hand was stretched out to receive a penny from human beings and found himself receiving the gift of God! "Son of David, have mercy on me." What did he then answer him? "See, your faith has saved you." Christ did not say to him, "It is your faith that has caused you to see," in order to show that faith had first given him life and then bodily sight.

St. Ephraim the Syrian

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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.



And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

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 AND Diocesan Assembly 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 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 2025

MOVABLE FEASTS

Palm Sunday	April 13
Pascha	April 20
Ascension	May 29
Pentecost	June 8

FASTS

Great Lent	Mar 3– April 27
Holy Week	April 14 - 20
Apostles Fast	June 16-28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

Publican & Pharisee	March 10-14
Bright Week	April 21-26
After Pentecost	June 9-13
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

Parish Life

House Blessings

Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent (Jan. 7 - Mar. 1) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.

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



2025 Wall Calendars Available (with Feasts, Fasts, Scriptures Readings)

The wall calendars for 2025 have arrived and are available in the narthex in the back of the church.

\$10 is the suggested donation.



Parish Annual Meeting Nominations for Parish Council, Lay Representative & Auditors

Our annual meeting is coming up in February. We will be electing

- 4 people for positions on the Parish Council
- a Lay Representative for our Diocesan Assembly and All-American Council (Phoenix, AZ July 14-18)
- 2 Auditors for 2025

If you would like to be nominated to run for any of these positions please see Fr Michael or any member of the current Parish Council.

List of Current Voting Members Posted

In preparation for our upcoming annual parish meeting in February, the list of voting members (those parishioners who have submitted pledge forms for 2025) has been posted in both the church narthex and in the church hall.

If your name is not on there, please submit your pledge form ASAP.

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."



Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the
flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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 Macarius —Tone 1

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the
body,
you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing
Father Macarius.
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil
and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to
you by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!!
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 5

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O
Lover of man, //
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

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 Macarius—Tone 4

The Lord truly placed you in the house of
abstinence,
as a star enlightening the ends of the earth, //
Venerable Macarius, Father of Fathers.

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 — Colossians 3: 12-16

¹² As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance. ¹³ Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

¹⁴ Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel — Luke 18: 35-43

³⁵ As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. ³⁶ Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant.

³⁷ People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ He began to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Then those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰ Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do?"

The man replied, "Lord, that I may see again!"

⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you."

⁴³ Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 5 — (*Resurrection*) You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)



ALLELUIA

Tone 5 — V. I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)

V. For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

Our Life in Christ—the Feast of Holy Theophany

WHY ARE VIGIL LAMPS LIT BEFORE ICONS?

—St Nikolai Velimirovich

1. Because our faith is light. Christ said: *I am the light of the world* (John 8:12). The light of the vigil lamp reminds us of that light by which Christ illumines our souls.
2. In order to remind us of the radiant character of the saint before whose icon we light the vigil lamp, for saints are called sons of light (John 12:36, Luke 16:8).
3. In order to serve as a reproach to us for our dark deeds, for our evil thoughts and desires, and in order to call us to the path of evangelical light; and so that we would more zealously try to fulfill the commandments of the Saviour: "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works*" (Matt. 5:16).
4. So that the vigil lamp would be our small sacrifice to God, Who gave Himself completely as a sacrifice for us, and as a small sign of our great gratitude and radiant love for Him from Whom we ask in prayer for life, and health, and salvation and everything that only boundless heavenly love can bestow.
5. So that terror would strike the evil powers who sometimes assail us even at the time of prayer and lead away our thoughts from the Creator. The evil powers love the darkness and tremble at every light, especially at that which belongs to God and to those who please Him.
6. So that this light would rouse us to selflessness. Just as the oil and wick burn in the vigil lamp, submissive to our will, so let our souls also burn with the flame of love in all our sufferings, always being submissive to God's will.
7. In order to teach us that just as the vigil lamp cannot be lit without our hand, so too, our heart, our inward vigil lamp, cannot be lit without the holy fire of God's grace, even if it were to be filled with all the virtues. All these virtues of ours are, after all, like combustible material, but the fire which ignites them proceeds from God.
8. In order to remind us that before anything else the Creator of the world created light, and after that everything else in order: And God said, let there be light: and there was light (Genesis 1:3). And it must be so also at the beginning of our spiritual life, so that before anything else the light of Christ's truth would shine within us. From this light of Christ's truth subsequently every good is created, springs up and grows in us.

May the Light of Christ illumine you as well!



Our Life in Christ—Blessing of Homes

According to the Orthodox Christian Faith, the family is considered to be a “small church” and the family table is the “home altar” where the people gather each day to receive their “daily bread” from God with thanksgiving in the Name of Christ. Thus, during the Theophany season, the priest, who is the father of the great “family of God,” the Church community, comes to each of the “small churches” bringing the blessings of God the Father and all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

The sanctification of the home takes place not only by the words of prayer, but by the sprinkling with the blessed water which stands for the new creation of the Kingdom of God in which God Himself “fills all things with Himself” including even the smallest particles of material existence.

The priest asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. All pray together for the good of the living and the departed of the family, and of all who live and have lived in the house. All sing together the great hymn of salvation that Christ, the Son of the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, “has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world.” This the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is “filled with all the fullness of God.”

Preparing for your house blessing

When the priest comes to bless the family and its house it is not something to worry about. The priest comes to bless a house that is lived in, not one that has to be in Better Homes and Gardens. There are some basics that are normally observed:

- A lighted candle, an icon and a wide bowl for the blessed water should be placed on the main table in the house.
- All radios, televisions, video games, mp3 players etc. should be turned off. Phones should be on silent.
- All who are present in the house should come together and stand by the table until the end of service.
- Those who are able should join in the singing of the hymns and responses of the services.
- The first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered, including, of course, all members of the family and those living in the house, should be clearly printed on a sheet of paper, with the clear distinction between the living and the departed.

Taken and revised from the Introduction to the Great Blessing of Water by Fr. Thomas Hopko.

Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent

(Jan. 6-Mar2) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.

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



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday January 6-March 1

Annual House Blessings—Contact Fr Michael to Schedule

Monday January 20

6:00pm—Adult Ed: Orthodox Christianity 101

Tuesday January 21

11:30am—Diamond Circle Meeting

Wed January 22– Friday January 24

Fr Michael travels to NY with Diocesan Chancellor to visit Seminary

Wednesday January 29

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Parish Reflections for All-American Council (In person in Church Hall & Via Zoom)

Monday Feb 3– Friday Feb 7

Fr Michzel travels to MA to help his mother.

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

Many Years!

Birthdays

Josephine Grace Lorelli	1/20
George Darjania, Max Federoff	1/21
Kathleen Callahan, Elaine Kowalik	1/24
Rhea Roux (Tatiana)	1/25

Wedding Anniversaries

William (Vladimir) & Therese Moision	1/19
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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