

January 22, 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

**32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 7
APOSTLE TIMOTHY OF THE 70
SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY**

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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

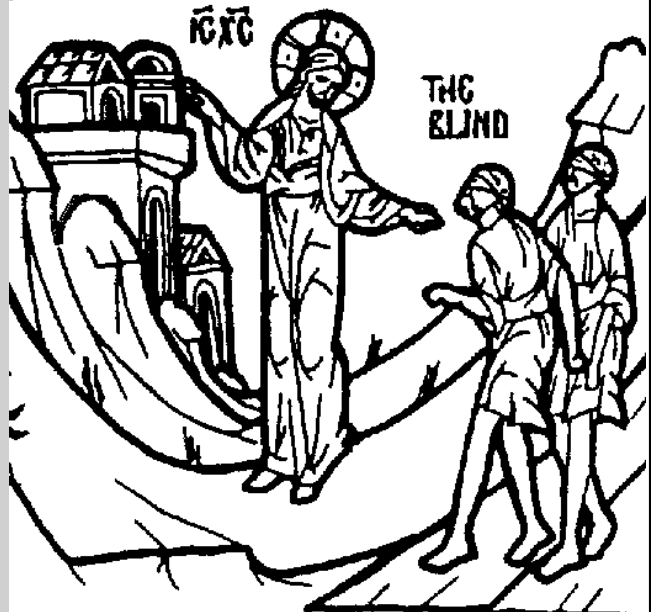
What the apostles received, they passed on without change, so that the doctrine of the mysteries (the sacraments) and Christ would remain correct. The divine Word—the Son of God—wants us to be their (the apostles') disciples. It is appropriate for them to be our teachers, and it is necessary for us to submit to their teaching alone. Only from them and those who have faithfully taught their doctrine do we get, as Paul writes, "faithful words, worthy of full acceptance."

St. Athanasius

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

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



Jesus Heals the Blind 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.

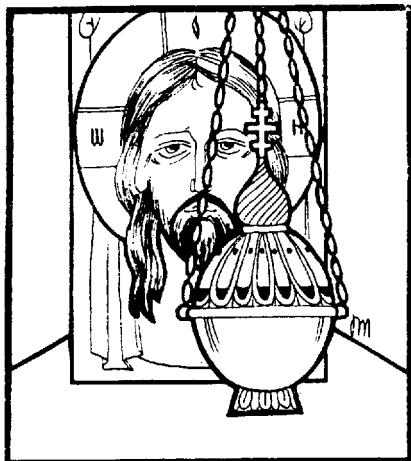
Please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulleting board to the right of the doors in the church hall.



Schedule Your Annual House Blessing Jan 6-Feb 25

The annual blessing of our homes is a regular part of Orthodox Christian life. It reaffirms our understanding that God desires and promises to be with us ALWAYS. It is our opportunity to receive the blessing of the Lord into our daily lives in the place we spend most of our time.

You can schedule your house blessing by contacting Fr Michael via email, text or phone.



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)

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

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—Completed
- 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.

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.

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

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.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection — Tone 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art 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. Timothy—Tone 4

Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things, you were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest. From the chosen Vessel you drew ineffable mysteries; you kept the faith and finished a course equal to His. Bishop-martyr Timothy, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

St. Anastasius—Tone 4

Your holy martyr Anastasius, O Lord, through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through his intercessions save our souls!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection — Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

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.

Ss. Timothy & Anastasius — Tone 1

Let us the faithful praise the Holy Apostle Timothy, the companion of Paul in his travels; and, together with, him let us honor the wise Anastasius, who came as a star from Persia for the healing of the passions of our souls and the diseases of our bodies.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians – 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 and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, For you always protect those who honor you!

PROKEIMENON

Tone 7 (Resurrection) — The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (*Ps 28/29:11*)

v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!
(*Ps 28/29:1*)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Tim 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: 35-43

³⁵ As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road, begging. ³⁶ Hearing a crowd going by, he asked what this meant.

³⁷ People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ He began to cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Then those who led the way rebuked him, ordering him to be quiet. But the blind man cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰ Standing still, Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When the man had come near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do?"

The man replied, "Lord, that I may see again!"

⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you."

⁴³ Immediately, the man received his sight and began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. When all the people saw this, they praised God.

ALLELUIA

Tone 7 (Resurrection) — V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps. 91:1)

V. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps. 91:2a)

Our Life in Christ—Sanctity of Life Sunday

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,
My Beloved Children in the Lord,

From the earliest times, Christians have been at variance with the world because of their reverence toward sexuality, marriage, and human life at all its stages. In the post-apostolic Epistle to Diognetus, very possibly from the pen of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Theologian, we read that Christians 'marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh' (ch. 5).

Rather than viewing pleasure and fleeting happiness as the supreme good, Christians know that virtue, a rightly-ordered relationship with God and the world which he created, is what leads up toward true goodness, which is God himself. Another word for this right relationship with the Creator is life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and incarnate Word came to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between God and man and restore us to our friendship with the Divinity, which friendship had eroded because of sin (Eph. 2:14). Thus he is revealed to be the Life and Light of the world (Jn.

8:12, 11:25, 14:6), the one in whom and through whom we enter into a rightly-ordered relationship with existence and the Source of existence, and who shows us what that relationship—virtue—is, and where it leads—eternal life, eternal relationship with the Lord and his saints.

Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17).

Thus, we understand that there is no opposition between reverence for life and true human flourishing. Or, to cast the matter more bluntly, we can never accept abortion and infanticide as a solution for other human ills. Rather, we must see the sins of abortion and infanticide as manifestations of the same evils that underlie other social injustices.

This year, Sanctity of Life Sunday has taken on a new meaning. The Supreme Court has undone, as far as lies in its power, the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. But this means that our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning.

We know that, as soon as Christians gained a voice in the Roman Empire, that used that voice to speak against the enormities that the Empire committed against human dignity: slavery, gladiator and beast fights, and, yes, abortion and infanticide. As long as we Orthodox Christians have some voice in



Our Life in Christ—Sanctity of Life Sunday

this pluralistic, democratic society, it is right that we use this voice to defend the weakest among us, including especially the unborn children who still lie under threat of legalized abortion in many jurisdictions.

But we must never, ever allow ourselves to become focused solely on political, and much less partisan and ideological, pursuits. Instead, the defense and promotion of life must start and end with our personal commitment: in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, in our communities, with alms of time and treasure and talent and effort. With whatever resources God may give us, we must promote true human flourishing, starting with the right to life for all people, at all stages of life. And we must do what we can to orient our life toward God through virtuous living, encouraging the same in our brethren and neighbors wherever and however it is possible. In so doing, we might hope to attain to the everlasting life and bountifulness of the heavenly kingdom, where Christ the Lord reigns with his Father and his All-holy and life-giving Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Prayer for Sanctity of Life Sunday

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, Who are in the bosom of the Father, True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: You were pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Your All-Holy Spirit. O Master, Who came that we might have life more abundantly, we ask You to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Your image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For You are the Giver of Life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Your divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us, come to the light of Your Truth and glorify You, the Giver of Life, together with Your Father, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



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 23

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

Wed Jan 25

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 30

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

Wed Feb 1

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

6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for Meeting of the Lord

Thurs Feb 2—Meeting of the Lord

8:30am — 3rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Candles

10:30am — Father's Café (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

Jordan (Maximos) Ward, Matthew (Maximos) Carver 1/21

Birthdays

Kathleen Callahan, Elaine Kowalik 1/24

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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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