

January 15, 2023



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

31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 6

ST. PAUL OF THEBES

ST. JOHN THE HUT-DWELLER

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Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow Jesus Christ and 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.

Please join us for our fellowship meal following the service

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From the Holy Fathers

We must first turn our words to prayer....Paul often does this at the beginning of his epistles. He first mentions

God and then does not go on to his teaching until he pays to God the glory and praise due to him. Listen: "To the King of ages, the immortal, the invisible, the only God of wisdom, be honor and glory for ever and ever! Amen."

St. John Chrysostom

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Receive our Weekly
Parish E-mails**

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

·:THE RICH YOUNG MAN·:



Parish Life

Blood Drive Sign-up

We are working on scheduling another blood drive here at St John's to help with the current blood shortages being reported in San Diego County. This time we will be working with the San Diego Blood Bank.

We need 35 people to sign-up before we contact them about setting a day and time. At present we have 9.

Please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulleting board to the right of the doors in the church hall.



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.

Look for the Scrip sign on the rectangle table next to the church hall doors.

Adult Classes Resume This Week New Adult Ed Wednesdays 7pm Christ's Parables: Images of the Kingdom

Our Orthodox Christianity 101 class on Monday evenings and our Wednesday evening Adult Education Class will resume this week.

This year our parish education classes are focusing on the gospels. Our last Wednesday evening class was "The Gospel and the Gospels"

Our next class will be on Christ's Parables: Images of the Kingdom and will continue up until Great Lent.. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to take part.

Classes will be held in person and via Zoom (see online calendar for link



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
info@stjohnofdamascus.org

Parish Life

Handmaidens Training

We will be restarting having the wine as well as bread for the faithful after receiving Holy Communion, Our Handmaidens will be facilitating this and will be having 2 practices before we start. They will be

- Sun Jan 15—TODAY
- Sun Feb 5

Handmaidens need to be sure to attend at least one of the sessions. As time goes by we will have other opportunities for others to learn.



Fellowship Meal Sign-up Posted Jan—June

The sign-up calendar for fellowship meals after Sunday Divine Liturgies for the first half of 2023 has been posted in the church hall on the bulletin board. Please take a look and sign up for a few. There is room on the form for multiple families to sign-up for a given Sunday so no one is tasked with feed the masses alone. Please be a part of this important ministry of fellowship and hospitality.



Youth Singers Workshop with Vladimir Gorbik—January 29

The children & youth of St John's are invited to St Katherine Orthodox Church for an hour-long session with Vladimir Gorbik on Sunday afternoon June 29. . It takes 25 minutes to drive. They would have a chance to meet kids from St Katherine's and from other parishes that might come, learn some songs together and make some new friends. Please speak to Carole Shumaik if your child would like to attend.

Membership/Pledge Forms DUE

We have received many membership forms but are aware that there are still those who have not submitted their forms for 2023.

PLEASE complete your form TODAY, if at all possible and submit it to Fr Michael or a member of the Parish Council.

Next week an email will be sent to those who submitted forms last year but have not done so this year. There is a list of VOTING MEMBERS posted in the narthex as well as on the bulletin board in the church hall indicating Communing & Confessing members of the parish who we have received forms from.

Dates for 2023

MOVABLE FEASTS

Palm Sunday	April 9
Pascha	April 16
Ascension	May 25
Pentecost	June 4

FASTS

Great Lent	Feb 27-April 17
Holy Week	April 10-15
Apostles Fast	June 12-28
Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

Publican & Pharisee	Feb 5-11
Bright Week	April 16-22
After Pentecost	June 4-10
After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection — Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead,//
glory to You.

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!

Ss Paul & John —Tone 4

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

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the
Life, and the God of all.

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.

St Paul — Tone 3

Today we gather and praise you with hymns
as an unwaning ray of the spiritual Sun;
for you shine on those in the darkness of
ignorance,
leading all ^mankind to the heights,//
venerable Paul, adornment of Thebes and firm
foundation of the fathers and ascetics.

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!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 6 (Resurrection) — O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

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

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Timothy 1: 15-17

¹⁵ This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the first.

¹⁶ This is how I obtained mercy, so that in me as 'the first,' Jesus Christ might show all his patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the eternal King, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel — Luke 18: 18-27

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁹ Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

²¹ The ruler replied, "I have observed all these things from my youth."

²² When Jesus heard these things, he said, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have, distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²³ But when the man heard these things, he became very distressed because he was very rich.

²⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had become very distressed, said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone who is wealthy to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

²⁶ Those who heard this exclaimed, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷ But Jesus replied, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

ALLELUIA

Tone 6 (Resurrection) — V. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps. 90:1)

V. He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (Ps. 90:2)

Our Life in Christ—Annual Blessing of Homes

The blessing of homes of faithful Christians following the feast of Holy Theophany is an ancient custom. It is the central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's epiphany to the world and His baptism in the Jordan River.

From the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent, the Orthodox priest visits all the members of the Church in order to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the sanctified water.

According to the Orthodox Christian Faith, the family is considered to be a "small church" and the family table is the "home altar" where the people gather each day to receive their "daily bread" from God with thanksgiving in the Name of Christ. Thus, during the Theophany season, the priest, who is the father of the great "family of God," the Church community, comes to each of the "small churches" bringing the blessings of God the Father and all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

The sanctification of the home takes place not only by the words of prayer, but by the sprinkling with the blessed water which stands for the new creation of the Kingdom of God in which God Himself "fills all things with Himself" including even the smallest particles of material existence.

The priest asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. All pray together for the good of the living and the departed of the family, and of all who live and have lived in the house. All sing together the great hymn of salvation that Christ, the Son of the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, "has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world." This the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is "filled with all the fullness of God."

Preparing for your house blessing

When the priest comes to bless the family and its house it is not something to worry about. The priest comes to bless a house that is lived in, not one that has to be in Better Homes and Gardens. There are some basics that are normally observed:

- A lighted candle, an icon and a wide bowl for the blessed water should be placed on the main table in the house.
- All radios, televisions, video games, streaming etc. should be turned off. Phones should be on silent.
- All who are present in the house should come together and stand by the table until the end of service.
- Those who are able should join in the singing of the hymns and responses of the services.
- The first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered, including, of course, all members of the family and those living in the house, should be clearly printed on a sheet of paper, with the clear distinction between the living and the departed.

Taken and revised from the Introduction to the Great Blessing of Water by Fr. Thomas Hopko.

Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent

(Jan. 6-Feb. 25) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.

Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.

Parish Elections Nominations Being Taken

Those who are interested in serving in one of the elected positions in our parish should speak to Fr Michael or a member of the Parish Council.

Elected positions include:

- Parish Council Member
- Parish Auditor (need 2 new people)
- Parish Lay Representative.

Nino Kiria & Gene Francello are our Nominations Committee and will be asking people if they would be willing to run for a position



Monthly Collections

St John's is committed to support our OCA seminaries who train our future priests & leaders as well as the needs of so many who need basic things like food, shelter, etc. :

- 2nd Sunday of each Month—Seminarians
- 3rd Sunday of each 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.

Parish Annual Meeting Sunday February 19

Following our parish tradition of having our annual meeting on the Sunday after the Super Bowl, the Parish Council has scheduled this year's annual meeting for Sunday February 19 after Divine Liturgy.

Be sure to mark your calendars and make sure to get your membership/pledge form submitted.



Trash/Recycling Sorting REMINDERS

Our amazing members who take out the trash and recycling after our fellowship meals are noticing that we need to remember a couple things about what goes into which bin.

Plates & Bowls—We purchase paper plates and bowls that are compostable. Used plates and bowls go into the GREEN bin.

Plastic Utensils (forks, spoons, knives go into the TRASH bins.

Styrofoam— All Styrofoam cups (and bowls if they are accidentally put out) go into the bin marked STYROFOAM..

Parents are asked to please help their children get items into the correct bins

If you don't take the time to put things in the correct bins, then someone else has to sort through the dirty trash in the bins. Please be mindful and considerate.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Jan 6-Feb 25

Annual House Blessings

Contact Fr Michael to arrange a time and place

Mon Jan 16

6:00pm—Orthodox Christianity 101 (In person & via Zoom—see website calendar for link)

Tues Jan 17

11:00am—Diamond Circle Luncheon at Church Hall

Wed Jan 18

7:00am — Monthly Weekday Divine Liturgy

10:30am — Father's Café (In person & via Zoom—see website calendar for link)

7:00pm—Adult Ed: Topic The Parables of Christ

Mon Jan 23

6:00pm—Orthodox Christianity 101 (In person & via Zoom—see website calendar for link)

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

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

Many Years!

Name Days

Carmen (Anthony) Brown	1/17
Ethan (Athanasius) Menig	1/18

Birthdays

Susan (Ruth) Miller, Pauline Somers, Dennis (Dionysius) Stavrou	1/17
Kelvin John Brown	1/18
Josephine Grace Lorelli	1/20
George Darjania, Max Federoff	1/21

Wedding Anniversaries

Bill (Vladimir) & Therese Moision	1/19
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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 & Pdcn. George Shumaik

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