

August 10, 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

**9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 7
AFTERFEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
GREAT MARTYR LAWRENCE OF ROME**

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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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A Word...

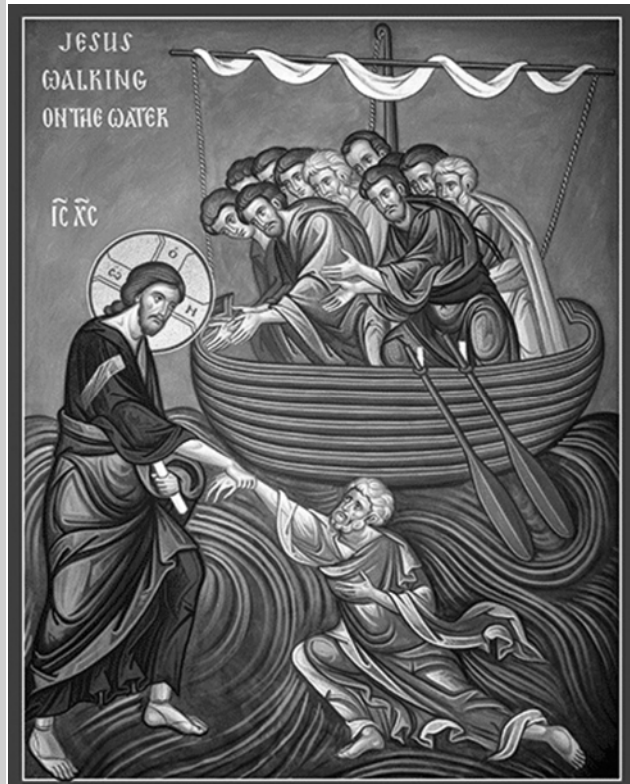
When the Word of God becomes bright
and shining in us, and His face is dazzling
as the sun, then also will His clothes be
radiant, that is, the clear and distinct
words of the Holy Scripture of the Gospels
now no longer veiled. Then Moses and
Elijah shall stand beside Him (Mt 17:3),
that is, the more spiritual meanings of the
Law and the Prophets.

—*St. Maximos the Confessor*

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

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



Lord, save me!

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.

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

August 5/6	Transfiguration of our Lord 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

August 1-14	Dormition Fast
August 29	Beheading of St John the Baptist

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, a number 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.

Parish Life

Church School Clean-up Thurs 8/14

In preparation for upcoming new Church School year, we are going to be cleaning up (out) the classrooms.

Sally Menig will be at church on Aug 14 from 9am-12pm.

Please consider helping. Parents (especially those whose children often play in the classrooms) are asked to help.



Church School Helpers & Teachers Needed

Our new church school year will be beginning next month. We are in need of helpers and teachers. Please speak to Bill Moision, Sally Menig, Katie Jones or Fr Michael to see how you can help.



"Crafty Creators" 1st Sunday of the Month

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.

Crafty Creators meets every first Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall in the back classrooms.

Our first meet-up was well attended and participants had a wonderful time. Mark your calendars for Sept 7.

Orthodox Catechism Class Begins Tues 8/19 7:00pm

Having completed the catechist training program at St Vladimir's Seminary, Erik Worth will be leading a catechism class beginning on Tuesday 8/19 at 7:00pm.

The class will be offered in the church hall and via a GoToMeeting link available on our parish website calendar:

<https://stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar/>

Auxiliary Goodies for Sale!

Looking for tasty quick and easy meal options? Our Auxiliary has a number of things in stock. We have the following kinds of pierogi

Non-Meat (\$10/dozen)

- Potato/Cheese
- Loaded BAKed
- Sauerkraut
- Farmers Cheese

Meat (\$12/dozen)

- Sausage & Cheese
- Hamburger

We also have...

- Stuffed Cabbage (\$20/dz)
- Nut rolls (\$20)
- Poppyseed rolls (\$20)
- Apricot rolls (\$20)

Please speak with Tanya or any member of the Auxiliary to make your order.



Consecration of New Bishop Aug 15 & 16

Our Bishop-elect Fr Vasily will be consecrated to the Episcopacy on Friday evening Aug 15 and Saturday morning August 16 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco.

Details on the services and the banquet following can be found at www.dowoca.org.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from
our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Transfiguration—Tone 7

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ
God,
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as
they could bear it.
Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us
sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//
O Giver of Light, glory to You!

