

June 8, 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

8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA—TONE 7

PENTECOST

FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



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

“The Holy Spirit, sweet and gracious,
draws the soul to love the Lord, and in
the sweetness of the Holy Spirit
the soul loses her fear of suffering.”

—*St. Silouan the Athonite*



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

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



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.

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.”

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

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.

Parish Life

SUMMER IS HERE!

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR FAITH

With summer comes much-needed vacation time and opportunities to travel and visit with friends & loved ones. As you are planning your summer be sure to keep your faith in mind. Remember to attend to your prayer life, scripture reading, and reception of the holy Sacraments. See Fr Michael if you have any questions.

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

SUMMER FEASTS

June 28/29	Ss. Peter & Paul
July 14-18	Diocesan Assembly & All-American Council w/ Special Services for Glorification of Olga of Alaska
August 5/6	Transfiguration w/ blessing of fruit
August 14/15	Dormition of the Theotokos w/ blessing of flowers
August 28/29	Beheading of St John the Baptist

SUMMER FASTS

June 16-28	Apostles' Fast
August 1-14	Dormition Fast

Also, please do what you can to **maintain your much-needed offerings of time & talent as well as your financial offerings and contributions over the summer**. Our parish's needs and expenses do not go down during the summer months. The water bill still needs to be paid. The fellowship meals after Liturgy on Sundays still need people to host them and clean up.

For financial contributions, several parish members find it easy to keep up by using an automatic system like our Online Giving or their bank's bill pay system.

Whatever works best for you, please keep your spiritual home in mind.

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

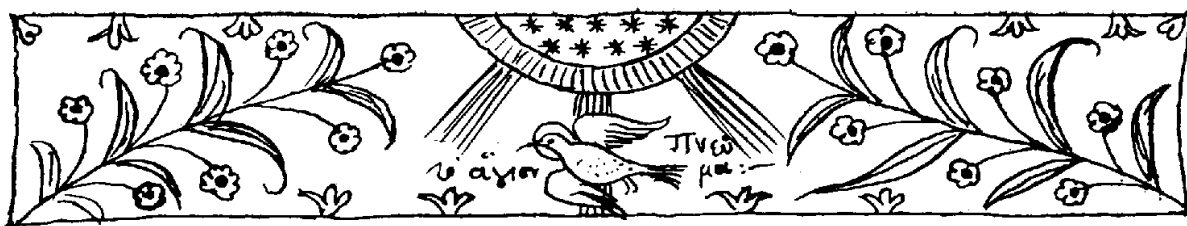
Scrip Sales—Erik Worth

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



TROPARION

Pentecost—Tone 8

Blessed are You, O Christ our God;
for You have shown the fishermen to be most wise
by sending down on them the Holy Spirit
and through them catching all the world
in Your net.
Glory to You, O good God Who love mankind!

KONTAKION

Pentecost—Tone 8

When He came down and confused the tongues,
the Most High divided the nations;
but when He distributed the tongues of fire,
He called all people to unity.
Therefore, with one voice we glorify the
most-Holy Spirit.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 (*Pentecost*) — Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe! (Ps 18/19:4)

vs: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18/19:1)

ALLELUIA

Tone 1 — V. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. (Ps. 32:6)

V. The Lord looked down from heaven, and saw all the sons of men. (Ps. 32:13)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Acts 2:1-11

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs — we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.

Gospel — John 7:37-52; 8:12

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴⁰ Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee?" ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was? ⁴³ So there was a division among the people because of Him.

⁴⁴ Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. ⁴⁵ Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" ⁴⁷ Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived?"

⁴⁸ Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed. ⁵⁰ Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, ⁵¹ Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing? ⁵² They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

WITNESSES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
—FR ALEXANDER MEN

When the Temple guards, the soldiers who kept order in the House of God, were sent by the Temple authorities to seize the Lord, they achieved nothing, having been unable to lay hands on Him. When they were asked sternly why they had not brought Him, they replied: “No one has ever spoken like this Man” [cf. John 7:46]. There was some sort of power in the words of Christ the Savior, but not in those of His disciples — for Divine might spoke in Him, while human weakness spoke in them. Even after the disciples had seen the Risen One with their own eyes, they hid in fear behind locked doors, still disbelieving and doubting. Even when they saw Him on the mount in Galilee, as the Evangelist Matthew relates, some worshipped Him, while others doubted, having assumed that it was an apparition.

But several weeks later, on the Feast of Pentecost, everything changed. Less than a month had passed since the Lord had died on the place of the skull, in full sight of all, and then risen, appearing only to the faithful. Then suddenly there was a great noise and troubled voices — and Christ’s disciples came out of the house and witnessed to the Risen Christ before a whole crowd. Everything in them had changed: their fear — gone without a trace; their timidity — gone without a trace; their inability to express themselves — gone without a trace. They spoke in such a way that everyone understood them, even those who had come from afar and understood their language poorly. Regardless, their words were reaching everyone. But why was that? What was going on? It was because the Lord’s

Divine power had come to them. It was not by their humanity, nor by their flesh and blood, but rather by the Spirit of God that they were able to bear witness and state outright: “This Jesus, God has raised from the dead, whereof we are all witnesses” [Acts 2:32].

This is an important word that we should take to heart: witnesses. Every Christian is a witness to God. Think of what a witness is in our ordinary lives. In court, a witness is someone who must truthfully relate that which he saw and heard, honestly and truthfully relating what he knows to be



Our Life in Christ

true. Sometimes there are false witnesses and libelers, but a true witness speaks only the truth — and not just the truth, but the truth that he knows well. Thus, the power of Christian witness is that we speak of the Lord, Whom we know; of grace, which we have experienced; of blessing, which we have felt; and of faith, which we have in our hearts. If we do not have the Spirit, if we do not have this power, then we are poor witnesses. The Apostles said: “He was raised by God, of which we are witnesses,” because they knew this, saw this with their own eyes, and experienced this.

By partaking of the Holy Mysteries and turning to the Lord in prayer, do we not touch Him? All true faith means touching the Lord. If we have living contact with God, with the Risen Christ Who saves us, that means we can honestly and boldly witness to the world about our trust, our hope, and our joy. Our joy is the Lord Who has loved the world, saving every person and searching for every lost soul. We do not simply say this from hearsay. We should be witnesses to His Spirit and witnesses to His power.

Let us today pray for that which is most important: that the Lord’s Spirit, promised to each and every one of us, might come to us and touch our hearts; that we might not speak vainly, but from the experience of our own hearts, that we know our Lord and have experienced the touch of the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God; and, therefore, that we have the right to say: “Yes, we know Him Whom we have loved; Who has loved, saved, and granted us eternal life.” To Him we all cry out: “O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Give of Life, come and dwell in us.” Amen.

Source: pravmir.com



LOOKING AHEAD

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

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!

Birthday

Victoria Pluta, Birdie (Lucia) Worth, Nino Kapanadze	6/10
Joshua Andruchow	6/12
Annie Keeling	6/13
David Ray Boyles, Jr	6/14

Wedding Anniversary

Elaine & Sergio Perez	6/9
Kathryn Anne & Nathan Jones	6/11

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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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

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