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# THE TORCHBEARER

The Newsletter of the Church of St. John of Damascus, Dedham, MA

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September/October 2001

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## From the Pastor...

Beloved in Christ,



I write this after returning from the archdiocese convention, which was held in Los Angeles and hosted by the faithful of St. Nicholas Cathedral. The convention, thanks be to God, showed that the archdiocese continues to head in the right direction under the spiritual and dynamic leadership of our chief shepherd Metropolitan Philip and his four auxiliary bishops. Saidna Philip, as some of you already know, will visit St. John's from Friday, 30 November through Sunday, 2 December. His visit will celebrate two things: the feast day of patron saint – John of Damascus and the burning of the church's mortgage. What an accomplishment! I am sure that not many people in October 1985, when the church was consecrated, thought this day would ever come. However, hard work and faith in God allow us to conquer anything.

Under the leadership of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Executive Board, the "Legacy Fund" now stands at \$170,000 towards its goal of \$200,000. The monies raised thus far, have allowed us to complete five of the six goals, which have been publicized in the past, set by the committee. To those who have given thank you. If you have not yet given, I ask that you search your heart and offer a gift, whatever the amount, to the glory of God. Eight new chandeliers were also hung in the church. The 2000 bazaar set new profit records, last year's Feast day saw large crowds the entire weekend, and the list could go on and on. The renaissance of this church continues every single month and year.

But you know what? All of the above means nothing without seeing the Eucharist as the center of our lives as individuals and as a parish family. When we gather as the Church each Sunday, I often wonder if we realize how blessed we are. So often, we see the same thing

happening week after week, year after year that we think that this is the “norm.” Many people think nothing of coming to Liturgy late or to the chalice unprepared. We see people talking - during the hymns, the epistle, the gospel, the sermon, etc., etc. We forget why we have the church and why the Church offers us the gifts of the Eucharist and the Liturgy. It seems, and I could be wrong, that the coffee hour for some is the only reason to come to church. The Eucharist takes second or third place in what is important in our lives as followers of Christ.

Beloved sisters and brothers, let us use the beginning of another church year as a time for renewing of minds, bodies, and souls. Let us use this time to reconnect and recommit our lives to Jesus Christ. The church to be sure, is a place for fellowship; the church to be sure, needs to be beautified and maintained; however, when these become the church's goals we will not and cannot remain true to the Church's purpose – to worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

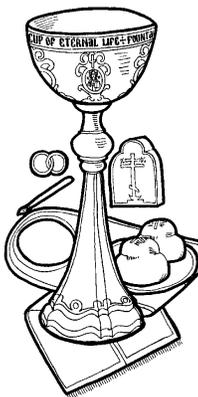
May the flame that will burn our mortgage, be the flame that will rekindle our faith and commitment to God.

Asking remembrance in your God pleasing prayers, I remain

In Christ,

Fr. John K. Teebagy, Pastor

## Liturgical notes:



✍ ✍ In keeping with the Tradition of the Church, only those whom we are asked to pray for will be mentioned in the Great Entrance, not those who offer the prayers, unless specifically requested.

✍ ✍ For those who wish to be married here at St. John's, please keep the following in mind:

1. You must be an Orthodox Christian in good spiritual and financial standing with the church. The other party, if not Orthodox, must be a Christian. (Please check with Fr. John as to which faiths are considered to be Christian). If the other party is not a Christian, an Orthodox wedding cannot be done. If the non-Orthodox party wishes to become

Orthodox a 6-12 month period of prayer, attendance at the services, and study is the norm.

2. **Please do not book a reception hall without clearing the date with the church first.** Weddings are not permitted during the fasting days and seasons of the church, during Bright Week (the week after Pascha), or the week after Christmas.
3. Those who are divorced may not be married at St. John's without reconciliation by the Metropolitan Archbishop and the spiritual court of the archdiocese. This applies to both Orthodox and non- Orthodox members of the wedding party. If this is the case, please consult with Fr. John ASAP. He will guide you through this procedure.
4. If you marry outside of the Orthodox Church, in a Christian Church, you should refrain from receiving the Eucharist until you have your wedding blessed in the Orthodox Church.
5. If you marry outside of the Orthodox Church, in a non-Christian setting, you should refrain from receiving the Eucharist and are asked to please see Fr. John.

