

February 23, 2025



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

MEATFARE SUNDAY — TONE 2
SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT

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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

A man is not saved by having once shown mercy to someone . . . for "I was hungry" and "I was thirsty" is said not of one occasion, not of one day, but of the whole of life. In the same way, "you gave me food," "you gave me drink," "you clothed me," and so on, does not merely indicate one incident or action, but a constant attitude to everyone always. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that He Himself accepts such mercy ... in the persons of the needy.

— *St. Symeon the New Theologian*

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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

SAVE THE DATE St John's 50th Anniversary May 25, 2025

The weekend of Sunday May 24 and 25, 2025 we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our beloved parish.

His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin along with other special guests will be with us.

There will also be a celebratory banquet at Vintana Wine + Dine in Escondido

More details to follow



2025 Wall Calendars Available (with Feasts, Fasts, Scriptures Readings)

The wall calendars for 2025 have arrived and are available in the narthex in the back of the church.

\$10 is the suggested donation.



Support our Parish Through the Auxiliary's Scrip Program

Purchase gift cards for your regular expenses through St John's Auxiliary Scrip Program (gas stations, grocery stores, retail stores, etc) & at no extra cost to you the parish will receive a percentage of your purchase.

See Carmen Brown after Liturgy to purchase gift cards.

All-American Council AND Diocesan Assembly July 14-18, 2025 Phoenix, AZ

The 21st All-American Council and the 2025 Diocesan Assembly will take place in Phoenix, AZ at the Grand Arizona Resort from July 14-18, 2025.

We will be sending our usual clergy and lay delegate to the Council but other parishioners are welcome and encouraged to come as well.

There will be a special celebration in connection with the glorification of Matushka Olga of AK, Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for hotel, scheduling and other information.



House Blessings

Following the feast of Theophany until the beginning of Great Lent (Jan. 7 - Mar. 1) Fr. Michael will be blessing homes.

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



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.

**To be included E-mail Fr Michael at
info@stjohnofdamascus.org**

Parish Life

Parish Elections Results

Our Parish elections were blessed by His Eminence. The results are below:

Parish Council

- Dale Franchak
- Margie Hicks
- Ed Lump
- Susan Miller
- George Minakov
- Vincent Palumbo
- Patty Pelachik
- Bill Stafford

Auditors

- Valerie Lane
- Alex Lazarenko

Parish Lay Representative

- Patty Pelachik



Auxiliary Cooking Days—March

The Auxiliary will have cooking days on the Thursday in March beginning at 9am.

Please come and help if you can!



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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

Commemorative Loaves — Fr Michael

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 — TBD

Prosphora — Fr Michael

Readers at Divine Liturgy — Bill Moision

Security Committee — Parish Council

Scrip Sales — Erik Worth

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 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!"

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.

Last Judgment —Tone 1

When You, O God, shall come to earth with
glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Your
judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden
things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand,
O Righteous Judge!

PROKEIMENA

Tone 3 (Lenten Triodion) - Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond
measure. (Ps. 146:5)

V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps. 146:1)

ALLELUIA

Tone 8 — V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps.
94:1)

V. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of
praise. (Ps. 94:2)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — 1 Cor 8:8-9:2

⁸ But food does not commend us to God, for if we eat, we are not better; and if we do not eat, we are not worse! ⁹ However, be careful that your freedom may never become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone sees you who have knowledge sitting in an idol's temple, will not this person's conscience, if weak, be emboldened to eat things sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ And thus, through your knowledge, shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ! ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brethren to stumble, I will never ever eat meat, so that I may not cause my brethren to stumble.

⁹ Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least for you I am one! You are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel — Matthew 25: 31-46

³¹ "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will tell those on his right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father! Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world! ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.'

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?'

⁴⁰ The King will answer them, 'Amen, I tell you: as much as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will also say to those on his left hand, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels! ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not receive me; naked, and you did not clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me.'

⁴⁴ Then they will answer him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying: 'Amen, I tell you: as much as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ These [ones on the left] will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

— from *The Orthodox Faith*, Vol. IV, by Fr Thomas Hopko (excerpts)

Every man will stand judgment before God for his life in this world. Each person will be judged according to his words and his works.

I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every idle word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (Mt 12.36).

For the Son of Man is to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay every man according to his works (Mt 16: 27, cf. Rev 2.23).

The judge will be Christ Himself, for He is the one who, by His suffering and death, has received the power to judge. It is the Crucified One who will call men to account at the end of the ages. He has won this right as a man through the perfection of His human life.

For the Father . . . has given Him the authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man (Jn 5.27).

Christ will judge all men exclusively on the basis of how they have served Him by serving all men—the least of the brethren.

