

## MONASTIC MARTYR DAMASCENE OF LAVRA

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Epistle Reading: Hebrews 7:26-8:2 and Galatians 6:11-18**

**Gospel Reading: John 10:9-16; Luke 10:25-37**

**Troparion — Tone 1**

**As a venerable and proven ascetic, as an honorable and renowned martyr, / and as a model of the desert life, O most exalted Damascene, / we sing hymns of praise to you, / for you have trampled upon serpents.**

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine, Michelle, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda and PamelaAnne, Amen!!!

**\*\*\* To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski\*\*\***



Follow us on



And remember to use:

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## The WEEKLY BULLETIN

### HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**MONASTIC MARTYR DAMASCENE OF THE LAVRA** - Saint Damascene was a monk from Constantinople. His parents Kyriakos and Kyriake lived in the Galatea district of the city, and they named their son Diamantes. Orphaned at a young age, and without parental guidance, the boy became rather undisciplined in his conduct. One day he was caught doing something unlawful, and in order to save himself he agreed to convert to Islam. Later he came to his senses and repented his denial of Christ. Fleeing to the Holy Mountain, he became a monk at the Lavra, receiving the name Damascene. For twelve years he labored in prayer and asceticism, and was tonsured into the Great Schema. Finally, he revealed to his spiritual Father his desire for martyrdom. Receiving a blessing for this struggle, he cut his hair and dressed as a sailor. In the church of Hagia Sophia, which had been turned into a mosque, the monk Damascene made the Sign of the Cross and proclaimed Christ as the true God. Since the Moslems did nothing to him, he went to the Sultan Mehmed mosque and repeated his confession of faith, calling the Moslems ignorant and deceived because they did not believe in Christ. Those who heard him thought he was insane. The next day Saint Damascene went to the vizier's courtyard and shouted at those he found there, "Your faith is not true. Christ is the true God, and only the faith of Christ is true." Not surprisingly, he was seized and beaten, then chased away. He continued to proclaim Christ in other places, but everyone thought he was crazy, and they ignored him. On a Sunday, the holy martyr went to the Tophana mosque, where many Moslems had gathered. Again, he was seized and beaten. This time, however, he was sent to the kadi and then to the Grand Vizier, Kara Mustapha. Seeing that the saint would not change his mind and live as a Moslem, the Vizier sentenced him to death. On November 13, 1681, Saint Damascene was led to the Phanar, where he was forced to kneel before the gates of the Patriarchate. Thanking God for allowing him to fulfill the exploit of martyrdom, he bent his neck and was beheaded. The relics of the holy New Martyr Damascene were taken to Chalki and enshrined in the church of the Holy Trinity.

## Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5 pm Saturdays

**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays

**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of November**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Great Vespers at 6 pm**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of November**

**THE ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
INTO THE TEMPLE**

**Divine Liturgy at 9 am**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Welcome

If you are a guest at today's Divine Liturgy, we invite you to join us following Divine Liturgy for light refreshments and fellowship so we can get to know each other. You are always welcome to share in worship and fellowship at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. Please sign the Guest Book in the Narthex and include your email address.

### Thank you

Matushka Mihaela and Father Michael would like to thank everyone who worshipped with us for the Feast of Synaxis of Saint Michael the Archangel and the other bodiless powers and to all of those who later came to the rectory and made this important day even more wonderful with their presence.

### Nativity Fast

This year, the Nativity Fast begins Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and is in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ on December 25<sup>th</sup>. As the fast begins, we are called to abstain from meat, eggs, and dairy products. There's fasting from foods, and also called to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from these other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

### Nativity Fast Confessions

As we begin the Nativity Fast, we are called to the sacrament of confession. Confessions will be heard every Saturday evening before or after Vespers or by appointment. If you wish to make an appointment for confession, please contact Father Michael via email [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com) or call him (848)228-1563.

### Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

This is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church and is celebrated on November 21<sup>st</sup>, also called The Presentation. You are welcome to worship at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church with Vespers on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 6pm and Divine Liturgy on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 9am.

### Diocesan Council Meeting

Father Michael and Matushka Mihaela participated in this year's meeting. Parishioners at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church have expressed an interest in receiving a summary of the meeting. Father Michael will give a brief summary of the meeting at the Coffee Social on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary