

August 13, 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

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 1  
THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD,  
GOD & SAVIOR  
JESUS CHRIST

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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**

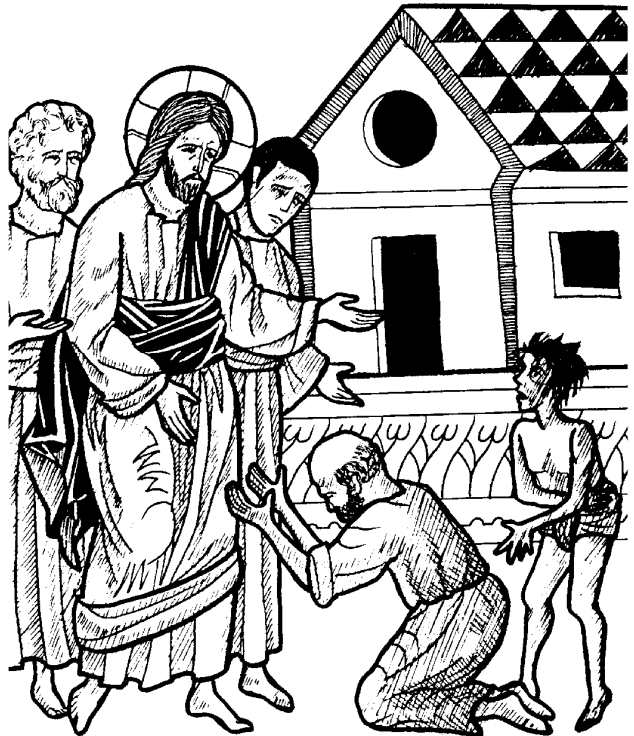
We are blessed, for our Lord has come. He  
has come for our sake. He likened himself  
to His people and came to His people for  
their sake. He came to save the sinners,  
which means us, for we are among the  
sinners. He came to redeem the dead,  
which means us, for we are among the  
dead. Blessed is the Lord who came to  
save the sinners and to redeem the dead!

*St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

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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](mailto:info@stjohnofdamascus.org)  
with your request.



Lord, have mercy on my son!

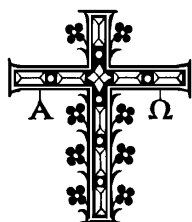
## Parish Life

### 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.



#### Brick Pavers Fundraiser

Looking at the needs of the parish, the Parish Council is moving to complete the brick pavers along the walkway from the lower parking lot to the steps leading up to the church. The funds collected will be for projects like youth activities, enhancement of the area by the playground and the icon frescoes in the church.

The donation is \$200 for a brick with a name or message of your choice on it.

There are 88 remaining spaces. You can view the existing bricks for ideas.

The deadline to donate towards a brick is November 1st. Forms will be in the back of the church in the narthex and in the church hall.

#### 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 6 "Indescribable Compassion" of the TV show "The Chosen" After the episode we will have a short discussion.

All are welcome!

#### Bishop Boris Scholarships Applications Due Sept 1st

In memory of our dear Bishop Boris our parish provides scholarships for students continuing their education through academic and vocational programs past high school.

If someone received a scholarship last year and is continuing their education this year, they may complete a "returning" application.

Those who have just completed high school and beginning a program can complete their full application.

Applications are in the back of the church and in the church hall.

If you have questions please contact Ken Telles or Nino Kiria.

#### 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 give as you can.

## Today's Worship — Hymns

### TROPARIA

#### Resurrection —Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,

You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

#### Transfiguration —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!

#### St Tikhon —Tone 8

From your youth you loved Christ, O blessed one.

You have been an example for all by word, life, love, faith, purity, and humility.

Therefore, you now abide in the heavenly mansions,

where you stand before the throne of the All-holy Trinity.//

Holy Hierarch Tikhon, pray for the salvation of our souls!

### KONTAKIA

#### St Tikhon—Tone 8

Successor to the Apostles, adornment of hierarchs, teacher of the Orthodox Faith,//

beseech the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.

#### 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)

**Tone 1** (St. Tikhon) -- My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Epistle —1 Corinthians 4: 9-16

<sup>9</sup> I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we are made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and people. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, but we have dishonor. <sup>11</sup> Even to this present hour, we hunger and thirst, we are naked, beaten, and [we] wander from place to place! <sup>12</sup> We work hard, with our own hands. When people curse us, we bless [in return]. When we are persecuted, we endure. <sup>13</sup> When we are defamed, we try to conciliate. We are made as the filth of the world, as the dirt wiped off by all, even until now. <sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup> For although you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, I became your father through the Good News. <sup>16</sup> I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.

### Epistle —Hebrews 7: 26-8:2

<sup>26</sup> Indeed, such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners and made higher than the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He does not need, like those [former] high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Instead, he did this once for all, when he offered himself up. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints forever a Son who has been perfected.

<sup>8</sup> The point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, <sup>2</sup> a servant of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord has set up, and not man.