... Then the King will say to those at His right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." ... (see today's Gospel reading: Mt 25: 31–46)

All spiritual life is fulfilled in this one parable of Christ, for the heart of it is love, both for God and for man.

In commenting on this teaching about the final judgment, Saint Augustine has said that Christ Himself is truly the one who is found in all of these conditions, just as He is the one who is the Savior in each of them.

He Himself was hungry; who is the "bread of life," which if a man eats of it, he will never hunger again (Jn 6.35).

He Himself was thirsty, crying out "I thirst!" (Jn 19.28); who gives the "living water," which, if a man drinks of it, he will never thirst again (Jn 4.13, 6.35, 7.37).

He Himself was a stranger with "no place to lay His head" (Mt 8.20, Lk 9.58), who "came to His own home, and His own people received Him not" (Jn 1.11); who brings all men home to the heavenly house of the Father (Jn 14.1–2).



Our Life in Christ

He Himself was naked, in the manger in Bethlehem, in the streams of the Jordan, and on the cross of Golgatha; who clothes all men with Himself (Gal 3.27), and with the “robes of salvation” (Is 61.10, Rev 6.11).

He Himself was sick, “wounded for our transgressions” and “bruised for our iniquities,” left alone hanging on the cross (Is 53.5, Mt 26.56); who Himself heals all the wounds of men, for “with His wounds we are healed” (Is 53.5).

He Himself was in prison, arrested as a criminal and thrown into jail, forsaken by His disciples (Mt 26.56, 27); who Himself proclaims “liberty to the captives” (Is 61.1, Lk 4.18), setting men free from everything that binds them, and forgiving their crimes.

Since Christ has identified Himself wholly with every man, in every one of his sad and most sorrowful states, the person who “does it to the least of his brethren” does it to Christ Himself—not “as if” to Christ, but to Christ in reality, for Christ is most truly within every man, and every man is the bearer of Christ, the “image of the invisible God” (Col 1.15).

[...] It is also the teaching of the spiritual masters that what must be given to all men is Christ Himself: the Bread of Life, the Living Water, the Home of the Father, the robes of salvation, the healing of wounds, the liberation and forgiveness of all sins. In this sense every man, no matter how rich or how righteous, is poor, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, sinful and imprisoned by evil and death. Thus to “do it to the least of the brethren” is to offer Christ to all men, to give them the eternal and unending satisfaction of all their needs and desires: bread which is never consumed, water which eternally satisfies, a home which is never lost, garments which do not grow old, healing which never suffers again, liberation which can never revert to captivity. Thus, “to do it to the least of the brethren” is to bring them the Kingdom of God. In doing this one offers to all men and so to Christ Himself what already belongs to them from God; as in the liturgy of the Church we offer to God that which already is His. In every case, this is Christ Himself.

We offer to Thee, what is already Thine, on behalf of all, and for all (Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom).

This, therefore, is perfect love; the love of God and the love of man, the love for God and the love for man, becoming one and the same love. It is accomplished in Christ and is Christ. To love with this love is to love with the love of Christ and to fulfill His “new commandment” to “love one another even as I have loved you” (Jn 13.34–35, 15.12). In this is the whole of spiritual life. In this, and this alone, man will be finally judged. It is the crown of all virtue and prayer, the ultimate and most perfect fruit of God’s Spirit in man.



LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday January 6-March 1

Annual House Blessings—Contact Fr Michael to Schedule

Monday February 24

Meat Fast Begins

6:00pm—Adult Ed: Orthodox Christianity 101

Wednesday February 26

10:30am — Father's Café (in person in hall or via Zoom)

March 2

After Divine Liturgy — Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Mon March 3

6:00pm—Repentance Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Tues March 4

6:00pm—Repentance Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Wed Mar 5

10:30am — Father's Café (in person in hall or via Zoom)

6:00pm—Repentance Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Thurs March 6

6:00pm—Repentance Canon of St Andrew of Crete

For more dates & links please visit our website: www.stjohnofdamsacus.org/calendar

Many Years!

Name Days

Kyra Toth (Federoff) 2/28

Birthdays

Oliver George Cooper 2/23

Joe Temnick 2/24

Emily Shumaik Lorelli 2/28

Michael Franchak 3/1

Wedding Anniversaries

Heather & Tom Ferrari 3/1

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

Church: 16903 Espola Rd Poway — **Mailing Address:** PO Box 28291 San Diego, CA 92198

Web: www.stjohnofdamsacus.org

Email: info@stjohnofdamsacus.org — **Phone:** (858) 674-1931

Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

Email: powaypadre@stjohnofdamsacus.org — **Phone:** (858) 717-2172

Attached Clergy: V. Rev. Alexander Federoff, Retired, Rev. John Robinson, Retired & Pdn. George Shumaik

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