

November 23, 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

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - TONE 7 (9TH OF LUKE)

AFTERFEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE
THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
ST AMPHILOCHIUS, BISHOP OF ICONONIOM



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...

He who is rich toward God is very blessed
and has glorious hope. Who is he?
Evidently, one who does not love wealth
but rather loves virtue, and to whom few
things are sufficient. It is one whose hand
is open to the needs of the poor, comforting
the sorrows of those in poverty according
to his means and the utmost of his power

St. Cyril of Alexandria



**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

Next Adult Ed Classes Orthodox XCity 101 & Old Testament

Our next set of Adult Education classes will begin the week of Nov 17 in person and via Zoom.

- Mondays at 7pm — Orthodox Christianity 101
- Wednesdays at 7pm — The Prophets Proclaimed You—OT Testament Prophecies of the Incarnation

For the Zoom link see the online calendar on our website: www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar



Monthly Men's Breakfast Saturday Dec 13

Our next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday Dec 13 from 8-10am.

The morning begins with 30 minutes of a service project around the church followed by breakfast and then a spiritual discussion facilitated by Fr John Robinson.

See Thomas Budde for information.



Coming Soon! Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Events in the Next Few Months

Sunday December 21 — **Youth Christmas Play**

Sunday January 25—5pm: **Kick-off Event/Dinner for FOCUS** (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United in Service) in San Diego.

February 8 — **Annual Parish Meeting**

February 14-15 — **Archpastoral Visit of His Grace Bishop Vasily & Young Adult Summit Participants**

February 23 — **Beginning of Great Lent**

Annual Parish Christmas Card Speak to Carole Shumaik Today

As we have been announcing we are putting together the annual Christmas card for and from our parish.

If you would like your names included on the card please speak to Carole Shumaik TODAY.

The suggested donation is \$15 a line.



2026 Pledge Forms Due December Dec 7

It is the time of the year when we look to the next year and plan for our parish's life including ministry groups as well as our budget.

Pledge forms were distributed a few weeks ago. They are available in narthex of the church and in the church hall.

Please submit your forms by Dec 7.



"Crafty Creators" 1st Sunday of the Month December 7

St John's "Crafty 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 December 7.

Along with "the bring your own" we will also have a small "class/presentation".

Parish Life

Our Parish Feast is Coming Up! St John of Damascus Dec 4, 2025

Our parish alter feast is approaching.

Services will be:

Dec 3 6pm — Great Vespers & Litya

Dec 4 8:30am — 3rd Hour & Festal Divine



Thank You to our Auxiliary!

Once again our Auxiliary members offered a wonderful bake sale for our community (both St John's and our friends in our county).

We made over \$7,000 and renewed friendships with all our supporters from around town.

We offer our gratitude to God for the diligent and hard work of our Auxiliary members. May God bless them for their efforts!

If you made an order and have not picked it up yet, please do so today!



Pray for our Catechumen

We have a group of people who have gone from inquiring about the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith to actively pursuing reception into the Church.

Please pray for them on this next stage of their journey of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ!

For a list of our current catechumen see our prayer list.

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

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.

Feast — Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice and sing to her:
"Rejoice, O Fulfillment//
of the Creator's dispensation!"

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!

Sts Amphilochius & Gregory —Tone 4

O God of our Fathers,
always act with kindness towards us;
take not Your mercy from us,
but guide our lives in peace//
through the prayers of the hierarchs Gregory
and Amphilochius!

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 Amphilochius — Tone 2

Holy thunder, spiritual trumpet,
nurse of the faithful and axe striking down
heresy,
O hierarch Amphilochius,
great and well-pleasing servant of the Trinity,
as you stand forever with the Angels,//
unceasingly pray for us all!

Feast — Tone 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the angels of God praise her://
"Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Ephesians 2: 14-22

¹⁴ He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation. ¹⁵ He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. ¹⁶ He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. ¹⁸ Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. ¹⁹ And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners! Instead, [you are] fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. ²² In him, you too are built up into a dwelling place of God in [the] Spirit.

Gospel — Luke 12: 16-21

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, "The ground of a certain rich man produced in abundance. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What will I do? I do not have room to store my crops!'

¹⁸ Then the man said, 'This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ Then I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry!"'

²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! Tonight your soul is demanded of you. The things which you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'

²¹ This is how it is when someone amasses treasure for himself but is not rich toward 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)

⁵
Tone 3 (Song of the Theotokos) My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

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 8 -- V Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! (Ps. 44:9a)

Our Life in Christ

Father Alexander Schmemmann celebrated the divine liturgy for the last time on Thanksgiving Day. This was particularly appropriate since Father Alexander had devoted his whole life to teaching, writing and preaching about the Eucharist; for the word eucharist in Greek means thanksgiving. At the conclusion of the liturgy, Father Alexander took from his pocket a short written sermon, in the form of a prayer, which he proceeded to read. This was a strange occurrence since Father never wrote his liturgical homilies, but delivered them extemporaneously. These were his words, which proved to be the last ever spoken by him from the ambo in Church.

Thank You, O Lord!

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the "one thing needed;" Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to Worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.



SAVE THE DATE

YOUNG ADULT SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026
SAN DIEGO, CA



Join us for a weekend of
connection, prayer, and service.



For more details, plan to attend one of our Zoom Information Sessions
on Tuesday, November 4 or Saturday, November 8. Links below!

I am pleased to share that our Diocese is convening an inaugural summit for young adults aged 18-30 in San Diego, CA from February 13 to 15, 2026.

At this point you may already be asking yourself a few questions, such as:

Why should I go?

This is an opportunity to create community with other young adults of our Diocese and to deepen our Orthodox Christian spiritual practices.

Who will be there?

Beyond other serious, committed Orthodox young adults such as yourself, our Hierarch, Bishop Vasily, our Chancellor, Fr. Kirill Sokolov, other diocesan leaders, and staff from the [CrossRoad Institute](#) will be in residence at the summit.

What are we going to be doing at this Summit? What is the cost to attend?

Through group discussion and brief talks led by special guests, we will address the Christian vocation and how to better live out our faith as young adults in an isolating world. We will put this into practice by partaking in fellowship with each other (beach outing, weather permitting!), engaging in a service project with a local charitable organization, and praying together throughout the weekend.

*Aside from making travel arrangements to San Diego and hotel fees, the Diocese is asking for a small **\$100 registration fee** to help offset the cost of meals.*



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday — Nov 24

7:00pm—Orthodox Christianity 101

Tuesday — Nov 25

7:00pm — Catechism Class

Wednesday — Nov 26

7pm — Adult Ed: The Prophets Proclaimed You

Monday — Dec 1

7:00pm—Orthodox Christianity 101

Tuesday — Dec 2

7:00pm — Catechism Class

Wednesday — Dec 3

6pm — Great Vespers w' Litya for St John of Damascus

Thursday — Dec 4—St John of Damascus

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Divine Liturgy

Potluck Breakfast after Divine Liturgy

Friday — Dec 5

6pm — Great Vespers w' Litya for St Nicholas

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

Many Years!

Birthday

Isabelle Tekla Griebing, Kyle Jeffrey Menig	11/23
Priest John Robinson, Diane Marie Worth	11/25
Peter Anderson	11/27
Jordan (Maximos) Ward	11/28
Archpriest Michael Anderson, Andrew Lump	11/29

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

Church: 16903 Espola Rd Poway — **Mailing Address:** PO Box 28291 San Diego, CA 92198

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