
THE TORCHBEARER

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

From the Pastor...

The Two Buckets

Once upon a time there was a young monk who lived in a distant monastery in the desert. He loved Christ, but somehow felt that his prayer life wasn't profitable. He did not seem to feel that he was accomplishing anything through the numerous daily services and the manifold prayers he said both in the monastery chapel and within his cell. In fact, this young monk even began to doubt his vocation and was seriously contemplating forsaking his monastic vows and leaving the monastery.

So the young monk went to his Spiritual Father and explained his dilemma. The wise old elder listened attentively. He reminded the young monk why he had chosen this life in the first place and this calmed the young monk's desire to abandon his efforts. He did, however, give him an obedience to follow which was to last over the course of one full year. He asked the young monk to take two new buckets from the monastery storeroom and place one on either side of his cell door. The old monk instructed him that upon rising from sleep, he was to take the bucket on the right, walk down to the creek and fill the bucket with water. Then bring it back and place it in its original spot. Then on the next day he was to empty the bucket, walk to the creek and re-fill it. This was to be repeated without fail for an entire year.

The other bucket - the one on the opposite side of the door - was to be left alone and remain untouched for the duration of the obedience. After a year had gone by, the young monk again went to his Father Confessor and reported that he had completed his given obedience. The elder asked the young monk what he had learned - to which the younger monk remained perplexed. The elder then took the young monk back to his cell and asked him to describe what he saw - beginning with the bucket which had remained untouched. The young monk looked at the bucket and said, "The bucket is rusted and dirty; it is full of dust and spider webs. There are many crawling insects, worms, and filth. There is a scorpion which has climbed inside, and also the bones of a mouse which had fallen in and been unable to escape."

The elder then asked him to describe the other bucket - the one which had been used and filled each day with water. The young monk said, "It looks clean and new, much like the day when I first began using it. There is no dirt, no spider webs, no insects or filth." The elder said: "Just like this clean bucket, the same is true with your own soul if each and every day you fill yourself with prayers to our Lord; for He is Living Water! The changes in you may not be readily seen on a daily basis, but over time they will make a great difference!" This illustrative lesson helps make us aware that our prayer rule must be practiced and maintained each and every day because, even if you think that it is not accomplishing something positive in your life, it does; keeping your heart and mind clean also!

Church Records...

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

- Joseph Kapalis, son of Frank and Erica (Kapalis) Bond of Needham, was baptized on April 26th.
- Layla Renee, daughter of Michael and Nicole (Nicosia) Samra of Reading, was baptized on April 26th.
- James Samuel, son of James and Melissa (O'Brien) Mamary of N. Falmouth, was baptized on May 10th.
- Lauren Theresa, daughter of Timothy Mayer and Dr. Julie Pilitsis of Shrewsbury, was baptized on August 2nd.

Many Years!



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

- +Mary N. Cahaly (87) of Marlborough fell asleep in the Lord on April 26th. She is survived by her son and three daughters, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.
- +Rose S. Sabbag (80) of Allston fell asleep in the Lord on May 13th. She is survived by her husband, three daughters and a son. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

- +Maryann Hamwey (81) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on July 11th. She is survived by two sons and a daughter, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.
- +Emmeline Shagoury (97) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on July 12th. She is survived by a son and daughter, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.
- +Nicholas Cardoos, Sr. (88) of Bedford fell asleep in the Lord on July 19th. He is survived by two sons and two daughters, along with their families. Burial was at Shawsheen Cemetery in Bedford.
- +Deeb Homsy Jr. (49) of Arlington fell asleep in the Lord on July 27th. He is survived by his mother and two brothers, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.
- +Adele Dikmak (84) of Canton fell asleep in the Lord on August 6th. She is survived by her husband, son, and daughter, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

Memory Eternal!



“O Lord our God crown them with glory and honor!”

Matthew C. Bargoot and Annie L. Wang were united in marriage on May 30th. We congratulate them as they begin their new life together in Wellesley.

Many Years!



From the Executive Board Chair...

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I hope and pray this letter finds you and your family in good health and that you are enjoying your summer.

As the newly elected chairman of the Executive Board, I look forward to a productive year. There are twenty-one competent members of the Executive Board that you had the confidence in electing to serve the parish. I look forward to working with this group to accomplish our annual plan. You can view the officers and members of the Executive Board at <http://www.stjohnd.org/orgs/execboard/>.

I am going to do my best to keep parishioners up to date using the Torchbearer, the monthly Executive Board Report, and email. If you are not already on the parish email list, I encourage you to sign up. You can do that right on our home page www.stjohnd.org.

During the September meeting, the Executive Board will be setting its goals for the year. I would love to hear your input for our discussion. You can reach me anytime at executiveboard@stjohnd.org. All committees have been established at this point with only one open chairperson slot. Here is a brief summary of the responsibilities of each Executive Board Committee.

