

April 27, 2025



# 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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA—TONE 1**

**ANTIPASCHA**

**THOMAS SUNDAY**



**Welcome!**

...to all who have gathered to follow  
Jesus Christ and 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.

Please join us for our fellowship meal  
following the service



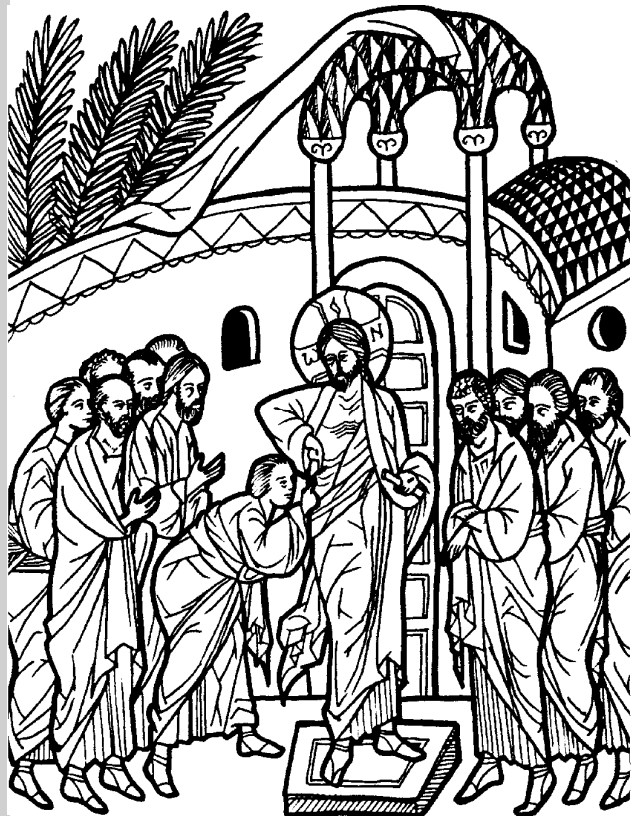
**From the Holy Fathers**

This truly is the vision of God: never to be  
satisfied in the desire to see him. But one  
must always, by looking at what he can  
see, rekindle his desire to see more. Thus,  
no limit would interrupt growth in the  
ascent to God, since no limit to the Good  
can be found nor is the increasing of  
desire for the Good brought to an end  
because it is satisfied.

— *St Gregory of Nyssa*



**Include Something in the Bulletin or  
Receive our Weekly**



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

## Parish Life

### Ministry Directory

Below are the people who coordinate various ministries in our parish. Feel free to contact them to find out how to offer your God-given time and talents to the life of our community.

Adult Ed — Fr Michael

Altar Servers—Subdeacon Ken Telles

Auxiliary President — Tanya Franchak

Bookstore — Evan Keeling

Candle Stand — Gene Francello

Choir—Carole Shumaik

Church School — Bill Moision

Counters — Fr Michael

Diamond Circle Seniors — Jim & Patty Pelachik

Electric Church Sign Messages—John Thayer

Fellowship/Coffee Hour — TBD

Flowers/Decorating—Diane Worth

Greeters — Valerie Lane

Handmaidens — Sally Menig & Desiree Geralt

Koliva — Fr Michael

Parish Council Vice-President—Vince Palumbo

Prosphora — Fr Michael

Readers at Divine Liturgy—Bill Moision

Security Committee — Parish Council

Scrip Sales—Erik Worth

Social Media —Iryna Thayer

Sunday Commemoration Loaves— Fr Michael

Consider taking part and helping this group make St John's the wonderful lively parish it is. For information on how to contact any of the above please speak with Fr Michael.

### Easter Bake Sale

**Thank you for all our Supporters & all our Workers!**

We are grateful for their efforts and for everyone who supported this year's bake sale!

BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR ORDER **TODAY** IF YOU DIDN'T AS YET.



### MOTHER'S DAY BBQ

**May 11** is Mothers' Day and we'll have our annual Mothers' Day Brunch after Liturgy.

Moms, plan on staying and gentlemen, be ready to help!

For more info see Protodeacon George.

### Dates for 2025

#### **MOVABLE FEASTS**

Ascension	May 29
Pentecost	June 9

#### **FASTS**

Apostles Fast	June 16-28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

#### **FAST-FREE WEEKS**

After Pentecost	June 9-14
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

## Parish Life

### **Pan-Orthodox Sunday Night Vespers Sun May 4—6:00pm Potluck to Follow**

Often after Pascha people can feel a bit of a “let-down” since This year our San Diego Parish Lenten Potlucks are concluding with us hosting a post-Paschal Sunday Vespers & Potluck on Sunday May 4. This is the first time the San Diego churches are doing this.

Let’s have a good turn-out from St John’s to welcome our brothers & sisters in Christ from our neighboring parishes.

We will be hosting a “paschal pot-luck” as well to give people an opportunity for fellowship so please bring something to share.



### **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. Members receive periodic notifications of special events, parish meetings and weekly newsletters.

**To be included E-mail  
info@stjohnofdamascus.org**

### **Adult Ed: Topic TBD Tuesdays 7-8:30pm — 4 Sessions Begins 5/13**

Our next Adult Education class will be a 4-session class on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30pm.

We have not determined the topic as yet. If you have a suggestion speak with Fr Michael



### **Invitations for 50th Anniversary Banquet**

With our 50th Anniversary celebration coming up on May 25, we have sent out invitations for the banquet on that day. Please be sure to RSVP ASAP as there is limited room at the restaurant and reservations will be reserved on a first come first serve basis.

