

February 20, 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

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 2
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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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

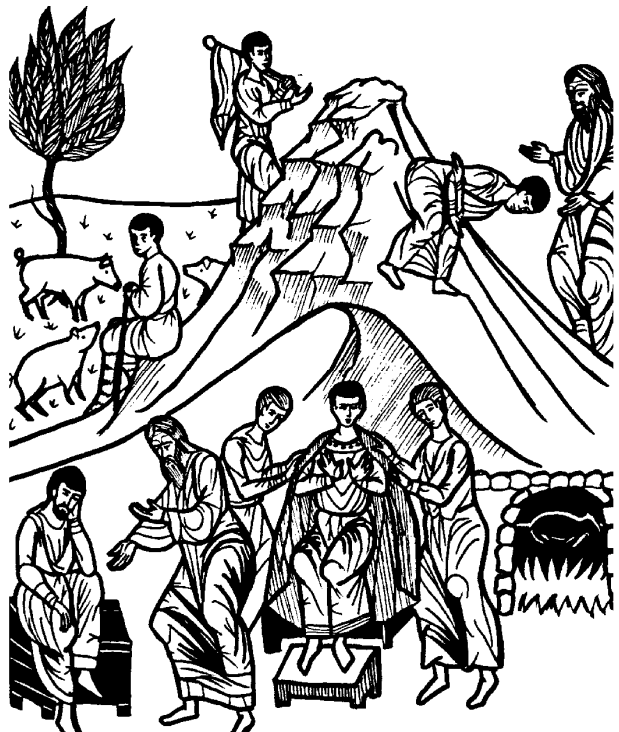
Vigils and fasts and acts of mercy are the methods advocated by the saints to attain the spiritual life. But they must not stand alone, nor must the Christian put his trust in them. Humility must have faith for its principle, and fasting be combined with charity, that is feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked.

St. Basil the Great

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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
with your request.



Our purpose is to know the power of God's goodness. For when the prodigal Son abandoned his sin, he hastened to the refuge of his father.

That good man embraced him and welcomed him; He killed the fatted calf and celebrated with heavenly joy.

Let us learn from this example to offer thanks to the Father who loves all men, and to the Victim, the glorious Savior of our souls!

Parish Life

Parish Annual Meeting—Sun Feb 20

Our Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sun Feb 20 after Liturgy. That Sunday we will have our traditional **potluck** so everyone is well fed and ready to hold annual elections for Parish Council, adopt the 2022 Budget, adopt a new set of By-laws for the Parish as required by the Diocese, and hear about and have the opportunity to ask questions about various ministries and activities in the parish. Materials have been sent via email to all voting members.



Blood Drive—Need 25 Commitments Almost There!

As many of you may have heard there is a significant shortage of blood donations currently. We are investigating hosting a blood drive in response. We need at least 25 people committed to giving blood to host the drive. Once we have that number of people we can schedule the event. Please consider signing up. There is a form on the Calendar/Schedules bulletin board in the hall.

Current count: 23 **Need:** 2 more



List of Voting Members Posted in Hall

As our annual parish meeting is coming up we are posting the list of voting members of the parish in the church hall so people can double check to see if they are listed.

Materials (reports, etc.) for the meeting have been sent to voting members. If you did not receive them and thought you should have, please contact Fr Michael.

Monthly Collections

As we continue to restore many of the beloved practices of our parish we are reinstating our monthly Sunday collections:

- 2nd Sunday of the Month—Seminarian at St Herman's Seminary in Alaska
- 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 plan on contributing as you can.



Auxiliary Cooking Day—Tues 2/22 9am

This Tuesday the Auxiliary will be gathering to make pierogies for our upcoming Spring Bake Sale.

We need your help. It is also a nice time to visit and chat with your fellow parishioners.

If you are available plan on coming and joining the fun.



Annual Donation Letters Distributed

Our Treasurer, Dennis Stavrou, has sent out all the recognitions letters for everyone's donations for 2021. If you have questions please contact him at Treasurer@stjohnofdamascus.org

Parish Life

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

Keep Informed Receive Weekly E-mails About Parish Life

We are an active community with a lot going on. These days it is especially helpful to keep up to date on things taking place in our parish.

We have an email group
"News@stjohnofdamascus.org"

It is all those who are interested in the activities of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church. Members receive periodic notifications of special events, parish meetings and weekly newsletters.

**To be included E-mail Fr Michael at
info@stjohnofdamascus.org**

Ministry Coordinator Directory

Below are the people who lead various ministries in our parish. Feel free to contact them to find out how to offer your God-given time and talents to the life of our community.

Adult Ed — Fr Michael

Altar Servers—Subdeacon Ken Telles

Auxiliary President — Tanya Franchak

Candle Stand — Gene Francello

Choir—Carole Shumaik

Church School — Bill Moision

Church Sign Messages—John Thayer

Fellowship/Coffee Hour — Linda Kedroff

Diamond Circle Seniors — Jim & Patty Pelachik

Greeters — Valerie Lane

Handmaidens — Sally Menig & Desiree Geralt

Koliva — Fr Michael

Parish Council President—Patty Pelachik

Prospora — Fr Michael

Readers at Divine Liturgy—Bill Moision

Saturday Adult Ed — Dn George Shumaik

Sunday Commemoration Loaves— Fr Michael

Consider taking part and helping this group make St John's the wonderful lively parish it is. For information on how to contact any of the above please speak with Fr Michael.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection — Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life
Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor
of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths
Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of
heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God!
Glory to Thee!

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!

