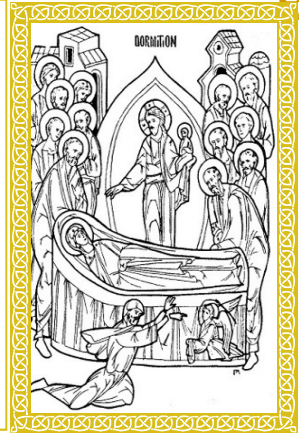




# Church of the Virgin Mary

كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America



*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." (Acts 11:26)*

## January 1, 2012

**Feast of the Circumcision in the Flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Feast of St. Basil the Great**

عيد ختانة ربنا يسوع المسيح بالجسد

عيد القديس باسيليوس الكبير

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Dn. Saed Rihani - cell phone: (773) 454-2191, email: srihani6@cs.com

### Weekly Schedule of Services

*Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Great Vespers*

*Sunday: 9:15 a.m. Matins -- 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy*

*Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. Matins -- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study*

*(Confessions by Appointment)*

Welcome to the Church of the Virgin Mary! We extend our warmest and heartfelt greetings to you and your family. If this is your first time with us, we pray that you feel at home. After all, we are gathered together in our Father's house. Please see one of the ushers at the end of the service for a "Welcome Packet" for more information. May God bless you and give you many healthy years in His service.

أهلاً بكم في كنيسة العذراء مريم! يُسعدنا أن نُقدّم لكم ولعائلاتكم تحياتنا القلبية الحارّة. إذا كانت هذه زيارتكم الأولى لكنيستنا، نرجو أن تشعروا بأنكم في بيتكم الذي هو بيت أبينا جميعاً. أَلرّجاء أن تسألوا أحد المساعدين في الكنيسة في نهاية الخدمة الالهية عن "رزمة معلومات الترحيب" التي تحتوي على المعلومات المطلوبة. اللهُ يبارككم وينعم عليكم بالصحة لسنين عديدة في خدمة الرب.

## Clergy, Parish Council, Committees, and Ministries

### Parish Clergy:

*Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad, Pastor*  
*Rev. Fr. Malek Rihani*  
*Rev. Dn. Saed Rihani*  
*Subdeacon Matthew Sweis*

### Parish Council:

#### **Presiding Officer**

*Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad*

#### **Chairman**

*Ramiz Sweiss*

#### **Vice Chairman**

*Fadi Abu Manneh*

#### **Treasurer**

*Abdullah Tadros*

#### **Financial Secretary**

*Joe Sweis*

#### **Secretary**

*Abeer Khouri*

#### **Council Members:**

*George Barakat*

*Martha Eannace*

*Maher Ibrahim*

*Scott Johnson*

*Bassam Salman*

*Luai Sweiss*

*Ramzi Sweis*

*Rashid Sweis*

### Committees:

#### **Altar / Liturgics**

*Mazen Ammari & Steve Rihani*

#### **Expansion**

*Luai Sweiss*

#### **Communication**

*Martha Eannace*

#### **Financial**

*Abdullah Tadros & Joe Sweis*

#### **Fundraising**

*Ramzi Sweis*

#### **Building Maintenance**

*Scott Johnson*

#### **Humanitarian**

*Shireen Salman*

#### **Stewardship**

*Rashid Sweis*

#### **Web Master**

*Sana Sweis*

### Office Secretary

*Katia Haddad*

### Organizations and Ministries:

#### **Sunday School Director**

*Rita Sweiss*

#### **Sunday School Spiritual Director**

*Dn. Saed Rihani*

#### **Ladies Guild President**

*Kholoud Swais*

#### **Ladies Guild Spiritual Director**

*Fr. Mousa Haddad*

#### **Fellowship President**

*Khalil Haddad*

#### **Fellowship Spiritual Director**

*Dn. Saed Rihani*

#### **SOYO President**

*Hadeel Sweis*

#### **SOYO Advisor**

*Orieb Sweis & Steve Rihani*

#### **SOYO Spiritual Director**

*Fr. Malek Rihani*

#### **Handmaids of the Lord**

*Mansoura Khouri & Lina Haddad*

#### **Handmaids Spiritual Director**

*Fr. Malek Rihani*

#### **Choir Director**

*Michael Rascia*

#### **Chanter**

*Khaled Salman*

**Church Hall Rental - Call: 708-691-0827 or email: [katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org](mailto:katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org)**

# Changes in the Liturgy

## تغييرات في القداس

### Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, *Who wast circumcised in the flesh*, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يَا مَنْ اخْتَنَنْتَ بِالْجَسَدِ، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

### Entrance Hymn

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

هلم لنسجد ونركع للمسيح ملكنا والهنا، خالصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الاموات، لنرتل لك هلولويا!

