

April 6, 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

5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT— TONE 8

SUNDAY OF ST MARY 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

If you want to serve God, prepare your heart not for food, not for drink, not for rest, not for ease, but for suffering, so that you may endure all temptations, trouble and sorrow. Prepare for severities, fasts, spiritual struggles and many afflictions, for "by many afflictions is it appointed to us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Acts 14:22); "The Heavenly Kingdom is taken by force, & those who use force seize it." (Mt 11:12)

— St Sergius of Radonezh

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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.



Parish Life

PSYANKI WORKSHOP SUNDAY APRIL 6

Please join us April 6 after the fellowship meal for our annual pysanky workshop.

Learn how to design and create Ukrainian Easter Eggs. Supplies are provided and all levels are welcome.

Please sign-up in the hall so we can have enough supplies



BRING IN PALMS

Please bring in your palms from last year so they can be disposed of properly. You can give them to Fr Michael anytime during Great Lent.

San Diego Clergy Brotherhood Lenten/Paschal Services

The San Diego Clergy Brotherhood has put together a schedule of Sunday Lenten & Paschal Vespers as opportunities for the faithful to gather pray together, and build the bonds of fellowship.

All Vespers are followed by a community light meal.

See the schedule below.

Sunday April 6 (Sunday of St Mary of Egypt)

6:00pm St George Orthodox Church,
4175 Poplar Street, San Diego, CA 92105

Sunday May 4 (Sunday of the Myrrhbearers)

6:00pm St John of Damascus Church,
16903 Espola Rd Poway CA 92064

Pascha Bake Sale Saturday April 12 12-3pm (later start time)

Our annual Ethnic Food and Bake Sale is Saturday April 12. Due to it being Lazarus Saturday we will be starting later (12pm) this year.

Be sure to get your orders in early!

New item this year! Sausage Cheese Rolls

E-mail auxiliary@stjohnofdamascus.org or call Tanya Franchak or Mike Wesdell.



Service Schedule for Great Lent & Pascha Available on Parish Website

For those that would benefit from looking ahead to plan to attend more of the services of Great Lent & Holy Pascha, the schedule of services is available on our parish website at <https://stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar/>



Donations for Paschal Flowers

Part of our parish celebration of Pascha is adorning the church temple with special flowers and decorations.

Please give as you are able so that we can add the beauty of God's creation to the beauty of our temple to glorify our Lord.

You can donate using the basket after the service or by using our online giving platform and choosing flowers as the purpose.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us
from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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 Mary of Egypt —Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O
Mother,
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, O holy Mother Mary,
rejoices with the angels.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead
and resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Your rising from the
dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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 Mary of Egypt—Tone 3

Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a bride of
Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the
Cross.//
Therefore, O most glorious Mary, you are a
bride of the Kingdom.

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!

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Hebrews 9:11-14

¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Epistle — Galatians 3:23-29

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 (Resurrection) Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Tone 4 (St Mary of Egypt) - God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)

ALLELUIA

Tone 8 — V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)

V. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

Tone 1 - V. I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. (Ps. 39:1)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gospel — Mark 10:32-45

³² Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: ³³ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; ³⁴ and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" ³⁷ They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹ They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."

⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

⁴² But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Gospel — Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. ³⁷ And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸ and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." ⁴¹ "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷

Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

⁴⁸ Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

The Loneliness of Christ & Our Loneliness

During the last days of His earthly life Jesus Christ was left alone to face those who hated Him, endure sufferings and death. He drank to the bottom the cup of suffering that was prepared for Him and underwent the most horrible thing that a person could experience: a profound loneliness and feeling of being abandoned by God.

He was alone in Gethsemane, for His disciples were fast asleep. He was alone at the court of the high priests, alone during His interrogation by Herod, alone at the tribunal of Pilate, for His disciples had fled. He was alone when He went to Golgotha, and a passer-by, and not His beloved disciple, helped Him to carry His cross. He was alone on the cross and died alone, having been abandoned by all.

While on the cross Jesus cried to His Father: "My God, My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Mt. 27:46). The pain of all mankind and every person was contained in this cry, the pain of everybody who feels alone and abandoned by God.

It is painful to be abandoned by one's friends and close ones, but there is something still more horrible – when it seems that God has left you, when an insurmountable wall has been raised between you and God and He neither hears, nor sees, nor notices you.