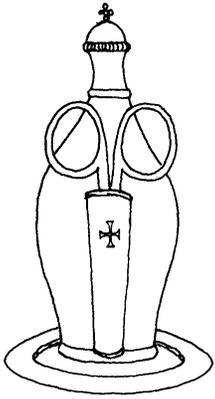
✍✍ We will return to our regular liturgical schedule on Sunday, September 9<sup>TH</sup> with Matins at 9:00 a.m., the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Confession is offered from 8:45-9:40 a.m. or by appointment. Confession is NOT available after Liturgy.

✍✍ To celebrate the Nativity of the Virgin Mary on September 8<sup>th</sup>, a Vespereal Liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> here at St. John's at 6 p.m. Our sister church of St. George, Norwood will join us.

✍✍ To celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross on September 14<sup>th</sup>, a Vespereal Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at our sister church of St. George, Norwood.

✍✍ It is the teaching of the Holy Orthodox Church that only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, recent confession, and fasting (and being on time for church) should approach the chalice. It is likewise the teaching of the Church that our non-Orthodox guests and friends should not approach the chalice or that Orthodox Christians cannot and should not take communion in non Orthodox Churches.

## Church Records...



*"As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ"*

Alexander Michael Scott, son of Michael and Colleen (Murphy) Scott of Quincy, was baptized on April 22, 2001.

Brianna Marie Homsy, daughter of Richard Homsy and DawnMarie Mula of Waltham, was baptized on April 29, 2001.

Julia Alexis Najjar, daughter of Joseph and Cindy (Whittaker) Najjar of Canton, was baptized on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2001.

Abigail Marie Kirshy, daughter of Russell and Angela (DeAngelis) Kirshy of Florida, was baptized on June 3, 2001.

Jada Jean Teebagy, daughter of Glenn and Bianca (Andreu) Teebagy of Burlington, was baptized on July 21, 2001.

*Many Years!!*

*"Blessed are they whom thou has chosen and taken O Lord!"*



☞Frances Mary Michaels (86) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on June 15, 2001. Two sisters, one brother, and her sister-in-law, along with their families, survive her. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

☞Leander Cardoos (86) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on July 2, 2001. His wife, two sons and a daughter, along with their families, survive him. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

*Memory Eternal!!*

## From the Executive Board Chairman...

I hope and pray that you and your family had a wonderful summer. Once again, I would like to thank our new Executive Board for having the confidence in me to re-elect me as Chairman. I am very excited about the upcoming year.

We have 21 energetic and wonderful men and women on this year's Board. I look forward to working with each and every one of them. And as always, I look forward to working very closely with Fr. John and all our church organizations in the upcoming year. Your re-elected officers for the this year are: John Haddad, Chairman; Olivia Waishek, Vice Chair; Dan Capobianco, Treasurer; Paulette Mabardy, Clerk, and Elaine Sabbag, Corresponding Secretary.

This year will one of our busiest years in a long time. In addition to all functions and activities being worked by all of our wonderful church organizations, we have three major parish functions this year ... our Annual Bazaar, Feast Day and 2002 Regional Conference.

Our Annual Bazaar committee is already in full swing and hard at work to plan this year's bazaar. Olivia Waishek, Cynthia Capobianco and Elaine Sabbag will chair this year's Bazaar. They have been working diligently throughout the summer to get a jump on this year's Bazaar. I ask that you give Olivia, Cynthia and Elaine your full support and help. Please don't hesitate to volunteer to help. This year's bazaar will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our Feast Day weekend will be held November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be truly blessed at our Feast Day this year with a visit from His Eminence, Metropolitan Philip. This is also a special weekend for our parish in that we will celebrate the "burning of our mortgage". A Feast Day weekend chairman will be appointed shortly, so once again, we will need your support and help for this weekend.

