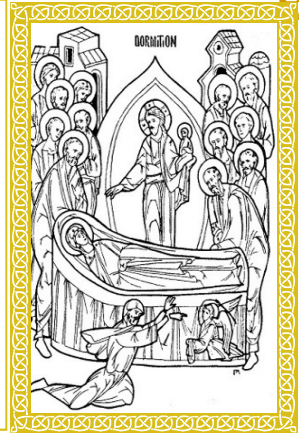




Church of the Virgin Mary

كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America



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

January 8, 2012

Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

الأحد الذي بعد عيد الغطاس (الظهور الإلهي)

12147 S. Cicero Avenue, Alsip, IL 60803

Phone : (708) 239-0004 Fax : (708) 221-6449

www.virginmaryoc.org

Fr. Mousa Haddad - cell phone: (708) 979-3222, email: fr.mousa@gmail.com

Fr. Malek Rihani - cell phone: (708) 516-6417, email: myrihani@hotmail.com

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 أبنينا 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

تغييرات في القداس

Changes in the Liturgy

First Antiphon

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a strange people.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

الانديفونا الأولى

في خروج إسرائيل من مصر وبيت يعقوب من شعب بربري.
بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

أبصره البحر فهرب والأردن رجع إلى الوراء.
بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

المجد للآبِ والإبِنِ والروحِ القدس، الآن وكل أوانٍ وإلى دهر
الداهرين. آمين.

بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

Second Antiphon

I am well pleased for the Lord has heard my voice and my supplication.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

The sorrows of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me. I found trouble and sorrow, and I called upon the Name of the Lord.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; and our God is Merciful.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

O only-begotten son and word of God...

الانديفونا الثانية

أحببت أن الرب يستمع صوت تضرعي.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من اعتمد من يوحنا في الأردن، لنرتل لك، هلوليا!
الضيق والمخاض أصاباني فدعوت اسم الرب.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من اعتمد من يوحنا في الأردن، لنرتل لك، هلوليا!
الرب حنونٌ وصديقٌ، وإلهنا رحيمٌ.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من اعتمد من يوحنا في الأردن، لنرتل لك، هلوليا!
المجد للآبِ والإبِنِ والروحِ القدس، الآن وكل أوانٍ وإلى دهر

الداهرين، آمين.

يا كلمة الله الابن الوحيد...

Third Antiphon

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlighten the world, glory to Thee!

الانديفونا الثالثة

اعترفوا للربِّ فإنه صالحٌ وإنَّ إلى الأبدِ رحمتهُ، ليقلِّ بيتُ
إسرائيل إنَّهُ صالحٌ وإنَّ إلى الأبدِ رحمتهُ، ليقلِّ كلُّ أتقياءِ الربِّ
إنَّهُ صالحٌ وإنَّ إلى الأبدِ رحمتهُ.

بِاعْتِمَادِكَ يَا رَبُّ فِي نَهْرِ الأُرْدُنِّ، ظَهَرَتِ السَّجْدَةُ
لِلنَّالُوتِ، لِأَنَّ صَوْتَ الآبِ تَقَدَّمَ لَكَ بِالشَّهَادَةِ، مُسَمِّياً
إِيَّاكَ ابْنًا مَحْبُوبًا، وَالرُّوحَ بِهَيْئَةِ حَمَامَةٍ يُؤَيِّدُ حَقِيقَةَ
الكَلِمَةِ، فَيَا مَنْ ظَهَرْتَ وَأَنْتَ الْعَالَمِ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الإِلهُ
الْمَجْدُ لَكَ!

Changes in the Liturgy

تغييرات في القداس

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، خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الاموات، لنرتل لك هلوليا!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Five)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh to suffer death and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

لنُسبِّحُ نحن المؤمنين ونسجدُ للكلمة. المساوي للآب والروح في الازليَّةِ وعدم الابتداء. المولود من العذراء لخلصنا لأنه سرٌّ وارتضى بالجسد أن يعلو على الصليب. ويحتمل الموت وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجدية.

