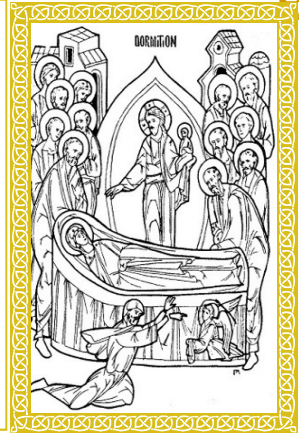




# Church of the Virgin Mary

كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America



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

## February 5, 2012

**Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican  
and the Sunday after the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple**

أحد الفريسي والعشار

والأحد الذي بعد عيد تقديم السيد الى الهيكل

12147 S. Cicero Avenue, Alsip, IL 60803

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

[www.virginmaryoc.org](http://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**

*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 Sweiss*

#### **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 Sweiss*

#### **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**

*Orieh 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](mailto: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!

هَلِّمْ لِنَسْجِدْ وَنَرْكِعْ لِلْمَسِيحِ مَلَكُنَا وَالْهَنَا، خَلَصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنَ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتَلِّ لَكَ هَلْلُويَا!

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone One)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life to the world; for which cause the Heavenly Powers cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of Life, Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Providence! O Thou who alone art the Lover of Mankind.

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حَفِظَ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ، قُتِمَتْ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ أَيُّهَا الْمَخْلُصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. لِأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ قَوَاتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ. الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمُلْكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لِتُدْبِيرِكَ، يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحْدَكَ.

### Troparion of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple (Tone One)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; for from thee arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who grants us Resurrection.

إِفْرَحِي يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ الْمُتَمَلِّئَةَ نِعْمَةً، لِأَنَّ مِنْكَ أَشْرَقَ شَمْسُ الْعَدْلِ الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهَنَا، مُنِيرًا الَّذِينَ فِي الظُّلَامِ. إِفْرَحِ الْآنَ وَابْتَهَجِي أَيُّهَا الشَّيْخُ الصِّدِّيقُ، حَامِلاً عَلَى ذِرَاعَيْكَ الْمُعْتِقَ نَفُوسِنَا وَالْمَانِحَ إِيَّانَا الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

### 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.

فِي مِيلَادِكَ حَفِظْتِ الْبَتُولِيَّةَ وَصَنَّتْهَا وَفِي رِقَادِكَ مَا أَهْمَلْتِ الْعَالَمَ وَتَرَكْتِهِ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ. لِأَنَّكَ انْتَقَلْتِ إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ بِمَا أَنْكَ أُمُّ الْحَيَاةِ. فَبِشَفَاعَاتِكَ أَنْقِذِي مِنَ الْمَوْتِ نَفُوسِنَا.

### 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.

يَا مَنْ بِمَوْلِدِكَ، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، الْمُسْتَوْدَعِ الْبَتُولِيَّةَ قَدَّسْتَ، وَلِيَدَيَّ سَمْعَانَ كَمَا لِأَقِ بَارَكْتَ، وَلَنَا الْآنَ أَدْرَكْتَ وَخَلَّصْتَ. إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ بِسَلَامٍ وَأَيِّدِ الَّذِينَ أَحَبَبْتَهُمْ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ وَحْدَكَ مُحِبُّ الْبَشَرِ.

# Epistle for the Pharisee and Publican

## الرسالة لأحد الفريسي والعشار

*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 the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (3:10-15).**

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings, and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا نُذَوْرَكُمْ!

الله معروف في أرض يهوذا، واسمه عظيم في إسرائيل!

**\*فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى تيموثاوس (3:10-15)\***

يا ولدي تيموثاوس إنك قد استقرت تعليمي وسيرتي وقصدي وإيماني وأنا تي ومحبتي وصبري \* واضطهاداتي وآلامي وما أصابني في أنطاكية وأيقونية ولسترة. وأية اضطهاداتي احتملت وقد أنقذني الرب من جميعها \* وجميع الذين يريدون أن يعيشوا بالتقوى في المسيح يسوع يضطهدون \* أما الأشرار والمغفون من الناس فيزدادون شراً مضلين ومضلين \* فاستمر أنت على ما تعلمته وأيقنت به عالماً ممن تعلمت \* وأنت منذ الطفولية تعرف الكتب المقدسة القادرة أن تُصيرك حكيماً للخلاص بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع \*

