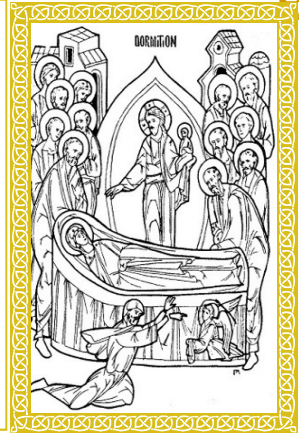




Church of the Virgin Mary

كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America



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

January 29, 2012

**Sunday of the Canaanite Woman
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

أحد الكنعانية

الأحد السابع عشر بعد العنصرة

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)

Congratulations St. Mary's!

مبروك!

You Did It! OUR NEW HOME!



Thank you for your support!

نشكرکم علی دعمکم!

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

Fadi Abu Manneh

Vice Chairman

Rashid Sweis

Treasurer

Abdullah Tadros

Financial Secretary

Samer Tadros

Secretary

Abeer Khouri

Council Members:

George Barakat

Maher Ibrahim

CJ Kari

Bassam Salman

Faris Samawi

Ramzi Sweis

Committees:

Altar / Liturgics

Mazen Ammari & Steve Rihani

PLC 2012

Abdullah Tadros & CJ Kari

Expansion & Maintenance

Luai Sweis

Fundraising & Stewardship

Rashid Sweis & Bassam Salman

Financial

Abdullah Tadros

Communication

Abeer Khouri

Constitution

Ramzi Sweis

Humanitarian

Shireen Salman

Ushering

Isa Riadi

Web Master

Sana Sweis

Office Secretary

Katia Haddad

Organizations and Ministries:

Sunday School Director

Rita Sweis

Sunday School Spiritual Director

Fr. Mousa Haddad

Ladies Guild President

Kholoud Swais

Ladies Guild Spiritual Director

Fr. Mousa Haddad

Fellowship President

Khalil Haddad

Fellowship Spiritual Director

Fr. Mousa Haddad

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 & Faris Samawi

Church Hall Rental - Call: 708-691-0827 or email: katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org

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 Eight)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

انحدرت من العلى أيها المتحنن. وقبّلت الدفنَ ذا الثلاثة الأيام، لكي تعتقنا من الآلام. فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا ياربُ المجد لك.

Troparion of St. Ignatius of Antioch (Tone Four)

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Holy Martyr among bishops Ignatius. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

صرت مُشابهاً للرسول في أحوالهم، وخليفةً في كراسيهم، فوجدت بالعملِ المرقاةً إلى الثاوريا أيها اللاهج بالله، لذلك تتبعت كلمة الحق باستقامة، وجاهدت عن الإيمان حتى الدم، أيها الشهيد في رؤساء الكهنة اغناطيوس، 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. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Presentation of our Lord to the Temple (Tone One)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in peace, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

يا من بمولدك، أيها المسيح الإله، المستودع البتولي قدست، وليدي سمعان كما لاق باركت، ولنا الآن أدركت وخلّصت. إحفظ رعيتك بسلام وأيد الذين أحببتهم، بما أنك وحدك محب للبشر.

Epistle for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

الرسالة للأحد السابع عشر بعد العنصرة

Make vows to the Lord thy God, and perform them!

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:16-18; 7:1).

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا نُذَوْرِكُمْ!

الله معروف في أرض يهوذا, واسمه عظيم في إسرائيل!

*فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى أهل كورنثوس

*(6:16-18; 7:1)

يا إخوة أنتم هيكل الله الحي كما قال الله إني سأسكن فيهم وأسير فيما بينهم وأكون لهم إلهاً وهم يكونون لي شعباً * فلذلك اخرجوا من بينهم واعتزلوا يقول الرب ولا تمسوا نجساً * فأقبلكم وأكون لكم أباً وتكونون أنتم لي بنين وبنات يقول الرب القدير * وإذ لنا هذه المواعيد أيها الأحباء فلنطهر أنفسنا من كل أدناس الجسد والروح ونكمل القداسة بمخافة الله.