### 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)

**Tone 2** - V. The mouth of the righteous shall proclaim wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps. 36:31)

## Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

### Gospel — Matthew 17: 14-23

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the crowd, a man came to Jesus. He knelt down before him and said:

<sup>15</sup> "Lord, have mercy on my son! He is epileptic and suffers terribly as he often falls into the fire and into the water. <sup>16</sup> And so, I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus answered, "Faithless and perverse generation! How much longer must I be with you? How long must I bear with you? Bring him to me."

<sup>18</sup> When Jesus rebuked it, the demon went out of the boy and he was cured from that hour.

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why were we not able to cast it out?"

<sup>20</sup> Jesus replied, "Because of your unbelief! Amen, I tell you that if you have faith [even] like a grain of mustard, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! <sup>21</sup> <But this kind [of spirit] does not go out except by prayer and fasting.>"

<sup>22</sup> While they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men. <sup>23</sup> They will kill him, and the third day, he will be raised up."

### Gospel — Matthew 5: 14-19

<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world! A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do you light a lamp and place it under a measuring basket, but on a stand. And so it shines to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Likewise, let your light shine before all, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill! <sup>18</sup> Amen, I tell you: until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments and teach others to do so shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

## The Summer Pascha: The Dormition of the Mother of God—Aug 15



The Lord Who, on Mt. Sinai, commanded by His Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12), showed by His own example how one should respect one's parent. Hanging on the Cross in agony, He remembered His mother and indicating to the Apostle John, said to her: "Woman behold your son" (St. John 19:26). After that, He said to John: "Behold your mother" (St. John 19:27). And so providing for His mother, He breathed His last.

John had a home on Zion in Jerusalem in which the Theotokos settled and remained there to live out the end of her days on earth. By her prayers, gentle counsels, meekness and patience, she greatly assisted the apostles of her Son. Primarily, she spent her entire time in Jerusalem often visiting those places which reminded her of the great events and of the great works of her Son. She especially visited Golgotha, Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives.

Of her distant journeys, her visit to St. Ignatius the Theophorus [God-bearer] in Antioch is mentioned, as well as her visit to Lazarus (whom our Lord resurrected on the fourth day), the Bishop of Cyprus, her visit to the Holy Mountain [Athos] which she blessed and her stay in Ephesus with St. John the Evangelist [The Theologian] during the time of the great persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. In her old age, she often prayed to the Lord and her God on the Mount of Olives, the site of His Ascension, that He take her from this world as soon as possible.

On one occasion, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that within three days she will find repose. The angel gave her a palm-branch to be carried at the time of her funeral procession. She returned to her home with great joy, desiring in her heart once more to see in this life, all of the apostles of Christ. The Lord fulfilled her wish and all of the apostles, borne by angels in the clouds, gathered at the same time at the home of John on Zion. With great rejoicing, she saw the holy apostles, encouraged them, counseled them and comforted them. Following that, she peacefully gave up her soul to God without any pain or physical illness. The apostles took the coffin with her body from which an aromatic fragrance emitted and, in the company of many Christians, bore it to the Garden of Gethsemane to the sepulchre of [her parents], Saints Joachim and Anna. By God's Providence, they were concealed from the evil Jews by a cloud. Anthony, a Jewish priest, grabbed the coffin with his hands with the intention of overturning it but, at that moment, an angel of God severed both his hands. He then cried out to the apostles for help and was healed since declaring his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Thomas was absent, again according to God's Providence, in order that a new and all-glorious mystery of the Holy Theotokos would again be revealed. On the third day, Thomas arrived and desired to venerate [kiss] the body of the Holy All-pure one. But when the apostles opened the sepulchre, they found only the winding sheet and the body was not in the tomb. That evening, the Theotokos appeared to the apostles surrounded by a myriad of angels and said to them: "Rejoice, I will be with you always". It is not exactly known how old the Theotokos was at the time of her Falling Asleep but the overwhelming opinion is that she was over sixty years of age.

*St. Nikolai Velimirovich of South Canaan*

## The Summer Pascha: The Dormition of the Mother of God—Aug 15

The feast of the **Dormition** or **Falling-asleep of the Theotokos** is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the **Assumption**, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the **Mother of Life** and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "**hear the word of God and keep it.**" (*Luke 11:27-28*)

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has "passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight" of the Kingdom of her Son. (Vesper verse) The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin's nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: "**My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**" (*Luke 1:47*) At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where St. Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be "highly exalted" by God his Father. (*Philippians 2:5-11*) And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary's blessedness belongs to all who "**hear the word of God and keep it.**" (*Luke 11:27-28*)

Thus, the feast of the **Dormition of the Theotokos** is the celebration of the fact that all men are "highly exalted" in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary's fate is, the destiny of all those of "low estate" whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary's child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be "blessed" to be "more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim" if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is called in the Orthodox Tradition the **Image of the Church**. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

*It is the custom in churches to bless flowers and herbs on the feast of the Dormition..*



## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### 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

### Wed Aug 16

10:30am — Father's Café

6:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

**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!

#### *Name Day*

Panagiota Rahal 8/15

#### *Birthdays*

Pearl Elizabeth Keeling, Valery Neskin 8/13

Dee Leger Pluta 8/15

Layla Kathryn Menig 8/17

#### *Wedding Anniversaries*

John & Iryna Thayer 8/18

### PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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**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