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Four)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying death hath been spoiled, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك بشرى القيامة البهيج. وطرحن عنهن القضاء الجدي. وخاطبن الرسل مفتخرات وقائلات. قد سبي الموت وقام المسيح الإله. مانحاً العالم الرحمة العظمى.

### Troparion of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord (Tone One)

O most compassionate Lord, while yet God after thine essence, thou didst take human likeness without transubstantiation; and having fulfilled the law thou didst accept willingly circumcision in the flesh, that thou mightest annul the shadowy signs and remove the veil of our passions. Glory to thy goodness, glory to thy compassion, glory to thine ineffable condescension, O Word.

أيها الرب الجزيل التحنن. إنك وأنت إله بحسب الجوهر قد اتخذت صورة بشرية بغير استحالة. وإذ أتممت الشريعة تقبلت باختيارك ختاناً حسدياً، لكي تنسخ الرسوم الظلمية وتزيل قناع أهوائنا. فالمجد لصلاحك، المجد لتحننك، المجد لتنازلك الذي لا يوصف أيها الكلمة.

### Troparion of St. Basil the Great (Tone One)

In all the earth that received thy sayings, thy melody did resound, O righteous Father, through which thou didst go about and proclaim, as worthy of God, the nature of creatures, cultivating the character of mankind, O thou of kingly Priesthood, Basil. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

إلى كل الأرض القابلة أقوالك، أيها الأب البار، ذهب صوتك الذي به حددت العقائد تحديداً يليق بالله. وأعلنت طبيعة الكائنات وثقت أخلاق البشر، يا ذا الكهنوت الملوكي باسيليوس. فتشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

### Troparion of the Dormition (Tone One)

In thy birth giving O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

في ميلادك حفظت البتولية وصنيتها وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم وتركته يا والدة الإله. لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

### Kontakion of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord (Tone Three)

The Master of all endureth humiliation and is circumcised for the iniquities of mankind; for he is good, and granteth salvation to the world. And in the highest the High Priest of the Creator, clothed with light, the divine initiate of Christ, Basil, rejoiceth.

إن سيد الكل باحتماله الإهانة يحسم وزر البشر. وبالصلاح والوجود يمنح اليوم الخلاص لكل العالم ويسر في الأعالي النجم اللامع رأس كهنة الخالق ومسار المسيح باسيليوس.

## Epistle for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

### الرسالة لعيد ختانة ربنا يسوع المسيح بالجسد

*My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding!*

*Hear this, all ye people!*

**\*The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians (2:8-12)\***

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

فمي يتكلم بالحكمة وقلبي يهتد بالفهم!

اسمعوا هذا يا جميع الأمم!

**\*فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل كولسي (2:8-12)\***

يا إخوة أنظروا أن لا يسلبكم أحدٌ بالفلسفة والغرور الباطل حسب تقليد الناس على مقتضى أركان العالم لا على مقتضى المسيح \* فإنه فيه يحل كل ملء اللاهوت جسدياً \* وأنتم مملئون فيه وهو رأس كل رئاسة وسلطان \* وفيه خُتنتم ختانياً ليس من عمل الأيدي بل بخلع جسم خطايا البشرية عنكم بختان المسيح \* مدفونين معه في المعمودية التي فيها أيضاً أقمتم معه بإيمانكم بعمل الله الذي أقامه من بين الأموات.

