
THE TORCHBEARER

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

From the Pastor...

As usual the summer has brought a different rhythm to the life of the parish. The 2001-2 church school year concluded on Sunday, June 9th with a program after the liturgy, followed by a well-attended parish outing in nearby Needham. What a wonderful day! The parish outing was reestablished a few years ago and it gets better and better. My sincere thanks to all those involved in this, especially our church school director Nancy Close, who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Our next event was hosting the New England Parish Life Conference (PLC) on June 27th-30th at the Sea Crest in Falmouth. The chairmen of the PLC, Abe Sabbag, Tom Sabbag, and Ed Zahka, did such an incredible job. Their planning the last two years was very evident; as we sold out the hotel and had close to 500 people attending the PLC. Don't tell them but the Board and I are going to appoint them to run the conference eight years from now when it is our turn to host the PLC again! You would have been very proud of the youth of our parish. In the Oratorical Festival, Ashley Close, Heather Feldman, who was the judges' choice in the senior division, and Rachel Sabbag gave inspiring orations. As October is Youth Month throughout the archdiocese, I have asked each of them to give the sermon on three successive Sundays; you do not want to miss this. In the Bible Bowl, Matthew Bezreh, David Hazerjian, and Alexandra Zahka more than held their own. Considering that they were the youngest team, they have set high expectations for future Bible Bowls teams from St. John's. We also want to thank Carol Hazerjian and Khouria Joan Teebagy for doing a great job in the adult bible bowl.

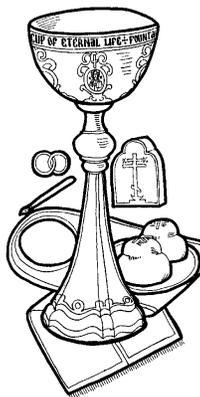
I attended the Clergy Symposium at the Antiochian Village from July 15th -19th and then had a nice vacation with my family. Currently, I am meeting with different people regarding our altar servers, church school, etc. I am so hopeful for the upcoming year at this parish. Not hopeful in a "wishing form" but in a "knowing form." Time after time this parish has shown its love for our spiritual home and its members. The mortgage burning last December marked the end of one phase of the parish and the beginning of a new time in our parish's history.

No matter how much we do in the church it means nothing if people stand of the sidelines and watch. Get involved! Become a full part of this parish family! Rediscover your faith and your fellow sojourners on the road to salvation. You'll be glad that you did.

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.

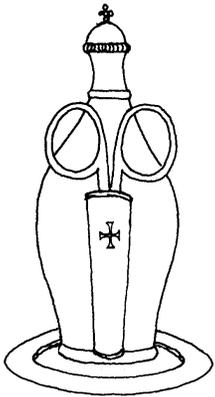
4. If you marry outside of the Orthodox Church, in a Christian Church, you should refrain from receiving the Eucharist until you have your wedding “blessed” in the Orthodox Church.
5. If you marry outside of the Orthodox Church, in a non-Christian setting, you should refrain from receiving the Eucharist and are asked to please see Fr. John.

❖ We will return to our regular liturgical schedule on Sunday, September 8TH, which is also Nativity of the Virgin Mary, 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 Elevation of the Holy Cross, which is on September 14th, we will observe the Feast on September 15th with the procession of the Holy Cross.

❖ 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”

Benjamin Nicholas Lind son of Richard and Shannon (Notine) Lind was baptized on May 26th.

Alexa Rae Affsa daughter of Scott and Ramune (Kleinas) Affsa was baptized on May 26th.

Sophia June Rawan daughter of Michael and Pamela (Beers) Rawan was baptized on June 2nd.

Many Years!!



