

January 2, 2022



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

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 3
SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHNY
FOREFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY
REPOSE OF ST SERAPHIM OF SAROV

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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

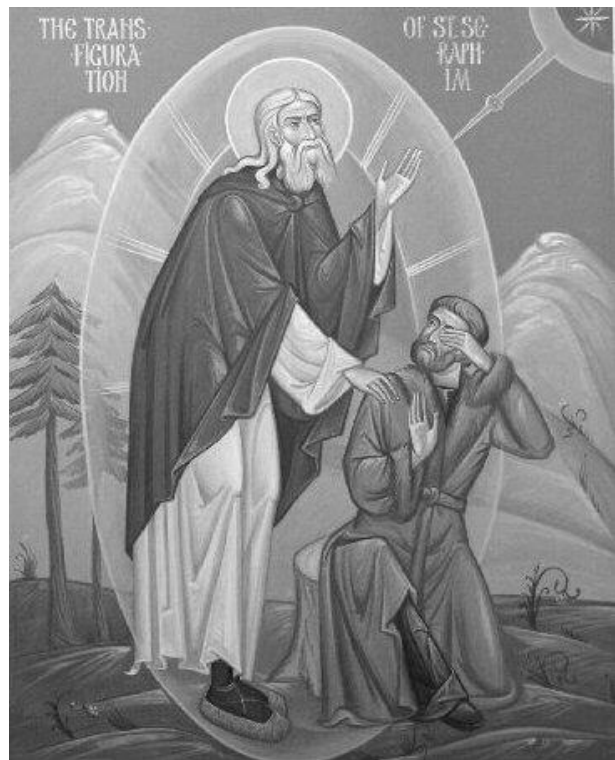
Even though Elijah the Tishbite was taken up to heaven, he was not greater than John. Enoch too was translated but was not greater than John. Moses was the greatest of lawgivers and all the prophets were admirable, but none greater than John. It is not I who would dare to compare prophet with prophet, but their Master and ours who himself declared "Among those born of women there is none greater than John."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly
(NEWS@StJohnofDamascus.org)
E-mails**

E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org



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

Parish Life

New Wed Eve Adult Ed Class Whose Who in the Canon of St Andrew of Crete (Old Testament) Begins Wed Jan 12 - 7pm

As we continue our study of the Old Testament this year, our next Adult Ed class will focus on all the Old Testament figures mentioned in the Canon of St Andrew of Crete sung during Great Lent,

We will focus on how St Andrew uses these people as examples to guide us to repentance.



Save the Date! Retirement Celebration for Fr Alexander Federoff Jan 16, 2022

With the pandemic occurring at the time of our dear Fr Alexander's retirement, while we did our best to celebrate and thank him for his decades of loving service, we were not able to give him the celebration we would have liked.

His Eminence is coming on January 16 for a more "robust" celebration.

Mark your calendars! More details to come!



2022 CALENDARS VOLUNTARY DONATION \$5

2022 church calendars from St. Tikhon's are here! Please take one calendar per household so that we can be sure to have enough for everyone.

Once we know every family has one people may come and ask for additional copies.

Jan 9—Church School Christmas Youth Program

Our Church School Christmas program has been rescheduled to Jan 9.

Plan on staying and supporting our children & youth!



2022 Membership/Pledge Drive

December is the time for our membership and pledge drive to help us prepare our budget for next year. Please take a moment to complete the attached membership and pledge (time, talent & financial) form (3 pages) and return it to myself (powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org) or our Treasurer (treasurer@stjohnofdamascus.org) before the end of the month.



Please Sign-up for Fellowship Hour

We have posted a sign-up sheet for Fellowship/ Coffee Hours for the next few months. There are many Sundays open.

We typically have 3 or 4 families sign up to avoid it being a burden on anyone.

Having something simple to eat enables people to stay for fellowship and build relationships.

Please take part and sign up for a Sunday or 2!

Church School Christmas Project Socks & Toothbrushes the Homeless Thank You for Your Support!

We are grateful to our children and youth who have been collecting socks and toothbrushes for the homeless right here in San Diego County.

We are grateful for everyone who supported this project!