If you suffer from loneliness, remember how lonely the Saviour was during the last days of His life.

If your close ones or those under your care have turned away from you, if you have been slandered undeservedly, if people call you a heretic and destroyer of traditions, if they bear false witness against you and say that you deserve to die, remember that the Lord Himself underwent all these.

If he who lived with you under one roof, communed from the same chalice, ate your bread, he whom you trusted with all your love, with whom you shared your thoughts and feelings, from whom you hid nothing and for whom you spared nothing, if this person betrayed you, turned away from you, "raised his heel to smite you" and spat on you, remember that Jesus also underwent this.

If your cross weighs upon you so heavily that you are not able to carry it, and if those close to you do not want to help you carry it, be thankful, perhaps, to the passer-by who will help you carry it for at least part of the way.

If the feeling of being totally abandoned by God has overwhelmed you and it seems that there is no God, that He has turned away from you or does not hear you, do not despair, for Christ also underwent these horrible and bitter experiences.

If people condemn you and blaspheme, smite you in the face and spit on you, nail you to the cross and give you bile instead of water, pray for them, for "they know not what they are doing".

In fear and trembling, bowing before the holy tomb of Jesus in silence and reverence, let us thank the Lord for He was alone so that we might not be alone, He was abandoned so that we might not be abandoned, He suffered insults and mockery, slander and humiliation, suffering and death, so that in the midst of any suffering we might feel that we are not alone, that the Saviour Himself "is with us unto the end of the ages".

by Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev

**SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
AUXILIARY**

ETHNIC FOODS and BAKE SALE (**Later Start Time*)

**Saturday, April 12, 2025
12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
16903 Espola Road, Poway, CA 92064**

Pierogies

Potato/Cheese • Sauerkraut • Sweet Cabbage
Prune • Cherry • Farmers Cheese @ \$10.00 per dozen
Sausage & Cheese • The Polish • Fiesta • Cheeseburger
Loaded Baked Potato @ \$12.00 per dozen

Stuffed Cabbage Rolls - \$20.00 per dozen

Easter Breads - \$10.00 ea. **Georgian Cheese Bread** - \$16.00 ea.

Baklava - \$20.00 per dozen **Spanakopita** - \$20.00 per dozen

Quiche - Sausage & Cheese, Broccoli & Bacon,
Spinach & Bacon - \$15.00 ea.

NEW ITEM: Sausage Cheese Rolls - \$20.00

Walnut, Poppy Seed, and Apricot Rolls - \$20.00 ea.

Tea Breads (Lemon Poppy Seed, Orange Nut, Banana Nut) - \$10.00 ea.

Mini Chocolate Cheesecakes - \$2.50 ea.

Apricot Cookies - \$10 per dozen **Lemon Bars** - \$10 per ½ dozen

Order in Advance / 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! Our Thanksgiving Bake Sale is Saturday, November 22nd



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Wednesday April 9

10:30am — Father's Café (in person in hall or via Zoom)
6:00pm — Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten potluck

Friday April 11

11:00am — Workday for Bake Sale
11:00am — Sacrament of Confession
4pm — Sacrament of Confession
6:00pm — Sacrament of Confession

Saturday April 12—Lazarus Saturday

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Divine Liturgy
10:30am — Pancake Breakfast
12:00-3pm — Paschal Bake Sale & Decoration of Temple
6:00pm — Vigil for Palm Sunday w/ Blessing of Palms

Sunday April 13—Palm Sunday

8:30am — 3rd & 6th Hours
9:00am — Divine Liturgy w/ Procession
6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

Monday April 14—Holy Monday

6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday April 15—Holy Tuesday

10:00am — Presanctified Liturgy
6:00pm — Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday April 16—Holy Wednesday

6:00pm — Matins for Holy Thursday

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

Many Years!

Name Day

Mary Caetta (5th Sunday of Great Lent) Terrance Miller 4/10

Birthday

Erik (Konstantine) Worth 4/7 Peter Franchak 4/10
Anna Jones 4/8 Panayiota Rahal 4/11
Nino Kiria 4/9

Wedding Anniversary

Nino Kiria & Levan Darjania 4/9

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