

June 1, 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

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA — TONE 6

SUNDAY OF THE 318 FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION



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

One should not seek among others the
truth that can be easily gotten from the
Church. For in her, as in a rich treasury, the
apostles have placed all that pertains to
truth, so that everyone can drink this
beverage of life. She is the door of life.

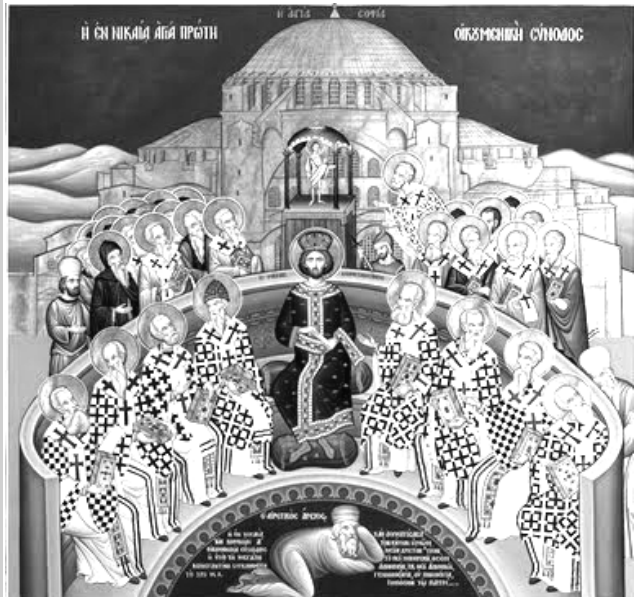
—*St Irenaeus of Lyons*



**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Receive our Weekly Parish E-mails**

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

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council



*"Holy Father, keep through Your name those
whom You have given Me, that they may be
one as We are."*

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

Parish Life

Parish Family Photo "Directory" **Photos to Begin to be Taken in June**

Our bulletin board "Parish Family Directory" is ready to take its next step.

Beginning in June, Elena Stafford will be approaching people to have their pictures taken to be posted on the blue bulletin board in the church hall. The photos will also have the names of the people in them so that folks have a resource to put names to the faces" as our community continues to grow.

If you have a photo you would rather have used, please speak to Elena about sending it to her so we can have it printed in the format we will be using.



The above picture of a photo directory is taken from St Nicholas Orthodox in Portland, OR. A number of parishes in our Diocese as well as around the country are doing similar things to address the quick growth in their communities.

Adult Ed: Forgiveness **Tuesdays 7-8:30pm — 4 Sessions**

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

At the request of our members we will be describing the Church's understanding of Forgiveness



Volunteers Needed w/ Ministries

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



DECORATING FOR HOLY PENTECOST **BRING IN YOUR HOUSE PLANTS & CUTTINGS!**

SATURDAY 6/7, 4:30PM

For our celebration of the great feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost we decorate our temple in green. The temple is adorned with branches & other greenery to make it as green as Pascha was white.

Please consider whether you have any house plants at home (also small trees & bushes in containers 3, 4 or even 5 ft tall) that you would be willing to lend to the church for a few weeks. We will make sure they are watered. Also, we will be filling the church vases and decorating with cuttings from plants, trees, etc. from people's yards.

Plants can be brought as early as the Sunday before (6/1) or during the week. Cuttings should be brought on Saturday (6/7). We will begin decorating at 4:30pm.

The goal is make our temple a glimpse of the garden in paradise where Adam & Eve walked with God in Communion with Him and His creation.

Parish Life

Services for the Repose of Paul Swanson

Marina Swanson's husband, Paul Arthur Swanson, fell asleep in the Lord peacefully at home on Wednesday, May 28, 2025. A memorial worship service for his repose (pannikhida) will be held at St. John's on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm with viewing beginning at 5:00 pm.**

The funeral service will be at St. John's on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 10:30 am.

A procession to the cemetery will follow, arriving at 12:45 pm to line up and proceed for a 30 minute Military Committal Service at Miramar National Cemetery.

Appetizers will be offered at the Swanson's house immediately following the services. Please confirm your attendance to Pat Swinehart, cell #760-331-3938, by Friday, June 6, 2025. She will forward detailed information to you.

