

April 12, 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

HOLY PASCHA

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

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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.

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A Word from the Holy Fathers

On this day of resurrection, be illumined
O people! Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord! From death to life, and from earth to heaven, has Christ our God led us, singing the song of victory:
Christ is risen from the dead!

—*Paschal Canon, Ode 1*
St John of Damascus

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For sacraments, services,
instruction, home/office/hospital visits
please contact **Fr. Michael Anderson**
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Email powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org

CHRIST IS RISEN!



INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Parish Life

Basket Blessings

We will bless paschal baskets this year, though we will follow appropriate safety protocols.

Baskets will be blessed at the following times....

- After the Midnight Paschal Services
- After Paschal Vespers Agape Service



Agape Meal Following Paschal Services

By the Grace of God we are able to have our community Agape Meal after Paschal Services.

All are welcome! Please make room for everyone, enjoy the joy and plan on helping clean up at the end.



Paschal BBQ & Egg Hunt—Sun 4/12

After the Paschal Agape Vespers we WILL have our lamb BBQ and Children's Easter Egg Hunt.



Bright Monday Liturgy for San Diego Orthodoxy w/ Potluck

Bright Monday we are having our usual Bright Monday liturgy Paschal Liturgy with a procession. We have invited the faithful of our San Diego County to join us and will be hosting a potluck afterwards. Please bring what you can.

PASCHAL GREETINGS

English:

Christ is risen! ...*Indeed/Truly He is Risen!*

Albanian:

Krishti U Ngjall! ...*Vertet U Ngjall!*

Aleutian:

Khris-tusax agla-gikux!
...*Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!*

Arabic:

El Messieh Kahm! ...*Hakken kahm!*

Chinese:

基督復活了! 確實復活了!
Helisituosi fuhuole! Queshi fuhuole!

Ethiopia (Amharic):

Christos tenestwal! ...*Ewnetem tenestwal!*

French:

Le Christ est ressuscite!
...*En verite il est ressuscite!*

Georgian:

ქრისტე აღსდგა! ჭეშმარიტად აღსდგა!
Kriste aghsdga! Cheshmaritad aghsdga!

German:

Christus ist auferstanden!
...*Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!*

Greek:

Christos anesti! ...*Alithos anesti!*

Polish:

Chrystus zmartwychwstal!
...*Prawdziwie zmartwychwstal!*

Russian:

Hristos Voskrese! ...*Voistinu Voskrese!*

Romanian:

Hristos a inviat! ...*Adeverat a inviat!*

Spanish:

Cristo ha resucitado!
...*En verdad ha resucitado!*

Ukrainian:

Hristos Voskres! ...*Voistino Voskres!*

Vietnamese:

Chua Song Lai Qua That Song Lai

Paschal Readings

Epistle — Acts 1:1-8

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 (*Holy Pascha*) — This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! (*Ps 117/118:24*)

v: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever! (Ps 136:1)

Gospel — John 1:1-17

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵ (John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — V. *Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion*

V. *The Lord looked down from heaven and saw all the sons of men*

Today's Worship — Hymns & Vespers Gospel

TROPARION

*Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs
bestowing life!*

HYPAKOE

Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead as a man the One who is Everlasting Light? Behold the clothes in the grave! Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen! He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men."

KONTAKION

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal One; You destroyed the power of death! In victory You arose, O Christ our God, proclaiming "Rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Your apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

PASCHAL HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

The angel cried to the Lady full of Grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again I say, Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all you people! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exalt now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Paschal Vespers Gospel — John 20:19-25

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Bright Week Divine Liturgies San Diego County

Each year over Bright Week the Orthodox parishes throughout San Diego County invite each other to attend the Paschal Divine Liturgy on different days. Below is the schedule for 2026.

- 4/13—10am St John of Damascus Church, Poway
- 4/14 — 10am Meeting of the Lord Serbian Orthodox Monastery, Escondido
- 4/15 — 9:30am — St Katherine Orthodox Church, 2720 Loker Ave West Suite C, Carlsbad
- 4/16 — 6pm Vespers for the Life-Giving Spring, El Cajon
- 4/17 — 9am Matins & Liturgy for the Life-Giving Spring—St Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church, 1454 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon

Worship — Bright Monday Scripture Readings

Epistle — Acts 1:12-17; 21-26

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; ¹³ and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ "Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry. ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.

Gospel — John 1:18-28

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 8 (*Bright Monday*) — Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (*Ps 18/19:4*)

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)

ALLELUIA

(*Bright Monday*) — V. The heavens will praise Thy wonders, O Lord; and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints. (*Ps. 88:5*)

V. God is glorified in the council of the saints!
(*Ps. 88:7a*)

Paschal Archpastoral Message—Metropolitan TIKHON

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,
Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

A week ago, we heard the holy Martha express her faith in the resurrection of the dead when she said: “I know that my brother will rise again in the resurrection at the last day” (Jn. 11:24). But our Lord replied to her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” and that very day he called Lazarus forth from the tomb (Jn. 11:25, 43–44).

He did this by the power of his third-day Resurrection, a power that cannot be contained by time or place. The Pascha of the Lord is not an event like other events, one more link in a chain of causality or knot in a string of happenstance. Through Christ’s Passion and Resurrection, divine eternity breaks into time; mortality encounters life everlasting. Christ’s Pascha is not just the resurrection of the dead at the end; it is the end of time itself. In the light of Pascha, all other events are bathed in the endless radiance of the unceasing and immeasurable age to come.

