

August 6, 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

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 8
THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD,
GOD & SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST

+

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.

+

A Word from the Holy Fathers

He is transfigured to manifest the glory of
the Cross, to console Peter and the others
in their dread of the Passion and to bring
their minds to elevated understanding.
Those who went up with him did not hold
their peace but were destined to speak of
the glory which He was to accomplish at
Jerusalem—of His Passion and the glory of
the Cross.

*St. John Chrysostom
Gospel of Matthew—Homily 563*

+

**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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2023-2024

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Each year our parish education for children, youth & adults focuses on one of four themes: The Old Covenant (Testament), The Gospels, The Life of the Church, Sp. This year we will focus on the Life of the Church. This can include the Acts of the Apostles and epistles in Holy Scripture. It can also include writings and lives of saints, parts of Church history, including our history in North America as well as an other local Orthodox Church.

Classes will begin in September. If you have any ideas or questions please speak with Fr Michael.



Please Sign-up for Fellowship Hour

There are a number of Sundays that have openings for people to help with our Fellowship Meal after Liturgy.

We encourage groups of 4 to alleviate the cost of trying to feed our growing parish.

Simple meals are welcome!

If you have any questions speak with Linda Kedroff.



FOOD ALLERGIES

There are many people who are afflicted with food allergies—some of which can be nearly lethal. If you are bringing something for the weekly potluck **please create a sign and attach it to your dish if it includes items like:**

- Peanuts/Nuts
- Shellfish
- Cantaloupe
- MSG

Thank you!

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday

America's tragically high incarceration rate (2.3 million) means that—chances are—more than one parishioner in your church has been touched by a person serving time in prison.

OCPM introduces prisoners to the fullness of the Orthodox Faith. And we help Orthodox Christians who have been convicted of crimes to return to the Orthodox faith and find healing and reconciliation. But we can't do this work without the support of our parishes. As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, we are entirely funded through parish and individual support.

Please help us fulfill the commandment of our Lord to visit Him in prison (Matthew 25:36) by participating in this vital day of awareness.

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. For Orthodox Christians who have been arrested for crimes, OCPM helps them return to the Faith, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ. For both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, OCPM provides spiritual care, enabling prisoners to find hope and purpose in their lives.

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

Parish Life

Viewing of Episode of The Chosen w/ Discussion Today

Today around 12:20pm after Fellowship Hour we will have a viewing of season 1 episode 5 "The Wedding Gift" of the TV show "The Chosen" After the episode we will have a short discussion.

All are welcome!

SUMMER IS HERE! HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH

With summer comes much needed vacations and opportunities to do fun things with friends & loved ones. As you are planning your summer be sure to keep your faith in mind. Remember to attend to your prayer life, scripture reading, and reception of the holy Sacraments.

Some dates to remember...

	SUMMER FEASTS
August 6	Transfiguration
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos

	SUMMER FASTS
August 1-14	Dormition Fast

Also, please do what you can to **maintain your much-needed offerings of time and talent as well as your pledges and contributions over the summer.** Unfortunately, our parish's expenses and needs do not decrease during the summer months. The water bill still needs to be paid. We still want to have fellowship meals after Liturgy on Sundays.

Regarding financial giving, people handle this differently. Some people make up for weeks away when they return. Other members keep their financial contributions regular by using their online banking system to write and send their donations to the mission each month automatically. The parish also has an online giving system on our website. Simply click the "DONATE" button.

Whatever works best for you, please keep your spiritual home in mind.

Online Giving System

We have an online giving system that enables people to be able to manage their giving to our church.

You can set up automatic ongoing donations each month to cover your pledges. You can also use the system to make occasional donations for things like charities, flowers, candles, memorial donations, etc. You can even pay for your bookstore purchases.

There is an option to cover the bank processing fees if you would like to do that.

Not only is this a convenience for you it helps reduce the work required of our Counters on Sundays

Visit www.stjohnofdamascus.org and click on **DONATE**



Scan with your phone to be taken to our secure online giving system.
You can set up 1-time or recurring gifts

Dates for 2023

FASTS

Dormition Fast	August 1-14
Nativity Fast/Advent	Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 4
-----------------	--------------

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Feast—Tone 7

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos!!
O Giver of Light, glory to You!

KONTAKIA

Feast—Tone 7

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,
and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold You crucified, they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world!!
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

PROKEIMENON

Tone 4 (*Transfiguration*) — O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all. (Ps. 103:26)

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps. 103:1)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 2 Peter 1:10-19

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, do all that you can to make your calling and election assured. Indeed, if you do these things, you will never stumble.

¹¹ Thus, you will be richly granted the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² Therefore, I will not be negligent to remind you of these things although you [already] know them and are established in the truth which you now have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you [of these things]. ¹⁴ I know that I shall lay aside my tent very quickly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ And so, I will make every effort [to ensure] that you will always be able to remember these things, even after my departure.