KONTAKIA

St John of Damascus — Tone 4

Let us the faithful sing praises to John,
worthy of great honor the composer of hymns.
The star & teacher of the Orthodox Faith,
the defender of its doctrine.

Through the might of the Lord's Cross he
overcame heretical error!

Now he is fervent in prayer to Christ God,
to grant forgiveness of our sins.

Prodigal Son – Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches
which You gave me.

And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:

"I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me a penitent,
and make me as one of Your hired servants!"

PROKEIMENA

Tone 2 (*Resurrection*) — The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.
(Ps 117/118:4)

*v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. (Ps
117/118:18)*

ALLELUIA

Tone 2—V. May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of
Jacob protect thee! (Ps. 19:1)

V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

¹²[You say:] "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be brought under the power of anything. ¹³"Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food," but God will bring to nothing both of these. However, the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is [made] for the body. ¹⁴Now God raised up the Lord, and he will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! ¹⁶Or do you not know that whoever is joined to a prostitute is one body? For God says, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷But whoever who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. ¹⁸Flee sexual immorality! "Every sin that a person can do is outside the body," but whoever commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit which dwells in you, and which you have from God? You are not your own! ²⁰You were bought with a price! Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.

Gospel — Luke 15: 11-32

¹¹Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.' So the father divided his livelihood between them. ¹³A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property, living immorally. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself, he said, 'How

many of my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! ¹⁸I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son! Make me as one of your hired servants.' "

²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! ²³Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and [now he] is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. ²⁷The servant replied, 'Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.'

²⁸However, the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and begged him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look, for so many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed a commandment of yours. Yet, you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

³¹The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! ³²But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!' "

Our Life in Christ

Some Frequently Asked Questions about the Orthodox Christian Church

Q. Why do you call yourselves “Orthodox”?

A. The word orthodox was coined by the ancient Christian Fathers of the Church, the name traditionally given to the Christian writers in the first centuries of Christian history. Orthodox is a combination of two Greek words, orthos and doxa.

Orthos means “straight” or “correct.” (It is also found in the word “orthopedics,” which in the original Greek means “the correct education of children.”) Doxa means at one and the same time “glory,” “worship” and “doctrine.” So the word orthodox signifies both “proper worship” and “correct doctrine.” The Orthodox Church today is the same as the undivided Church in ancient times. The Protestant Reformer Martin Luther once remarked that he believed the pure Faith of primitive Christianity is to be found in the Orthodox Church.

Q: “Why do we have to stand throughout the entire service?”

A: We stand as a way of showing our respect in the presence of God, Who is very much present and the focal point of our liturgical worship. When the President enters for the State of the Union Address, everybody stands. When a judge enters the courtroom, everybody stands. In the “old days” we used to stand when a teacher entered the classroom. Standing is simply our way of honoring the One in Whose presence we find ourselves during church services. There are other times when we kneel (i.e., make full prostration) or even sit (especially for the Old Testament Lessons or even readings from the Psalms), but in prayer at Liturgy, we stand.

Q: “Why are the church services so long?”

A: Our services are not really long, when you realize just what it is that we do. We gather, we chant psalms, we pray, we proclaim / hear the Scriptures, we hear the homily, we pray some more, we offer our gifts to God, we receive the Holy Communion, we give thanks, we are dismissed. That’s a lot. To squeeze that much in in less than 90 minutes would really be pushing it. Quality activity takes time.

Q: “Why do we use incense?”

A: At Vespers, we chant “Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense, and the lifting-up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.” (Ps. 141:2) This comes from the manner of worship that God had ordered to be made in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and the Temple in Jerusalem (Exod. 37:25-29) The prophet Malachi prophesied that incense would be offered everywhere God is worship (Malachi 1:11). In the Book of Revelation, incense is likened to the prayer of the saints rising to the Throne of God. (5:8) Smoke is also a symbol for the very presence of God. (Exod. 19:16-20) We cense the Gospel Book on the altar, we cense the altar, then the icons and frescoes in the sanctuary, we cense the icons in the church, and finally, we cense the faithful. This is a means of honoring them all.

Q. Are you Conservative or Liberal?

A. In current usage, the words “conservative” and “liberal” indicate a variety of often-conflicting viewpoints. Usually we don’t really fit either category very well, as the Orthodox Faith is a lot older than the American “culture war.”

On seven major occasions during the first millenium of Christianity, the leaders of the worldwide Church; from Britain to Ethiopia, from Spain and Italy to Arabia and Asia, met to settle crucial issues of Faith. The Orthodox Church is highly “conservative” in the sense that we have not added to or subtracted from any of the teachings of those Ecumenical Councils. But that very “conservatism” often makes us “liberal” in certain questions of civil liberties, social justice and peace. We are very conservative, or rather *traditional*, in our liturgical worship.

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 'home or 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).*

January 6-March 5

Annual House Blessings—Contact Fr Michael to Schedule

Monday Feb 21

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

Tuesday Feb 22

9:00am — Auxiliary Baking Day
10:30am — Father's Café (in person & via Zoom)

Wednesday Feb 23

7:00pm — Adult Ed: Who's Who in the Canon of St Andrew
(Old Testament)
In-person & Via Zoom (see online calendar for link)

Saturday Feb 26

1:00pm — Adult Ed Book Study: The Names of Jesus (Via Zoom)

Tuesday March 1

9:00am — Auxiliary Baking Day
10:30am — Father's Café (in person & via Zoom)

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

Many Years!

Name Days

Kyra Toth 2/28

Birthdays

Julie Callahan 2/21

Oliver George Cooper 2/23

Joseph Temnick 2/24

Wedding Anniversaries

Valerie & Chris Lane 2/20

Joseph & Cora Temnick 2/22

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