Committee	Charter	Chair
Religious	This committee shall assist the Pastor in the religious activities of the Parish, but may delegate the maintenance thereof to any other association in the parish pursuant to the authority contained in the Constitution. It shall also assist the Pastor in the physical coordination of special religious services and the enhancement of religious programs.	Olivia Waishek
Finance	This committee shall draft a program for raising funds for the Parish and shall carry out the same	Kathleen Tawa
Steering	This committee shall draft a program of steering activities for the year and promote the same. The Chair of this committee will act as liaison to the Organizations.	TBD
Advisory	The Advisory Committee shall consider all matters referred to it by the chairman of the Executive Board involving matters requiring confidential discussion with the pastor, individual members, and parish organizations.	Richard Ahto
Maintenance	This committee shall see to it that the buildings, etc., are kept in good repair and order	Richie Homs
Long Range Planning	Define and structure a program that will address and satisfy the long-term needs of our church and community.	Mike O'Hara, Jr.
Hall Rental	This committee is responsible for marketing the hall, setting policy for hall rentals, and securing functions for the hall.	Richard Ahto

Technology	This is a new committee which will look at the technology needs of the church -- office, website, email, social media.	Stephen Saber
------------	--	---------------

I encourage you to get involved in the life of the parish. If you would like to contribute in some way, please let me know. Even if you are not quite sure what you can do or how you can contribute, let me know.

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 send me email at executiveboard@stjohnd.org anytime. *With the love of Christ, Don Khouri II*

From the Virgin Mary Society... The members of the Virgin Mary Society are busy preparing for the bazaar. It would be most appreciated if you, male or female, could offer a few hours a week to help. Beginning on August 31st, we will work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Virgin Mary Society is still in need of grape leaves, blanched if possible, for this year's bazaar. If you are able to contribute, please drop them off at the church office Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

From the Parent Guild...

Seems as if we were just at the picnic in May, and now the Parent Guild is getting ready for the "Welcome Back Barbecue" which will be held on the first day of church school, September 13th, after liturgy. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child over 5 years of age. Please make a reservation by contacting Carol Hazerjian at (508) 660-0072 or chazerjian@verizon.net, Bertina Kurker at (781) 721-1647, or by e-mailing the church office at churchoffice@stjohnd.org. The first Parent Guild meeting of the school year will be Sunday, September 20th following Diving Liturgy, at which time we will schedule our activities for the year. There are many opportunities during the year for you to get involved and help with our activities. We hope you will do so this year! If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to help out with any of the activities, please contact either of us. We are always in need of people willing to help. Looking forward to seeing you in church and at the barbecue on September 13th! *Yours in Christ, Carol Hazerjian and Bertina Kurker*

From the Church School...

It's "**Back to School Time**" once again at St. John of Damascus Church School! Classes begin on September 13th 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, 2009. 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 27th (during Church School time) to explain how this class operates, set up the parent volunteer schedule, and distribute the curriculum. The first class will be held on October 4th.

Classes begin immediately after Holy Communion. Children are dismissed from their pews into the Communion line, and then proceed directly to their classrooms. Adults are ushered into the Communion line after all children and Church School staff have gone, so that we may start our program as quickly and smoothly as possible. School will be in session until noon each Sunday, at which time children will be sent into the hall area where you can meet them.

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. All students who have attained at least 50% attendance during the school year will be awarded a certificate of completion and will be eligible for other awards at graduation on May 23, 2010. If you have any questions concerning our attendance policy, please contact me at any time.

We offer an excellent program through which it is possible for your children to come to know the faith, and to know God Himself. This program cannot be carried out without your support, however. We rely on you to reinforce and enhance what your children learn in class. If you need any help with expressing your faith to your children, please contact Fr. John or me, and we would be more than happy to assist you.

Even if it has been awhile since you have brought your children to Church School, it's never too late to come back!! We look forward to welcoming you! *In Christ, Nancy Close, Church School Director, school@stjohnd.org*

From the Order of St. Ignatius... I have just returned from the 48th Antiochian Archdiocese Convention in Palm Desert, CA. The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch has introduced a "Legacy Program" whereby family members can continue the membership of a deceased member to honor their name. The first formal legacy member was inducted in Grand Rapids, MI in 2008.

The Governing Council is pleased to introduce a new DVD that brings to life the "Miracle of The Order." The film will be shown at various events in the Diocese of Worcester and New England; look for more information in the parish bulletin. A new pamphlet has also been produced, "Everything you need to know about the Order of

St. Ignatius of Antioch.” It answers many questions that are often asked about what the Order is, where the money goes, and how one can participate.

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is the charitable branch of the Archdiocese. Project contributions for the year 2009 exceeded \$1.5 million. Over the past 30 years, the Order has contributed over 25 million dollars to the Archdiocese, charities, and special projects such as the Clergy Housing Retirement Allowance, Antiochian Village (with an increase in camp scholarships,) and the Department of Youth Ministry (sponsorship of Leadership Training, College Conference, and Orthodox Youth Outreach.)

