

August 30, 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

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 4

**AFTERFEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF JOHN
THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST
SS. ALEXANDER, JOHN, AND PAUL,
PATRIARCHS OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

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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.

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A Word from the Holy Fathers

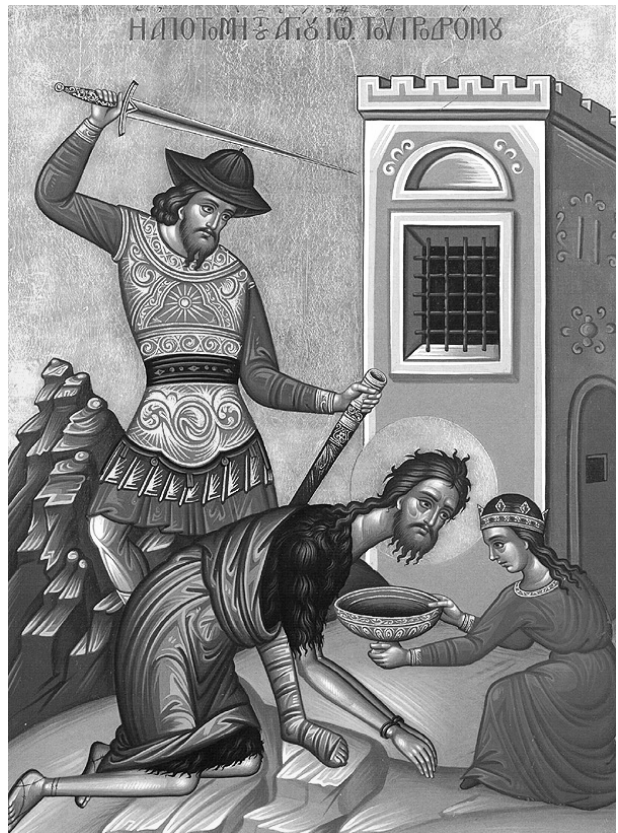
What shall we call thee, O Prophet?
Angel, apostle, martyr?
Angel, for thou hast spent thy life like those
who have no body.
Apostle, for thou hast taught the nations,
and martyr, for thy head has been cut off
for the sake of Christ.//
Pray to Him then that our souls may be
granted great mercy!

Litya Verse from Feast of Beheading

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly 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

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.



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.



12th Annual Swim for Hope Funding Education for Orphaned Children at Project Mexico—Sat 9/5

Fr Simeon and the Swim for Hope team will swim, kayak, or paddle across open waters on Sept 5 to raise critical funds for Project Mexico's School Buddies Education program, directly benefiting the children of St Innocent Orphanage.

Donate: projectmexico.org/swim-for-hope

Registration for Church School Year

The new Church Year (Sept 1) will soon be upon us. It is time for families to register their children for our Sunday church school classes.

Parents, please use the QR code below to register your child/children by Sept 1st.



Church School Teachers/Helpers Needed

One of our church school teachers is moving and we need someone to replace him.

If you think you might be interested please see Sally Menig, Bill Moision, Katy Jones or Fr Michael



Greeters Needed

Our Greeters ministry is in need of more people so we can cover all the services.

If you think you might be interested please see Valerie Lane



Counters Needed

Three of our Counters have moved and we need people to replace them.

If you think you might be interested please see Fr Michael

Parish Life

Divine Liturgy for New Church Year Tuesday Sept 1 — 7am

This coming month's early morning weekday liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday Sept 1st in connection with the Ecclesial New Year.

All are welcome to start of the new year in this joy!



Church School / Youth Choir

In September we will be starting our Sunday children and youth programs.

Sunday Sept 13—1st Youth Choir

Sunday Sept 20—1st Day of Church School

Sunday Sept 27— Church School Picnic

Please speak with Sally Menig, Katie Jones or Bill Moision if you have questions.



Dates for 2026

FASTS

Nativity Fast/Advent Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas Dec 25-Jan 4

New Adult Ed Class to Begin Wed Sept 23

Our next Adult Education class will begin on Wednesday Sept 23. Classes are at 7pm and will be available in person and via Zoom.

We are focusing on the Gospels this year. If you have an idea for the topic of the class (The Passion, the Parables, the Miracles, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus and Money, etc) please email Fr Michael with "Adult Education Idea" in the subject line.



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!



Monthly Collections

Each month we have regular collections to support seminarians and Orthodox charities.

- 2nd Sunday of the Month—Seminarian (Peter Anderson)
- 3rd Sunday of the Month—Charities (local needs, IOCC, Project Mexico, etc.)

The basket will be placed out for the veneration of the cross at the end of Liturgy. Please give as you can.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection — Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord
learned from the Angel the joyous message of
thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is 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!

St John — Tone 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with
hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O
Forerunner.

Thou wast shown in truth to be the most
honorable of the Prophets,
for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the
streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold.
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who
appeared in the flesh,
Who takes away the sin of the world, //
and grants us great mercy.

Ss Alexander, John & Paul — Tone 4

O God of our Fathers,
always act with kindness towards us;
take not Thy mercy from us,
but guide our lives in peace//
through the prayers of the Patriarchs Alexander,
John, and Paul!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the
earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

Ss Alexander, John & Paul — Tone 8

Set a flame by the love of Christ, O glorious
ones,
ye took up the yoke of His precious Cross,
revealing yourselves as followers in His
footsteps by your way of life,
and ye became partakers of His divine glory,
divinely-wise Alexander, with wonderful John
and glorious Paul.
As ye stand before His throne, earnestly pray
for our souls!

St John — Tone 5

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner
became an act of divine dispensation,
for he preached to those in hell the coming of
the Savior.

Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless
murder,
loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, //
but that which is false and temporal.

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

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Cor 16: 13-24

¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵ Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; ¹⁶ I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; ¹⁸ for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. ²⁰ All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²² If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

²⁴ My love is with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel — Matthew 21: 33-42

³³ "Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; ³⁵ and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. ³⁷ Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 (*Resurrection*) — O Lord, how manifold art your works; in wisdom have You made them all. (*Ps 103/104:24*)

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps 103/104:1)

ALLELUIA

Tone 4 — V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (*Ps. 44:3b*)

V. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. (*Ps. 44:6*)

Our Life in Christ†

Archpastoral Message on the Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

Joyous feast!

The Gospel appointed for this day, the beginning of the ecclesiastical new year, sets before us a scene of remarkable simplicity. Our Lord returns to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, enters the synagogue on the Sabbath day “as His custom was” (Lk. 4:16), and stands up to read. He is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and He finds the place where it is written that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him, that He is anointed to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind — “to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Then He closes the book, returns it to the attendant, sits down, and says: “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:16–21).

As we enter this new year, let us consider what has taken place. The newest thing that has ever happened in the history of the world — God Himself present in the flesh, the year of His favor inaugurated — is announced by the reading of an ancient text, in a familiar building, according to an accustomed order, by a man doing on that Sabbath what He had always done on the Sabbath. The newness of Christ does not arrive by discarding what came before. It arrives clothed in continuity, and it fulfills the very things it renews.

The holy apostle Paul teaches us that we ourselves have been drawn into this newness, and that we entered it through the waters of the font: “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). And again: “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Every one of us who has been baptized has already been made new. The question set before us at the beginning of each Church year is not whether we shall receive this newness, but whether we shall walk in it.

Here we must be watchful, for nothing is easier than to confuse this newness with the kind we are offered every day. We live in a world with an enormous appetite for the new, and an entire industry devoted to ensuring that this appetite is both always fed and yet never satisfied. Advertisement and marketing are built upon a real thirst in the human heart — the longing for something fresh, something unspoiled, something that will make us feel that our life has begun again. They arouse this thirst skillfully and they cannot quench it, because everything they offer begins to age at the moment it is acquired. This is why the world must keep producing more of it. Novelty is a debt that can only be paid with more debt.

The newness that is in Christ belongs to an altogether different order. The Scriptures are precise here: the word chosen to describe it is not the word for what is merely recent, but the word for what is fresh and undiminished — a new covenant, a new man, a new song, a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth. This newness does not grow stale, because its source is not a moment in time but the living



Our Life in Christ

God, who is Himself “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8). What ages in us is our attention to Him. What must be renewed is not the gift, but our reception of it.

This calling belongs to all of us, without exception. Those recently baptized or chrismated, and those still inquiring at the door, have received or are approaching something they must now spend a lifetime entering more deeply; the first fervor is a grace, but it is a beginning and not an arrival. Those who were baptized as infants and have known the Church all their days carry a treasure of another kind — the faith woven into their memory, family, and the ordinary rhythm of years — and they face a different danger, which is that what is familiar can quietly cease to be seen. Neither the newcomer nor the lifelong faithful may rest. The Apostle exhorts us all to “be renewed in the spirit of your minds and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:23–24), and he addresses this to the whole assembly.

What is true of persons is true also of communities. Some among us are new missions, meeting in rented halls, praying for a permanent home. Others are parishes marking their hundredth year, their hundred and twenty-fifth, and more, built by immigrants and by converts whose names are recorded on the walls. The task is the same in both cases, and in both cases it requires a real spiritual labor: to hold fast to what has been handed down, and at the same time to keep growing, to keep stretching, to keep learning, and not to mistake a mere habit for faithfulness. It is a good and necessary thing to say that we do a thing because we have always done it, when what we have always done is the tradition of the Church. It is a different thing when we say it because the alternative would require effort, or conversation, or risk. Discerning between the two is among the most delicate pastoral works we are given, and it cannot be done well without prayer, without patience, and without one another.

The renewal to which we are called is anchored, always, in what we have received — “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received” (1 Cor. 15:3). The wisdom of our older parishes is not an obstacle to renewal but one of its chief instruments, for a community that has kept the faith through a century of hardship has already learned something about endurance that no new initiative can supply. And our newest missions, in their turn, remind the whole Church what it looks like when the Gospel is heard for the first time. We need each other precisely at this point.

Therefore, as we enter this new year of the Lord’s goodness, I invite each parish, each monastic community, each household, and each of the faithful to ask a simple question before God: where, in this past year, have we merely repeated ourselves, and where have we truly grown? Ask it without discouragement and without haste. Then take up again, with gratitude, the things that have been handed down to us, and let us walk in them as those who are being made new.

To Him who sits upon the throne and says, “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:5), who crowns the year with His goodness, and who is glorified together with His Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year and many blessed years to come,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Tuesday Sept 1 — Church New Year

7:00am — Monthly Weekday Liturgy

Sept 2-11

Fr Michael Vacation (Fr Alexander Federoff will be filling in)

Thursday Aug 3

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

Saturday Aug 5

8:00am — Men's Breakfast

Mon-Tues Sept 7/8

Services for the Nativity of the Theotokos

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

Many Years!

Newly-illuminated

Newly-illuminated Theodore Bolkvadze, Ruairidh (John) Cutting, Wylie (Valentine) Gladman, Heidi (Seraphima) Rogers

Birthday

Mark Rahal	9/4
Gene (Nectarios) Francello, Peyton Elizabeth Budde	9/5

Wedding Anniversary

Vincent (Constantine) & Melissa Palumbo	9/1
Heather & Daniel Federoff	9/5

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