

February 4, 2024



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

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 2

**AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD
IN THE TEMPLE**

VENERABLE ISIDORE OF PELUSIUM

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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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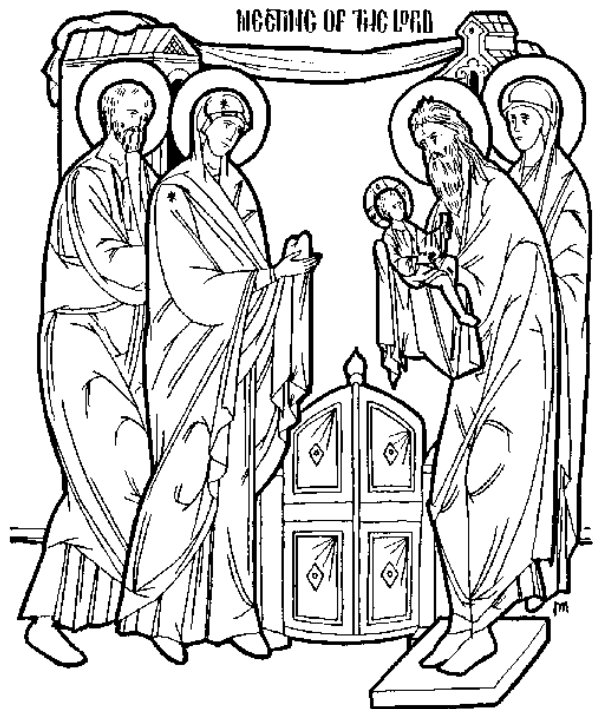
A Word from the Holy Fathers

Simeon and Anna, a man and a woman of advanced age, greeted the Lord with the devoted services of their professions of faith. As they saw him, he was small in body, but they understood him to be great in his divinity. Figuratively speaking, this denotes ... the Jewish people, who, wearied by the long awaiting of his incarnation, were ready with both their arms (their pious actions) and their voices (their unfeigned faith) to exalt and magnify him as soon as he came...What needs to be mentioned, too, is that deservedly both sexes hurried to meet him, offering congratulations, since he appeared as the Redeemer of both. —*Venerable Bede*

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly E-mails**

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



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

Parish Life

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.



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!

NEW ADULT ED CLASSES WEDNESDAYS 7PM—BEGINNING FEB 7

Beginning Feb 7 we will be holding two 3-week sessions of adult education. Topics were chosen at the request of attendees.

Feb 7, 14, 20 (Tues) — How & Why the Roman Catholic & Orthodox Churches Split (The Great Schism)

Feb 28, Mar 6, Mar 13 — Accounts of Healing in the Church

Classes are held in person but available also via Zoom. See the parish website online calendar for the link.

Questions? Contact Fr Michael



2024 Wall Calendars Available (with Feasts, Fasts, Scriptures Readings)

The wall calendars for 2024 have arrived and are available in the narthex in the back of the church.

\$10 donation is requested.



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

House Blessings

Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent (Jan. 7 - Mar. 16) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.

Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.



Father's Café Wednesdays

In-Person as well as via Zoom
10:30-11:30 (ish)

Our weekly gathering for prayer, reflection & simple fellowship is on Wednesdays. It is at 10:30am and is available for people to attend IN PERSON as well as via Zoom (see online calendar for the link).

This is an opportunity to sit and have a cup of coffee or tea (reg and decaf provided) and ask questions about the Faith or talk about whatever comes to mind (gardening, movies, history, etc.). We say a prayer, read a reflection and let the conversation (and coffee) flow.

Be sure to check the calendar (paper & online) since Fr Michael's schedule occasionally does prevent him from having "café" some weeks.

Nomination Committee Elections for Parish Council Members, Auditors & Parish Lay Representative

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday Feb 18 at which we will be hold elections for Parish Council members, Auditors and our Parish Lay Representative for 2024.

Nino Kiria, Gene Francello or Patty Pelachik may approach you asking you to consider running for one of these positions. You need to have been a full member of the parish for at least 6 months, receive Holy Communion and Confession.

Please pray about this and considering offering to serve.