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone One)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

يا عتِما دك يا رب في نهر الأردن، ظهرت السجدة للثالوث، لأن صوت الآب تقدّم لك بالشهادة، مسمياً إياك ابناً محبوباً، والروح بهيئة حمامة يؤيد حقيقة الكلمة، فيا من ظهرت وأنرت العالم أيها المسيح الإله المجد لك!

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. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Theophany of our Lord (Tone Four)

Today thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise thee with knowledge, saying: Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

اليوم ظهرت للمسكونة يا رب، ونورك قد ارتسم علينا، نحن الذين نسبحك بمعرفة قائلين: لقد أتيت وظهرت، أيها النور الذي لا يذنى منه.

Epistle for the Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

الرسالة للأحد الذي بعد عيد الغطاس (الظهور الإلهي)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us!

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (4:7-13).

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

لتكن يا ربُّ رحمتك علينا!

ابتهجوا أيها الصديقون بالرب!

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس (4:7-13)

يا اخوة لكل واحدٍ منا أُعطيَت النعمةُ على مقدارِ موهبةِ المسيح * فلذلك يقولُ لَمَّا صعدَ إلى العُلَى سبى سبياً وأعطى الناسَ عطايا * فكونهُ صعدَ هلْ هو إلاَّ إنهُ نزلَ أولاً إلى أسافلِ الأرضِ * فذاك الذي نزلَ هو الذي صعدَ أيضاً فوقَ السماواتِ كُلِّها ليملاً كُلَّ شيءٍ * وهو قد أعطى أن يكونَ البعضُ رؤساءً والبعضُ أنبياءَ والبعضُ مُبشِّرينَ والبعضُ رعاةً ومعلمينَ * لأجلِ تكميلِ القديسينَ ولِعَمَلِ الخدمةِ وبُنْيَانِ جسدِ المسيح * إلى أن ننتهي جميعاً إلى وحدةِ الإيمانِ ومعرفةِ ابنِ اللهِ إلى إنسانٍ كاملٍ إلى مقدارِ قامَةِ ملءِ المسيح.

Gospel for the Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

الإنجيل للأحد الذي بعد عيد الغطاس (الظهور الإلهي)

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12-17).

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير، التلميذ الطاهر

**(4:12-17)*

في ذلك الزمان لما سمع يسوع أن يوحنا قد أُسْلِمَ انصَرَفَ إلى الجليل * وترَكَ
الناصرَةَ وجاءَ فسَكَنَ في كَفَرْنَاهُومَ التي على شاطئِ البحرِ في تخومِ زَبُولُونَ
ونفتاليم * لِيَتِمَّ ما قيلَ باشعيا النبيِّ القائلِ: أرضُ زَبُولُونَ وأرضُ نفتاليم
طريقُ البحرِ عَبْرَ الأردنِّ جليلُ الأُمَمِ * الشعبُ الجالسُ في الظلمةِ أبصرَ
نوراً عظيماً والجالسونَ في بُعْعةِ الموتِ وظلالهِ اشْرَقَ عَلَيْهِمُ نُورٌ * ومنذئذِ
ابتدأَ يسوعُ يكرزُ ويقولُ: توبُوا، فقدِ اقْتَرَبَ ملكوتُ السماواتِ.



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>	القداس والقهوة
01/08: Ghanem Sweis & Family	01/08: غانم صويص والعائلة
01/15: Samih Sweis & Family	01/15: سميح صويص والعائلة
01/22: Jamal Khouri & Family	01/22: جمال خوري والعائلة

Epistle Readers:

Today: *English* - Sub. Dn. Matthew Sweis , *Arabic* - Mazen Ammari
Next Week: *English* - Klodia Haddadin , *Arabic* - Khaled Salman

Altar Server Ministry:

01/08: Team C (Captain Arrar Alnaser): Omar Nemri, Mathew Nemri, Samer Sweis , Elia Sweiss, 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

01/22: Team B (Captain Ramiz Riadi): Rami Sweis, Murad Salman, Yazan Swais, Anthony Rihani, Saleem Swais, Sharbel Samawi, Kyse Dahdal, Joseph Fallouh, Louis Corey, Alexander Corey

“Bible Verse of the Week”

“For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.”

