

September 28, 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

**16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
VENERABLE CHARITON THE CONFESSOR

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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...

He (St Paul) is saying here that the Spirit  
himself has been given to him and that it is  
because of this indwelling presence that he  
has received the spiritual gifts. "Genuine  
love" was the motivating power of all these  
good things. It is that which made Paul  
what he was. It was also love which caused  
the Spirit to abide with him, with whose  
help he did everything in the right way.

*St. John Chrysostom*

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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

### 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.



### “Crafty Creators” 1st Sunday of the Month

St John’s “Craft Creators” is a 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.

### Auxiliary Cooking in October

Our St John’s Auxiliary will be cooking for our upcoming bake sales. Please note they are adding a Saturday for folks who work to come.

- Thurs Oct 9
- Thurs Oct 16
- Sat Oct 18
- Thursday Oct 30

Please come and help!



### Parish Family Photo “Directory”

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.



## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### **Resurrection—Tone 7**

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen, //  
granting the world great mercy.

#### **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 Chariton—Tone 8**

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,  
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.  
By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe. //  
Our holy Father Chariton, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

### KONTAKIA

#### **Resurrection—Tone 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
"The Savior has come to those in faith; //  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

#### **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 Chariton—Tone 2**

You delighted in the monastic life, divinely-wise one,  
and conquered the bodily passions;  
you increased in faith, blossoming as the Tree of Life in the midst of Paradise, //  
most blessed and holy Chariton.

#### **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 & to intercede for us, O Theotokos,  
For you always protect those who honor you!

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

<sup>6</sup> Since we are God's fellow workers, we also entreat you not to receive his grace in vain, <sup>2</sup> for he says,

At a favorable time I listened to you;

In a day of salvation I helped you.

Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our ministry may not be blamed. <sup>4</sup> Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings, <sup>6</sup> in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in sincere love, <sup>7</sup> in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, <sup>8</sup> glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought of as deceivers, and yet true; <sup>9</sup> unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

### Epistle — 2 Corinthians 4: 6-15

<sup>6</sup> seeing that it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, and he has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> However, we have this treasure in vessels of clay, so that the amazing power may be from God and not from ourselves. <sup>8</sup> We are pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed! We are perplexed, but not to [the point of] despair. <sup>9</sup> We are persecuted yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> and we always carry in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

<sup>11</sup> Indeed, we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> And so, death is at work in us, but life in you. <sup>13</sup> Still, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and therefore I spoke." We believe, and therefore we also speak; <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> All these things are for your benefit, so that as grace is extended to many, this may also cause thanksgiving to be multiplied to the glory of God.

### PROKEIMENA

**Tone 7** - (Resurrection) The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)

V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)

**Tone 7** (Ven. Chariton) Let the saints exult in glory, / let them sing for joy on their couches! (Ps. 149:5)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Luke 5: 1-11

<sup>5</sup> Now it happened, while the multitude pressed on him and heard the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. <sup>2</sup> He saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and they were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Jesus entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered him, "Master, we worked all night and took nothing! But at your word, I will let down the net." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking. <sup>7</sup> They beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so [much] that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!" <sup>9</sup> He and all who were with him were amazed at their catch of fish; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid! From now on, you will be catching people alive."

<sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### Gospel — Luke 6: 17-23

<sup>17</sup> He came down with them and stood on a level place. A number of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases.

<sup>18</sup> Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. <sup>19</sup> The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

<sup>20</sup> Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said:

Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the Kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when men shall hate you,  
and when they shall exclude and mock you,  
and throw out your name as evil for the sake  
of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,  
for behold, your reward is great in heaven,  
for their fathers did the same thing to the  
prophets.

### ALLELUIA

**Tone 7** — V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps. 91:1)

V. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps. 91:2a)

**Tone 6** -- V. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)

## RECRUITING FOR OUR CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

What is the purpose of a 'Church Health Team'?

The purpose of the Church Health Team is to help the church move through a process to address what is called the Minimum Factor in our parish, thereby increasing the health of the church.

