

November 19, 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

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 7

PROPHET OBADIAH

MARTYR BARLAAM OF CAESAREA

+

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.

+

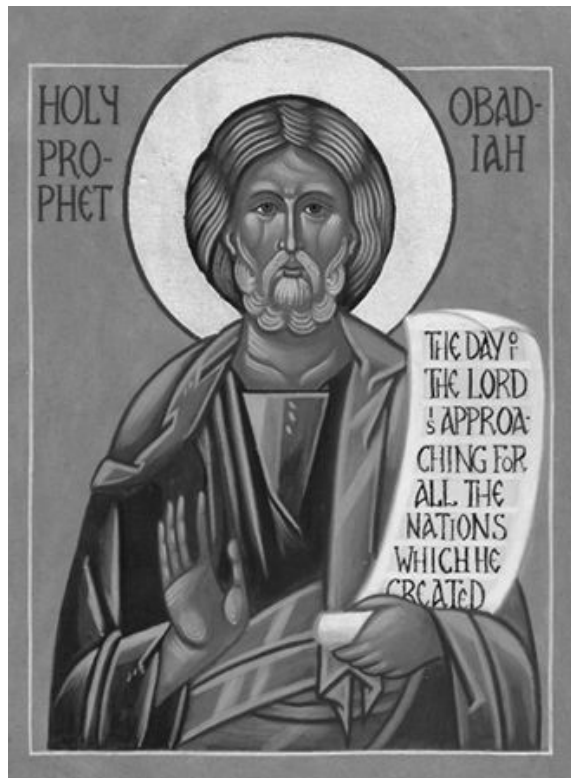
A Word from the Holy Fathers

The soul that has come to know God fully no longer desires anything else, nor does it attach itself to anything on the earth; and if you put before it a kingdom, it would not desire it, for the love of God gives such sweetness and joy to the soul that even the life of a king can no longer give it any sweetness.

—*St. Silouan the Athonite*

+

Include Something in the Bulletin or Be Included in our Weekly E-mails
E-mail info@stjohnofdamascus.org



Holy Prophet Obediah

Book of Obediah predicts the future salvation of the Gentiles (Vs. 15) and that the Savior would come forth from Sion (Vs. 17).

Parish Life

Ministry Directory

Below are the people who coordinate various ministries in our parish. Feel free to contact them to find out how to offer your God-given time and talents to the life of our community.

Adult Ed— Fr Michael

Altar Servers—Subdeacon Ken Telles

Auxiliary President — Tanya Franchak

Candle Stand — Gene Francello

Choir—Carole Shumaik

Church School — Bill Moision & Sally Menig

Counters — Fr Michael

Diamond Circle Seniors — Jim & Patty Pelachik

Electric Church Sign Messages—John Thayer

Fellowship/Coffee Hour — Linda Kedroff

Flowers/Decorating—Diane Worth

Greeters — Valerie Lane

Handmaidens — Sally Menig & Desiree Geralt

Koliva — Fr Michael

Parish Council Vice-President—Patty Pelachik

Prospora — Fr Michael

Readers at Divine Liturgy—Bill Moision

Security Committee — Parish Council

Scrip Sales—Gene Francello, Valerie Lane

Social Media —Evan Keeling & Iryna Thayer

Sunday Commemoration Loaves— Fr Michael

Consider taking part and helping this group make St John's the wonderful lively parish it is. For information on how to contact any of the above please speak with Fr Michael.

STEWARDSHIP (PLEDGE/TITHE) FORMS FOR 2024

PLEASE SUBMIT BY DEC 1

It is once again time to fill out and submit our tithe/pledge forms so that we can prepare for the coming year. Dmitriy Panasenko will have forms for everyone. There are 3 parts:

- General Information—names, addresses, birthdays, name days, wedding anniversaries, etc.
- Time & Talents—indicate by number who in your family would like to be involved in which areas of ministry in the parish for the coming year. This section also includes consent or non-consent to use photos of you, and a place to indicate your desire to officially be a member of the parish.
- Financial Offering—indicate what your financial offering for the year will be. There is a chart to remind us to consider offering the "first fruits" of the blessings we receive.

Please submit your forms by **Dec 1** to Ed Lump, Dennis Stavrou or Fr. Michael. Thank you!



Today's Charity Collection Feeding the Boys of St Innocent Orphanage for the Holidays

As it is the 3rd Sunday of the Month, we will have our usual collection for charities (local needs, IOCC, Project Mexico, etc.).

The Director of Project Mexico & St Innocent Orphanage is asking San Diego parishes to please contribute to help fill the pantry of the orphanage for the holidays.

The basket will be placed out for the veneration of the cross at the end of Liturgy. Please give as you can.

Parish Life

Bake Sale Initial Results & Gratitude

The initial numbers for this year's pre-Thanksgiving bake sale are in. Through the Grace of God and the hard work and commitment of our Auxiliary members we were able to raise about \$10,700 so far.

We are truly grateful to our Lord for inspiring all the cooks, bakers, cleaners, and organizers and blessing the work of their hands.

It is wonderful to support the parish and it is wonderful to have so many of our neighbors throughout Poway & Rancho Bernardo (and beyond!) come and see our community.

Christmas Bake Sale is coming in Sat. Dec 16



Viewing of Christmas Episode of The Chosen w/ Discussion Today

Today around 12:20pm after Fellowship Hour we will have a viewing of "The Shepherd", a telling of the Christmas story through the eyes of the TV show "The Chosen" After the episode we will have a short discussion.

All are welcome!



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.

See Carmen Brown after Liturgy for more information or to purchase your cards.