Gospel for the Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

الإنجيل لأحد الكنعانيّة

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (15:21-28).

At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

*فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ متى الإنجيلي البشيرِ، التلميذِ الطاهرِ (15:21-28)

في ذلكَ الزمانِ خرجَ يسوعُ إلى نواحي صورَ وصيدا وإذا بِامرأةٍ كنعانيّةٍ قد خرجتْ من تلكَ التُّخومِ وصرختْ إليه قائلةً ارحمني يا ربُّ يا ابنَ داود. فإنَّ ابنتي بها شيطانٌ يُعذبُها جداً * فلم يُجبها بكلمةٍ. فدنا تلاميذهُ وسألوه قائلينَ اصرفها فإنَّها تصيحُ في إثرنا * فأجابَ وقالَ لهمَ لم أُرسلُ إلا إلى الخرافِ الضالّةِ من بيتِ إسرائيل * فأنتَ وسجدتَ لهُ قائلةً أغثني يا ربُّ * فأجابَ قائلاً ليس حسناً أن يُؤخذَ خبزُ البنينِ ويُلقى للكلابِ * فقالتُ نَعَمْ يا ربُّ فإنَّ الكلابَ أيضاً تأكلُ منَ الفتاتِ الذي يسقطُ من موائدِ أربابها * حينئذٍ أجابَ يسوعُ وقالَ لها يا امرأةٌ عظيمِ إيمانكِ فليكنْ لكِ كما أردتِ * فشُفيتِ ابنتها من تلكَ الساعةِ.



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
01/29: Steve and Hana Haddad and Family	01/29: ستيف وهنا حداد والعائلة
02/05: Ziad and May Sweis and Family	02/05: زياد ومي صويص والعائلة
02/12: Emad and Issam Haddad and Family	02/12: عماد وعصام حداد والعائلة

Epistle Readers:

Today: *English* - Rachel E. Taros , *Arabic* - Norma Tadros
Next Week: *English* - Elaine Riadi , *Arabic* - Fares Samawi

Altar Server Ministry:

01/29: Team A (Captain Jordan Rihani): Odeï Sweis, Yousif Saigh, Jimmy Salman, Jai Riske, Sean Rihani, Daniel Al- Nemri, Joseph Sweis, Matthew Ibrahim, Gabe Corey, Sam Corey, David Sweis
02/05: Team B (Captain Ramiz Riadi): Rami Sweis, , Yazen Swais, Anthony Rihani, Saleem Swais, Sharbel Samawi, Kyse Dahdal, Joseph Fallouh, Louis Corey, Alexander Corey
02/12: Team C (Captain Arrar Alnaser): Omar Nemri, Mathew Nemri, Samer Sweis , Elia Sweis, Simon Tadros, , George Corey, Woody Corey, Mark Sweis

“Bible Verse of the Week”

“But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.” [Psalm 59:16](#)

أَمَّا أَنَا فَأَتَرَنَّمُ بِقُوَّتِكَ. أَتَهَلُّ فِي الصَّبَاحِ لِرَحْمَتِكَ لِأَنَّكَ كُنْتَ لِي حِصْنًا مَنِيعًا وَمَلْجَأً فِي يَوْمِ ضَيْقِي.

[المزامير 59:16](#)

Parish News

Wednesday, February 1st at 7pm, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the Temple. Please join us in celebrating this feast, which is one of the 12 great feasts of the Church. God bless!



يوم الأربعاء الموافق الاول من شباط وفي الساعة السابعة مساءً، سنقيم قداساً إلهياً إحتفالاً بعيد دخول سيدنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح الى الهيكل. نرجو مشاركتنا في هذا العيد الذي يعد من الأعياد الكبرى الاثني عشر في الكنيسة. الله يبارككم!



Congratulations to Faris Bashar Sweiss and Cynthia William Rook on their union in Holy Matrimony. May God grant them many years of health and happiness together. Mabrouk!

