

June 29, 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

**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 2**  
**HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL**

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## **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

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## **From the Holy Fathers**

For those who are well prepared,  
tribulations are like certain foods and  
exercises for athletes which lead the  
contestant on to the inheritance of glory.  
When we are reviled, we bless; maligned,  
we entreat; ill-treated, we give thanks;  
afflicted, we glory in our afflictions.

—*St. Basil the Great*

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

E-mail [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)  
with your request.



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

## Parish Life

### Iconography “Helpers” Invited

In the past some folks with artistic ability have offered to help Yakov Ferens, our iconographer, as he works. If you would like to help with that please contact Yakov at 619-952-4738.

### 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.*

### 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.



### 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



### Monthly Collections

St John’s is committed to support our OCA seminaries who train our future priests & leaders as well as the needs of so many who need basic things like food, shelter, etc. :

- 2nd Sunday of each Month—Seminarians
- 3rd Sunday of each Month—Charities (local needs, IOCC, Project Mexico, etc.)

The basket will be placed out for the veneration of the cross at the end of Liturgy.

Please plan on contributing as you can.

## Parish Life

### 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!”

#### Ss Peter & Paul—Tone 4

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,  
and teachers of the universe:  
entreat the Master of all  
to grant peace to the world,//  
and to our souls great mercy!

### KONTAKIA

#### Resurrection—Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the  
tomb!

The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld  
this and rejoiced with You,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

#### Ss Peter & Paul — 2

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest  
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings  
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders  
of the Apostles,  
for You have accepted their labors and deaths  
as a sweet-smelling sacrifice,//  
for You alone know what lies in the hearts of  
men.

#### 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!

### PROKEIMENA

**Tone 1** (*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 8** (Apostles) -- Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4)



### 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 1** -- V. The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps. 88:5)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — Romans 5: 1-10

5 Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in hope of the glory of God! <sup>3</sup>Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, one will hardly die for someone righteous, but perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God entrusts his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Even more so then, since we are now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more shall we be saved by his life!

### Epistle — 2 Corinthians 11: 21-12:9

<sup>21</sup>I say this to our shame: we were too weak for that! However, if anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold as well. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they Abraham's seed? So am I! <sup>23</sup>Are they Christ's servants? I am even more so (I speak as a fool)! I was in far more labors, beaten countless times, far more often in prisons, and often close to death. <sup>24</sup>Five times, I was beaten with stripes (forty times minus one) from the Jews. <sup>25</sup>Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I received a stoning. Three times, I suffered shipwreck and was for a night and a day in the open sea. <sup>26</sup>I have been in travels often, in danger from rivers, robbers, from my countrymen, from the Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false

brothers; <sup>27</sup>in toil and hardship, in vigils often, in hunger and thirst, often fasting, and in cold and nakedness.

<sup>28</sup>Besides those things which are external, there is something that comes upon me daily: anxiety for all the Churches. <sup>29</sup>If anyone is weak, do I not feel weak too? If anyone stumbles, do I not burn with indignation? <sup>30</sup>But if I must boast, I will boast about those things that have to do with my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed unto the ages, knows that I do not lie. <sup>32</sup>In Damascus, the governor of King Aretas guarded the city, desiring to arrest me. <sup>33</sup>But I was let down in a basket along the wall through a window, and this is how I escaped from his hands.

Visions and revelations—A thorn in the flesh

<sup>12</sup>Without a doubt, it is not profitable for me to boast, but I will now discuss visions and revelations from the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up into the third heaven (whether [it was] in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows). <sup>3</sup>[Yes], I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), <sup>4</sup>how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard ineffable words, which it is not lawful for anyone to utter.

<sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a person, I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>If my intention is to boast, I will not be foolish: I will speak the truth. But now, I shall stop, so that no one may think more of me than what is seen in me or heard from me.

<sup>7</sup>Because of the tremendous greatness of these revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan that torments me, so that I would not be too exalted. <sup>8</sup>Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me, <sup>9</sup>but he replied to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And so, it is with joy that I would rather [find] glory in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Matthew 6: 22-33

<sup>22</sup> The lamp of the body is the eye! If therefore your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Two masters—Dependence on God's providence

<sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, wondering what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> See the birds of the sky: they do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them! Are you not of much more value than they?