If you did not receive an invitation in the mail, please see Pat Swinehart as we probably need to update your address.



### **Volunteers Needed w/ Ministries**

We currently do not have a coordinator for our Sunday Fellowship Meal.

Our Electronic Sign Ministry and Counting Ministries are in need of 1 or 2 more volunteers each as well.

If you are interested in helping see Fr Michael

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARION

#### Pentecostarion—Tone 7

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!  
Through closed doors You came to Your  
Disciples, O Christ God.  
Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,  
by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection  
of all!

Krishti U Ngjall!  
Vertet U Ngjall!  
El Messieh kahml! Halken kahml!  
Ho Meshwo hou quari! Be anet quari!  
Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!  
CHRISTOS TENSAN EM' MUHTANI EXAI' AB-HER EOKALAI  
Christus ist erstanden! Wdhich ist er erstanden!  
Kristos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnia! eh harootyuniuh kristosee!  
Le Christ est réssuscité! En verité il est réssuscité!  
Kristus er opstanden! Ja, sandelig opstanden!  
Cristo e 'risortol! Veramente e 'risortol!  
Khristus anahgrecum! Alhecum anahgrecum!  
**Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!**  
CHRISTUS IS OPGESTAANI JA, HJI IS WAARLIJK OPGESTAANI!  
**Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!**  
HRISTOS A INVIATI ADEVARAT A INVIATI  
Cristos vaskres! Vaistinu vaskres! Kriste akhsdga!  
Kristo amekukital! Kwel amekukital! Cheshmaritad  
**KRISTO AJUKKIDE!** Akhsdga!  
KWEL AJUKKIDE!  
Khristos voskres!  
Voistinu voskres!  
Cristo resuscitau! Em veritate resuscitau!  
**Χριστός Ανέστη!**  
**Αληθώς Ανέστη!**  
Christos ar upstanden!  
Han ar verliggen upstanden!  
Kristo qukkide!  
Kwel qukkide!

### KONTAKION

#### Pentecostarion—Tone 8

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an  
eager hand, O Christ God,  
when You came to Your Apostles through closed  
doors.  
He cried out with all: "You are my Lord and my  
God!"

### PROKEIMENON

**Tone 3 (Resurrection)** — Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! His understanding is  
beyond measure! (Ps 146/147:5)

*v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps 146/147:1)*

### 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. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. (Ps. 94:3)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — Acts 5:12-20

<sup>12</sup> And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

<sup>13</sup> Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. <sup>14</sup> And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

<sup>16</sup> Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. <sup>17</sup> Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, <sup>18</sup> and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

<sup>19</sup> But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

### Gospel — John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

<sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

<sup>25</sup> The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." <sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**DOUBT SHOULD NOT BE FEARED**

—Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

I have been posed a question about doubt. People fear doubt. But they fear in vain, because doubt comes into being when we do not know the truth in full and pose a question.

I will give an example. I once occupied myself with science. One of the characteristics of scientific progress is the calling into question of everything of which you had previously been certain.

When a scientist gathers facts, they are at first uncoordinated. Then he gathers them together, and some kind of general picture emerges. It seems integral. At this point, if he is a true scientist, he will pose a question to himself: where are the cracks? I will search for a fact that will dismantle the integrity of my conception, since my conception is limited.

All science in general consists of collecting facts, arranging them into a single whole, and then calling this whole into question – so that it might become deeper, broader, and fuller.

It is the same with our faith. Each one of us has some experience of God. This experience is trustworthy and should not be rejected. It may be imperfect, but it is pure. But it is not the fullness of knowledge of God.

Then a question begins to creep in. I conceive of God in such-and-such a way. Is He such in reality? But what is



## Our Life in Christ

being doubted here? My conception, not God. It is like a question for the scientist: is this the objective truth or is it his conception thereof?

Therefore, when doubt arises in us it means that I have outgrown my incomplete conception of God and my imperfect knowledge of Him.

God is saying to me: "Yes, now you have come to see all this. But look at Me: I am greater than that. You cannot be satisfied with the picture you

*"When doubt arises in us it means that I have outgrown my incomplete conception of God and my imperfect knowledge of Him."*

have made for yourself, because it is as small as you yourself, as your mind, as your education, as your imagination. Open up, and pose the question: what might others think about this? What other answers might there be? Do not be afraid: I will not be offended if you call Me into question, because you are not questioning Me, as such, but your own conception of Me."

If one thus lives, doubt will prove to be the greatest force for progress and for advancing in the knowledge of God and the knowledge of Truth.

Source: [www.pravmir.com](http://www.pravmir.com)



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Saturday May 3

4pm — Inquiring Minds with Fr Michael

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday May 4

6pm — Pan-Orthodox Vespers followed by Paschal Potluck at St Johns

### May 5—9

Fr Michael travels to MA to help his mother

### May 11—Mother's Day

After Divine Liturgy — Mother's Day Brunch

### Tuesday — May 13

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Topic TBD

### Wednesday — May 14

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

### Tuesday — May 20

11:00am — Diamond Circle

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Topic TBD

### Wednesday — May 21

10:30am — Father's Café

### Sunday — May 25

11:30am-2:00pm — 50th Anniversary Banquet at Vintana  
Restaurant in Escondido

## Many Years!

### Other

Newly-illuminated Earl John Sacramento  
Archbishop Benjamin (Consecration to Episcopate - 2004) 5/1

### Name Day

Timothy Anderson 5/3

### Birthday

Patty (Anna) Pelachik 4/27

Anna Kaminskaya 4/30

Dmitriy Panasenکو 5/1

## PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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**Priest:** V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

**Email:** [powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto: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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