

July 20, 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

**6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 5
HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH (ELIAS)**

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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

Then, when this inevitability has
overwhelmed all people, just and unjust,
the just, so that they may be found good by
their Lord; and indeed the unjust, so that
they may be damned forever with their
author the Devil, and, as God beholds the
human race in danger and being tossed
about by the breath of the horrible dragon,
he sends to them consolatory proclamation
by his attendants, the prophets Enoch and
Elijah, who, while not yet tasting death, are
the servants for the heralding of the second
coming of Christ

— *St. Ephraim the Syrian*

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**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

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.

“Crafty Creators”

1st Sunday of the Month Beginning 8/3

St John’s “Craft Creators” is a new gathering for all crafters, crocheters, knitters, jewelry makers, artists, quilters, scrap bookers, etc. to bring their projects and work alongside other crafters to be inspired, share skills, and build friendships. A beginner’s crochet group lesson will also be provided and to join this group lesson, please contact Melissa Palumbo at 858-837-2602.

Crafty Creators will meet every first Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall in the back classrooms. Our first meet-up will be on Sunday August 3rd at 11:30-12:30pm



Diocesan Assemblies & All-American Council

It was a very full week. We, as a Diocese nominated Archimandrate Vasily for our new bishop, who was then canonically elected by the Holy Synod. The All-American Council itself was also productive. The services for our newly glorified St Olga of Kwethluk were incredibly inspiring as were the many homilies offered regarding her throughout the week. It was also a wonderful time to forge new and deepen existing relationships with Orthodox clergy and laity from throughout our church in North America as well as find out more about the many good works and ministries taking place.

In addition to myself and Patty Pelachik as delegates to the Council, Vickie Anderson, James Pelachik, Fr John Robinson, Yeriel Robinson, Fr Alexander and Vickie Federoff and Dale & Tanya Franchak also attended various events during the week. Be sure to ask them about their experiences!

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the
flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Prophet Elijah—T one 4

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the
Prophets,
the second forerunner of the coming of Christ,
glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha,
to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers.//
Therefore he pours forth healings on those who
honor him.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 5

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O
Lover of man,//
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Prophet Elijah—Tone 2

O Prophet Elijah of great renown,
seer of the mighty works of God,
by your command you held back the rain.//
Pray for us to the only Lover of man!

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!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 5 - (Resurrection) You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.
(Ps. 11:7)

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

Tone 4 - (Prophet Elijah) You are a priest forever / after the order of Melchizedek. (Ps. 109:4c)

ALLELUIA

Tone 5 — V. I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from
generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)

V. For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.
(Ps. 88:3)

Tone 4 -- V. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on
His Name. (Ps. 99:6)

Today's Worship — Epistle Readings

Epistle — Romans 12: 6-14

⁶We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: if it is prophecy, let us prophesy according to the measure of our faith. ⁷If it is service, let us dedicate ourselves to service! He who teaches should do his teaching; ⁸or he who exhorts his exhorting. As for the one who gives, let the giving be done with generosity. He who rules should rule with diligence and the one who shows mercy should do so with joy.

⁹Let your love be without hypocrisy. Reject with horror what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰In love for the brethren, be tenderly affectionate with one another; place the honor of others above your own. ¹¹Do not fall back in zeal; be fervent in the spirit, serving the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, endure in troubles, persevere in prayer; ¹³contribute to the needs of the saints; look for opportunities to be hospitable. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse!

Epistle — James 5: 10-20

¹⁰My brethren, consider as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the Name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we call those who endure blessed. You have heard of the patience of Job and you have seen the Lord in the outcome, how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

¹²But above all things, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or earth, or by any other oath. Instead, let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no," so that you may not fall into hypocrisy.

¹³Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing praises! ¹⁴Are any among you sick? Let them call for the presbyters of the Church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the Name of the Lord.

¹⁵The prayer of faith will heal those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed sins, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Confess your offenses to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective! ¹⁷Elias (Elijah) was a man in every way like us, and when he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months!

¹⁸When he prayed later on, the sky gave rain and the earth brought forth its fruit.

¹⁹Brethren, if someone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,

²⁰know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Today's Worship — Gospel Readings

Gospel — Matthew 9: 1-8

9 Jesus entered into a boat, crossed over [the lake] and came into his own town. ²Behold, some people brought him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer! Your sins are forgiven!"

³At this, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man blasphemes!"

⁴Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil [thoughts] in your hearts? ⁵Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven' or, 'Get up, and walk?' ⁶But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (then he said to the paralytic), "Get up, take up your mat, and go to your house."

⁷The man got up and departed to his house.

⁸But when the crowds saw this, they were astonished and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Gospel — Luke 4: 22-30

²²All testified about him and marveled at the gracious words which came out of his mouth; and they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

²³He said to them, "Without doubt, you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself! Do also [right] here in your hometown whatever we have heard that was done at Capernaum!' "

²⁴Jesus continued, "Amen, I tell you that no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But I tell you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elias (Elijah), when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came all over the land.

²⁶Elias (Elijah) was sent to none of them, except to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian."

²⁸As they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with anger. ²⁹They rose up, threw Jesus out of the city, and led him to the edge of the hill that their city was built on in order to push him off the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went his way.

The Holy and Glorious Prophet Elijah

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: "When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

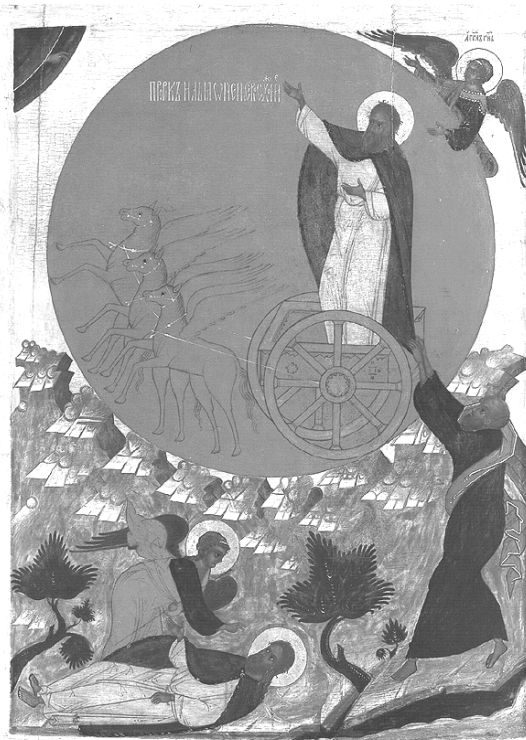
During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam.

Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he



Our Life in Christ

would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/ Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

On July 20, 1741, the Feast Day of the Holy Prophet Elijah, an unnamed Hieromonk served the first Divine Liturgy in Alaskan waters while aboard the ship Saint Peter, commanded by Captain-Commander Vitus Bering, at 58 degrees 14 minutes northern latitude, and 141 degrees western longitude.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Sunday — July 20

Conclusion of Divine Liturgy — Blessing of Vehicles

Tuesday — July 22

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday — July 23

10:30am — Father's Café

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

Many Years!

Name Day

Dmitriy (Dmitriy) Panasenکو, Margie (Maria) Hicks	7/20
Daniil Neskin	7/21

Birthday

Katrina Griebing	7/21
Joanne Spanovich	7/25
Sergio Perez	7/26

Wedding Anniversary

James & Patricia Pelachik	7/21
Masha & Jason Jones	7/22
Edward & Vera Klavzar	7/25

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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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