Today's Worship—Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Forefeast for Theophany—Tone 4

Prepare, O Zebulon,
and adorn thyself, O Naphtali!
River Jordan, cease flowing,
and receive with joy the Master coming to be
baptized!
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,
and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in
Paradise;
for having seen you naked,
He has appeared to clothe you with the first
garment.//
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

St Seraphim—Tone 4

Thou didst love Christ from thy youth, O blessed
one, and, longing to work for Him alone, thou
didst struggle in the wilderness in constant prayer
and labor.
With penitent heart and great love for Christ thou
wast favored by the Mother of God.
Therefore we cry to thee://

PROKEIMENON

Tone 6 (Sun Before Theophany)- O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Tone 7 (Saint) - Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. (Ps. 115:6)

ALLELUIA

Tone 8 — *V. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us. (Ps. 66:1)*

V. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all the nations. (Ps. 66:2)

Tone 6 — *V. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)*

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O
Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy
power.

St Seraphim — Tone 2

Forsaking the beauty as well as the corruption of
this world,
thou didst settle in the monastery of Saróv, O
Saint.
There thou didst live an angelic life,
becoming for many the way to salvation.
Therefore, Christ has glorified thee, O Father
Seraphim,
enriching thee with abundant healing and
miracles.//
So we cry to thee: Save us by thy prayers,
venerable Seraphim, our father!

Forefeast — Tone 4

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to
John:
“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed
man.”

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle— 2 Tim 4:5-8

⁵As for you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of one who proclaims the Good News and fulfill your ministry.

⁶As for me, I am already being offered in sacrifice, and the time of my release has come.

⁷I have fought the good fight! I have finished the course! I have kept the faith! ⁸From now on, the crown of righteousness is reserved for me, which the Lord—the righteous judge—will give me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

Epistle—Galatians 5:22-6:2

²²On the other hand, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law! ²⁴Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit! ²⁶Let us not become arrogant, challenging and envying one another.

6 Brethren, even if someone is caught in some fault, you who are spiritual must restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. But watch out for yourself in order not to be tempted. ²Bear each others' burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

Dates for 2022

MOVABLE FEASTS

Palm Sunday	April 17
Pascha	April 24
Ascension	June 2
Pentecost	June 12

FASTS

After Meatfare	Feb 28-Mar 6
Great Lent	Mar 7-April 17
Holy Week	April 18-23
Apostles Fast	June 20-28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

Publican & Pharisee	Feb 13-19
Bright Week	April 24-30
After Pentecost	June 12-18
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Gospel — Mark 1: 1-8

¹ The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the prophets:

Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Make ready the way of the Lord!
Make his paths straight!'

⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ All the country of Judea and those from Jerusalem went out to him. They were all baptized by John in the Jordan river, confessing their sins. ⁶ John was clothed with camel's hair, and a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He preached, saying, "He who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to kneel down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

Gospel — Luke 6: 17-23

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place. A number of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases.

¹⁸ Those who were troubled by unclean spirits also came, and they were healed. ¹⁹ The whole multitude desired to touch him because power came out from him and healed them all.

The Lord's sermon

²⁰ Jesus looked up to his disciples, and said:

Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the Kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when men shall hate you,
and when they shall exclude and mock you,
and throw out your name as evil for the sake
of the Son of Man.

²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,
for behold, your reward is great in heaven,
for their fathers did the same thing to the
prophets.

Our Life in Christ

ICON OF THEOPHANY

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by the Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

The icon of Theophany tells the story of the feast.

1 — Jesus the Messiah is unclothed, like Adam before the Fall. As the second Adam (1 Cor 15) He represents a new beginning for humanity and all of creation. Even as he is being baptized by John, Christ is blessing the water with His right hand.

2 — God the Father and the Holy Spirit join the Son, making this the first full revelation of the Holy Trinity. Theophany means “appearance of God”. The Father is represented by the semicircle at the top of the icon, while the Holy Spirit descends upon Christ “in the form of a dove.” In many icons the the Holy Spirit appears within a mandorla, indicating that which is seen beyond the physical, through the eyes of faith.

3 — John the Forerunner is shown bowing in reverence to Christ even as he baptizes Him. John, like the Prophet Elijah in the icon of the Transfiguration, stands at the Savior’s right hand. Thus John fulfills the prophecy that Elijah would return to prepare the world for the Messiah.