## Gospel for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

### الإنجيل لعيد ختانة ربنا يسوع المسيح بالجسد

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:20-21, 40-52).**

And it came to pass that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou treated us so? Behold, Thy father and I have been looking for Thee anxiously." And Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

**\*فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير, التلميذ الطاهر (2:20-21, 40-52)\***

في ذلك الزمان رجع الرعاة وهم يمجدون الله ويسبحونه على كل ما سمعوا وعايونا كما قيل لهم\* ولما تمت ثمانية أيام ليُختن الصبي سُمي يسوعُ كما سماه الملاكُ قبل أن يُحبل به في البطن\* وكان الصبيُّ ينمو ويتقوى بالروح ممثلاً حكمة وكانت نعمةُ الله عليه\* وكان أبواه يذهبان إلى أورشليم كل سنة في عيد الفصح\* فلما بلغ اثنتي عشرة سنة صعدا إلى أورشليم كعادة العيد\* ولما أتتا الأيام بقي عند رجوعهما الصبيُّ يسوعُ في أورشليم ويوسف وأمه لا يعلمان\* وإذ كانا يظنان أنه مع الرفقة سافرا مسيرة يومٍ وكانا يطلبانه بين الأقارب والمعارف\* وإذ لم يجدها رجعا إلى أورشليم يطلبانه\* وبعد ثلاثة أيام وجداه في الهيكل جالسا فيما بين المعلمين يسمعهم ويسألهم\* وكان جميعُ الذين يسمعون مندهشين من فهمه وأجوبته\* فلما نظراه بُهتا، فقالت له أمه يا ابني لِمَ صنعتَ بنا هكذا. ها أننا أنا وأباك كنا نطلبك متوجعين\* فقال لهما لماذا تطلبانني، ألم تعلما أنه ينبغي لي أن أكون فيما هو لأبي\* فلم يفهما الكلام الذي قاله لهما\* ثم نزل معهما وأتى الناصرة وكان خاضعا لهما، وكانت أمه تحفظ ذلك الكلام كله في قلبها\* وأما يسوعُ فكان يتقدم في الحكمة والسن والنعمة عند الله والناس.

# Changes in the Liturgy

## تغييرات في القداس

### التعظيمة لوالدة الإله من قدّاس باسيليوس الكبير (باللحن الثامن)

إن البرايا بأسرها تفرحُ بكِ يا ممتلئةً نعمةً، محافلَ الملائكةِ وأجناسَ البَشَرِ، أيتها الهيكلُ المتقدّسُ والفردوسُ الناطقُ، فخرَ البتوليةِ مريم التي منها تجسّدَ الإلهُ وصارَ طفلاً وهو الإلهُ الذي قبلَ الدهورِ، لأنه صنعَ مُستودَعَكَ عرشاً وجعلَ بطنَكَ أرحبَ من السَّمَاوَاتِ، لذلكِ يا ممتلئةً نعمةً تفرحُ بكِ كلُّ البرايا وتُمجّدُكِ.

### Megalynarion for the Theotokos from the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Tone Eight)

In thee all creation rejoices, O Full of Grace; the assembly of angels and the race of Man; O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise; the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child; our God before the ages, He made thy body into throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. In thee all creation rejoices; O Full of Grace, glory to thee.

### التعظيمة للقديس باسيليوس الكبير (باللحن الثاني)

لنكرمن جميعاً باسيليوس العظيم النابغ من قيصرية كبادوكية المصباح المنير الملهم من المسيح السيد والمُظهر الأمور السماوية.

### Post-Megalynarion Hymn for St. Basil (Tone Two)

Let us all extol the great Basil, revealer of heavenly things, initiate of the Master, the star shining from Caesarea in Cappadocia, honoring and magnifying him.

بدلاً من "قد رأينا النور الحقيقي..."، نرتل:

### طوربارية عيد ختانة ربنا يسوع المسيح بالجسد (باللحن الأول)

أيُّها الربُّ الجزِيلُ التحنُّن. إنكَ وَأَنْتَ إِلَهٌ بحسبِ الجوهْرِ قَدْ اتَّخَذْتَ صُورَةَ بَشَرِيَّةٍ بغيرِ استحالة. وإذِ أتممتَ الشريعةَ تقبَّلتَ باختيارِكَ خِتَاناً حَسِدياً، لكي تنسخَ الرُّسومَ الظليَّةَ وتُزِيلَ قِنَاعَ أهوائِنَا. فالمجدُ لصلاحِكَ، المجدُ لحننِكَ، المجدُ لتنازُلِكَ الذي لا يوصفُ أيُّها الكلمة.

