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# THE TORCHBEARER

Great Lent, 2011

*On Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Orthodox Church begins Great Lent. As we make our way as a family, as a community, toward our Lord's empty tomb let us all strive to return to God, much like the Prodigal Son, and see what good God has to offer to fill the emptiness of the world. Please do something to observe this great gift that God gives to us. Don't let this time go by and fail to see the potential that you have within you to affect a change for the good of your mind, body and soul. Many "extra" liturgical services will be celebrated - become a part of them and become reunited with God and His Saints.*

*Below please find the most, in my opinion, uplifting, insightful, and hopeful sermon in the writings of the Fathers of the Church. Please don't read it! Rather, take the time to absorb these words and reflect on their meaning in our lives as Christians. You cannot help but see our Lord's Resurrection in a different light and context.*

*I very much look forward to seeing all of you during this most special time of the year. Please remember that I love you and pray for you. Please remember my family and me in your prayers, and remember that I am just a phone call away if you should ever need me. On behalf of my family, and in anticipation of the Great Feast, I want to wish each of you and those whom you love a most blessed Pascha, and a spiritually fulfilling Lenten journey.*  
*Fr. John*

## THE CATECHETICAL HOMILY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

If any are pious and lovers of God, let them delight in this fair and radiant festival. If any are honest servants, let them enter and rejoice in the joy of their Lord. If any are wearied with fasting, let them now enjoy the reward. If any have worked from the first hour, let them accept their just pay. If any have come after the third, let them

feast with thankfulness. If any have arrived after the sixth, let there be no doubt, for they shall suffer no loss. If any come after the ninth, let them draw near, let them not waver. If any have arrived only at the eleventh, let them not be fearful for their tardiness, for the Master is gracious and accepts the last as well as the first. He gives

rest to those who worked from the first hour. He is merciful to the last and provides for the first. He gives to this one and to that one he shows kindness. He receives their labors and acknowledges the purpose, and he honors the deed and praises the intention. Therefore, let everyone enter into the joy of our Lord, and let the first and the second take part in the reward. Those rich and those poor, join hands together. Those sober and those sorrowful, honor this day. Those who fast and those who do not, be glad today. The table is full, indulge yourselves sumptuously. The calf is ample, let no one go away hungry. Let all enjoy the wealth of righteousness. Let none lament their poverty for the kingdom is revealed to all. Let none deplore transgressions, for forgiveness has dawned forth from the tomb. Let none be fearful of death, for the death of the Savior has set us free. By tasting his flesh, death has been quenched. He who

went down to Hades despoiled Hades, and Hades was embittered when he tasted Christ's flesh. Isaiah, anticipating this, cried out and said: Hades was embittered when it met you face to face below. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was cast down. It was embittered, for it was chained. It received a body and encountered God. It received earth, and met heaven face to face. It received what it saw, and fell where it saw not. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and there are no dead in the tombs for Christ is raised from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who were asleep. To him be glory and dominion to the ages of ages. Amen.

### **Church Records**

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

+Saleem Hamwey (82) of Roslindale fell asleep in the Lord on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. He is survived by his wife, 1 son and 2 daughters, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

+ Donna Haddad Marston (51) of Natick fell asleep in the Lord on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. She is survived by her husband and daughter. Burial was at Dell Park Cemetery in Natick.

+Mary Hallal (74) of Walpole fell asleep in the Lord on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. She is survived by her husband, 2 daughters, and 2 sons, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

**Memory Eternal!**



**“As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.”**

Stetson Ward, son of Stephen and Stephanie (Ward) Saber of Dover, was baptized on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Sloane Alexandria, daughter of Nicholas and Andrea (Hadge) Saber of Medfield, was baptized on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Gabriel Michael, son of James and Gina (DeStito) Chalhub of Marshfield, was baptized on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Many Years!**



### **From the Executive Board**

Greetings Fellow Parishioners, At the January Board Meeting, the Executive Board approved the 2011 Budget. Our total budget remains fairly flat at \$337,000. I would like to use this space to highlight a few key line items. Two-thirds of our total income comes from your pledges and donations. Thank you for all your contributions. Another 15% comes from the Bazaar, and 12% from Rental Income.