St John of Damascus —Tone 8

Teacher of Orthodoxy, piety, & purity!
Enlightener of the universe!
& divine inspiration to monastics
by your teachings we are all enlightened,
& by your spiritual music, O all-wise John of
Damascus,
pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our
souls!

St Lawrence—T one 4

Victorious martyr of Christ our God,
by the sign of the Cross you gave sight to the
blind; you distributed the riches of the Church to
the poor; you were tried by fire, and no evil was
found in you.
As you endured burning, may your prayers
extinguish the flames of our many sins,//
blessed Archdeacon Lawrence!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead
and resurrected Adam.
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//
and the world celebrates Your rising from the
dead, O greatly Merciful One!

St John of Damascus — Tone 4

Let us the faithful sing praises to John,
worthy of great honor the composer of hymns.
The star & teacher of the Orthodox Faith,
the defender of its doctrine.
Through the might of the Lord's Cross he
overcame heretical error!
Now he is fervent in prayer to Christ God,
to grant forgiveness of our sins.

St Lawrence— Tone 2

Your heart burned with divine fire,
as the flames of the passions died within you.
God-bearing Martyr Lawrence, the pillar of those
who struggle,
you cried out in the midst of your contest://
"Nothing can separate me from the love of
Christ!"

Transfiguration—Tone 7

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ
God,
and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as
they could see it;
so that when they would behold You crucified,
they would understand that Your suffering was
voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world//
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 - (Resurrection) Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Tone 4 (Feast) -- O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all.
(Ps. 103:26)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17

⁹ Indeed, we are God's co-workers! You are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But let everyone be careful how he builds on it! ¹¹ As it is, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has [already] been laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² But as one builds on that foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble, ¹³ each person's work will be revealed. Certainly, the Day will make it manifest, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will test everyone's work. ¹⁴ If what someone has built on the foundation remains, then a reward shall be received. ¹⁵ [On the other hand], if someone's work is burned, it will be lost, but that person shall be saved, as through fire. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a sanctuary of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him because God's sanctuary is holy, and this is what you are!

Gospel — Mathew 14: 22-34

²² Immediately after this, Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and told them to go ahead of him to the other side, while he would send the crowds away. ²³ After he had sent the people away, he went up into the mountain by himself in order to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, distressed by the waves, because the wind was against it. ²⁵ In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But at once, Jesus spoke to them, saying "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you upon the waters."

²⁹ And Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter stepped down from the boat and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately, Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Those who were in the boat came [forward] and expressed adoration to him, saying, "You are truly the Son of God!"

³⁴ When they had crossed over [the lake], they arrived in the land of Gennesaret.

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. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

Tone 8 — V. The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours! (Ps. 88:11a)

TRANSFIGURED LIFE

—Fr John Breck, oca.org/reflections

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' Transfiguration differ in some small but significant details. With typically colorful language, St Mark emphasizes Jesus' garments, describing them as "glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them." St Luke adds that "the appearance of his countenance was altered"; and St Matthew declares, "his face shone like the sun." Each of these narratives makes the point that Jesus manifests what came to be called the *shekinah*, a word used in the Jewish Targums (Aramaic translations of the Old Testament, especially the Pentateuch). The term basically signifies "dwelling place," but as the divine abode it connotes as well "glory." The Jerusalem Targum on Leviticus 9:6, for example, reads: "the glory of the Shekinah of the Lord" will come upon the people as they seek atonement with God through various sacrificial offerings.

Each evangelist also offers unique details concerning the other figures in the Transfiguration scene. Luke elaborates most fully, declaring that Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus concerning the "departure" he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. The term used is *exodon*, a clear allusion to the New Exodus Jesus will endure through his crucifixion and fulfill by his resurrection. For his part, Matthew shows the interaction between Jesus and the disciples. They fall on their faces with "awe" or dread, only to be commanded, "Rise, and have no fear!" Those who read or heard the Gospel account would immediately have recognized here a double allusion. The consoling words, "have no fear" is what has been termed a "formula of revelation," as uttered by the archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation to the Theotokos (Lk 1:30), or by Christ himself as he approached his disciples in the darkness of night, walking on the water (Mt 14:27). And the initial order, "Rise!" is the same word that signifies "resurrection." "Rise," Jesus implicitly commands, "as you shall one day rise with me in glory!"