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



Louis Cardoos (89) of Kalispell, Montana fell asleep in the Lord on April 26th. His wife and three daughters and their families survive him. Burial was as Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

Mary Shagoury (91) of Waltham fell asleep in the Lord on May 3^d. Her two sons and one daughter and their families survive her. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

Albert Bargoot (79) of Somerville fell asleep in the Lord on May 11th. His two brothers and their families survive him. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

Douglas and Duane Affsa (42) of Weymouth fell asleep in the Lord on May 25th. One brother and his family survive them. Burial was at Pine Hill Cemetery in Quincy.

Philip Elias (73) of Dedham fell asleep in the Lord on July 1st. His wife, two sons, one daughter and their families survive him. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

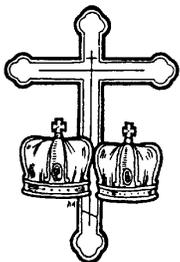
Emily Maloof (74) of Hull fell asleep in the Lord on July 26th. She is survived by three brothers and their families. Burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Mattapan.

Janet McIver (80) of Westwood fell asleep in the Lord on July 31st. She is survived by two sons and their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park

Memory Eternal!



"O Lord our God crown them with glory and honor!"



James Marcelonis and Marlene Ahto were united in marriage on June 8, 2002. We congratulate them as they begin their new life together in Dedham.

Many Years!!



From the Executive Board Chairman...

Welcome back to St. John of Damascus! As summer fades away and ushers in the soon to be fall season we must get ready for another exciting year! I would like to congratulate the new members to the board and to thank them and the returning board members for their confidence in electing me as chairperson for the 2002/2003 term. I look forward to working with them and Father John in accomplishing the board's business.

In addition to myself, the executive officers of the board are as follows: Paula Hamwey, Vice-Chair; Edward Zahka, Treasurer; Robert Kurker, Clerk; and Cheryl Mattar, Recording Secretary.

We are ending a very exciting two years under the excellent leadership of John Haddad. His commitment and dedication as chairman will be a hard act to follow, but will be an inspiration for me to fulfill my obligation as your chairperson.

This summer was especially memorable due in part to our very successful New England regional conference held at the Sea Crest Hotel. I give my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Tom Sabbag, Ed Zahka and Abe Sabbag as chairmen, and all those who assisted in putting together a financially successful and religiously fulfilling experience for us all.

The upcoming year will be a busy one. We will be addressing capital improvements and maintenance, long-range planning and other day-to-day issues in the course of the "business" of the church. As in prior years, our two major events are the Bazaar and Feast Day celebration.

This year's bazaar committee will be chaired by Raymond Hamwey. I need not remind everyone that the annual bazaar is the single largest source of revenues for the church other than annual dues. We need the help of all parishioners – both those who have helped in the past and those who have never helped. If you would like to contribute to the success of this year's bazaar, please contact Ray Hamwey. If you have ideas on how to improve the bazaar, we welcome your comments. This year's bazaar will be held on November 1, 2 and 3, 2002.

This year's feast day celebration will be a change from prior years in that we will not have a Bishop in attendance. We are currently planning this event and a chairperson will be appointed soon.

Ballroom dancing has now become an important revenue source. We are in need of volunteers to help our executive board members in working this very important function on a weekly basis.

The annual parish meeting has already been scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2003, immediately after services. We hope that this will enable more parishioners to attend.

My primary goal this year will be to sustain the momentum from prior year's boards and to achieve a high level of parishioner involvement in all aspects of the parish operations. Remember, you, the parishioners, are the church. Without your involvement, we have nothing more than a beautiful building.

I look forward to chairing the executive board this year. Please feel free to talk to me at any time about any issue that you feel is important. You can also e-mail me at execboard@stjohnd.org.

Yours in Christ,

Cynthia Capobianco
Chairman, Executive Board

From the Teen Soyo...

