

# The Torchbearer

The newsletter of St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church of Dedham, MA  
300 West Street, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026-5594

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Fr. John K. Teebagy, Pastor

September/October 2014



The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulcher and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the

True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

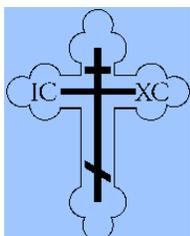
*We will celebrate this Feast on  
procession of the Holy Cross, and*



*Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> with the liturgy,  
distribution of flowers beginning at 10 am*

## Church Records....

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



+John Shagoury (87) of Needham fell asleep in the Lord on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He is survived by his wife Priscilla, and two sons, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

+Christine Ayoub (89) of West Roxbury fell asleep in the Lord on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

+Annette Affsa (79) of Quincy fell asleep in the Lord on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. She is survived by a daughter, and three sons, along with their families. Burial was at Pine Hill Cemetery in Quincy, MA.

+Elaine Saad (53) of Wilmington, MA fell asleep in the Lord on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. She is survived by her husband Elias, a daughter, and two sons, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Boston.

*Memory Eternal!*

*From The Executive Board...* It is my sincere pleasure to be writing this message to you, as it means that I have been elected to serve as the chairman of your executive board for a second term. I want to thank you all for your support and suggestions this past year. With your input, we have been able to continue to grow both spiritually and socially within our community.

This summer, not different from any other, we relax a bit while keeping an eye out for any immediate needs of the church. We welcome new members while others need to resign and this year we currently only have 16 active members. We are looking for 5 more. If interested, please call the church office. Even with 16 members, our work will continue and we will be asking more of you to participate and take on an active role in your church. Please say "YES". It is your church, your place of worship and your place for social gatherings if you wish.

We love our traditions, but are always welcoming new ideas, but will not know it unless you tell us. So please continue to do so. We have some very exciting events coming up in the near future, some traditional and some new. Please follow and support them. Please check our website or call the church office for more information. Hope to see you all, *Ray Hamwey, Executive Board Chairman*

*The Virgin Mary Society Centennial...* The Virgin Mary Society (VMS) will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we shall gather to give homage and pay tribute to those past

100  
years

members, God Rest Their Souls, who had the vision to gather and create a ladies organization that would last through the years and to those ladies who have continuously during those past 100 years fulfilled the dream and goal of the founders. The VMS has been and is the only organization of this parish, who has never faltered in its mission to provide for the parish. We all should be humbled by their love of their faith, endless hours of devotion and hard work and their continuous effort to provide so that our parish could exist through the years.

We want the celebration on December 7<sup>th</sup> to be just that—a celebration in remembrance to all those gracious ladies past and present who stood and stand tall and proud to be called women of the VMS.

Most of us have someone who was or is a member. Please go through all your photographs and send them to the church office to my attention. The photos will be returned to you once they are duplicated. In addition, if any of you have an "original" recipe, we would like copies of those. If anyone has any "history", especially the names of the original group of women who formed the VMS that would be greatly appreciated. Anything you have for a time capsule would be welcome.

Thank you, *Olivia A. Waishek, Chairperson 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

*From the Virgin Mary Society...* The Virgin Mary Society kicked off its 100th year with a dinner meeting on August 4. This was followed by the start of cooking for our annual bazaar to be held on November 7, 8 and 9, 2014. Please check our Facebook page and website for updates to our schedule. We welcome all to join us as we prepare for our parish's largest fundraiser of the year.

The date of the Anniversary luncheon has been changed to December 7, 2014 and we look forward to celebrating with everyone. We will still plan to have our group photograph with Bishop John on Sunday, October 5 following liturgy.

New members are always welcome! *Christine Bezreh and Gail Kurker, co-presidents*



*From Teen SOYO...* All of the new officers of the Teen SOYO are very excited for this upcoming church year. Our first meeting will be held at noon on September 21st. All available, ages 12-18 years old, are welcomed and encouraged to attend the first meeting. In Christ, *Kristina Kurker, Teen SOYO president*

**Many years to the new officers of our Teens for 2014-**

**15!!** The officers are: President: Kristina Kurker; Vice President: Madison Gallelo; Treasurer: Alyson Veo; Secretary: Marissa Esty; Sergeant-at-Arms: Michael Esty; Chaplain: Christine Yakovleva

*From The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch...* The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is an organization of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America with the objective of financially supporting the departments, programs and charitable works of the Antiochian Archdiocese, Patriarchate of Antioch and the Orthodox Christian faith. The Order assists the Antiochian Archdiocese in its continued effort to reach out to all in need and bring to them the message of the Gospel.

The membership of the Order is comprised of clergy and lay individuals who make a lifetime financial commitment and pledge to work together in harmony to promote the spiritual and financial well-being of the Antiochian Archdiocese and the Orthodox Christian faith.

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch provides funds to the International Orthodox Christian Charities, which is currently providing much needed relief in Syria, Lebanon and Gaza. IOCC staff is on the ground in Gaza, responding to the urgent needs of displaced families providing emergency relief such as food, water, bedding, blankets, hygiene items and infant supplies.

Responding to one of the worst humanitarian and refugee crises in history, IOCC is one of the few international nongovernmental organizations working on the ground in 26 offices across Syria to provide aid to people who have been displaced inside the country by the civil war. In providing this aid, IOCC works in close partnership with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East.