تهانينا الى فارس بشار صويص وسنثيا وليام روك بمناسبة اتحادهما بشركة الزواج المقدس. نسأل الله ان يمنحهما الصحة والسعادة. مبروك!

Congratulations to Thomas Janetos and Rita Faisal Hegazin on their engagement. May God grant them many years of health and happiness together. Mabrouk!



تهانينا الى توماس جانيتوس وريتا فيصل حجازين بمناسبة خطوبتهما. نسأل الله ان يمنحهما الصحة والسعادة. مبروك!



Congratulations to Geries and Jana Fakhoury on the birth of their baby boy Salem. May God grant many years to baby Salem, his parents and their entire family. Mabrouk!

تهانينا الى جريس وجنا فاخوري بمولودهما الجديد سالم. نسأل الله ان يمنح الطفل ووالديه الصحة والسعادة لسنتين عديدة. مبروك!

Congratulations to the newly elected parish council members Bassam Salman and Faris Samawi and the newly appointed parish council members CJ Kari and Samer Tadros. May God grant them many healthy years in His service. God bless!

تهانينا إلى الاعضاء المنتخبين الجديد لمجلس الكنيسة بسام سلمن وفارس سماوي، وكذلك الاعضاء المعينين الجديد لمجلس الكنيسة قسطندي كاري وسامر تادرس. نسأل الله ان يمنحهم سنيماً عديدة بالصحة لخدمة الرب. مبروك!

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Parish Council: Fadi Abu Manneh (Chairman), Rashid Sweis (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah Tadros (Treasurer), Samer Tadros (Financial Secretary), and Abeer Khouri (Secretary). May God grant them many healthy years in His service. God bless!

تهانينا الى المجلس الكنسي المنتخب الجديد وهم: فادي ابو منة (رئيساً)، رشيد صويص (نائب الرئيس)، عبدالله تادرس (أمين الصندوق)، سامر تادرس (سكرتير مالي)، وعبير خوري (سكرتير). نسأل الله ان يمنحهم سنيماً عديدة بالصحة لخدمة الرب. مبروك!

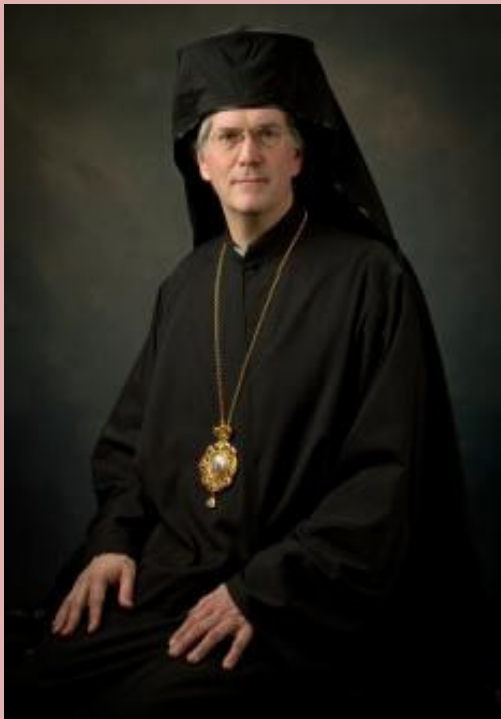
Reminder: Next Sunday, February 5th, the 2012 Parish Council will be sworn in immediately following the sermon. Thank you!

الاحد القادم الموافق الخامس من شباط سيقوم الاعضاء الجدد بإداء القسم بعد الانجيل مباشرة. شكراً!

*The Fellowship of St. John the Divine
Cordially Invites You To St. Mary's Annual*

St. Valentine's Hafleh !

*Honoring the first visit to Chicago of
His Grace ANTHONY Michaels
Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest*



Saturday, 02/11/2012

Time - 7:00 pm

*St. Constantine and Helen
11025 South Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465*

TICKETS:

Adults-\$30

Children under Twelve-\$15

To purchase your tickets or if you have any questions, see any of the Fellowship officers.

FOOD! MUSIC! RAFFLE! DABKE PERFORMANCE!