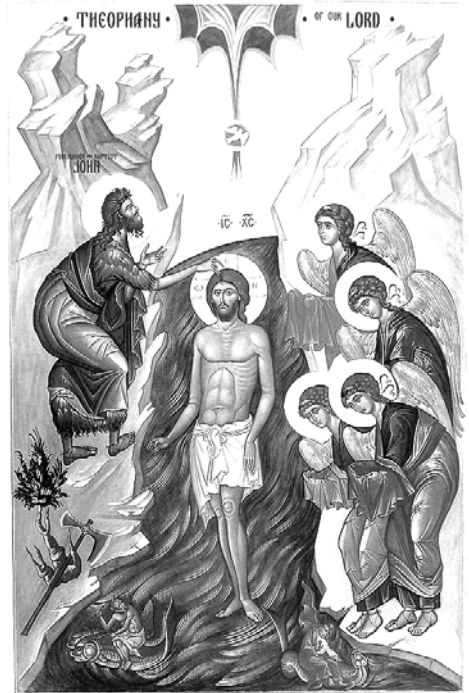
4 — The Angels in the icon bear witness to the magnitude of the event, and they wait joyfully to receive the newly baptized Christ and to clothe Him

5 — The Jordan River and the Red Sea are often represented in icons of Theophany as small figures in the water, and connect Theophany with the events of the Old Testament. A male figure represents the Jordan, which was parted and crossed by Elijah, and a female figure represents the Red Sea, through which Moses led the Israelites.

These events are reflected in several psalms:

“Thou did establish the sea by Thy might, Thou did break the heads of the dragons in the water.” (PS 73:13) - “The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid; the abysses were troubled.” (PS 76:15) - “The sea beheld and fled, [the River] Jordan turned back.” (PS 113:3)

6 — The Ax and the Tree (one with no fruit) are shown at John’s feet, recalling John’s words: “*And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.*” (Matt 3:10). This also shows that although John the Baptist must “decrease so that Christ may increase,” his teachings are still valid and important.



Our Life in Christ

Preparing for Your House Blessing

Sanctification of the home

The blessing of homes with holy water maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings.

The sanctification of the home takes place with prayer and the sprinkling of holy water. The priest, at this annual visit, asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. Everyone of the house, prays together for the living and the dead of the family, and all who live and have lived in the house. They all sing the hymn of salvation and process from room to room while the priest blesses the house.

Preparation

Traditions of the ceremony differ according to local custom, but these general guidelines should be observed:

- A candle with an icon and some holy water should be placed in a suitable place, such as kitchen or dining room table, or a home altar.
- Also, a list of first names for whom prayers are to be offered, including members of the family and all those living in the house. The list should have a clear distinction between the living and the dead.
- If it is the practice to give the priest a gift, it should not be placed with the holy objects on the table. It can be prepared in advanced, but given at the conclusion of the service.

The ceremony

When the priest comes, all who are present in the house should gather around the icon with the candle. They should, if they are able to join in, say the Trisagion Prayers and sing of the Troparion of the Feast of Epiphany. Then a family member leads the priest through the house with the candle. As he goes, he sprinkles holy water, and prays for a blessing upon each room and the activity that goes on there. When they have gone through the entire house, the family gathers again around the table and the priest blesses each person present.

**Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent
(Jan. 6 - Mar 6) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.
Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.**

*The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying,
'Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom,
the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God,
of Christ who has appeared'.*

— from the Great Blessing of the Waters



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday Jan 3

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Orthodox Christianity 101
In-person & Via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

Tuesday January 4

10:30am—Father's Café

Wednesday January 5—Eve of Theophany

Strict Fast

9:00am — Royal Hours for Theophany

6:00pm—Vigil for Theophany

Thursday January 6—Holy Theophany

8:30am — Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

12:00pm — Blessing of Water at Lake Poway

January 6-March 5

Annual House Blessings—Contact Fr Michael to Schedule

Tuesday January 11

10:00am — Father's Café

Wednesday January 12

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Whose Who in the Canon of St Andrew (OT)

In-person & Via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

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

Many Years!

Name Days

Caitlin (Juliana) Gannon 1/2
Edward Klavzar, Edward Lump 1/7

Birthdays

Terry Miller, Maha Rahal, Nicholas Stone 1/6

Wedding Anniversaries

George & Maha Rahal 1/8

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

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 & Dn. George Shumaik

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