

July 26, 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

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 7

**REPOSE OF ST. JACOB (NETSVETOV),
ENLIGHTENER OF THE PEOPLES OF ALASKA**



Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow
Jesus Christ & 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 and fill out a visitor card.



A Word from the Holy Fathers

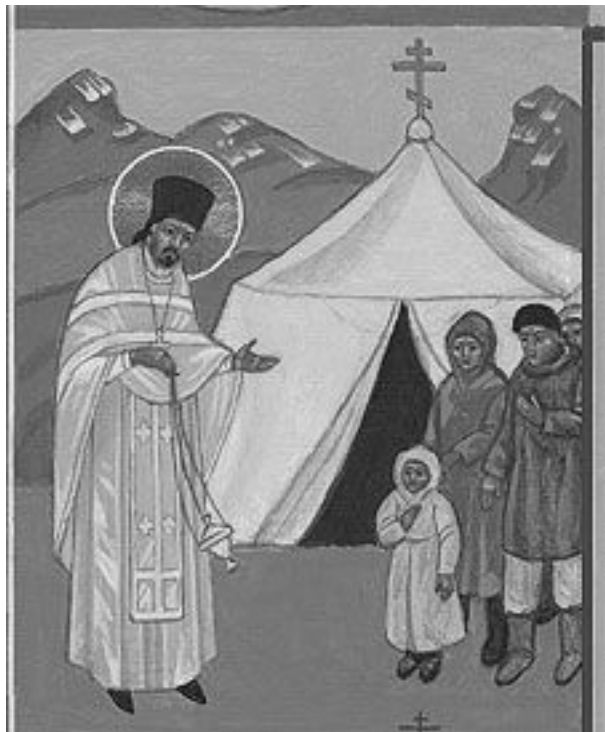
"I began baptizing 72 women in the
morning. In the afternoon I baptized 54
older children of the parents who had been
recently converted. The rite was finished by
evening, a total of 126 persons, 33 boys,
93 women and girls. From this activity I
became dreadfully tired and felt pain from
standing so long... However, the spiritual
joy at the sight of so many souls joined to
the flock of the Christian Church
compensated for everything, and the bodily
weaknesses disappeared. That night I
made a written record of the day's events."

St. Jacob of Alaska



**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly E-mails**

E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org
with your request.



St Jacob serving the Divine Liturgy in tents
in the wilderness

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

Parish Life

Bishop Boris Scholarships

In memory of our dear Bishop Boris our parish provides scholarships for students continuing their education through academic and vocational programs past high school.

If someone received a scholarship last year and is continuing their education this year, they may complete a "returning" application.

Those who have just completed high school and beginning a program can complete their full application.

Applications will be in the back of the church and in the church hall.

If you have questions please contact Ken Telles.



New Orthodox Catechism Class

With so many inquirers coming to the church, we have begun our next session on the basics of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

Classes are held on Thursdays at 7pm.

Erik Worth, our trained catechist is presenting the class.

Participants are encouraged to attend in person (in the church hall), but can also attend via Google Meet. See our online calendar for the link.



Monthly Men's Breakfast 8/8 8-10am

The morning begins with 30 minutes of service to the parish followed by breakfast and then a discussion led by Fr John Robinson.

Newcomers are welcome!

"Crafty Creators" 1st Sunday of the Month Aug 2

St John's "Crafty Creators" is a gathering for all crafters, crotchetiers, 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 knitting.

FOOD ALLERGIES

There are many people who are afflicted with food allergies—some of which can be nearly lethal. If you are bringing something for the weekly potluck **please create a sign and attach it to your dish if it includes items like:**

- Peanuts/Nuts
- Shellfish
- Cantaloupe
- MSG

Thank you!

Purchase Gift Cards Through Our Scrip Coordinator & Help our Parish

Scrip gift cards raise money for St. John's Auxiliary. When you buy Scrip cards, the store makes a donation with NO extra expense. Use the cards for your regular monthly purchases or gifts for loved ones and support our parish's ministry. Cards are available for gas, groceries, Amazon, restaurants and many other stores.

See Carmen Brown after Liturgy for more information or to purchase your cards.

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. Jacob — Tone 4

O righteous Father Jacob,
adornment of Atka and the Yukon Delta;
you offered yourself as a living sacrifice
to bring light to a searching people.
Offspring of Russian America,
flower of brotherly unity,
healer of sickness,
and terror of demons:
O Holy Father Jacob,//
pray to Christ God that our souls may be
saved!

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. Jacob — Tone 3

O Holy Father Jacob,
teacher of the knowledge of God,
you revealed your love for your people,
taking up your cross and following Christ,
enduring hardships like the Apostle Paul.
Pray on our behalf to Christ our God//
to grant us great mercy!

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!

Dates for 2026

FASTS

Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4
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Today's Worship — Epistle Readings

Epistle — 1 Cor 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. ¹² Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. ¹⁶ Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Epistle — Phil 3:7-14

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

PROKEIMENON

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 (St. Jacob) -- The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. (Ps. 63:11a)

Today's Worship — Gospel Readings

Gospel — Matt 14:14-22

¹⁴ And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

¹⁵ When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to Me."

¹⁹ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. ²⁰ So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. ²¹ Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. ²² Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Gospel — Mark 10:29-31, 42-45

²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first. ⁴² But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

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)

Our Life in Christ

Thriving Parishes Project Update: Focus Groups

We are ready for the next phase in the Thriving Parishes project, which is to gather input from all who wish to participate. Our goal is to come together to reflect on where we are as a growing parish in 2026 and where we want to be in 5 to 10 years and beyond. All are invited to help us shape this vision!

As you may remember, in December 2025 we invited members of the parish who are actively involved in church ministry to complete the Orthodox Natural Church Development survey. The ONCD is a way of measuring the health or quality of a church in 8 critical areas:

- Empowering Leadership
- Gift-based Ministry
- Fervent Spirituality
- Effective Structures
- Inspiring Worship
- Holistic Fellowship Groups
- Need-oriented Evangelism
- Loving Relationships

The survey results for St. John's results were strong in all areas, but the lowest of the 8 — the "Minimum Factor" — was **Holistic Fellowship Groups**. ONCD defines this as follows:

Holistic small groups are disciple-making communities which endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to their God-given gifts and raise leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.

- *The term "small group" is not limited to the classic small group model. It could be any group where "holistic" needs are being met, such as a Sunday School class or a Ministry team.*
- *Effective small group ministries will serve as an entry point into the church for newcomers.*
- *Consider the relation this ministry has to other key areas in your church such as: passionate spirituality, need-oriented evangelism and loving relationships.*
- *Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Does this sound like your church? Why or why not?*
- *24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

In the next few months, we will have the opportunity **to meet in parishioners' homes to discuss the topic of Holistic Fellowship Groups and what might contribute to this being the Minimum Factor in our ONCD survey**. We plan to offer **four sessions** in different areas to make it as convenient as possible for everyone: Escondido, Poway, East County, and South. If you are interested in hosting one of these meetings, please reach out to Fr Michael or Caitlin Gannon.

We'll provide sign-up sheets for the four sessions soon. Stay tuned, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts as we continue to grow together as a community of faith.

In Christ,

-- St John of Damascus Church Health Team

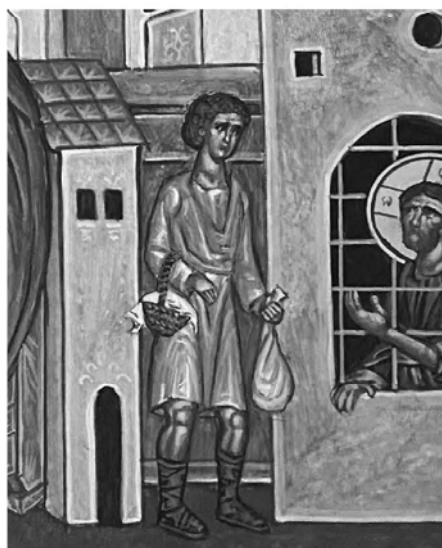


Orthodox ChristianTM
PRISON MINISTRY

PRISON MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians practicing their faith in prison? Or that there are prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the Orthodox Church? **Who will minister to them?**

As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) supports prisoners' unique spiritual needs through longterm case management and provides resources and training to parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ's command to visit Him in prison. As a result, families are reunited, marriages are healed, and thousands of incarcerated men and women have a new sense of peace and restored order in their lives.



5,073

TOTAL PRISONERS MINISTERED TO

65,336

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS, AND
SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT IN 2025

*"I was in prison,
and you visited Me."*

Matthew 25:36

LEARN MORE AT theocpm.org
PHONE: +1.347.868.6957



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national
prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the
Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States.*



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Thurs July 30

7:00pm — Orthodox Catechism (in person & via Google Meet)

Aug 1-14

Dormition Fast

Sun Aug 2

During Fellowship Hour — Crafty Creators

Aug 5

6:00pm — Great Vespers w/ Litya for Transfiguration

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Primer for the Psalms

Aug 6—Transfiguration of our Lord

8:30am — 8rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Fruit

7:00pm — Orthodox Catechism (in person & via Google Meet)

Sat Aug 8

8-10am — Monthly Men's Breakfast

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

Many Years!

Other

Newly-illuminated Jacob Anthony Ward, Rachel Palm, Justin Goelden, George Medlin

Name Day

Liam Panteleimon Budde	7/27	Archbishop Benjamin	7/31
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Birthday

Nathan Cooper, Jacob Lorelli, Daniil Neskin	7/27	Olga Bishaev	7/30
John Henry Keeling	7/28	Nataša Vuskovich	8/1

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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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