<sup>27</sup> Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? <sup>28</sup> Why then are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil or spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these! <sup>30</sup> But if God clothes the grass of the field which today exists and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, do not be anxious, saying: 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> It is the Gentiles who seek after all these things, but your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### Gospel — Matthew 16: 13-19

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus arrived in the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked a question to his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elias (Elijah), and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> Jesus then said to them, "But [you], who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

## 1. THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER

Peter was the son of Jonah and the brother of Andrew, the First-called. He was of the tribe of Simeon, from the town of Bethsaida. He was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas or Peter: *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, You are Simon the son of Jonah: you shall be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a rock* (John 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to clearly express faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God* (Matthew 16:16). His love for the Lord was great, and his faith in the Lord became gradually stronger. When the Lord was brought to trial, Peter denied Him three times; but after only one glance into the face of the Lord, Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter showed himself to be a fearless and powerful preacher of the



Gospel. Following one of his sermons in Jerusalem, three-thousand souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel in Palestine, Asia Minor, Illyria and Italy. Peter worked many powerful miracles: he healed the sick and resurrected the dead, and the sick were healed even from his shadow. He had a great struggle with Simon the Magician, who proclaimed himself to be a god, but who was in reality a servant of Satan. Peter finally shamed and defeated him. By order of Simon's friend, the evil Emperor Nero, Peter was condemned to death. Having consecrated Linus Bishop of Rome, and having counseled and comforted the flock of Christ, Peter proceeded joyfully to his death. Seeing the cross before him, he begged his executioners to crucify him upside down, for he considered himself unworthy to die as had his Lord. Thus, this great servant of the Great Lord reposed and received a wreath of eternal glory.

## 2. THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL

Paul was born in Tarsus and was of the tribe of Benjamin. At first he was called Saul. He studied under Gamaliel, and was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christianity. He was miraculously converted to the Christian Faith by the Lord Himself, Who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and numbered in the service of the Great Apostles. With fiery zeal Paul preached the Gospel everywhere, from the borders of Arabia to Spain, among the Jews and among the Gentiles, and received the title "the Apostle to the Gentiles." As horrible as his sufferings were, so much greater was his superhuman patience. Throughout all the years of his preaching, Paul hung from day to day as on a weak thread between life and death. Having fulfilled all his days and nights with labor and suffering for Christ, having organized the Church in many places, and having attained such a degree of perfection, he was able to say: *It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me* (Galatians 2:20). Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero, at the same time as the martyrdom of the Apostle Peter.

**Homily of St Nikolai of South Canaan**

**"Conduct yourselves with fear in the time of your sojourning" (1 Peter 1:17).**

These are the words of the great Apostle Peter, words that have a dual foundation: heavenly inspiration and personal experience. By divine inspiration, Peter, the simple fisherman, became a teacher of the people, a pillar of the Faith and a powerful miracle-worker. Through his own experience, he learned that all of his wisdom and power was of God and that one should thus possess the fear of God: no other fear but the fear of God.

The fool becomes frightened only when lightning flashes and thunder cracks, but the wise man fears God every day and every hour. The Creator of lightning and thunder is more awesome than both of them, and He does not appear before you from time to time as do lightning and thunder, but He is continually before you and does not leave you. That is why it is not enough to have fear of God from time to time, but one must breathe the fear of God. The fear of God is the fresh ozone in the suffocating atmosphere of our soul. This ozone brings purity, lightness, sweet fragrance and health. Until he had become strengthened in the fear of God, Peter was

only Peter and not an apostle, a hero, a teacher of the people, and miracle-worker.



O my brethren, let us not rejoice before the harvest. This life of ours is not the harvest, but a time of sowing, labor, sweat and fear. The sower lives in fear until he has gathered the fruits from the field. Let us also delay our rejoicing until the day of harvest, for now is the time for labor and fear. Will I be saved? This question should torment every one of us in the same way that the sower is tormented by the question: "Will I reap the fruit of my labor in the field?" The sower labors and fears every day. Let us also labor and fear "all the time of our sojourning" on earth.

O awesome and powerful Lord, sustain us in Your fear.

**To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.**



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

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### Sunday — June 29

After Divine Liturgy — Church School BBQ

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### Monday — June 30

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

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### Wednesday — July 2

10:30am — Father's Café

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### Saturday — July 5

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

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### Wednesday — July 9

10:30am — Father's Café

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## Many Years!

### *Name Day*

Peter Franchak, Gary (Paul) Jollie 6/29

### *Birthday*

Bob Vladimir Stone 7/1

Cynthia Zmina 7/2

Dale (Michael) Franchak, Elena Vladimirovna 7/4

### *Wedding Anniversary*

Anthony Baquero & Debra Anne Sependa 7/4

## PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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**Attached Clergy:** V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired, Rev. John Robinson, Retired & Pdn. George Shumaik

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