

January 18, 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

32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - TONE 7
STS ATHANASIUS THE GREAT & CYRIL
ARCHBISHOPS OF ALEXANDRIA



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



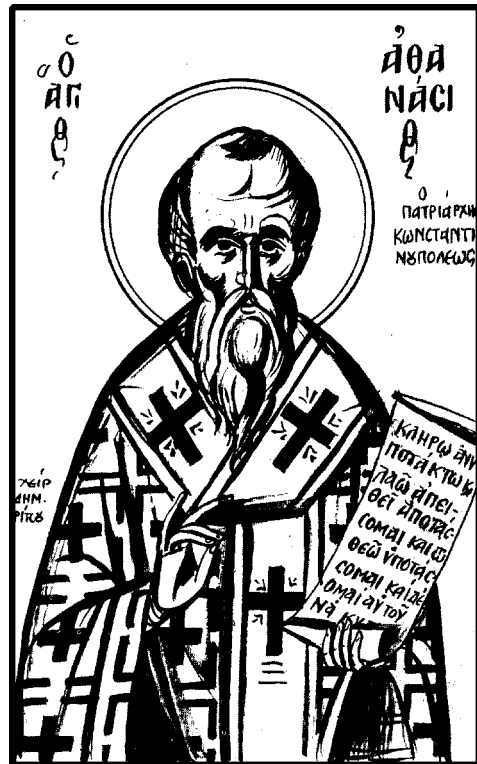
A Word...

The Word Himself submitted to appear
through a body, so that as a human He
might bring humans to Himself and return
their sense perception to Himself.... For as
seeds grown in the ground, we do not
perish when we are dissolved, but as sown
we shall arise again, death having been
destroyed by the grace of the Savior
St Athanasius "On the Incarnation".



**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

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

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**

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 one of the Parish Council members.

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

Super Bowl Chili Sale 2/8

Tanya Franchak & Mike Wesdell are offering their annual "chili special."

\$25 for a take home order of award winning chili, cornbread and the fixings to go with them.

Speak to Mike and/or Tanya to place your order. Supply will be limited so order asap!

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.

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

Parish Life

A Pan-Orthodox event sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Council of San Diego



SAN DIEGO 2026

WALK FOR LIFE



Saturday, January 24th
8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Waterfront Park
1600 Pacific Hwy



**JOIN
FELLOW
ORTHODOX
CHRISTIANS
& BE A
WITNESS
FOR LIFE!**

**Meet up at the OCLife booth
upon arrival**



**ORTHODOX
CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE**

Bring family & friends!

- Bring an icon of the Theotokos with Christ Child for the procession as well as food & drink
- Hear inspiring testimonies of faith, hope, & love overcoming fear
- Learn about local life-saving ministries
- Pray the Moleben for an End to Abortion immediately following SD Walk

Visit OCLife.org for info on how to get involved in pro-life work & SanDiegoWalkforLife.org for info about the event.

Contact Henry Schrik for additional info henryschrik@gmail.com or call him at (858)663-2064

***Come early for best parking**

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!

Ss. Athanasius & Cyril — Tone 3

You shone forth with works of Orthodoxy and
quenched all heresy,
and became victorious trophy-bearers,
hierarchs Athanasius and Cyril.
You enriched all things with piety and greatly
adorned the Church,
and worthily found Christ God, Who grants His
great mercy to all.
intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to
save our souls!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold
mankind 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.

Ss. Athanasius & Cyril — Tone 4

Athanasius and Cyril, great hierarchs of true
piety, and noble champions of the Church of
Christ,
Preserve all who sing: //
"O Compassionate Lord, save those who
honor You!"

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 and to intercede
for us, O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

SCHEDULE YOUR HOUSEBLESSING (JAN 6– FEB 21)

Fr. Michael will be blessing homes beginning on the day of Theophany (Jan 6)
through Saturday Feb 21st (Great Lent begins on Feb 23rd).

Contact Fr. Michael to schedule your house blessing at
PowayPadre@stjohnofdamascus.org or 858-717-2172.

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Tim 1:15-17

¹⁵ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel — Luke 18:35-43

³⁵ As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. ³⁶ Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant.

³⁷ People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ He began to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Then those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰ Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do?"

The man replied, "Lord, that I may see again!"

⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you."

⁴³ Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 7 (*Resurrection*) — The Lord shall give strength to His people.
The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (*Ps 28/29:11*)

v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (*Ps 28/29:1*)

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*)

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




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.*

https://dowoca.org/cs_events/2026-young-adult-summit-press-release/



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday January 19

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Tuesday January 20

5:30pm — Parish Council Meeting

7:00pm — Orthodox Catechism

Wednesday January 21

10:30am — NO FATHER'S CAFE

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Women of OT Diverse Roles in God's Plan

Sunday January 25

500pm: — FOCUS Launch Presentation/Dinner

Tuesday January 27

7:00pm — Orthodox Catechism

Sunday February 1

600pm: — Vespers w/ Litya for the Meeting of our Lord

Monday February 2—Meeting of our Lord

8:30am: — Hours & Festal Divine Liturgy w/ blessing of candles

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

Many Years!

Other

Newly Illumined and married Ambrose Austin Medlin and Irene Blumenstock

Name Day

Ethan (Athanasius) Menig	1/18
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Birthday

Kelvin John Brown	1/18
Josephine Grace Lorelli	1/20
George Darjania, Max Federoff	1/21
Kathleen Callahan, Elaine Kowalik	1/24

Wedding Anniversary

William (Vladimir) & Therese Moision	1/19
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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