The uncontainable, all-encompassing power of the Lord’s Resurrection is reflected in the way that we celebrate the Paschal event. There is one day a year we call Pascha. And yet, all of Bright Week is also considered one day, a single celebration of Pascha. Then again, the feast actually continues until its Leavetaking on the eve of the Ascension. And even after that, we renew our Paschal celebration each Sunday, adorning our weekly observance of the Lord’s Day with a grand cycle of hymns in honor of the Resurrection.

Liturgically, then, we see that Pascha cannot be contained; its power cannot be circumscribed by a single day or even a whole season. This is also true in each of our lives. Christ is risen, and therefore each and every moment offers us the possibility of a new beginning. By the power of Christ’s Pascha, our entire life becomes a continuous opportunity to renew ourselves, to start again.

This means that the joy of this Paschal morning, the rejoicing we experience when we discover the empty tomb in the deep dawn, need never cease. Yes, Martha was right: the Lord will raise us up on the last day. But he is also ready to raise us up today, tomorrow, and every day of our lives. He suffered the consequences of our sin on the Cross so that he might free us from our bondage to its power. The joy of liberation need not come only at the end, or only once a year: Christ’s Pascha is with us always, in our hearts and in our lives.

It is my prayer that this experience of Pascha remain with each of you throughout this week, throughout these forty joyous days of celebration, and throughout all the days of your life. I pray that, finding joy in his victory, you may experience that victory again and again each time you turn back to him and start anew. If we remain faithful to him—not by our instant moral perfection, but by our steadfast repentance and willingness always to begin again—he who is called Faithful and True will surely remain faithful to us, and we will know the happiness and power of his Pascha both now and throughout the age to come (Rev. 19:11; cf. 2 Tim 2:12–3).

To him who passed through the darkness of hell in order to lift us up to the unfading light of his heavenly kingdom, henceforth and always, Christ our true God, the Paschal Lamb who lives forever, be all glory and adoration, together with his Father and his All-holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+ TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Paschal Archpastoral Message—Bishop Vasily

To the Clergy, Monastics, and the Faithful of the Diocese of the West, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters in Christ:

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

“Let us go with lamps in hand to meet Christ who comes from the tomb like a Bridegroom! And with the festive ranks of angels let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God!” (Paschal canon of St John of Damascus, ode 5).

Today, on the sacred day of Pascha, we gather as the Church, as the disciples of Christ, to proclaim with joy the good news of our salvation: “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor 15:20). Today, we celebrate the saving Pascha of God, our Passover, our passage from death to life, from our enslavement to sin and corruption to the freedom of the new life in Christ, crucified and risen. Today, the mystery of our salvation is revealed to us through the blood of the Paschal Lamb, shed upon the cross.

Our father Gregory the Theologian boldly speaks: “We needed a God made flesh and made dead, so that we might live” (Or. 45.28): out of his love for us, the Master and Lord of all willingly emptied himself, suffered and died for us, and thus as our high priest he offered himself as sacrifice once and for all, for our redemption. He came to Jerusalem to die, so that we may live with the life that is in him, and he rose from the dead for it was not possible for him to be held in the power of death and corruption (Acts 2:24). Sharing in his victory over death, with tears of joy, again we hear the angelic message: “He is risen, he is not here!” We behold the new divine life pouring from the empty tomb of Christ, the life of incorruption and freedom, of knowledge and truth, of forgiveness and reconciliation – full of light and sanctification.

Having received the gospel of truth, we preach Christ crucified and risen, Christ who is the light of the world, Christ who is our joy and our peace, who descended even into the lowest regions to fill all with himself. On this “holy day of holy days”, we especially rejoice seeing so many people being received in faith to the Church, in this diocese and throughout the world. We give thanks to God for calling His new children, in these dark and difficult times, to the light of divine truth and the Christian gospel. May the same light guide us all, and may we always remember that we were all called – washed, sanctified, justified in the name of Christ, and now we all must now strive to live our lives in accordance with this truth.

Truly, “now all is filled with light” and all creation celebrates the arising of its Master. May we celebrate this Pascha with true spiritual joy, nourished with the true spiritual food – the body and blood of our Master Christ. Fed upon this divine Paschal Lamb, may we receive strength to offer our Lord our true spiritual worship – our whole lives, renewed and transformed by the grace of his resurrection.

The great mystery of salvation has been revealed to us all, for Christ is risen from the dead, and “life reigns... and not one dead remains in the tomb”. To Him, our Lord and God, be glory, thanksgiving and worship forever. Amen.

Christ is risen!

Yours in the risen Christ,

†Vasily

Bishop of San Francisco and the West



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Holy PASCHA (Sunday) April 12

1:00pm — Paschal Agape Vespers w/ Reading of Gospel in Multiple Languages
Followed by BBQ & Childrens' Egg Hunt & Activities

Bright Monday April 13

10:00am — Paschal Divine Liturgy w/ Procession followed by Potluck Brunch

Bright Tuesday April 14

10:00am — Paschal Divine Liturgy Serbian Orthodox Monastery, Escondido

Bright Wednesday April 15

9:30am — Paschal Divine Liturgy St Katherine Orthodox Church, Carlsbad

Bright Thursday April 16

6:00pm — Vespers for the Life-giving Spring—St Gregory Greek Orthodox Church, El Cajon

Bright Friday April 17—Life-giving Spring

9:00am — Matins & Paschal Divine Liturgy St Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church, El Cajon

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

Confessions are held on Saturdays after Great Vespers or by appointment with Fr Michael.

Many Years!

Birthday

Tanya Franchak	4/14
Marie Kopcha	4/15
Mark Griebeling	4/16
Bill (John) Stafford	4/17

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

Email: powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org — **Phone:** (858) 717-2172

Attached Clergy: V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired & Dn. George Shumaik

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