Instead of "We have seen the true light...", sing:

### Troparion of the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord (Tone One)

O most compassionate Lord, while yet God after thine essence, thou didst take human likeness without transubstantiation; and having fulfilled the law thou didst accept willingly circumcision in the flesh, that thou mightest annul the shadowy signs and remove the veil of our passions.

Glory to thy goodness, glory to thy compassion, glory to thine ineffable condescension, O Word.



Honoring your loved ones: Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays to provide Holy Bread and Coffee hour. It's this gift of Holy Bread that we use to prepare communion and to share with our parishioners at the end of the service.

*What better way to honor your loved ones on their birthday, anniversary, graduation or memorial. It takes minimal effort, and it encourages fellowship among our community.*

### Hospitality Teams

*“Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the Trinity one in essence and undivided.” - From the Divine Liturgy*

<i>Holy Bread and Coffee Hour</i>	<b>القداس والقهوة</b>
<b>01/01:</b> Ghaleb and Rita Sweis and Family	<b>01/01:</b> غالب وريتا صويص والعائلة
<b>01/08:</b> Steve and Hana Haddad & Family	<b>01/08:</b> ستيف وهنا حداد والعائلة
<b>01/15:</b> Samih Sweis & Family	<b>01/15:</b> سميح صويص والعائلة

### Epistle Readers:

*Today: English - Lana Ammari , Arabic - Mansura Khouri*

*Next Week: English - Sub. Dn. Matthew Sweis , Arabic - Mazen Ammari*

### Altar Server Ministry:

**01/01: Team B (Captain Ramiz Riadi):** Ramí Sweis, Murad Salman, Yazen Swais, Anthony Rihani, Saleem Swais, Sharbel Samawi, Kyse Dahdal, Joseph Fallouh, Louis Corey, Alexander Corey

**01/08: Team C (Captain Arrar Alnaser):** Omar Nemri, Mathew Nemri, Samer Sweis , Elia Sweis, Simon Tadros, Murad Salman, George Corey, Woody Corey

**01/15: Team A (Captain Jordan Rihani):** Odei Sweis, Yousif Saigh, Jimmy Salman, Jai Riske, Sean Rihani, Daniel Al- Nemri, Joseph Sweis, Matthew Ibrahim, Gabe Corey, Sam Corey

## “Bible Verse of the Week”

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world.”

**John 16:33**

أخبرتكم بهذا لكي يكون لكم سلام من خلالي. ستواجهون ضيقاً في العالم، لكن تشجعوا فأنا قد انتصرت على العالم.

**يوحنا 16:33**

## Prayer for the Beginning of the New Year

O Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of all things, who by Thy authority has established the times and the seasons, who provides us with rain and the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and who hears the prayers of those who humbly seek Thee, accept also our requests about our needs and concerns and deliver us from every worry, danger, and sin. Thy mercy is as abundant as thy works. Bless all our activities, direct our steps by Thy Holy Spirit, and forgive our sins. O Lord, bless the beginning of our New Year with Thy goodness and make it a year of grace for all of us. Preserve us in peace through the prayers of Thy Most Holy Mother, the Theotokos, and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

### صلاة لبداية السنة الجديدة

أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ، يَا خَالِقَ جَمِيعِ الْأَشْيَاءِ، يَا مَنْ بِسُلْطَانِهِ خَلَقَ الْأَزْمِنَةَ وَالْمَوَاسِمَ وَمَدَّنَا بِالْأَمْطَارِ وَبُقُولِ الْأَرْضِ الْعَزِيْرَةِ، يَا مَنْ يَسْتَمِعُ إِلَى صَلَوَاتِ طَالِبِيهِ، إِقْبَلْ طَلَبَاتِنَا لِمَا نَحْتَاجُ إِلَيْهِ وَنَهْتَمُّ بِهِ وَخَلَّصْنَا مِنَ الْهُمُومِ وَالْأَخْطَارِ وَالْخَطَايَا. رَحْمَتُكَ عَظِيمَةٌ كَأَفْعَالِكَ. بَارِكْ كُلَّ أَعْمَالِنَا، سَدِّدْ خُطَانَا بِرُوحِكَ الْقُدُّوسِ وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا خَطَايَانَا. يَا رَبُّ، بَارِكْ بَدَايَةَ هَذِهِ السَّنَةِ الْجَدِيدَةِ بِصَلَاحِكَ وَاجْعَلْهَا سَنَةً خَيْرٍ عَلَى الْجَمِيعِ. إِحْفَظْنَا بِسَلَامٍ، بِشَفَاعَةِ أُمَّكَ الْكَلِيَّةِ الْقَدَّاسَةِ وَجَمِيعِ قَدِّيسِيكَ. آمِينَ.

