

September 14, 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

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE
THEOTOKOS

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE
CROSS

MARTYR SOZÓN OF CILICIA



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



A Word...

We celebrate the feast of the Cross which
drove away darkness and brought light.
We are lifted up with the crucified Christ,
leaving behind us earth and sin so that we
may gain the things above. Had there
been no cross, Christ could not have been
crucified. Had there been no cross, life
itself could not have been nailed to the
tree. And if life had not been nailed to it,
there would be no streams of immortality
pouring from Christ's side, blood and
water for the world's cleansing...Had there
been no cross, death would not have been
trodden underfoot, nor Hades despoiled."

—St. Andrew of Crete



Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship,
O Master,
and Your holy Resurrection we glorify!

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

Parish Life

Church School Registration

It is time for parents to register their children for our church school programs.

We are doing registration online to have better access to information so we can keep families informed.

Please scan the QR code below and complete the online form for EACH child who will be attending church school.



Church School for Children & Youth 1st & 3rd Sunday of Month Youth Choir 2nd & 4th Sunday of Month

Our Church School for children and youth are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month beginning SEPTEMBER 7.

Our children's and youth choir (for those able to read) are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

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.

New Adult Education Class Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm Jesus Christ & the Temple

Fr Michael is offering a new adult education class in the church hall and via Zoom.

We will spend 5 sessions (weeks) discussing the Tabernacle/Temple and what it tells us about Christ and the Gospel.

Coffee & Tea as well as light snacks will be offered for those attending in person.

Those attending via Zoom can find the link on our parish website online calendar.



"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 after church school.

Our next meeting will be October 5.

Along with "the bring your own" we will also have a small "class/presentation" on watercolors. Materials will be provided.



St John's Auxiliary Meeting Sunday Sept 21 — 11am

Our St John's Auxiliary will be meeting on Sunday Sept 21 at around 11am to discuss it's plans for the year.

NEWCOMERS are welcome!

Today's Worship — Hymns

Orthodox Catechism Class Tuesdays 7:00pm

Having completed the catechist training program at St Vladimir's Seminary, Erik Worth is leading a catechism class on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

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

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



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

Our bulletin board "Parish Family Directory" is in process!

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.



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

Crafty Creators — Melissa Palumbo

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 & Scriptures

TROPARIA

Cross—Tone 1

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!



KONTAKIA

Cross—Tone 4

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross
for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Your
Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your
power,
granting them victories over their adversaries//
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your
weapon of peace!



PROKEIMENON

Tone 7 - (Cross) Extol the Lord our God: / wor-
ship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps. 98:5)

V. The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!
(Ps. 98:1a)



ALLELUIA

Tone 1 — V. Remember Your congregation,
which You have gotten of old! (Ps. 73:2)

V. God is our King before the ages; He has
worked salvation in the midst of the earth! (Ps.
73:13)

Epistle — 1 Corinthians 1: 18-24

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ
through the will of God, and our brother
Sosthenes, ²to the Church of God which is at
Corinth. [You are] those who are sanctified in
Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those
who call upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ
in every place, both theirs and ours: ³Grace to
you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always give thanks to my God concerning you
for the grace of God which was given to you in
Christ Jesus; ⁵that in everything you have been
enriched in him, in all [manner of] speech and
knowledge; ⁶even as the testimony of Christ was
confirmed in you. ⁷And so, you lack no gift as you
wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ;
⁸who will also confirm you until the end,
blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called
into the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

¹⁰ Now I beg you, brethren, through the Name of
our Lord Jesus Christ, to all speak the same thing
and that there be no divisions among you.
Instead, may you be perfected together in the
same mind and opinion. ¹¹As it is, those who are
from Chloe's household have informed me
concerning you my brethren, that there are
quarrels among you. ¹²Now I mean this: that
each one of you says, "I follow Paul," "I follow
Apollos," "I follow Kephas," or, "I follow Christ."
¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?
Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I
thank God that I baptized none of you, except
Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one should say
that I baptized you into my own name. ¹⁶(I also
baptized the household of Stephanas; besides
them, I do not know whether I baptized any
other.)

¹⁷ Indeed, Christ did not send me to baptize but to
preach the Good News—not in wisdom of words,
so that the cross of Christ would not be made
void. ¹⁸For the word of the cross is foolishness to
those who are dying, but to us who are being
saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹As it is written:

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
I will bring the discernment of the discerning
to nothing.