Titus 2:11-12

فَقَدْ ظَهَرَتْ نِعْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْمُخَلَّصَةَ، لِجَمِيعِ النَّاسِ، مُعَلِّمَةً إِيَّانَا أَنْ نُنْكِرَ الْفُجُورَ وَالشَّهَوَاتِ الْعَالَمِيَّةَ، وَنَعِيشَ بِالتَّعَفُّلِ وَالْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى فِي

العالم الحاضر. تيطس 2:11-12

A Note from Dn. Saed...

Dear Fr. Mousa, Fr. Malek, and all dear friends at the Church of the Virgin Mary,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I am thankful to Almighty God for each one of you for your kindness and words of Love which you shared with me last Sunday. Hearing your expressions of Love humbled me and I will always remember the times we shared together in the past 8 years!

Asking Almighty God to bless each and every one of you, and grant you many years of good health and happiness.

In Christ,
Dn. Saed

الاعزاء الاب موسى والاب مالك وجميع الاصدقاء في كنيسة العذراء مريم,

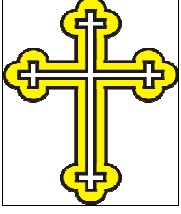
تحياتي باسم سيدنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح!

شكري الجزيل لله العلي القدير ولكل واحد فيكم على ما غمرتموني به من لطف ومحبة والتي شاركتكموني بها في آخر أحد. لقد أثرت في كلماتكم ومشاعركم والتي جعلتني أشعر بالتواضع والمحبة. الذكريات التي شاركتها معكم خلال الثماني سنوات الماضية, سوف تبقى في ذاكرتي دائماً. أسأل الله العلي القدير أن يبارك كل واحد فيكم ويمنحكم الصحة والسعادة لسنين عديدة.

في المسيح,

الشماس سعد ربحاني

Parish News



Our deepest and sincere condolences to the Sweis family on the loss of the handmaid of God Hana Jiries Mfudi Sweis who departed this life in Jordan. She is the wife of the late Jiries Ayoub Makhamreh and the mother of Shaher, Thaher, Maher, Bernadette, and the late Zouzou. She is the sister of Ghanem Sweis (Abu Haitham). May the Lord give rest to the soul of His handmaid Hana, and may He give peace and comfort to her family. May her memory be eternal!

تعازينا الى عائلة صويص بوفاة هناة جريس مفضي صويص التي انتقلت الى رحمته في الاردن. كانت المرحومة زوجة المرحوم جريس ايوب مخامرة ووالدة شاهر, ظاهر, ماهر, برنديت, والمرحومة زوزو, وشقيقة غانم صويص (ابو هيثم). نسأل الله ان يتغمدها برحمته ويلهم ذويها الصبر والسلوان. ليكن ذكرها مؤبداً!



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 القُدَّاس والقهوة لأيّ من أيام الأحد لعام 2012, أن يقوم بتسجيل إسمه في السجل المخصص لذلك في قاعة الكنيسة. الله يبارككم!

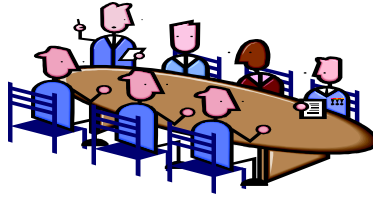
Pledge Envelopes are here!!!! Please pick up your 2012 pledge envelopes today. You will find them laid out on a table in our Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!



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

دعمكم!

