
THE TORCHBEARER

Great Lent, 2013

Beloved in the Lord:

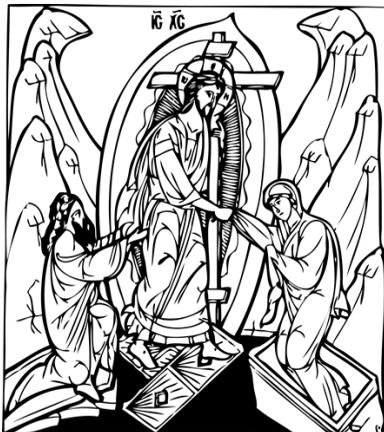
On Monday, March 18th, the Orthodox Church begins Great Lent. As we make our way as a family, as a community, toward our Lord's empty tomb let us all strive to return to God, much like the Prodigal Son, and see what good God has to offer to fill the emptiness of the world. Please do something to observe 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. With much love in Christ, Fr. John K. Teebagy, Pastor

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



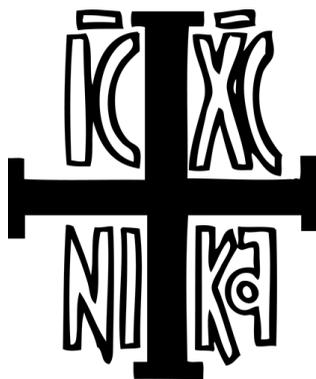
with fasting, let them now enjoy the reward. If any have worked from the first hour, let them accept their just pay. If any have come after the third, let them feast with thankfulness. If any have arrived after the sixth, let there be no doubt, for they shall suffer no loss. If any come after the ninth, 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!"

+Richard Lind (74) of Norwood fell asleep in the Lord on December 30, 2012. His wife, four children and their families survive him. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.



Memory Eternal!

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

Christopher Andrews and Ashley Close were married on October 20th, 2012. We wish them well as they begin their new life together in Norwood.

Brian Reilly and Rachel Sabbag were married on November 10th, 2012. We wish them well as they begin their new life together in Worcester.

Many years!



From The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch ... Due to inclement weather, the Diocese of Worcester and New England Annual Dinner has been rescheduled to March 10th, 2013. All are welcome.

The St. John chapter would like to invite you to participate in our fundraiser to sponsor 14 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. Ignatius is a major supporter of International Orthodox Christian Charities, the official humanitarian aid assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. IOCC is currently working to respond to the urgent needs of thousands of internally displaced Syrian families who were driven from their homes by the conflict that has engulfed Syria. They are distributing bedding and personal health kits, and visiting families and providing support for their pressing needs. Please consider joining.

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, the charitable arm of our Archdiocese. Complete information about the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is available on the Archdiocese Web Site (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. Please make your check payable to the church and earmark it F.F.H.P. and return by June 1st, 2013. Thank you.

Lenten Liturgical Notes & Announcements...

Confession - Great Lent begins on March 18th, is the perfect opportunity for you to receive Confession, especially if you plan on receiving the Eucharist on Palm Sunday (April



28th) and Pascha (May 5th). Confession is available *before* all Lenten services, during Matins on Sunday mornings (8:40 –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. The deanery visits the various churches for Great Compline on Monday nights during Great Lent. As of now, we will gather on Monday, March 18th @ St. George, Norwood @ 7 pm. Please see your weekly bulletin for more dates, as they become available.

Annunciation Please join us on Monday, March 25th at 9 am for liturgy to celebrate the Feast at St. George, Norwood.

Bishop's visits During April, we will be honored and blessed to welcome Saidna John twice to St. John's. Saidna will visit us on the 3rd Sunday of Lent (April 7th) with the procession of the cross, and on Lazarus Saturday (April 27th).

The Robert P. Zahka Memorial Scholarship and The St. John of Damascus Community Scholarship Scholarship applications are now available from the church office and the St. John's website. Applications are due by April 15th, 2013 and scholarships will be awarded at Church School graduation on May 19th, 2013. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to attend full time, a fully accredited college, university, or technical school. Applicants must be graduates of St. John of Damascus Church School. For further information, please contact Chris Bezreh or Fr. John.

Save the date The Annual Parish Life Conference being hosted by St. George, Lowell on June 27th -30th, 2013 is right around the corner. More information to follow, as it becomes available.

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 26th, 2013

5:30 pm - 7 pm

Donation with reservations by April 19th:

\$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 19th, please call or email the
church office at 781.326.3046 or churchoffice@stjohnd.org*

*All proceeds to benefit the 2013 project of the Antiochian
Women: 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:

___ *Please list in the Palm Sunday bulletin*

or

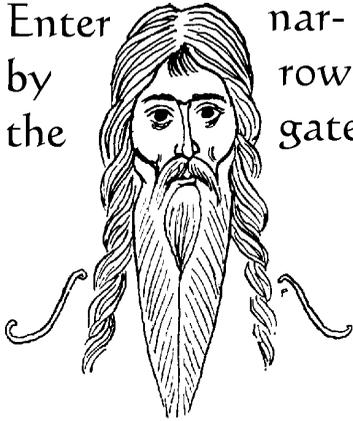
___ *Please list in the Pascha (Easter) Bulletin*

Deadline for donations is Sunday, April 21st, 2013

The Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian



Enter
by
the



nar-
row
gate

*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.*

*Fea, 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*



2013 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 21st, 2013

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

Holy Week - 2013

April 27th, Lazarus Saturday

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



April 28th, Palm Sunday

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

April 29th, Great and Holy Monday

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

April 30th, Great and Holy Tuesday

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

May 1st, Great and Holy Wednesday

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

May 2nd, Great and Holy Thursday

- ❖ Vespertal 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.

May 3rd, Great and Holy Friday

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

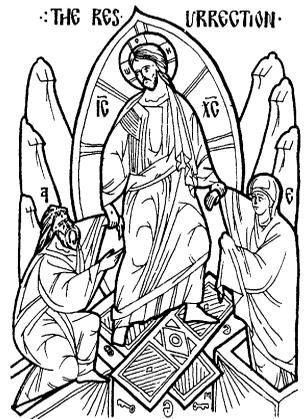
May 4th, Great and Holy Saturday

- ❖ Vespertal 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, May 5th, PASCHA: The Feast of Feasts

- ❖ Agape Vespers @ 11 a.m. HERE w/ St. George, West Roxbury, St. Mary's, Cambridge



Mahrajan 2013

June 15th

Dear Parishioners,

On Saturday June 15th, we are planning our 2nd annual Mahrajan, featuring live Arabic music by Fouad Hajar and Ensemble. There will also be amazing American and Arabic food, dancing raffles, children's games, face painting, and more. Save the day and watch for details in the coming months.



As a parish we are looking to raise money in innovative and exciting ways. Please make every effort to join us at this exciting annual event. Please bring your family and friends, to help make it successful.

Volunteers are needed and any and all donations are welcomed, whether they are items for raffles, food, or financial assistance to help offset the cost of the Mahrajan.

For further information, please contact:

Alan Cardoos: apcardoos@mac.com; Gail Kurker: gkurker@gamil.com or 781.381.0278;
Rick Ahto: rickahto@gmail.com