
THE TORCHBEARER

May/June, 2011

“The earth doth celebrate and dance for joy, and heaven doth rejoice today on the Ascension of the maker of creation, who by His volition clearly united that which was separated” (Canon of the Matins for Ascension)

As I write this, Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the Feast of feasts – Pascha are right in front of us. This is such a special time of the year when we “go all out.” The church is cleaned to a shine, the choir has extra rehearsals, the church looks splendid, and excitement builds. However, for many people Pascha (Easter) is seen merely as a “holiday” announcing the beginning of spring. We think of Pascha in terms of the Easter bunny and chocolate and the like. Instead of basking in the glow of the Resurrection, Pascha is merely seen as just another day to eat, drink, and be merry. I am reminded of a true story that I love to tell. A friend and classmate of mine, Fr. Nicholas Ceko, a Serbian Orthodox priest currently serving in Los Angeles, was home in Chicago during the Paschal season. As he walked down the street he came across a friend of his from his church. At the top of his lung’s Fr. Nicholas shouted “Christ is Risen!!!” The man looked at him and said, “that was Sunday.”

Beloved in the Lord, “the earth doth celebrate and dance for joy, and heaven doth rejoice today on the Ascension of the maker of creation, who by His volition clearly united that which was separated.” The Resurrection is about giving us a new beginning, a fresh start. Our goal is to see the gifts that God continues to give to us. No longer are we separated and estranged from God, no longer does sin divide us. Christ “tramples down death by his death and to those in the tombs he bestows life.”

During this Paschal season, let us pause and allow our body, mind, and soul to ascend from the cares and pressures of this fallen and sinful world and think about the things that await those who believe in God. The Resurrection is not just “on Sunday” but rather it permeates all that we do, say, pray and think as Christians. Let us seek to continually unite ourselves to God. Let us be like the Samaritan woman and allow our “thirsty soul(s) to drink of the waters of piety; for thou, O Savior, didst cry out to all: Whoever is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Wherefore, O well spring of life, Christ our God, glory to thee.” (*Dismissal hymn of the Vespers of the Samaritan Woman*).

On behalf of my family, I greet you all with the words of salvation and eternal life, Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! With much love, Archpriest John K. Teebagy,
Pastor

Church Records

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

+ Matilda Stephens (99) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on April 14, 2011. She is survived by 1 son and 4 daughters, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

+ Mary Kirby Abdelahad (89) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on April 19, 2011. She is survived by 1 son and 3 daughters. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

Memory Eternal!



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

Nicholas Vincent, son of Ralph and Diane (Lind) Peavey of North Attleboro, was baptized on March 20th, 2011.

Many Years!



From the Executive Board

Greetings Fellow Parishioners. Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

I would like to provide a brief update on our Church Complex and Parish Home. The Maintenance Committee has done a great job keeping the property up to date given the interior and exterior maintenance budget allocation of \$27,000.

The following projects have been completed recently:

- Replaced all of the rugs in the church hall and hallways and installed ceramic tile in front of the Tree of Life and kitchen.
- Repaired and painted all the walls of the church.
- Replaced of one HVAV unit on Roof. There are still three to go.

- Installed chair and table rails in large hall to protect the walls and paint
- Refinished the front doors of the church
- Replaced one water heater
- Repaired kitchen tile and installed tile in the church school hallway.
- Buffed all church school floors and washed the furniture
- Replaced three broken and fogged windows
- Fixed oven in the kitchen and church school heat issue.

There are also a number of projects underway.

- Ladies room repairs
- Installation of a grapevine for use by the Virgin Mary Society.
- The roof in the church itself has a few leaks that need to be corrected
- Church property spring clean-up including removal a dead tree in the courtyard
- Storage drawers in the Bengari area for religious articles.
- Protection of icons behind the candles in the Bengari and other candle area repairs

The Maintenance Committee is also addressing a number of repairs at the parish home. These include repairing the roof, ceilings, cement steps, and interior rugs.

I would like to thank Richie Homsy, Chairman of the Maintenance Committee as well as Arthur Khouri, Tim Langley, Bob Zahka, Alan Cardoos, Tom Sabbag, Norman Beshere, and Mike Esty for all of their work to keep our church complex and parish home up to date. If you see anything that needs to be addressed, please let a member of the committee know and we will add it to our list. May God Bless you and your family. Thank you all, Don Khouri II, Chairman, Executive Board

From the Stewardship

Beginning this year, the stewardship pledge form will be mailed out in September. The Finance Committee needs to receive parishioners pledges earlier so they can plan and budget for the upcoming needs of our Church. If you have any questions, please call the office or speak with our Treasurer, Kathleen Tawa.

From The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

Thanks to all of those who participated in the annual Easter card. The funds raised will continue our sponsorship of Tony Srour through the Children's Relief Fund. The annual dinner meeting of The Order will take place at the Diocese of Worcester and New England Parish Life Conference at the Resort and Conference Center of Hyannis, MA on Saturday, June 18, 2011. For further information, please visit the conference website: <http://www.stjohnd.org/conference2011>

This year, St. John of Damascus will host the Parish Life Conference. At this time, we hope to induct a large group of members to the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Membership, which is a lifetime commitment, starts at \$500 per year (\$42 a month which can be automatically deducted from your bank account.) Please consider joining us in this charitable arm of the Archdiocese. One of the most outstanding features of The Order is that almost every dollar collected goes directly to charitable purpose. Only 2% is used for administrative purposes. The Order spends over \$1 million a year to fund many programs in the Archdiocese, including Christian Education, Antiochian Village, College Conference, Missions and Evangelism, etc. The Order also helps those in need around the world through International Orthodox Christian Charities, Project Mexico, the Al-Kafaat Foundation, and others. Since its start in 1976, the Order of St. Ignatius has distributed over \$20 million and now distributes \$1.4 million annually: 38% of the archdiocesan annual budget.

For further information, visit <http://www.antiochian.org/order>

From the Fellowship

The Food for Hungry People Program is concluding. Make your check payable to the church and earmark it F.F.H.P. and return by June 1, 2011. Thank you.

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 18th at 7 pm. More information will follow.

73rd New England Parish Life Conference

Your hosts

Church of St. John of Damascus

Save the dates

June 17-19, 2011

At the

Resort and Conference Center of Hyannis

“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 17th -19th.

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



St. John's Parish Picnic at the Church

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Following Divine Liturgy & Graduation Exercises

* Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Salads & Desserts *

* Activities & Games *

* Fun & Fellowship with your Parish Family *

Donation: \$10/Adult
Church School Students Free

For reservations, please call Carol Hazerjian at 508-660-0072,
e-mail at chazerjian@verizon.net or call the Church Office at
781-326-3046, or sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

If you can help in any capacity (grilling, setting up, running an activity, cleaning up), please contact Carol Hazerjian.

Save the
date.....



Remembering the
Crusaders
An old fashioned

Smorgasbord

Saturday,
October 8th,
2011

6 pm in the
church hall



Come for a night of.....
delicious Arabic food and
mazza
song and dance by our
own artists
many, many other
surprises

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

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

Address Correction Requested

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

Fr. John K. Teebagy, Pastor
300 West Street, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026
Telephone: 781. 326.3046; Fax: 781. 326.4473
[www: stjohnd.org](http://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.

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