As you may know, we will be hosting the 2002 New England Region Parish Life Conference. The conference will be held June 27<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort in Falmouth. Tom Sabbag, Ed Zahka and Abe Sabbag will be chairing this very important parish-wide function. Not only can this function be profitable for our parish, but also more importantly, it's a way to show the pride and quality that St. John's is famous for. Again, your help is desperately needed.

As I mentioned at the annual parish meeting, we had a very successful 2000-2001 year, but we can't stop there. There are many more goals we need to focus on in the coming year. We need to address, once and for all, our expanding space needs for Sunday School

classrooms as well as additional storage. We need to get a handle on our precious artifacts and documents that are scattered around the church or stuffed in file cabinets. These artifacts need to be preserved. An archive needs to be created so that the history of our church can be preserved for future generations. We need to continue to work towards a financial plan for our church, using both an endowment fund and prudent financial budgeting and planning to ensure financial stability of our parish.

As you can see, this year, we will be very busy. I urge you to not let the burden of all this activity fall only on the 21 members of our Executive Board. We are a parish of over 900 parishioners. If 500 parishioners volunteered for 3 hours a month, think about what we can accomplish together! If you are approached to help, please say YES. If you are not approached, please contact the chair people directly or see me.

I am very enthusiastic and optimistic for this upcoming year in our parish. As always, I am here to listen to your suggestions and comments. Feel free to give me a call or drop me e-mail at [execboard@stjohnd.org](mailto:execboard@stjohnd.org). I look forward to serving you.

Your brother in Christ,

John M. Haddad  
Chairman, Executive Board

## From the Church School...

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It's "Back to School Time" here at St. John of Damascus Church School! We are eager to work with you, the parents, for the spiritual education of your children. Classes begin on September 9th for grades Preschool 2 through Grade 10. We also offer a Preschool 1 class for children who will be three years old by September 1, 2001. This class is organized as a "Parent Cooperative" – all parents of Preschool 1 students help out on a rotating basis. There will be a brief parent meeting on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> (during Church School time) to explain how this class operates. The first Preschool 1 class will be held on Sunday, September 30th. In order for children to benefit from our Church School program, regular attendance at the Divine Liturgy and in class is essential. The continuity provided by weekly attendance makes it possible for students to understand, appreciate, and embrace our Orthodox faith. It's also a lot more fun for the students when they are involved in our

weekly activities, and feel "at home" in Church School. If it's been a while since you've brought your children to Church School, now's the time to come back! We have a busy, productive year planned – make sure your kids are part of it! Also, would you like to try your hand at teaching or assisting in a classroom or the office? Whatever your talent, you can definitely put it to good use in the Church School! We welcome your ideas, input and genuine interest in our Church School!

In Christ,

Nancy Close, Church School Director

## From the Fellowship of St. John the Divine...

☞☞ Due to everyone's generosity, St. John's was able to contribute \$2,562 to the 2001 Food for Hungry People Program sponsored by the Archdiocese. Thank you.

## From the Virgin Mary Society...

☞☞ We are proud to announce that so far 2001 has been a very rewarding year for our organization.

Both our annual Sfeeha sale and Lenten Dinner were very successful. Due to a "sell out" of sfeeha and a well-attended Lenten Dinner, we felt our endeavors were worthwhile and therefore very profitable. However, now the "fun" begins, as we prepare for our 2001 Bazaar. September and October will be our busiest months, so we once again ask for "help in the kitchen" for anyone interested in joining us! We always welcome new additions to our group. We have always been proud of our contributions to the Bazaar and we hope that 2001 will be the same.

For details on our working schedule, please call me at (781) 32-3417.