¹⁶ Certainly, we did not depend on cleverly invented fables when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we were eyewitnesses of his majesty! ¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ Therefore, we have the word of prophecy made even more certain, and you should pay attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

Gospel — Matthew 17:1-9

¹⁷ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and he brought them up into a high mountain by themselves.

² [There], he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elias (Elijah) appeared to them, talking with him.

⁴ Peter then said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here! If you want, let us make three tents here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elias (Elijah)."

⁵ While Peter was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

⁶ When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were very afraid. ⁷ Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up, and do not be afraid." ⁸ Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus alone. ⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them this order: "Do not tell anyone what you saw, until the Son of Man has risen again from the dead."

ALLELUIA

Tone 8 — V. The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours! (Ps. 88:11a)

V. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout! (Ps. 88:14b)

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry



Orthodox Christian
PRISON MINISTRY

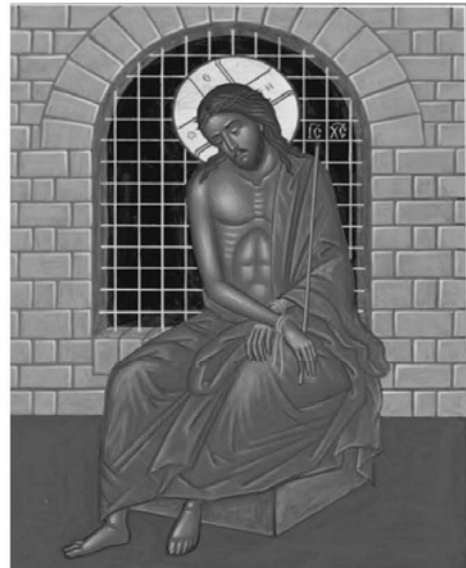
PRISON MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians practicing their faith in prison?

Or that there are prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the Orthodox Church?

Who will minister to them?

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church. OCPM corresponds with thousands of prisoners across the country and provides spiritual books, Bibles, icons, and catechism courses. OCPM trains Orthodox priests and laypeople to enter prisons and minister to prisoners.



3,881

TOTAL PRISONERS MINISTERED TO

51,188

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS, AND SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT IN 2022

*"I was in prison,
and you visited Me."
Matthew 25:36*

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183
New York, NY 10001

347-868-6957
info@theoCPM.org

WWW.THEOCPM.ORG



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Our Life in Christ—The Blessing of Fruit on Transfiguration

The blessing of fruits i.e., grapes, apples, etc., is a very beautiful custom of our Holy Church. The practice signifies the final transfiguration of all things in Christ our Savior. "It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the Paradise of God's Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the Glory of the Lord".



This is an early Christian tradition. The first week of August, on the sixth of August, the farmers used to gather the first fruits of their summer harvest (grapes, figs, etc.) and to offer thanks to God and offer them to the Church to be blessed and then to give them to the faithful present at the Divine Liturgy as a blessing to them. These fruits are called the "beginnings".

In a text from the 7th century ("the laws of the kingdom") by Emperor Constantine Porfirogenitos this tradition is described clearly: "The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the "beginnings" ("aparches") in Chalcedon, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the Holy Day of the Transfiguration of Christ, to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the faithful.

This tradition is adhered to in various parts of Greece where they grow grapes.

Saint John Chrysostom wrote: "Plowman receives fruit from the earth not so much for his labor and diligence, as out of the goodness of God Who grows this fruit, because neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters, but God that gives the increase".

Grapes are brought to church because they are directly connected to the Holy Eucharistic Mystery (Sacraments); that is why in the prayer for the blessing of grapes the priest says, "Bless, Lord, this new fruit of the vine which reached ripeness because Thou kindly provided god weather, drops of rain and stillness. Let eating this fruit of vine makes us joyful. And give us the honor of offering this fruit to Thee, as the gift of purging of sins, altogether with the Holy Body of Thy Christ.



In Slavic countries apples are blessed this day, due to the climate and scarcity of grapes at this time of the year.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mon Aug 7

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed Aug 9—St Herman of Alaska

7:00am — Divine Liturgy

10:30am — Father's Café

Mon Aug 14 (Eve of Dormition)

6:00pm — Great Vespers & Litya for the Dormition of the Theotokos

Tues Aug 15—Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

8:30am Hours, 9:00am Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

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 Day

Name Day

Sbdn Ken (Herman) Telles 8/9

Birthdays

Alexis Rahal, Anthony Baquero 8/6

Donald (Yakov) Rylander 8/11

Pearl Elizabeth Keeling, Val Neskin 8/13

Wedding Anniversaries

Michael & Carolyn Kapsimalis 8/7

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