Dates for 2024

MOVABLE FEASTS

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Palm Sunday | April 28 |
| Pascha | May 5 |
| Ascension | June 13 |
| Pentecost | June 23 |

FASTS

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Great Lent | Mar 18– April 27 |
| Holy Week | April 29 - May 4 |
| Apostles Fast | — |
| Dormition Fast | August 1-14 |
| Nativity Fast/Advent | Nov 15—Dec 24 |

FAST-FREE WEEKS

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Publican & Pharisee | Feb 25-Mar 2 |
| Bright Week | May 5-May 11 |
| After Pentecost | June 23-29 |
| After Christmas | Dec 25-Jan 4 |

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 2

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your
Godhead.

And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Meeting of the Lord —Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness,
^Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our
souls, //
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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 Isidore—Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O
Father,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh
for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is
immortal://
Therefore your spirit, venerable Isidore, rejoices
with the angels.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection—Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the
tomb!

The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld
this and rejoiced with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

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.

St Isidore —Tone 4

Finding you to be another morning star, O
glorious one,
the Church is illumined by the brilliance of your
words. //
She cries out to you: "Rejoice, all-blessed and
divinely-wise Isidore!"

Meeting of the Lord —Tone 1

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's
womb
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.
Now You have come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, //
O only Lover of Man!

PROKEIMENA

Tone 2 — (*Resurrection*) The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.
(Ps. 117:14)

V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. (Ps. 117:18)

Tone 3 — (Song of the Theotokos) -- My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Colossians 3: 12-16

¹² As God's elect, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance.

¹³ Bear with one another, and forgive each other! If anyone has a complaint against anyone else, forgive, even as Christ forgave you.

¹⁴ Above all, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ Let the peace of God (to which also you were called in one body) rule in your hearts, and be thankful! ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. In all wisdom, teach and admonish each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel — Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴ Indeed, the Kingdom is like a man who was leaving for another country. He called his own slaves and entrusted his goods to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. And immediately he went on a journey.

¹⁶ Then the one who received five talents went off, did business with them and earned another five talents. ¹⁷ And in the same way, the one who had received two gained another two. ¹⁸ But the slave who received one talent went off, dug [a hole] in the ground and hid his lord's money.

¹⁹ After a long time, the lord of those slaves returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received the five talents came forward and brought another five talents, saying:

'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five!'

²¹ The lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

²² The one who had received the two talents also came forward and said, 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents!'

²³ The lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!'

²⁴ The one who had received one talent now came forward and said, 'Lord, I knew you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter.

²⁵ I was afraid! I went away and hid your talent in the earth. Behold, you have what is yours!'

²⁶ But his lord answered, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You understood that I reap where I did not sow, and that I gather where I did not scatter. ²⁷ And so, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming, I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ Therefore, take away the talent from this one, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.

²⁹ For to everyone who has, [more] will be given and he will have in abundance. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ Throw out the unprofitable slave into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

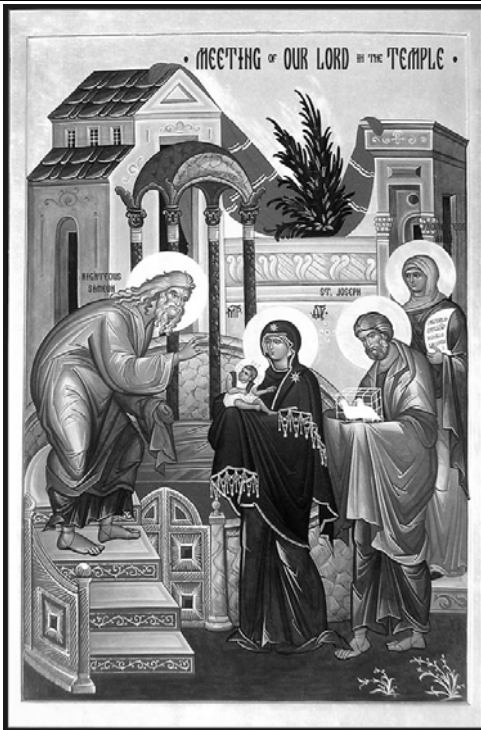
ALLELUIA

Tone 2 - V. May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps. 19:1)

V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Tone 8 -- V. Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation! (Luke 2:29)

Our Life in Christ—Meeting of the Lord



In the service of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through Whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon's hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now Himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

Receive him, O Simeon, whom Moses on Mount Sinai beheld in the darkness as the Giver of the Law. Receive him as a babe now obeying the Law. For he it is of whom the Law and the Prophets have spoken, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind. Come let us adore him!

