

March 3, 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

39TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 6

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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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

Sinners that repent are still saved; both publicans and fornicators cleansed by repentance enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. The compassionate God still calls to Himself all that have turned away, and He awaits them and promises them mercy. The loving Father still receives His prodigal sons come back from a far country and He opens the doors of His house and clothes them in the best robe, and gives them each a ring on their hand and shoes on their feet and commands all the saints to rejoice in them.

—*St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

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**Include Something in the Bulletin or
Be Included in our Weekly 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

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.



NEW ADULT ED CLASS: HEALING WEDNESDAYS 7PM

Our next Adult Education session this Wednesday And will last for 2 weeks — [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



Monthly Prayer Vigil in San Diego for End of Abortion

Join Orthodox Christians from parishes throughout San Diego County on the 2nd Saturday of each month in front of the Planned Parenthood located at **2017 First Avenue, SD 92101 from 10 am - 12 pm** to pray for the abortion-vulnerable.

We will be praying the Paraklesis to the Theotokos and a Molieben to End Abortion. Priests from local parishes lead the vigil each month.

Please email us to RSVP or with any questions you may have at StAnthonyOCLife@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Auxiliary Spring-time Bake Sale March 30

Our spring-time bake sale will be taking place on Saturday March 30.

Mark your calendars and look for the flyer (so you can put in your orders.

Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors!



Auxiliary Baking/Cooking Days Thurs Mar 7, 14, 21, 28

The Auxiliary will be meeting making pierogies to begin preparing for our Easter Bake Sale.

New people are welcome AND NEEDED to come and join the fun!



Pilgrimages/Trips

Serbia - May 2024

Venerate St. Nikolai of Zhica, St. Justin Popovic, and many other Serbian saints with the parish of St. Katherine and Fr. Andrew Cuneo on a **Pilgrimage to Serbia & Montenegro in May 2024**.

Visit this link for more information about a fantastic trip <https://orthodoxtours.com/2024-montenegro-and-serbia/>.

Contact Wendy at wmp407@gmail.com with questions.

Asia Minor - Sept 16-18, 2024

Join Fr Lawrence & Matushka Ann Margitich and visit holy places in Istanbul/Constantinople, Ephesus, the Island of Patmos, Laodicesa, Aspendos, Perge, Cappadocia, Myra

See Fr Michael for a copy of the full itinerary and the reservation form

Parish Life

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.



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.

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

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

Bookstore—Evan Keeling

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

Library—TBD

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

Youth Choir — Carole Shumaik

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.

Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
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!

KONTAKIA

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.

Prodigal Son – Tone 3

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches
which You gave me.
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me as a penitent, //
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

PROKEIMENON

Tone 6 (Resurrection) — O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)
V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

ALLELUIA

Tone 6 - V. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly
God. (Ps. 90:1)
V. He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust.”(Ps. 90:2)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹² [You say:] "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be brought under the power of anything. ¹³ "Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food," but God will bring to nothing both of these. However, the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is [made] for the body. ¹⁴ Now God raised up the Lord, and he will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that whoever is joined to a prostitute is one flesh." ¹⁷ But whoever who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality! "Every sin that a person can do is outside the body," but whoever commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit which dwells in you, and which you have from God? You are not your own! ²⁰ You were bought with a price! Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.

Gospel — Luke 15: 11-32

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.' So the father divided his livelihood between them. ¹³ A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property, living immorally. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread

enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son! Make me as one of your hired servants.'"'

²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! ²³ Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and [now he] is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant replied, 'Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.' ²⁸ However, the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came out and begged him.

²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look, for so many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed a commandment of yours. Yet, you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

³¹ The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! ³² But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!' "

Our Life in Christ — Bake Sale

**SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS
ORTHODOX CHURCH
AUXILIARY**

ETHNIC FOODS and BAKE SALE

Saturday, March 30, 2024

11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

16903 Espola Road, Poway, CA 92064

Pierogies

Potato/Cheese • Sauerkraut • Sweet Cabbage

Prune • Cherry @ \$10.00 per dozen

Sausage & Cheese • Thanksgiving • The Polish

The Italian • Loaded Baked Potato @ \$12.00 per dozen

Stuffed Cabbage Rolls - \$20.00 per dozen

Piroshky - 6 per bag @ \$12.00 **Easter Breads** - \$10.00 ea.

Georgian Cheese Bread - \$16.00 ea. **Baklava** - \$18.00 per dozen

Spanakopita - \$18.00 per dozen

Quiche (Sausage & Cheese, Broccoli & Bacon,
Spinach & Bacon) - \$15.00 ea.

Walnut, Poppy Seed, and Apricot Rolls - \$18.00 ea.

Tea Breads (Lemon Poppy Seed, Orange Nut, Banana Nut) - \$10.00 ea.

Mini Chocolate Cheesecakes - \$2.50 ea.

Order in Advance / Pick-Up in our Church Hall

TO ORDER, PHONE

Tanya: 619-818-2311 or Mike: 858-344-2981

or email: auxiliary@stjohnofdamascus.org

Ask about
Marinated
Pascha Lamb
(pick-up May 3)

Save the Date! Our Thanksgiving Bake Sale is Saturday, November 23rd

Our Life in Christ—Returning from Exile

RETURNING FROM EXILE

— Fr. Alexander Schmemmann; excerpt from *Great Lent* (Ch. 2)

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (LK 15:11-32). Together with the hymns on this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what is repentance.

Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked—without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance, and therefore it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home....

One liturgical peculiarity of this "Sunday of the Prodigal Son" must be especially mentioned here. At Sunday Matins, following the solemn and joyful Psalms of the Polyeleion, we sing the sad and nostalgic Psalm 137:

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, and we wept when we remembered Zion...
How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy...*

It is the Psalm of exile. It was sung by the Jews in their Babylonian captivity as they thought of their holy city of Jerusalem. It has become forever the song of man as he realizes his exile from God, and realizing it, becomes man again: the one who can never be fully satisfied by anything in this fallen world, for by nature and vocation he is a pilgrim of the Absolute. This Psalm will be sung twice more: on the last two Sundays before Lent. It reveals Lent itself as pilgrimage and repentance—as return.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Sun Mar 3

After Divine Liturgy — Auxiliary Meeting

Mon Mar 4

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Wed Mar 6

10:30am — Father's Café (Zoom & In Person)
7:00pm — Adult Ed: Accounts of Healing in the Church
(Zoom & In Person)

Thurs Mar 7

9am-12pm — Auxiliary Cooking Day

Mon Mar 11

7:00pm — Orthodox Christianity 101

Mar 13

Fr Michael Travels to San Francisco for Diocesan Council Meeting

Wed Mar 13

10:30am — NO Father's Café
7:00pm — Adult Ed: Accounts of Healing in the Church
(Zoom ONLY)

Thurs Mar 14

9am-12pm — Auxiliary Cooking Day

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

Barry Temnick	3/3
Elena Miller	3/5
Dennis Seitz	3/9

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