# Parish News

Fr. Mousa, Fr. Malek, and Dn. Saed and their families wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year filled with God's abundant blessings! May God grant you many more healthy New Years to come!



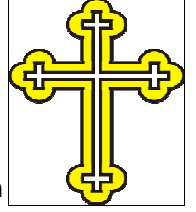
يتمنى الاب موسى, الاب مالك, والشماس سعد للجميع عاماً سعيداً مليئاً ببركات الله. نسأل الله أن يعيد عليكم أعواماً عديدة بالسعادة والمحبة!



Please join us Thursday, January 5th at 7pm to celebrate the Liturgy of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the service in which we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. We will also have the Great Sanctification of Water, which will be given out in bottles at the end of Liturgy to everyone in attendance. May God bless you all!

نرجو مشاركتنا يوم الخميس 5-1-2012 الساعة السابعة مساءً في خدمة القديس لعيد الغطاس (عيد الظهور الإلهي). في هذه الخدمة نحتمل بعماد السيد المسيح من يوحنا المعمدان في نهر الاردن. سنقوم أيضاً بتقديس الماء وتوزيعه على المصلين في نهاية القديس الالهى. الله يبارككم جميعاً!

Congratulations to Mitch Luke Lowenstein on his Chrismation into the Holy Orthodox Church. May God grant Mitch many healthy years in his service. Mabrouk!



تهانينا الى ميتش لوك لوينستين بمناسبة تثبيته بالميرون للكنيسة الاورثوذكسية المقدسة.

نسأل الله ان يمنحه سنيماً عديدة بالصحة لخدمة الرب. مبروك!



Congratulations to Philip and Grace Preyma Riske on the churching of their baby girl Asha Sophia. Many years to Asha, her parents, and the entire family. Mabrouk!

تهانينا الى فيليب وقريس بريما ريسكي بمناسبة زيارة ابنتهم آشا صوفيا للكنيسة. نسأل الله ان بمنح الطفلة ووالديها والعائلة الصحة والسعادة لسنين عديدة. مبروك!

Please make sure you pick up your 2012 St. Mary's Calendar after Liturgy. God bless!



تذكروا أن تأخذوا رزنامة 2012 بعد القديس الالهى اليوم. الله يبارككم!



The 2012 Holy Bread & Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is available in the Church hall. Please take time to sign up for a Sunday. God bless!

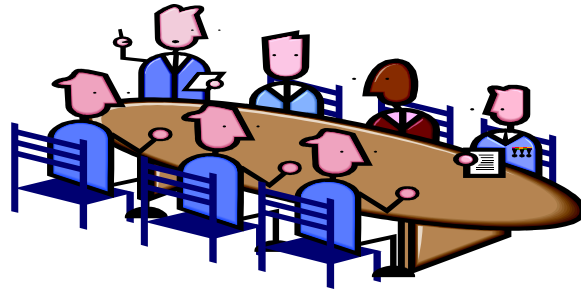
يُرجى ممن يرغب بتقديم الفُدَّاس والقهوة لأيِّ من أيام الأحد لعام 2012، أن يقوم بتسجيل إسمه في السجل المخصص لذلك في قاعة الكنيسة. الله يبارككم!

**Pledge Envelopes are here!!!!** Please pick up your 2012 pledge envelopes today. You will find them laid out on a table in our Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

نرجو ان تأخذوا اليوم المغلفات الخاصة بالاشتراك السنوي للكنيسة. الله يبارككم على دعمكم!



## General Assembly Meeting



Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will be next Sunday, January 8th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please make sure that you are up-to-date in your pledges. Thanks and God bless!

