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# THE TORCHBEARER

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

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MAY/JUNE 2008

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*The catechetical homily of Saint John Chrysostom*

*Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!*



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...*

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

Julia Louise, daughter of Matthew and Rachel (Sabbag) Reynolds of Needham, was baptized on February 24, 2008

Thomas Angelo, son of John and Michele (Mabardy) Sarro of West Roxbury, was baptized on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

### *Many Years!*



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

+Faris C. Cahaly (89) of Marlborough fell asleep in the Lord on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He is survived by his wife, 3 daughters, and a son, along with their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.

+Jim Ambrose (88) of Bedford fell asleep in the Lord on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. He is survived by his wife, 2 daughters and a son, along with their families. Burial was at Shawsheen Cemetery in Bedford.

### *Memory Eternal!*



*From the Executive Board...* Please plan on attending the annual Parish Meeting Scheduled **Wednesday May 14th at 7 pm**, in the newly decorated Parish Hall. I would appreciate your input. Wayne E. Zahka, Chair

### *Announcements...*

❖ **Food For Hungry People Program** – The Food for Hungry People Program is concluding. Please remember the homeless throughout the world during this holiest time of the year. Please consider offering a generous donation to this most worthy cause; make your check payable to the church and earmark it “FFFP” and return it by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you!

❖ **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Your attendance and input would be most appreciated. Please plan on participating!

❖ **Nominations** for serving on the Executive Board are being accepted until May 14<sup>th</sup>, which is the annual meeting. If you and/or someone you know, would like to offer your name, please send in the name(s) to the attention of the nominating committee at the church office or let any Board member know. You may also e-mail your nominee by writing to [execboard@stjohnd.org](mailto:execboard@stjohnd.org). We have a very busy and exciting year ahead... so won't you get involved?

❖ **Church Closed** As we have done in the past, the church will be **closed** on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, due to the Parish Life Conference. Please join us at the Providence Marriot for liturgy that day, starting at 10 am, or another local Orthodox church in your area.

❖ **Summer Church Hours** – As usual, the Divine Liturgy will start at 9:30 a.m. from **June 15<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive**. Please mark your calendars. The church will be closed on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, due to the Parish Life Conference in Plymouth.

❖ **Blessing of Graves...** As is the custom, Fr. John will be at Fairview Cemetery on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 1 p.m. to bless the graves of our loved ones. Trisagion Prayers will be offered for all the dead of our church family at the church at the conclusion of liturgy that morning, which begins at 10 a.m. We all will then go to Fairview together.

❖ **N. G. Beram Veterans Association – Scholastic Achievement Awards** The N. G. Beram Veterans Assoc. is pleased to announce the continuation of this program for the 42<sup>nd</sup> year, which was established to encourage, promote and support the education of students of

Arabic speaking backgrounds. High school seniors can obtain the application along with the instructions by visiting the web page at: [www.stjohnd.org/ngberam](http://www.stjohnd.org/ngberam). All applications must be postmarked no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

❖ **The Dormition Fast** begins on **August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please do your best to observe this fast to the best of your abilities. This fast in honor of the Mother of God's "Dormition," is one of the four major fasting periods of the Church.

❖ The blessing of the grapes will take place on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ, which the Church celebrates on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

❖ It has come to the attention of the members of the Centennial Committee that some names of Veterans had been omitted from the Centennial Ad Book. All efforts were made to gather and present accurate information, we apologize for any inadvertent oversight. Below are the names of Veterans that served our Country and were accidentally omitted: James Ambrose, George Ayoub, Mitri Ayoub, Russell Ayoub, Russell Bunai, Jr., Lois Cardoos, John Dyer, Richard George, Mary Haluey, Mitchell Maloof, George Saideh, William Saideh, Nicholas Samra, and Joseph Zelaway.

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A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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**The deadline for the September/October 2008 issue of *The Torchbearer* will be announced**

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