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.

خدمات الصيام والاسبوع العظيم 2012 Lent & Holy Week Services

شباط 29 فبراير	الأربعاء: القداس السابق تقديسه Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 2	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 7	الأربعاء: القداس السابق تقديسه Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 9	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 14	الأربعاء: القداس السابق تقديسه Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 16	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 21	الأربعاء: القداس السابق تقديسه Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 23	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 25	الأحد: خدمة القداس لعيد البشارة Sunday: Annunciation Liturgy	صباحا 10:30am
آذار 28	الأربعاء: القداس السابق تقديسه Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	مساء 7:00pm
آذار 30	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 7	السبت: القداس لسبت اليعازر Saturday: Lazarus Saturday Liturgy	صباحا 10:30am
نيسان 8	الأحد: خدمة القداس لعيد الشعانين Sunday: Palm Sunday Liturgy	صباحا 10:30am
	الأحد: الختن الأولى Sunday: 1st Bridegroom Service	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 9	الاثنين: الختن الثانية Monday: 2nd Bridegroom Service	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 10	الثلاثاء: الختن الثالثة Tuesday: 3rd Bridegroom Service	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 11	الأربعاء: صلاة الزيت المقدس Wednesday: Holy Unction Service	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 12	الخميس: قداس باسيليوس العظيم Thursday: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	صباحا 10:30am
	الخميس: خدمة 12 انجيل والصلب Thursday: 12 Passion Gospels	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 13	الجمعة: خدمة الساعات Friday: Royal Hours	صباحا 10:30am
	الجمعة: خدمة انزال المصلوب Friday: Taking Down From the Cross	مساء 3:00pm
	الجمعة: جناز المسيح Friday: Lamentations	مساء 7:00pm
	(سهرانية العيد GOOD FRIDAY All-Night VIGIL to follow)	
نيسان 14	السبت: قداس سبت النور Saturday: Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	صباحا 10:30am
	السبت: سحرية العيد، الهجمة وقداس القيامة Saturday: Rush Procession & Matins followed by Paschal Liturgy	مساء 10:00pm
نيسان 15	الأحد: صلاة الباعوث Sunday: AGAPE VESPERS	ظهرا 1:00pm

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!

DABKEH !!!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, THE 2012 DABKEH
TEAM IS STARTING!

WE WILL MEET THURSDAYS FROM 6-8PM, AND
SUNDAYS FROM 1-3PM

THIS IS OPEN FOR EVERYBODY, SO COME OUT
AND JOIN US!

IT IS A GREAT WAY TO MEET PEOPLE, GET A GOOD
WORKOUT, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAVE FUN!

PLEASE SEE ELAINE RIADI OR FABIOLA SWEIS
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Hope to see you there!





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,’ [Psa. 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

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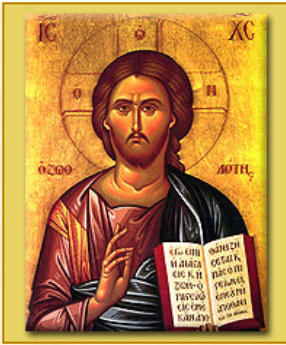
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Weekly Synaxarion



On January 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the recovery of the sacred relics of the holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer. His principal feast is celebrated on December 20, but today marks the translation of his relics from Rome, where he suffered martyrdom, to Antioch where earlier he was a bishop. When Ignatius was summoned to Rome before Emperor Trajan to account for his faith, he was accompanied on this long journey by several citizens from Antioch who were motivated by a great love toward their wonderful Archshepherd. Since he would never deny his faith in Christ, this saint of God, who abhorred all adulation and promises of Emperor Trajan, was condemned to death and was thrown into the Circus Maximus before wild beasts which tore him apart, and he gave up his soul to God. His companions then gathered his exposed bones and took them to Antioch and honorably buried them. When the Persians captured Antioch in the sixth century, the relics of Ignatius were again translated from Antioch to Rome. On this day, we also commemorate the New-martyr Demetrios of Chios. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.