Of the total expenses, 40% is dedicated to church property costs, and 37% to payroll and payroll related expenses. We continue to contribute \$19,000 to the Capital Preservation Fund and \$10,000 to the Endowment

Fund. We have assigned responsibility for each line item in the budget to a specific committee, and it is that committee's responsibility to ensure we spend within the budget. I hope this provides a good high level picture of the church's income and expenses. If you would like any more detail, I am happy to share. May God Bless you and your family as we enter this Lenten Season. Don Khouri II, Chairman, Executive Board

### **From The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch**

The St. John chapter would like to invite you to participate in our fundraiser to sponsor 13 year old Tony Srour of Lebanon. During Lent, members will collect donations for our annual Pascha greeting card. This will be an opportunity for you to share Easter greetings with friends and family, as well as support the Children's Relief Fund. We truly appreciate your support.

St. John of Damascus will be the host parish for the annual Parish Life Conference in June of 2011. It will be important to induct new members to The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch at that time. Please consider joining this charitable arm of the Archdiocese. Complete information about the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is available on the Archdiocese Web Site ([www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)) including detailed information about where the budget is spent.

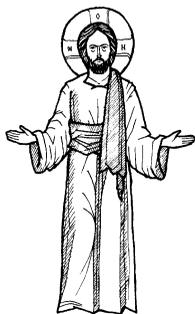
You can join the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch with an annual contribution \$500 or \$1000. You may use Electronic Fund Transfer to deduct either \$41.67 or \$83.34 monthly from your checking account. There is also Life Membership, which is a commitment of \$15,000 payable over three years. Only 2% of all funds raised are used for administrative purposes, with 98% of the funds used to sponsor the many good works of The Order.

### **From the Fellowship**

The Food for Hungry People Program is underway. Please remember the homeless throughout the world as we approach the holiest time of the year. Alms boxes and cans will be available at the bengari. We depend upon your support. Please consider offering a generous donation to this most worthy cause. Make your check payable to the church and earmark it F.F.H.P. and return by June 1, 2011. Thank you.

## Lenten Liturgical Notes & Announcements

**Confession** Great Lent, which begins on March 7<sup>th</sup>, is the perfect opportunity for you to receive Confession, especially if you plan on receiving the Eucharist on Palm Sunday (April 17<sup>th</sup>) and Pascha (April 24<sup>th</sup>). Confession is available *before* all Lenten services, during Matins on Sunday mornings (8:40 to 9:40 am) or by appointment. Please don't wait until the last minute to come to confession. In addition, because of the many extra responsibilities Fr. John will have during Holy Week, he **WILL NOT** be able to hear confessions on Palm Sunday morning or from Holy Wednesday on (i.e. Holy Tuesday is the last chance for confession for Pascha). So please plan accordingly!



### Lenten services

During Great Lent, the Church calls us to increase and intensify our prayer life. Keeping this in mind, please note that we will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy on *Wednesday evenings* during Great Lent at 5:30 p.m. If you wish to receive the Eucharist that evening, please begin your fast (from food, drink, and smoking) after a light lunch. In addition, on the first *5 Friday evenings* during Great Lent, we will chant the Akathist Hymn to the Virgin Mary at 6:30 p.m.

### Save the Date

St. John's will be having an Art Auction this year on Saturday, May 7. In addition to the fine art there will be Oriental Rugs; Jewelry; and some other selected items, along with door prizes and other surprises for the evening. Please call Arthur Khouri at 508.429.3669 for any questions and look for more exciting details to follow.

### Annual Meeting

Please reserve Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. More information will follow.

### Save the date

“Tired of all this snow and cold weather? Ready to be sitting on a sunny beach?”  
Now that we have your attention - don't forget to register for the 2011 Parish Life Conference in Hyannis from June 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> that St. John's is hosting. Newly renovated rooms are available at a discounted rate 3 days before and after the Conference itself (June 17-19). We have a wonderful schedule of events planned and are hoping for a great turnout from our host parish! Early bird discounts are still available, so register today! For more information, visit our website: [Conference2011.stjohnd.org](http://Conference2011.stjohnd.org)



The Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian



*O Lord and Master of my life!*

*Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and  
idle talk.*

*But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to  
Thy servant.*

*Hea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and  
not to judge my brother  
for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen*



# The Proof of Fasting

Do you fast?  
Give me proof of it by your works.

If you see a poor man, take pity on him

If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye, and the feet, and the hands and all members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice. Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful. Let the ears by not listening to evil talk and gossip.

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers and sisters?