The Order membership nationwide stands at over 4000. Metropolitan Philip has directed Chair Dan Abraham to reach a goal of 5,000 by the 2011 convention. St. John of Damascus parishioners can help by joining The Order, or current members might consider upgrading to Commander or particularly to Life Member. Keep in mind that Life Membership dues of \$15,000 are never spent and generate interest for projects every year. *In Christ, Christine Bezreh*

From Teen SOYO... Teen SOYO members have had a very busy spring and summer! Alyssa Hoffman represented St. John's in the Senior Division Oratorical Festival at the Regional Conference in Andover, and she won! We are all very proud of Alyssa, and we hope you get to read her oration in the Torchbearer. Three other Teen SOYO members, Caitlyn Bradley, Andrew Hazerjian and Brian Hazerjian, came in second place in the Regional Bible Bowl at the Conference, losing only to the very formidable Cambridge team! Eighteen of us have just returned from Antiochian Village, either as campers, CIT's or counselors. The camping experience at The Village is amazing, and we urge all students to attend. We have a new slate of officers for the 2009 - 2010 year, as follows: President – Cameron Close; Vice President – Alyssa Hoffman; Secretary – Caitlyn Bradley; Treasurer – Elizabeth Teebagy; Sergeant-At-Arms – Andrew Hazerjian; Chaplain – Brian Hazerjian

We have an exciting year planned, with events and activities at both the local and regional levels. We will repeat some successful programs from the past, such as the Holiday Gift Shop, Family Nights, Apple Picking, and Basketball Challenge, along with some new surprises! We would like to invite all kids who are 12 years old or are in 7th grade to join Teen SOYO. The more members we have, the more we will be able to accomplish. The other officers and I will be coming around to the Church School classes in September to talk about Teen SOYO and encourage all kids to join. If anyone has any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at DedhamSOYO@gmail.com. *In Christ, Cameron Close, Teen SOYO President*

From the Stewardship Committee... Dear Stewards of St. John's, It gives me great pleasure to report to you that our stewardship program continues to prosper. We are

now nearing the end of our third year of the 2009 stewardship program, and we are gearing up for our fourth year this fall. Without your generosity and open minds this success would not have been possible. We cannot thank you enough for searching your hearts and giving back to God what you know you can afford, and also for filling out the talent sheet and giving your time. It's wonderful that we now have a wide array of talents that we can pull from, when we need to help support our church. I would also like to thank the stewardship committee for helping to spread the word of feel good giving. When you give back to God the gifts he has bestowed on you with your time, treasures and talents..... It does feel good!

We look forward to celebrating Stewardship Sunday on Sept. 27 with all of you. Please join us for an extended coffee hour, and share your thoughts with us on the many things we can do to keep our stewardship program alive and well at St. John's..... It's not enough to care, you must care enough..... *Thank you, Debbie Greenstein & the stewardship committee.*

Announcements....

▪ **MANY THANKS** to all who donated to the 2009 *Food for Hungry Program* campaign. Because of your generosity, the church was able to send \$4,050 to the archdiocese to help those in need.

▪ **AABA** presents "Dubke to the Door of Cheriton Heights" with *The Mitchell Kaltsunas Ensemble* on Saturday, September 26th from 8 p.m – midnight at the Annunciation Church Hall; tickets are \$50 per person, which includes a full dinner, dessert, and coffee. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please call Marilyn Ganame at 781.769.1766 or Gail Kurker at 781.381.0278 for ticket information.

▪ **ST. MARY, CAMBRIDGE** announces their 80th anniversary celebration on October 3rd and 4th with His Grace, Bishop ALEXANDER of Ottawa presiding. On October 3rd, Vespers will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a *Welcome Reception and Cocktail Party at 7:30 p.m.*; Tickets are \$35. For tickets, please call Renay DiFiore at 617.327.6361.

▪ **ST. GEORGE, WEST ROXBURY** announces their 33rd annual bazaar and food fair on October 16th – 18th at their church hall. For more information, please call St. George at 617.323.0323.

▪ **SNOWBIRDS** Before leaving for Florida, **please** give the office your temporary address. This ensures that you get the church's mail in a timely manner and reduces postage costs for the church.

- We will return to our regular liturgical schedule on Sunday, September 6th, with Matins at 9 a.m., the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. Confession is offered from 8:45-9:40 a.m. or by appointment. As a reminder, confession is *NOT* available after Liturgy. Church School will begin on September 13th.
- The office will return to its regular schedule starting the week of September 7th, i.e. Monday – Friday from 9 am – 2 pm; once again, the bulletin deadline will be Thursdays at 10 am.

Save the Date!!

2009 St. John's Bazaar and Auction

November 6-8th

Church of St. John of Damascus
300 West Street
Dedham, MA 02026-5594

Non Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dedham, MA
Permit No. 74

Forwarding and Address Service Requested

THE TORCHBEARER

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

a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North
America

Archpriest John K. Teebagy, Pastor

300 West Street □ Dedham, Massachusetts 02026-5594

□ Telephone: 781. 326.3046 □ Fax: 781.326.4473 □ Web Page:
www.stjohnd.org

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 2009 Torchbearer will be
October 5th.

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