There are many ways to join this charitable arm of the Archdiocese. Membership, which is a lifetime commitment, starts at \$500 per year (\$42 a month which can be automatically deducted from

your bank account.) The Commander level is \$1,000 per year, or \$84 a month. If you are interested in joining the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, please speak to Fr. John. For more information, visit <http://www.antiochian.org/order>.

*From the Choir...* The Choir resumes for the season on September 7th with rehearsal at 9 am. New members are welcomed and encouraged to join. If you have any questions, please feel free to see me. In Christ, **Mark Haddad, Choir Director**

*FYI...*



>**Liturgical Schedule** We will return to our regular liturgical schedule on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, with Matins at 9 a.m. and the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. Confession is offered from 8:45-9:40 a.m. or by appointment.

>**September Feast Days** Two major feast days are celebrated in September: The Nativity of the Mother of God (September 8<sup>th</sup>) and the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross (September 14<sup>th</sup>).

>**Snowbirds** Before leaving for Florida, please give the office your temporary address and the dates of your stay. This ensures that you get the church's mail in a timely manner and reduces postage costs for the church. Thank you.

>**Bulletin Deadline** Please remember that the deadline for the Sunday bulletin is Wednesday at 2 pm.

>**The Syrian clothing drive** is an on-going Project. Please bring clean, new and/or gently used clothing and shoes for men, women and children of any age and place them in the Clothing Bin at the entrance of the hall. Thank You!

>**Theophany School's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonia's Run—Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at St. George** – The day promises to be filled with lots of excitement with our Kid's Fun Run, 5K run and walk, a cookout, bouncy house, balloon artist, and face painting! Each year, the proceeds from Sonia's Run go towards Theophany School's "Building on a Dream" campaign, to fulfill Sonia's Dream of a permanent home for Theophany School.

>**St. George, West Roxbury** will have their annual bazaar on **October 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>** at their church hall. For more information, please visit <http://www.stgeorgeofboston.org/>.

> **Patriarch JOHN X to visit the archdiocese** The Enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph will take place during December 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York. The actual enthronement will take place in conjunction with Vespers on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. **We will be greatly blessed by the presence of His Beatitude Patriarch John X who will preside during this weekend.** For more information, please visit the Archdiocese website at [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)



A NIGHT OF LOVE FOR

*Andrea*

Inspiring hope ...  
Andrea's journey



For the past six years, **Andrea Larkin** –wife, mom, marathoner, and fitness professional – has been on a journey of recovery after suffering a devastating aneurysm and stroke. Andrea is an inspiration to everyone who knows her! Her intense determination and passionate spirit, as she works relentlessly on improving her physical well-being, are inspiring! The purpose of this event is to raise crucial funds Andrea needs for her expenses, including home care, equipment, therapies and medical bills. Please support Andrea and her family with one unifying bond of love and caring!

**NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY YOUR TICKETS!**

Saturday, September 13, 2014  
7 –11 p.m.

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

TICKETS \$40 EACH  
Silent Auction –Raffles –DJ-Dancing –Food

Please make checks payable to:  
**Friends of Andrea Larkin**

Mail to: Gail Kurker  
142 West Jersey Street, Dedham, MA 02026

**We need your help to make  
this event a true "Night of  
Love for Andrea!"**

- ✓ Multi-level sponsorships available
- ✓ Auction items needed
- ✓ Donations of goods and services welcome

*Thank you in advance  
for your support!*

Like us on Facebook:  
**A Night of Love for Andrea**

[www.nightforandrea.com](http://www.nightforandrea.com)

*Friends of Andrea Larkin is not a 501(c)(3) organization.*



Saint John's Orthodox Church

## Annual Bazaar

November 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Experience the finest in authentic Middle Eastern cuisine,  
including rolled grapeleaves, shish kabob and baklava.

### Also featured will be:

- \* American food \* Snack bar \* Middle Eastern & American Pastry
- \* Christmas Crafts \* Hidden Treasures \* Religious Articles
- \*Country Store \* Almost New Boutique \* Sports Tickets & Money Raffles \* Used CD's \* Children's Games & Crafts

**Live Auction on Saturday: Silent Auction all weekend.**

Treat yourself to a weekend of culinary delights and enjoy the excitement that this social gathering is sure to provide.

(Take-Out Available)

Please Join Us..... Don't miss out on the fun!

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### BAZAAR HOURS

*Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 12 pm - 9 pm*

*Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 10 am - 9 pm*

*Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 12 pm - 2 pm*



Let's celebrate the start of a new  
Church School Year with a

**BACK-TO-CHURCH SCHOOL  
BARBECUE**

*Sponsored by the Church School Parent Guild*



**Sunday, September 7, 2014**

Directly after Divine Liturgy and Church School

**Donation:**

\$10 Adult/\$5 Children ages 5 – 14 years old

***For reservations, please contact:***

Carol Hazerjian at [chazerjian@verizon.net](mailto:chazerjian@verizon.net)

Bertina Kurker at 781-721-1647 or the Church Office

Volunteers needed! Please contact Carol Hazerjian  
([chazerjian@verizon.net](mailto:chazerjian@verizon.net) or 508-660-0072) if you would like to help.

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**All are welcome!**

# Save the Date!

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
Diocese of Worcester and New England

## Parish Council Workshop

**Saturday,  
September 27,  
2014  
9am - 1pm**



at St. John of Damascus  
Church in Dedham, MA

Missions & Outreach:  
Developing strategies to  
enhance the witness and  
growth of our parishes

[worcesterdiocese.net](http://worcesterdiocese.net)