# Team PLC 2012 Meeting

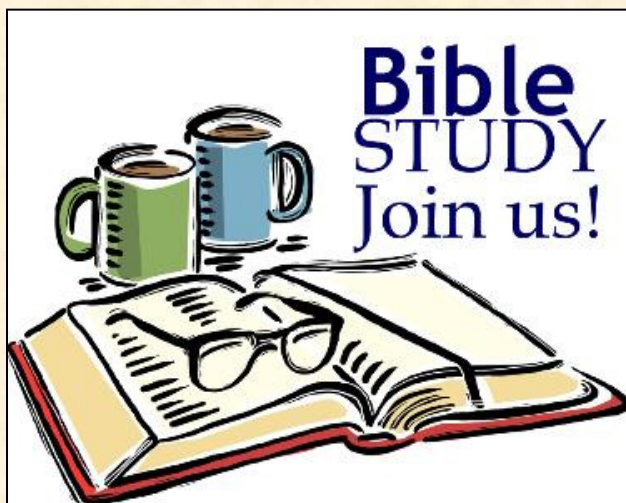
This Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, in St. Mary's Fellowship Hall, there will be a meeting for all committees and volunteers who are helping in the planning and organization of the 2012 Parish Life Conference that our parish is hosting.

Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and your commitment to our parish and the 2012 PLC.

An agenda will be provided at the meeting. Please bring all of your ideas to the meeting.

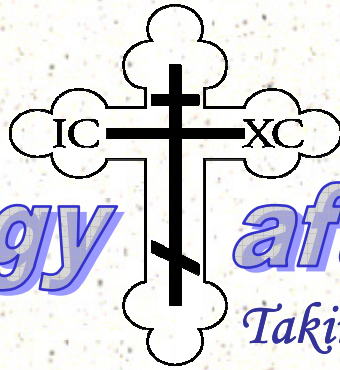
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Abdullah Tadros (aytadros@gmail.com) or CJ Kari (ckari@comcast.net), our PLC Chairs, and plan to be at this meeting.

Many blessings to you and best wishes for a safe New Year Celebration.



January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>  
February 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>rd</sup>  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>  
June= to be determined  
Please see Klodia Haddadin  
for questions or to get on the  
list. [khaddadin@gmail.com](mailto:khaddadin@gmail.com)  
708-208-3039

*Church of the Virgin Mary will be covering Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans for this year's Bible bowl tournament. All teens and adults are invited to join us and dig deeper into one of Saint Paul's most challenging and spiritually moving letters! We will be meeting at the Church of the Virgin Mary on Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Please see the dates below. We are open to suggestions for different dates.*



# "Liturgy after the Liturgy"

*Taking our faith outside the church walls*

## **Lots of Socks needed!!!**

We are sending another shipment of needed items to the Romanian Orphans. This year we are sending backpacks, t-shirts, hats and toothbrushes, and we would like to also send socks.

If you would like to donate NEW socks (any color and size, for children and teens), please bring them to church any time before January 15 (We are shipping the items on 1/15, so no donations will be accepted after that day).

If you would like to donate any items, or if you would like to cover part of the cost to ship the items to Romania, please see Kh. Delia.



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Canton Basketball Tournament

January 20-22, 2012

Division I:

Ages 12-15 / Division II: Ages 15-18 / Division III:

Ages 19-26



## Friday, January 20

7 pm: Registration begins/Pizza (Hotel Lobby)

8 pm: Teen SOYO Meeting (Hotel Ballroom)

9 pm: Retreat: (Hotel Ballroom)

## Saturday, January 21

7 am: Morning prayers/Breakfast/Tournament Brackets  
(Hotel Ballroom)

8 am: Basketball Tournament begins (locations to be announced)

12 pm: Lunch (at Basketball locations)

6 pm: Great Vespers (St. George Serbian)

7 pm: Banquet/ Awards Presentation/Hafli (St. George Serbian)

## Sunday, January 22

8:45 am: Matins (St. George Antiochian)

10 am: Divine Liturgy (St. George Antiochian)

11:30 am: Brunch and Farewell (St. George Antiochian Hall)

Early Registration: \$45 by January 13 Registration: \$55  
(Includes all meals and events)

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

1118 Cherry Ave. NE Canton, OH 44704

330-455-8482 stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net

Hotel Information: Courtyard by Marriott

4375 Metro Circle NW N. Canton, OH 44720 330-494-6494

Group Rate: \$75/night (Mention St. George Canton)

If interested Please contact Racan Haddad at [Racanhaddad@yahoo.com](mailto:Racanhaddad@yahoo.com) or Call 708-691-7199 or Nidal at [haddadnidal24@yahoo.com](mailto:haddadnidal24@yahoo.com) or Call 708-691-8849



# Bible Bowl & Oratorical Festival

## 2012 CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL THEME

# ORATORICAL

**"The Bible... fills us  
with eternal joy."**

### Orators are encouraged to:

- *Share* their thoughts on the quote from John of Damascus.
- *Speak* to the joy, and comfort you receive from the scriptures.
- *Share* how you hear the Scriptures in your life.
- *Share* your favorite Bible story or section of the Scriptures, speaking to why it is your favorite and what it brings to you and others.

