

January 4, 2026



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

30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - TONE 5
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
HOLY APOSTLES OF THE 70



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...

Neither repentance avails without grace,
nor grace without repentance; for
repentance must first condemn sin, that
grace may blot it out. So then John, who
was a type of the law, came baptizing for
repentance, while Christ came to offer
grace.

St. Ambrose of Milan



**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

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

Prosphora — 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.

2026 Pledge Forms We Need Them NOW

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 TODAY



Food Collection

Our parish collects food for the San Diego Food Bank as well as for St Innocent's Orphanage in Tijuana Mexico.

Please remember the many people who struggle with food security in our area. If we all picked up one extra item at the grocery store each time we went we would be able to fill our bins every month.



FOCUS Launch St John of Damascus—Sun 1/25 5pm

Our parish is hosting the launch event for the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United in Service (FOCUS).

FOCUS is a national organization blessed by our Holy Synod of Bishops as well as the other Orthodox churches here in America.

We will be hosting a dinner in line with a meeting describing the work planned here in San Diego County.

Please consider helping with the event.

Parish Life

"Crafty Creators" **1st Sunday of the Month** **January 4**

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.

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

March for Life **Jan 24 8:30am-12pm**

This year's March for Life in San Diego will be on Saturday Jan 24. In addition to the "march" we will be joining other Orthodox parishes for a molieben for our nation and those struggling with crisis pregnancies.

Where: Waterfront Park

When: 8:30-12:20



Additional Parking Available

People have been sharing that our church is growing so much that folks are having trouble finding parking spots at times.

We do have an agreement with the Lutheran Church next door to be able to use the BACK parking lot if need be.

If you have questions about where it is please see Fr Michael or one of the Parish Council members.

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**

Dates for 2026

MOVABLE FEASTS

Pascha	April 12
Ascension	May 29
Pentecost	June 9

FASTS

Meatfare	Feb 16-21
Great Lent	Feb 23—April 12
Holy Week	April 5—10
Apostles Fast	June 8—28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

Publican & Pharisee	Feb 1-7
Bright Week	April 12-18
After Pentecost	June 9-14
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

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.

Forefeast — Tone 4

Prepare, O Zebulon,
and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!
River Jordan, cease flowing,
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,
and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise;
for having seen you naked,
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.//
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

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!

Apostles of 70 — Tone 3

Holy Apostles of the Seventy
entreat the merciful God //
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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!"

Apostles of 70 — Tone 2

O faithful, let us praise with hymns
the choir of the seventy disciples of Christ.
They have taught us all to worship the undivided Trinity,
for they are divine lamps of the faith.

Forefeast — Tone 4

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:
"Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 2 Timothy 4: 5-8

⁵ As for you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

⁶ As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! ⁸ From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord—the righteous judge—will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

Gospel — Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the prophets:

Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way before you.

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make ready the way of the Lord!

Make his paths straight!'

⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ All the country of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to him. They were all baptized by John in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. ⁶ John was clothed with camel's hair, and a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He preached, saying, "He who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandals.

⁸ I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

PROKEIMENA

Tone 6 (*Sunday before Theophany*) — O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

ALLELUIA

Tone 8 V. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy on us. (Ps. 66:1)

V. That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all the nations. (Ps. 66:2)

Our Life in Christ



SAN DIEGO KICK-OFF MEETING

Join us for dinner as we begin developing a
local ministry in San Diego!

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve
(FOCUS) is a pan-Orthodox ministry that mobilizes
communities to serve our neighbors in need.

Dinner will be served. All are invited!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 @ 5 PM

St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church
16903 Espola Rd, Poway, CA 92064

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
[FOCUSNA.ORG/SAN-DIEGO](https://focusna.org/san-diego)
TO RSVP BY JANUARY 18




Our Life in Christ


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 January 5

9:00am — Royal Hours for Theophany

6:00pm — Vigil for Holy Theophany

Tuesday January 6—Theophany

8:30am — Hours, Festal Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

Wednesday January 7

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Topic TBD

Monday January 12

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Tuesday January 13

7:00pm — Orthodox Catechism

Wednesday January 14

10:30am — Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Topic TBD

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

Many Years!

Other

Archpriest Michael on his anniversary of tonsure as a Reader of the Church

Name Day

Edward Klavzar, Edward Lump 1/7

Birthday

Nicholas Worth 1/5

Terrance Miller, Maha (Alexandra) Rahal, Anthony Baquero, Nicholas Stone 1/6

Tania Minakov 1/10

Wedding Anniversary

George & Maha (Alexandra) Rahal 1/8

Artemis & Margarita Sladack 1/10

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