The team will be responsible for getting input, developing a plan with a timeline, responsibilities and accountabilities, and will then guide the church through the process.

What kind of people are needed on the team?

- ✓ People who obedient to the priest's authority. This is important! Parishioners on the CHT must clearly recognize and be obedient to the authority of the parish priest, who is also a member of the CHT (although he does not lead it) as nothing in parish life is to be done without his knowledge, consent and blessing.
- ✓ People who are spiritually mature. Nothing is more important for a team member than that they exhibit and exercise a life of spiritual discipline on a regular basis, such as prayer, fasting, the reading of scripture, confession, and the regular reception of Holy Communion.
- ✓ People who can see the big picture and who can think strategically. It's easy to get lost in the details, leading to meetings for the sake of meetings. You never want to lose sight of the purpose of this team; your "big-picture" people can serve as constant reminders to the team of why you are meeting, where you are going, and what you need to do to get there.
- ✓ People who are willing to learn. Those who think they know it all and don't need to learn anything new will only retard and inhibit the work done by the CHT and parish as a whole.
- ✓ People who are committed to see the church become healthier. They must desire, hunger and thirst for a healthy, growing church! Their enthusiasm for the church can be contagious and serves as a good reminder for all team members about the importance of this team.

What kind of roles are needed on the team?

- ✓ Team Leader. Everything truly does rise and fall on leadership, so a good leader is important. Ideally, the leader should be someone who works well with people, but can be decisive and keep the team moving forward. NCD believes in a strong role for the laity in the NCD process, therefore the leader should be someone other than the priest, though he should work closely with him. Also be careful not to put too many leader types on the team. More than one team has failed because there were too many leaders and no followers.
- ✓ Strategic Thinker. As mentioned above, this is a person who enjoys creating processes to ensure success. This person can serve as an excellent form of accountability for the team, putting names, dates, and goals in writing to track progress and keep the team moving forward.

***We need about 6 people.***

***Please speak with Fr Michael or Catilin Panasenکو if you are interested in being part of this exciting effort.***

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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>



### Thursday, October 2, 2025

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm  
Image and Word: Icons  
as a Door Between  
Heaven and Earth  
Lecture and Discussion  
with Iconographer  
Aidan Hart  
Crill Performance Hall  
(PLNU)

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Sacred Icons: Visions  
of Heavenly Glory  
Icon Exhibit Opening  
and Reception  
Keller Gallery (PLNU)

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
How Icons Changed My  
Life  
Lecture and Discussion  
with Collector Michael  
Roeder  
Salomon  
Theater (PLNU)

### Friday, October 3, 2025

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm  
The Word Becomes  
Paint: Introduction to  
Techniques of  
Iconography  
Lecture and Discussion  
with Iconographer  
Aidan Hart Crill  
Performance  
Hall (PLNU)

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Welcome Reception  
with Hot and Cold  
Appetizers  
Crill Performance Hall  
Outdoor Portico (PLNU)

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
From Genesis to New  
Jerusalem: the Making



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### **Tuesday — Sept 30**

7:00pm — Catechism Course

### **Wednesday — Oct 1**

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Jesus & the Temple

### **Saturday — Oct 4**

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

### **Sunday — Oct 5**

After Divine Liturgy — Church School BBQ at Community Center

### **Monday — Oct 5**

5:30pm — Pannikhida/Trisagion/Jinnaz Fadwa Harb

### **Tuesday — Oct 6**

11:00am — Fadwa Harb Funeral followed by Mercy Meal with Remembrances

7:00pm — Catechism Class Tour of the Church

### **Wednesday — Oct 8**

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Jesus & the Temple

### **Thursday — Oct 9**

9:00am — Auxiliary Baking/Cooking

**For more dates & links please visit our website: [www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar)**

## **Many Years!**

*Name Day*

Dennis (Dionysius) Stavrou

9/3

*Birthday*

Armen

*Wedding Anniversary*

Eliza & David Boyles

9/4

### **PARISH CONTACT INFO:**

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**Email:** [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org) — **Phone:** (858) 674-1931

**Priest:** V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

**Email:** [powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto: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**