Let the door of heaven open today, for the Eternal Word of the Father, without giving up his divinity, has been incarnate of the Virgin in time. And as a babe of forty days he is voluntarily brought by his mother to the Temple, according to the Law. And the elder Simeon takes him in his arms and cries out: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord, who has come to save the human race—glory to Thee! (Vespers Verses of the Feast).

The Vespers and Matins of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord are filled with hymns on this theme. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated with the lines from the canticle of Mary forming the prokeimenon and the words of Simeon being the verses for the Alleluia. The gospel readings tell of the meeting, while the Old Testament readings at Vespers refer to the Law of the purification in Leviticus, the vision of Isaiah in the Temple of the Thrice-Holy Lord, and the gift of faith to the Egyptians prophesied by Isaiah when the light of the Lord shall be a "revelation to the Gentiles" (Lk 2.32).

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the church is not merely a historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own "meeting" with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can "depart in peace" since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection (Troparion).
By Thy nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb. And didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ our God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man (Kontakion).*

It is customary in many churches to bless candles on the feast of the Meeting of the Lord. It is a beautiful rite which symbolizes expressing gratitude for the Divine Light that allows us to meet Christ and feel God's presence in our lives.

Our Life in Christ—House Blessings

The blessing of homes of faithful Christians following the feast of Holy Theophany is an ancient custom. It is the central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's epiphany to the world and His baptism in the Jordan River.

From the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent, the Orthodox priest visits all the members of the Church in order to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the sanctified water.

According to the Orthodox Christian Faith, the family is considered to be a "small church" and the family table is the "home altar" where the people gather each day to receive their "daily bread" from God with thanksgiving in the Name of Christ. Thus, during the Theophany season, the priest, who is the father of the great "family of God," the Church community, comes to each of the "small churches" bringing the blessings of God the Father and all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

The sanctification of the home takes place not only by the words of prayer, but by the sprinkling with the blessed water which stands for the new creation of the Kingdom of God in which God Himself "fills all things with Himself" including even the smallest particles of material existence.

The priest asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. All pray together for the good of the living and the departed of the family, and of all who live and have lived in the house. All sing together the great hymn of salvation that Christ, the Son of the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, "has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world." This the house itself, together with the living persons of the family, is "filled with all the fullness of God."

Preparing for your house blessing

When the priest comes to bless the family and its house it is not something to worry about. The priest comes to bless a house that is lived in, not one that has to be in Better Homes and Gardens. There are some basics that are normally observed:

- A lighted candle, an icon and a wide bowl for the blessed water should be placed on the main table in the house.
- All radios, televisions, video games, mp3 players etc. should be turned off. Phones should be on silent.
- All who are present in the house should come together and stand by the table until the end of service.
- Those who are able should join in the singing of the hymns and responses of the services.
- The first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered, including, of course, all members of the family and those living in the house, should be clearly printed on a sheet of paper, with the clear distinction between the living and the departed.
- If it is the tradition to give the priest a gift it should be placed in an envelope and given after the completion of the service.

Taken and revised from the Introduction to the Great Blessing of Water by Fr. Thomas Hopko.

**Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent
(Jan. 6-Mar 16) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.
Please contact Fr. Michael to arrange a date and time.**



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Feb 2-5

Fr Michael travels to attend 20th Anniversary of St Christina of Tyre Church—Fremont, CA

Wed Feb 7

10:30am — Fathers Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed: How & Why the Roman Catholic & Orthodox Churches Split (The Great Schism)'

Mon Feb 12

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Tues Feb 13

7:00pm — Parish Council Meeting

Wed Feb 14

10:30am — Fathers Café

7:00pm — Adult Ed: How & Why the Roman Catholic & Orthodox Churches Split (The Great Schism)'

Sat Feb 17

4:30pm — Choir Rehearsal

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!

Newly-illuminated Isaiah Alexander Ward, Vincent Constantine Palumbo & Emmanuel Scott

Birthdays

| | |
|---|------|
| Mike Kapsimalis | 2/4 |
| Phyllis Brown, Sarah Mendoza Michaud, Theodore Tarris | 2/7 |
| Kelli Cassiani Green | 2/8 |
| Timothy Anderson | 2/9 |
| Mark Sladack | 2/10 |

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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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