### Take into account the words of St John of Damascus:

The fuller text from St John of Damascus, from which our Conference theme is taken, appears below:

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for training in righteousness.’ [2 Tim. 3:16] The soul therefore gains great advantage from the reading of the Bible.

Like a tree planted by streams of water,’ [Ps. 1:3] the soul is irrigated by the Bible and acquires vigor, produces tasty fruit, namely, true faith, and is beautiful with a thousand green leaves, namely, actions that please God. The Bible, in fact, leads us towards pure holiness and holy actions. In it we find encouragement to all the virtues and the warning to flee from evil.

The Bible is a scented garden, delightful, beautiful. It enchants our

ears with birdsong in a sweet, divine and spiritual harmony, it touches our heart, comforts us in sorrow, soothes us in a moment of anger, and fills us with eternal joy.

Let us knock at its gate with diligence and with perseverance. Let us not be discouraged from knocking. The latch will be opened.

If we read a page of the Bible two or three times and have not understood it, let us not be tired of re-reading it and meditating on it. Let us seek in the fountain of this garden ‘a spring of water welling up to eternal life,’ [John 4:14] We shall taste a joy that will never dry up, because the grace of the Bible garden is inexhaustible. ”

*John Damascene, On the Orthodox Faith (The Fount of knowledge), Book 4 Chapter 17  
Translation from "Drinking from the Hidden Fountain" by Thomas Spidlik*

An online version of John of Damascus’ writing can be found at:  
[www.orthodoxyouth.org/JohnDamascene.pdf](http://www.orthodoxyouth.org/JohnDamascene.pdf)

You may want to read the entire 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Book 4 referenced above. The quoted text appears on page 374 of the book itself – look at the numbers on the page in the electronic version to get to the correct page.

For additional information on the Oratorical Festival, visit:  
[antiochian.org/Festivals](http://antiochian.org/Festivals)

The Festivals are hosted by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine.

Topics developed and printed by the Department of Youth Ministry.



**If you are between 13-19 years old and you are interested in participating in next year’s Oratorical Festival, please let Kh. Delia know. We will start working on the speeches soon!**

# Midwest Parish Life Conference 2012

Commemorative Journal

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Church of the Virgin Mary, Alsip, IL, Host Parish

June 27 - July 1, 2012



Pages range from  
\$200 - \$1500

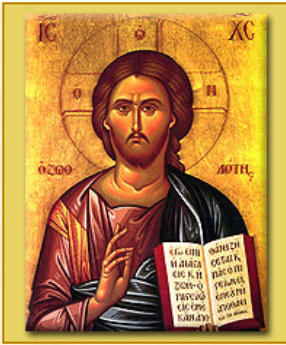
**DEADLINE FOR AD MATERIAL  
AND DONATION IS  
MAY 1, 2012**

Would you like to commemorate  
someone special, living or dead?

Would you like to advertise your  
business or company to  
hundreds and hundreds  
of people?

Would you like to  
simply give thanks to a group or  
individual?

Questions? Contact Isa Riadi  
(219-985-4433) or you can email  
[adbook2012@aol.com](mailto:adbook2012@aol.com)



## Weekly Synaxarion



On January 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Circumcision in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ; it being the eighth day after His birth, we commemorate also the giving of the Name of Jesus. The Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. The Old Testament circumcision was the proto-type of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was also circumcised because He wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. Thus, the Apostle Paul declares: “For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation” (Gal. 6:15). On this day we also commemorate our Father among the Saints Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. Basil was baptized in the River Jordan and was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title “Great” and is referred to as the “bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics.” Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him, which we will celebrate today. Basil reposed peacefully in 379 A.D. On this day, we also commemorate the new-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.