Operation Christmas Child Results & Gratitude

The Auxiliary sincerely thanks everyone who again supported Operation Christmas Child this year. Over \$900 was raised to create, pack, and ship a total of 50 Christmas shoeboxes!! Your generous contributions sends the message of our Lord's Nativity and shoeboxes stuffed with toys and necessities to poor needy children worldwide. God bless your generous charitable giving!



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 or scan the QR below with your phone.



Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 7

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping
into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that You are 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!

Prophet Obadiah —Tone 2

We celebrate the memory
of Your Prophet Obadiah, O Lord;
through him we beseech You:
"Save our souls!"

Martyr Barlaam —Tone 4

Armed with youthful fervor,
you endured martyrdom in old age and glorified
Christ.
You offered Him your right hand as a whole
burnt offering
and your holy soul as a blameless sacrifice.
Intercede that all that be granted forgiveness,
Great-martyr Barlaam!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold
mankind 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.

Prophet Obadiah —Tone 1

The great Obadiah, acquiring a mind luminous
with divine splendor,
speaks through the Holy Spirit, proclaiming things
to come.
Today we honor him with faithful minds,
celebrating his holy memory which enlightens the
hearts of men.

Martyr Barlaam —Tone 3

Though weak with old age you vanquished the
Evil One
in your mighty contest, O Barlaam.
You endured the rack like one without a body,
and steadfastly endured the burning of your hand.
Therefore, God the Word has crowned you with a
crown of glory.

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 and to intercede for
us, O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you!

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

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)

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*)



Dates for 2023

FASTS

Nativity Fast/Advent Nov 15-Dec 24

FAST-FREE WEEKS

After Christmas Dec 25-Jan 4

Epistle — Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴ He is our peace, he who made both [groups to be] one and tore down the wall of separation.

¹⁵ He abolished in his flesh the enmity which is the law of commandments with its decrees, so that he might create in himself one new humanity instead of two, making peace. ¹⁶ He reconciled both [groups] to God in one body, through the cross, by which he destroyed that enmity. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far off and also to those who were near. ¹⁸ Through him, we both have access to the Father in one Spirit. ¹⁹ And so, you are no longer strangers and foreigners! Instead, [you are] fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. ²² In him, you too are built up into a dwelling place of God in [the] Spirit.



Gospel — Luke 12:16-21

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, "The ground of a certain rich man produced in abundance. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What will I do? I do not have room to store my crops!'

¹⁸ Then the man said, 'This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns, build bigger ones, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

¹⁹ Then I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry!"

²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! Tonight your soul is demanded of you. The things which you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'

²¹ This is how it is when someone amasses treasure for himself but is not rich toward God."

Our Life in Christ

not diminished even if people failed to see their glory. When the recognition of a saint is possible ... the Church renders thanks to God for His mercy in revealing to us His mighty acts. This recognition or canonization (glorification) is a grace to us, not to the saint who does not need human glory."

Orthodox Tradition has divided the Saints into seven categories: the Apostles, the first to follow Christ, the Old Testament prophets who foretold His coming, the martyrs who died for the Faith, the Fathers of the early Church, monastics and those who lived an exemplary, holy life in the world. For us, it seems clear that if we would be so bold as to aspire to sainthood, other than taking monastic vows, living a holy life in this world is the only available road to travel. It is unlikely that we will be called upon to undergo physical martyrdom for our Faith but perhaps being a martyr (witness) to Christ in our materialistic and hedonistic society may be among the most difficult of tasks. Let us be thankful that we have a plethora of examples to follow on our own journey toward salvation.

Our own patron Saint John of Damascus wrote in the 8th Century: "The saints must be honored as friends of Christ and children and heirs of God. As John the theologian and evangelist says: 'But as many as received Him, He gave them the power to be made sons of God....' Let us carefully observe the manner of life of all the apostles, martyrs, ascetics and just men and women who announced the coming of the Lord. Let us emulate their love of God and neighbor through faith, charity, hope, zeal, life, patience under suffering, and their perseverance unto death, so that we may also share their crowns of glory." Amen.

Protodeacon George Shumaik

From the Akathist of Thanksgiving, written by a Russian Orthodox priest in a prison camp. It was discovered with him upon his death in 1940.

Kontakion 1

Everlasting King, Thy will for our salvation is full of power. Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen. For eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come. Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

Ikos 1

I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Thine angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now Thy love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity; from birth until now the generous gifts of Thy providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give Thee thanks, with all who have come to know Thee, who call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee for calling me into being
Glory to Thee, showing me the beauty of the universe
Glory to Thee, spreading out before me heaven and earth
Like the pages in a book of eternal wisdom
Glory to Thee for Thine eternity in this fleeting world
Glory to Thee for Thy mercies, seen and unseen
Glory to Thee through every sigh of my sorrow
Glory to Thee for every step of my life's journey
For every moment of glory



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mon Nov 20

6:00pm — Great Vespers w/ Litya for Entrance of the Theotokos

Tues Nov 21—Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple

8:30am—3rd Hour & Festal Divine Liturgy

11am — Diamond Circile

Wed Nov 22

10:20am— Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed—Lives of the Apostles—NO CLASS

Mon Nov 27

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed Nov 29

10:20am— Father's Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed—NO CLASS

Sat Dec 2

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

Sun Dec 3—Youth Sunday

8:30am — 3rd & 6th Houts

9:00am—Divine Liturgy

6:00pm — Great Vespers w/ Litya for St John of Damascus

Mon Dec 4—Parish Feast Day

8:30am — 3rd & 6th Hours

9:00am—Festal Divine Liturgy w/ light breakfast following

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!

Birthdays

Steve Zmina, Sr.	11/20
Isabelle Tekla Griebing, Kyle (Jeffrey) Menig	11/23

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