General Assembly Meeting Today



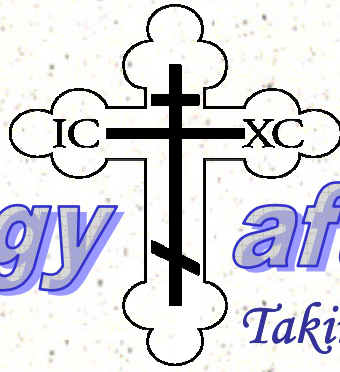
Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will be TODAY Sunday, January 8th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please make sure that you are up-to-date in your pledges. Thanks and God bless!

HOUSE BLESSINGS

Traditionally, at the feast of our Lord's Theophany on January 6th, we bless water which is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to our homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our house of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time. Please contact Fr. Mousa at 708-979-3222 or Fr. Malek at 708-516-6417 if you would like your home blessed this year.



جرت العادة أن يقوم الكاهن في تقديس بيوت المؤمنين في عيد الظهور الإلهي (عيد الغطاس) في اليوم السادس من كانون الثاني من كل عام. تقديس البيوت برش الماء المقدس، يُطهّر البيوت من الأرواح الشريرة ويُجدد إنتمائنا إلى الله تعالى. فكما تجددنا في المعموديتنا بالمسيح، كذلك بيوتنا وحياتنا كلها تُجدد إنتمائها إلى السيد المسيح إلهنا في مثل هذا الوقت من كل عام. يُرجى ممن يرغب في تقديس بيته أن يتصل بالاب موسى على هاتف 708-979-3222 او بالاب مالك على هاتف 708-516-6417.



"Liturgy after the Liturgy"

Taking our faith outside the church walls

Turn in Your Socks Today

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

Please turn in your NEW socks TODAY (any color and size, for children and teens).

If you would like to help cover part of the cost to ship the items, please see Khourieh Delia.



PIZZA SALE

!!!IMMEDIATELY AFTER GENERAL ASSEMBLY!!!
JOIN US & HELP SUPPORT OUR CHURCH'S BASKET-
BALL TEAM BY ENJOYING SOME PIZZA



!!!TODAY!!!

January 8th, 2012

Fellowship Bible Study

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

Date and Time:

January 13 at 7:00pm

Location:

St. Marys Fellowship Hall

Ages:

College age and up

Additional info: This will be a potluck event. Also a chance for all of our current fellowship members to bring new members into the church.

Bible Bowl Tournament

**Bible
STUDY
Join us!**



January 10th and 24th

February 7th and 28rd

March 6th, 13th and 20th

April 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

May 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

June= to be determined

Questions contact: Klodia Haddadin

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.

Church of the Virgin Mary

Invites you to Celebrate

Godparents' Day

When: Sunday, January 22 @ 10:00 a.m.

Where: Church of the Virgin Mary Alsip, IL

Why: Because Godparents are a huge part of their Godchildren's spiritual upbringing, we would like to honor them for their dedication.

Please be in church on time with your Godchild.
If you wish to receive Communion, please be prepared to do so with your Godchild.

We hope to see you all. God bless you and have a great New Year.

6h Annual SOYO Christmas Retreat 2011

**“THE BIBLE FILLS US WITH
ETERNAL JOY...”**



L.A.R.

Life After the Retreat
Saturday, February 4, 2012
5:30 p.m.

All retreat participants and parents are invited!

14th 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 or Call 708-691-7199 or Nidal at 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

You may want to read the entire 17th 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

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



Weekly Synaxarion



On January 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Theophany of our Lord, and commemorate our righteous mother Domnica of Carthage, who became illustrious in Constantinople. A pagan, Domnica went from Carthage to Constantinople in the reign of the Emperor Theodosius to Patriarch Nektarios, accompanied by four girls who were likewise ignorant of God. He baptized them and blessed them to live as nuns. Domnica devoted herself to asceticism with whole-hearted zeal, and did not falter right up to the time of her death at a great age in about the year 474. By the illumination of the Holy Spirit, Domnica was able to predict the future and perform miracles through prayer. On this day, we also commemorate our Venerable Father George the Chozebite. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.