On behalf of Marina & the family, "Thank you to all the endearing friends at St. John of Damascus."



Church School End of Year BBQ Sunday June 29

This year's Church School program is coming to an end. We have planned on a BBQ on June 29 after Divine Liturgy.

More details to follow. See Bill Moision if you have questions.

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 — Lilliane Coyle

Flowers/Decorating—Diane Worth

Greeters — Valerie Lane

Handmaidens — Sally Menig & Desiree Geralt

Koliva — Fr Michael

Parish Council Vice-President—Vince Palumbo

Prospora — 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.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You took captive hell,
not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Ascension—Tone 4

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise
of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured,
that You are the Son of God,
the Redeemer of the world!

Fathers—Tone 8

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!
You have established the Holy Fathers as
lights on the earth.
Through them You have guided us to the true
Faith.
O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

KONTAKIA

Fathers—Tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers'
doctrines have established one
Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from
heavenly theology,
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of
piety.

Ascension—Tone 6

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for
our sake,
and united earth to heaven,
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love You,
but remaining with them and crying:
"I am with you, and there is no one against
you!"

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 (*Song of the Fathers*) — Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised
and glorified is Your name forever! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3*)

vs: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

ALLELUIA

Tone 1 — V. The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the
sun to its setting. (Ps. 49:1)

V. Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice! (Ps. 49:6)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

³² So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.

³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel — John 17:1-13

¹ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

⁶ I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The seventh Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. This day commemorates the 318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in Nicaea in **325** at the request of the Emperor, **Saint Constantine the Great**, to address the heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church.

Arius was a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria, and in 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son of God saying that He was not the true God, consubstantial with the Father, but rather a work or creation of God and different from the essence and glory of the Father. He also taught that the Son of God had a beginning. These teachings shook the faithful at Alexandria. The Bishop of Alexandria, Alexander, attempted to correct Arius through admonitions, cut him off from communion, and finally deposed him in 321 through a local council. Arius continued with his heretical teachings, creating controversy and division in the churches of other cities, which led to a theological and ecclesiastical crisis throughout the Christian Church.

Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was in this place that the bishops of the Church gathered in 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God. The Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the **Nicene Creed** (see next page). The Fathers also anathematized Arius for his heretical beliefs and teachings, cutting him off from the Church.

Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

The First Ecumenical Council is also commemorated on May 29.

Our Life in Christ

The Nicene Creed (325 and 381)

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In 381, Emperor Theodosius convened a second ecumenical council in Constantinople. This council reaffirmed the Creed and expanded upon its doctrine in certain places.

First Council of Nicea (325)	First Council of Constantinople (381)
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.	I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;	And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages (æons), Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
By whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth];	by whom all things were made;
Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man;	who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven;	He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.	from thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;
	whose kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit.	And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
	In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Sunday — June 1

4:00pm — Wedding of Jasmine & Mark

Tuesday — June 3

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Forgiveness

Wednesday — June 4

10:30am — Father's Café

Saturday — June 7

4:30pm — Decorate Church for Pentecost

6:00pm — Vigil for Holy Pentecost

June 9-27

Fr Michael on Vacation

Saturday — June 14

9:00am-12:00pm — Prep for Fathers' Day Brunch

Sunday — June 15

After Divine Liturgy — Fathers' Day Brunch

Tuesday — June 17

6:00pm — Pannikhida & Viewing for Paul Swanson

Wednesday — June 18

10:30am — Funeral for Paul Swanson

Many Years!

Other

Archpriest Michael assigned to St. John of Damascus Church (2020) 6/1

Archpriest Michael Anderson (Ordination to the Priesthood - 2000) 6/3

Name Day

Tessa Sophia Stavrou 6/4 Matushka Victoria Anderson 6/7 (old-style)

Birthday

Archbishop BENJAMIN 6/1

Archpriest Alexander Federoff, Carole (Victoria) Shumaik 6/3

Kelly Martot 6/4 Ana Marie Griebing, Aurora Solis 6/6

Wedding Anniversary

John William (Bill) & Elena Stafford, Archpriest Kirill & Sophia Sokolov 6/1

Stacy & Dennis Seitz 6/3

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