Sincerely,

Maryann Hamwey, President



# ANNOUNCING BAZAAR AND AUCTION 2001 November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>

✍️✍️The Annual Bazaar and Auction, as you are all well aware of, is the major fund-raising event for our parish. This year, the Bazaar Committee has many innovative and exciting changes in the making. The physical layout of the Bazaar will be changed. The new setup will reflect relocation of the general store, expansion of the religious article display with the introduction of a variety of different religious articles, expansion of the Sunday school raffle table, the camel table, and more. We are excited about the first in a series of "Commemorative Plates" which is being designed and produced by Nash Pottery of Walpole. We anticipate that this "Commemorative Plate" will be very successful and that a different commemorative plate will be designed for each of the next several years. Arabic music will be played after the Auction on Saturday afternoon for your listening and dining pleasure. We need items to be auctioned off. A large variety of items, which could easily be donated by members of the parish, are listed on our "wish list", a copy of which is enclosed with this Newsletter. Parishioners young and old are needed to join us – either chairing a committee or being a part of a committee. Join us on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Church to give us any ideas you have to make the Bazaar a success.

The Bazaar/Auction Committee

Cynthia Capobianco, Olivia Waishek, Elaine Sabbag



## Announcements . . .

✍️✍️**CONGRATULATIONS:** At the Parish Life Conference in June, our Teen SOYO was named "**Most Improved Chapter.**" Hats off to Emily Vogel, her officers, and all the teens for a job well done! Congratulations also to Rachel Sabbag for doing such a fine job at the Oratorical Festival and to Nicole Mercado, David Hazerjian, and Rachel Sabbag for doing such a fine job at the Bible Bowl; Kathy Tawa, Carol Hazerjian and Nancy Close represented us at the Adult Bible Bowl. Ashley Close was also elected treasurer for the region.

☞☞ **CAN YOU HELP?** Helpers are needed on Saturday nights during the months of July, August and September from 6:30 –11:30 p.m. at the ballroom dances. No special training is needed. This is a great moneymaker for the church and a fun night out too. If you are able to help, please see Cynthia Capobianco after church or call the church office.

☞☞ **ATTENTION ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS:** IOCC, the Orthodox Church's charitable arm, announces its "Honors Internship Program." This is a chance for college students to work overseas helping those less fortunate. For more information, go to [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org). Or email [relief@iocc.org](mailto:relief@iocc.org).

☞☞ **GOLF TOURNAMENT:** AABA is holding its 1<sup>st</sup> golf tournament on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information, kindly call David Hajjar at 781.762.4818.

☞☞ **DID YOU KNOW?** The church office is covered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by an answering service. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number and a brief message. Your call will be returned. ***If it is an emergency***, you should inform the answering service and request that they page Fr. John immediately.

☞☞ **MANY YEARS!** We welcome and congratulate the newly elected and reelected officers and members of our Executive Board... John Haddad, Chairman, Olivia Waishek, Vice Chairman, Dan Capobianco, Treasurer, Paulette Mabardy, Recording Secretary, Elaine Sabbag, Corresponding Secretary, Tim Langley, George Maloof, Cheryl Mattar, John Najjar, Linda O'Hara, and Kathy Tawa

☞☞ **MANY YEARS!** We welcome and congratulate the newly elected and reelected officers of the Virgin Mary Society... Maryann Hamwey, President, Arlene Haddad, Vice President, Mary Ahto, Treasurer, Marion Haddad, Recording Secretary, Helen Hamwey, Corresponding Secretary, and Yvonne Rahwan, Chaplain.

☞☞ **FELLOWSHIP DAY:** St. John's will host the region for the first "Fellowship Day" on Saturday, 22 September. The day will start with the Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m. followed by a continental breakfast. Meetings of the various chapters of the Ladies, Teens, and Fellowship will also take place.

**Mortgage Burning  
&  
Feast Day, 2001  
with  
His Eminence,  
Metropolitan PHILIP**



**November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**More details to follow**

**Please join us!**

**Church of St. John of Damascus**  
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**THE TORCHBEARER**  
**is the Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Church of St. John of Damascus**

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**Sunday Services:** Matins 9:00 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Church Office Hours...**Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is Thursday at 10 a.m.  
Please plan accordingly.

**DEADLINE** for the November/December 2001 *Torchbearer* will be October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Please consult the Weekly Sunday Bulletin for any changes, corrections, etc.**