

January 29, 2023



# THE IMAGE...

(Jn 12:45 & 14:9; Heb 1:3; Col 1:15)

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

Publication of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church, Poway, CA

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 8

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GODBEARER,  
BISHOP OF ANTIOCH

+

**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**

The humble person believes that all things  
depend on Christ and that Christ gives His  
grace, and in that way he makes progress.  
The person who possesses holy humility  
lives even now in the earthly uncreated  
Church. He always has the joy of Christ,  
even in the most displeasing  
circumstances.

—*St. Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia*

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

E-mail [info@stjohnofdamascus.org](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)  
with your request.



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

## Parish Life

### 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.



### 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.



### 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.

### Adult Classes 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.



### Help Needed with Pre-School & Early Elementary Church School Classes

We need a couple people to help with our pre-school and early elementary church school classes.

Classes are held twice a month (1st & 3rd Sundays) from September to June at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

If you are willing to help please see Bill Moision, Fr Michael or Sally Menig

### Auxiliary Meeting Sun Feb 5

The Auxiliary will be having a meeting on Sunday Feb 5 after Divine Liturgy.

It is a wonderful time for people who may not be aware of all that the Auxiliary does to learn about its various ministries & activities.

Newcomers are very welcome to attend and see how they can help!

If you have any questions see Tanya Franchak or any member of the Auxiliary.

### 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 8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us  
from our sufferings!!  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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!

#### St. Ignatius—Tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, you found the  
way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of  
God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, you  
defended the Faith, even to the shedding of  
your blood.//  
O Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to  
save our souls!

### KONTAKIA

#### Resurrection — Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead  
and resurrected Adam.  
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//  
and the world celebrates Your rising from the  
dead, O greatly Merciful One!

#### 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. Ignatius — Tone 4

Today you rose from the east,  
enlightening all of creation with your  
teachings,//  
and you are crowned with martyrdom,  
Godbearing Ignatius.

#### 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 8** (Resurrection) — Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle — 1 Tim 4: 9-15

<sup>9</sup>This saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance. <sup>10</sup>For this purpose, we both work hard and experience rejection, because we have placed our trust in the living God who is the Savior of all, especially of those who believe. <sup>11</sup>Command and teach these things.

<sup>12</sup>Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for those who believe: in speech, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. <sup>13</sup>Until I come, devote yourself to public reading, encouragement, and teaching.

<sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the council of presbyters.

<sup>15</sup>Be attentive in these things. Give yourself to them completely, so that your progress may be manifest to all.

### Gospel — Luke 19: 1-10

<sup>19</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. <sup>2</sup>There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, and could not because of the crowd, for he was short. <sup>4</sup>He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was [about] to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house!" <sup>6</sup>He hurried, came down, and received Jesus with joy. <sup>7</sup>But when the people saw it, they all grumbled, saying, "He has gone in to stay with a man who is a sinner!"

<sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have wrongfully obtained money from anyone, I restore four times as much!"

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

### ALLELUIA

**Tone 8** (Resurrection) — V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)

V. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

## Our Life in Christ—The Pre-Lenten Sundays



The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of **Great Lent**, which is itself preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about **Zacchaeus** the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and how his life was greatly changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (*Lk 19:3*). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through lent towards Easter. It is the first movement of salvation.

The following Sunday is that of the **Publican and the Pharisee**. The focus here is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray -- one a pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God (*Lk 18:9*). The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, and to beg for mercy.



The next Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent is the **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**. Hearing the parable of Christ about God's loving forgiveness, we are called to come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (*Lk 15:11-24*).

The next Sunday is called **Meatfare Sunday** since it is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the **Last Judgment** (*Mt 25:31-46*). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.



*... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and in prison and you visited me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me (Mt 25).*

We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by "religious exercises" alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.



Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called **Cheesefare Sunday** and **Forgiveness Sunday**, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (*Mt 6:14-18*).

## 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. (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

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 on a 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 advance, 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.

### Blessing of Candles on Thursday Morning—February 2

Each year on the feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple Orthodox Christians bring candles to be blessed to keep in their homes and used at special times throughout the year (Holy Pascha, name days, wedding anniversaries, anniversaries of the repose of loved ones, days of special need, house blessings, etc.)

If you are not able to attend the Divine Liturgy that day but would like to take part in this ancient tradition, purchase the candles today or sometime before Thursday, put your name on a paper with a rubber band (available on the welcome table) around the candles. They will be blessed after the Liturgy on the 2nd and you can pick them up afterwards.



## 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 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

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

### Sun Feb 5

After Divine Liturgy—Handmaiden Training & Auxiliary Meeting

### Mon Feb 6

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](http://www.stjohnofdamascus.org/calendar)**

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

### Many Years!

<i>Name Days</i>		<i>Wedding Anniversaries</i>	
Kathryn Anne Jones	2/3	Shari & Wayne Henry	2/2

#### *Birthdays*

Elizabeth Brown	2/1
Laurian Dobrota	2/3
Michael Kapsimalis	2/4

#### *Other*

Archpriest Michael Anderson ordination to the Holy Diaconate 1997 2/2

### PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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