- St. John Chrysostom



The Virgin Mary Society invites you  
to their

## *Annual Lenten Dinner*

Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

5 pm – 6:30 pm

Donation *with* reservations by April 8<sup>th</sup>:

\$12 (adults) and \$6 (children)

Donation *without* reservations: \$15 (adults) and \$7.50 (children)

Menu: Baked Fish, M'judarra (Lentils), Spinach  
Pies, Salad, Dessert and Coffee

For reservations, by April 8<sup>th</sup>, please call or email the church  
office at 781.326.3046 or [churchoffice@stjohnd.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnd.org)

**All proceeds to benefit the 2011 project of the Antiochian Women  
St. Thekla Monastery at the Antiochian Village**

# *Donations for Lent and Holy Week*

The Lenten Season will soon be under way and soon Holy Week and Pascha will be here as well. There are many things, as you know, that the Church will need for all of the special services coming up, and we ask for your participation and support.

If you would like to offer a donation to the Church of St. John of Damascus for the health of or in memory of any of your family members or friends, please fill out the form below and mail it back to the church office as soon as possible.

We thank you and pray that you experience a most joyfully rewarding and fruitful Lenten season and celebration of our Lord's Holy Pascha.



Dear Fr. John,

It would be a great joy for me/us (**envelope #** \_\_\_\_\_) to offer a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my Paschal gift to the church. Please accept this donation for:

*(please circle one)*

for the health of or in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

given by:

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\_\_\_ *Please list in the Palm Sunday bulletin*

or

\_\_\_ *Please list in the Pascha (Easter) Bulletin*

*Deadline for donations is Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

2011 Easter Card to benefit the Children's Relief Fund



Instead of sending Easter cards, include your name in our Easter card, which will be given out on Easter night.

Please enclose your donation (check payable to St. Ignatius/St. John) with this form and mail to:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City& Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for donation is Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

All proceeds to benefit the Children's Relief Fund and our sponsorship of 12-year old Tony Srour of Lebanon.

A project of the St. John's Chapter of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

# Holy Week - 2011

## April 16<sup>th</sup> Lazarus Saturday

- ❖ Divine Liturgy @ 9 a.m.; Communion Breakfast, hosted by the Church School, to follow



## April 17<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday

- ❖ Matins @ 9 a.m. (**NO** Confessions)
- ❖ Divine Liturgy with procession @ 10 a.m.
- ❖ Bridegroom Matins @ 5 p.m.

## April 18<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Monday

- ❖ Confessions 6 pm – 6:45 pm
- ❖ Bridegroom Matins @ 7 p.m.

## April 19<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Tuesday

- ❖ Confessions 6 pm – 6:45 pm
  - ❖ Bridegroom Matins @ 7 pm
- Confessions will NOT be heard after tonight**

## April 20<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Wednesday

- ❖ Sacrament of Holy Unction @ 7 p.m.

## April 21<sup>st</sup> Great and Holy Thursday

- ❖ Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with washing of feet @ 9 a.m. Communion breakfast, hosted by the Church School, to follow.

- ❖ Twelve Gospels with procession @ 7 p.m.

## April 22<sup>nd</sup> Great and Holy Friday

- ❖ Great Vespers with un-nailing of Christ from the Cross @ 3 p.m.
- ❖ Lamentations with procession @ 7 p.m.

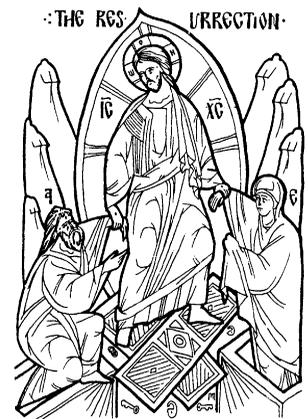
## April 23<sup>rd</sup> Great and Holy Saturday

- ❖ Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great @ 9 a.m.

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- ❖ Rush Service @ 10 p.m.
  - ❖ Paschal Canon with Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and Agape breakfast to follow

## Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> PASCHA: The Feast of Feasts

- ❖ Agape Vespers @ 11 a.m. @ St. Mary's, Cambridge, with St. George, West Roxbury & St. John's



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

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www: stjohnd.org

Church Office Hours...  
Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.  
The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is Thursday at 10 a.m.  
Please plan accordingly.

DEADLINE for the May/June, 2011 *Torchbearer* will be April 6<sup>th</sup>.  
This will be the final newsletter until September 2011.

Please consult the weekly Sunday bulletin for any changes, corrections, etc.