²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the expert of the law? Where is the debater of this world? Has not God ridiculed the wisdom of this world? ²¹ Since in God's wisdom, the world through its 'wisdom' did not know God, it was God's good pleasure (through the foolishness of this proclamation) to save those who believe. ²² Jews ask for a sign and Greeks seek after wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Greeks. ²⁴ However, to those who are called, (both Jews and Greeks), Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God,

Gospel — John 19: 6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

⁶ But when the chief priests and the officers saw Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify him!" Pilate answered, "Take him yourselves, and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him."

⁷ The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to our law, he should die, because he made himself the Son of God."

⁸ However, when Pilate heard these words, he was even more afraid. ⁹ Returning into the Praetorium, he asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Then Pilate asked him, "Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have the power to crucify you, and the power to release you?"

¹¹ Jesus answered, "You would have no power at all against me, unless it were given to you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me to you has a greater sin."

¹³ When Pilate heard this word, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called "The Pavement," and in Hebrew, "Gabbatha." ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, at about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!"

¹⁵ But they shouted, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

¹⁶ And so, Pilate delivered Jesus to them to be crucified. <Then the guards took Jesus and led him away.> ¹⁷ He went out, bearing his cross, to the place called "The Place of a Skull," which is called in Hebrew, "Golgotha." ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and along with him two other men, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a notice and had it placed on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

²⁵ But there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister (Mary [the wife] of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this, perceiving that all things were now accomplished, and so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

³⁰ Then, after Jesus received the sour wine, he said, "It is accomplished!" And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Because it was the Day of Preparation, in order that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a great day), the Jews asked Pilate that the legs [of those crucified] might be broken, and that they might be removed. ³² Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first who had been crucified with Jesus, then the legs of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately, blood and water came out. ³⁵ He who has seen [this] has borne witness, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, so that you may believe.

Evening with Expert



Saturday September 27, at 4 pm

Dear brothers and sisters, I want to take you on fascinating journey in the World of luxury and gems. My over twenty years' experience in the jewelry industry allowed me to share knowledge and expertise with you today.

1. Introduction. Gala (Galina Anatolia) Hodges GG GIA, RGA ISG
2. The World of Luxury. Jewelry in Christianity. 15 types of crosses in jewelry (and their meanings)
3. What is jewelry and accessories mean for us
4. Precious metals and stones
5. Daily wear and care
6. Questions for your expert

** All attendees will get a complimentary gift after the lecture

*** The best question for an expert will be granted with a special gift.

**** Entrance fee is \$5 per person, children are free. All funds from the lecture will be donated to St. John of Damascus Church.

Join Us October 2 – 5, 2025

To Celebrate a New Icon of Creation
at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU):

The Transfiguration of Creation



The 4-day celebration in San Diego is free to attend and will feature:

- Lectures by renowned Orthodox Christian theologians and scholars, including the iconographer Aidan Hart
- Icon exhibit curated by icon collector Subdeacon Michael Roeder
- Blessing the new icon at Saint Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church in El Cajon on Sunday, October 5th, 2025
- Fine art prints of the new icon for sale
- For more information and to RSVP, scan QR code or visit <https://sites.google.com/pointloma.edu/creationicon>





LOOKING AHEAD

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

Tuesday — Sept 16

11:30am — Diamond Circle Lunch at Hamburger Factory, Poway
7:00pm — Catechism Course

Wednesday — Sept 17

10:30am — Father's Café
7:00pm — Adult Ed: Jesus & the Temple

Saturday — Sept 20

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

Sunday — Sept 21

After Divine Liturgy — Auxiliary Meeting

Tuesday — Sept 23

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting
7:00pm — Catechism Course

Wednesday — Sept 24

10:30am — Father's Café
7:00pm — Adult Ed: Jesus & the Temple

Tuesday — Sept 30

7:00pm — Catechism Course

Wednesday — Sept 31

10:30am — Father's Café
7:00pm — Adult Ed: Jesus & the Temple

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

Many Years!

Name Day

Sophia Geralt, Tessa (Sophia) Stavrou, Matushka Vickie (Vera) Federoff, Vera Klavzar, Sara (Sophia) Hubler 9/17

Birthday

Veronica Rahal	9/14
Bill (Vladimir) Moision, Sr., Liam Sullivan	9/16
Valerie Lane, Elena Sullivan, Sadie Perez	9/19

Wedding Anniversary

Peter & Megan Franchak, Nika & Craig Carlson	9/20
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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

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