The Holy Fathers of the Church recognized in this passage not only a revelation of the true meaning of Jesus' person and a manifestation of the Holy Trinity, analogous to the scene of Jesus' baptism (the Father's approving voice, the central focus on the Son, the presence and activity of the Spirit in the light or in the overshadowing cloud). They also found in this account a promise extended to all those who actively long to share in Christ's death, resurrection and glorification.

In his "Second Century on Theology," St Maximus the Confessor makes a startling claim, which was nevertheless understood as both a promise and an exhortation to be received by anyone who lives "in Christ." "In those found worthy," he declares, "the Logos of God is transfigured to the degree to which each has advanced in holiness, and he comes to them with his angels in the glory of the Father. For the more spiritual principles in the Law and the prophets—symbolized by Moses and Elijah when they appeared with the Lord at his transfiguration—manifest their glory according

Our Life in Christ

to the actual receptive capacity of those to whom it is revealed.” To the faithful believer, Christ’s Transfiguration becomes an inner reality, a transforming gift of grace.

St Gregory Palamas similarly stresses the intimate link between the Transfiguration of Christ and our own transformation into his divine glory. “In his incomparable love for men, the Son of God did not merely unite his divine Hypostasis to our nature...but, O incomparable and magnificent miracle! He unites himself also to human hypostases, joining himself to each of the faithful by communion in his holy Body. For he becomes one body with us (Eph 3:6), making us a temple of the whole Godhead (Col 2:9). How then would he not illuminate those who share worthily in the divine radiance of his Body within us, shining upon their soul as he once shone on the bodies of the apostles on Tabor? For as this Body, the source of the light of grace, was at that time not yet united to our body, it shone exteriorly on those who came near it worthily, transmitting light to the soul through the eyes of sense. But today, since it is united to us and dwells with us, it illumines the soul interiorly” (Triads I.3.38).

Fr John Meyendorff gives a poignant commentary on this passage. “Since the Incarnation, our bodies have become ‘temples of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us’ (1 Cor 6:19); it is there, within our own bodies, that we must seek the Spirit, within our bodies sanctified by the sacraments and engrafted by the eucharist into the Body of Christ. God is now to be found within; He is no longer exterior to us. *Therefore, we must find the light of Mount Tabor within ourselves.* The apostles had only an exterior vision, for Christ had not yet died and risen from the dead, but today we are, all of us, in living reality members of His Body, the Church.” [1]

As we meditate on Christ’s Transfiguration and celebrate the mystery of his glorified life, it is important that we be aware of an aspect of Orthodoxy that stands at the very heart of our faith. It is the fact that we are called—invited—to assume an extraordinary responsibility that can lead to an ineffable end of glory and joy. That responsibility is simply to accept, with gratitude and faithfulness, the ascetic way that leads from repentance and “purification” through “illumination,” and on to “deification.” This was originally proposed as the pathway for catechumens, who progressed toward baptism and full participation in the Body of Christ. Under monastic influence, it came to signify the pilgrimage open to every Christian believer who is drawn toward the eternal Light that illumines all things and gives meaning to it all.

The apostles, on Mount Tabor and in the Upper Room on the night of Jesus’ betrayal, had only an “exterior vision” of that Light, that Presence. Through eucharistic communion, we, like they in the aftermath of Pentecost, have Christ dwelling in us. We have become the *shekinah* of the Lord. And if we look hard enough, we can even find within ourselves the Light of Mount Tabor.

[1] J. Meyendorff, *St Gregory Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality* (SVS Press, 1998), p. 107, italics added.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

August 1-14

Dormition Fast

Wednesday — August 13

10:30am — Father's Cafe

Thursday — August 14

9-12om—Church School Clean-up

6:00pm — Vigil for Dormition of the Theotokos

Friday — August 15—Dormition

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy

w/ Blessing of Flowers

August 15-16

Fr Michael attends Consecration of Bishop-Elect Fr Vasily

Saturday — August 16

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday — August 19

7:00pm — Catechism Class w/ Erik Worth

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday — August 20

10:30am — Father's Cafe

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

Many Years!

Name Day

Panagiota Rahal, Presbyter Mary Velonis 08/15

Birthday

Don (Yakov) Rylander 08/11

Pearl Elizabeth Keeling, Val (Vladimir) Neskin, Lisa Hagerman 08/13

Wedding Anniversary

Lisa Hagerman & Stephen Laskowski 08/12

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