The Teen SOYO is ready for another exciting and fun-filled year. Last June we had elections for the upcoming year and the new officers are... President, David Haddad, Vice-President, Christina Haddad, Treasurer, Heather Feldman, Secretary, Nicole Leotsakos, Sergeant at Arms, Michael O'Hara, Chaplin, Shannon O'Hara, and advisors, Don Khouri and Anthony Hamwey. These officers as well as the members are looking forward to the up coming year and hope for it to be quite successful. Anyone in the 7th grade to age 19 interested in joining the Teen SOYO, please see David Haddad to join.

-David Haddad
President of the Teen SOYO

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! Classes begin on September 8th 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, 2002. 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 23rd (during Church School time) to explain how this class operates. The first Preschool 1 class will be held on Sunday, September 29th.

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. We will offer some new activities at all age levels, as well as repeat some tried and true favorites . . . make sure your kids are part of the action!

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!

Help celebrate the start of our new Church School year by attending an old-fashioned BACK-TO-SCHOOL BARBECUE on September 8th sponsored by the Church School Parent Guild. (See the flyer in the Torchbearer.)

In Christ,
Nancy Close
Church School Director

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

Make plans to attend the Fellowship's Lobster Dinner on October 2, 2002. For reservations, please call Linda Hakar 781 551-9444. Details to follow.

From the Virgin Mary Society...

After a relaxing and enjoyable summer, the ladies of the Virgin Mary Society are back in the kitchen cooking and baking for our upcoming bazaar.

We are in dire need of help. If you are able to volunteer a few hours a week on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our bazaar is our biggest moneymaker for the year. Please contact Lillian Khouri at (781) 237-4819 or Mary Shagoury at (617) 323-4819.

Yours in Christ,
Lillian Khouri, President



ANNOUNCING BAZAAR AND AUCTION 2002 November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

The Annual Bazaar and Auction will be held on November 1, 2, and 3, 2002. Please join us on Thursday, September 5th at 7:30 pm at the church, if you are interested in either chairing a committee or being a part of a committee. We would love to see many parishioners help us with this major fund raising event.

We look forward to some of the classics – Middle Eastern cuisine, snack bar, country store, video arcade, live auction, craft table, religious table and more... We also look forward to any new ideas, bring them down on the 5th. We will need auction items and other donations too. Mailings will be going out soon. Mark your calendars! Keep these dates open! Hope to see you all soon.

Ray and Sheila Hamwey
Bazaar Co-chairs



Announcements . . .

❖ **DID YOU KNOW?** The church office is covered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by an answering service and voice mail. 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... Cynthia Capobianco, Chairman, Paula Hamwey Co-Chair, Edward Zakha, Treasurer, Robert Kurker, Recording Secretary, Cheryl Mattar, Corresponding Secretary, and members Laurie Bradley, Robert Cardoos, Gail Kurker, Tim Langley, Debbie Leotsakos, and George Maloof

❖ **MANY YEARS!** We welcome and congratulate the newly elected and reelected officers of the Virgin Mary Society... Lillian Khouri, President, Mary Shagoury, Vice President, Maryann Hamwey, Treasurer, Marion Haddad, Recording Secretary, Helen Hamwey, Correspondence Secretary

❖ **MANY THANKS** to all those who donated to the FFHP program. \$2,159.65 was collected and sent to the Archdiocese.

❖ **MANY YEARS!** Congratulations to the new officers of Teen SOYO: David Haddad, President, Christina Haddad, Vice President, Heather Feldman, Treasurer, Nicole Leotsakos, Secretary, Michael O'Hara, Sergeant at Arms, Shannon O'Hara, Chaplain, Don Khouri and Anthony Hamwey, Advisors

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
BARBECUE!**



**Celebrate the start of a new
Church School year with an
Old Fashioned Barbecue at St. John's.**

September 8th

After Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall

**Adults - \$6
Church School Students - \$3**

**For reservations, please call
Carol Hazerjian 508-660-0072
or Patty in the Office 781-326-3046**

Church of St. John of Damascus
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THE TORCHBEARER
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A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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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 2002 *Torchbearer* will be October 7th.

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