## Gospel for the Pharisee and Publican

### الإنجيل لأحد الفريسي والعشار

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10-14).**

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

\*فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ لوقا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ، التلميذِ الطاهرِ

\*(18:10-14)

قال الربُّ هذا المثل، إنسانانِ صعدا إلى الهيكلِ ليصليا أحدهما فريسيٌّ والآخرُ عشارٌ \* فكانَ الفريسيُّ واقفاً يصلي في نفسه هكذا اللهمَّ إني أشكركَ لأنني لستُ كسائرِ الناسِ الخطفَةِ الظالمينَ الفاسقينَ ولا مثلَ هذا العشارِ \* فإني أصومُ في الأسبوعِ مرتينِ وأعشرُ كلَّ ما هو لي \* أمّا العشارُ فوقفَ عن بُعدٍ ولم يردْ أن يرفعَ عينيه إلى السماءِ بل كانَ يقرعُ صدره قائلاً اللهمَّ ارحمني أنا الخاطيءُ \* أقولُ لكم إنَّ هذا نزلَ إلى بيتهِ مُبرراً دونَ ذلك. لأنَّ كلَّ من رفعَ نفسه اتضعَ ومن وضعَ نفسه ارتفعَ \*



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>02/05:</b> Ziad and May Sweis and Family	<b>02/05:</b> زياد ومي صويص والعائلة
<b>02/12:</b> Emad and Issam Haddad and Family	<b>02/12:</b> عماد وعصام حداد والعائلة
<b>02/19:</b> Bishara Sweis and Family	<b>02/19:</b> بشارة صويص والعائلة

### Epistle Readers:

**Today:** *English* - Elaine Riadi , *Arabic* - Fares Samawi

**Next Week:** *English* - Sandra Khouri , *Arabic* - Asmahan Fakhouri

### Altar Server Ministry:

**02/05: Team B (Captain Ramiz Riadi):** Rami Sweis, , Yazen Swaiss, 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

**02/19: 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, David Sweis

## “Bible Verse of the Week”

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **James 1:2-3**

يَا إِخْوَتِي، عِنْدَمَا تَنْزِلُ بِكُمْ التَّجَارِبُ وَالْمِحْنُ الْمُخْتَلِفَةُ، اَعْتَبِرُوهَا سَبِيلًا إِلَى الْفَرَحِ الْكَلْبِيِّ.

وَكُونُوا عَلَى ثِقَةٍ بِأَنَّ امْتِحَانَ إِيمَانِكُمْ هَذَا يُنْتِجُ صَبْرًا. يعقوب 1:2-3

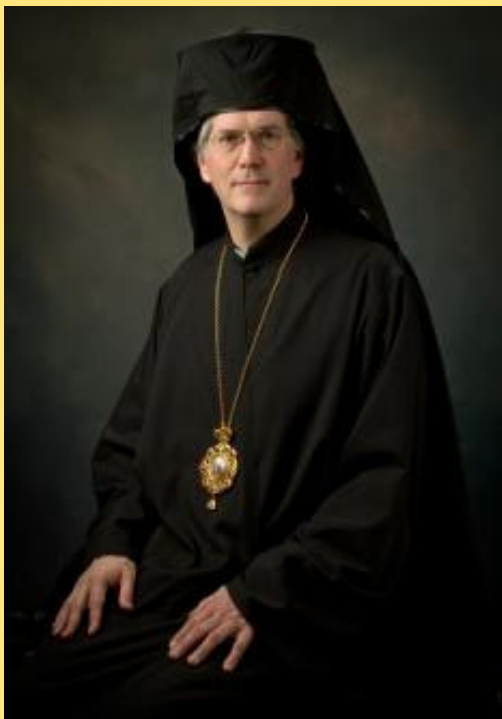
*St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church*

*Presents:*

# **Meet Your Bishop !**

**Saturday, February 11th at 3:30pm**

Our new Bishop, His Grace ANTHONY Michaels, will address our community for the very first time on Saturday, February 11th at 3:30pm. His Grace will share with us about the Life in Christ. We will also have an opportunity to ask him questions.



## *Schedule of Events:*

### Saturday, February 11th

3:30 p.m. - "Meet Your Bishop"

5:00 p.m. - Great Vespers

7:00 p.m. - St. Valentine's Hafleh

### Sunday, February 12th

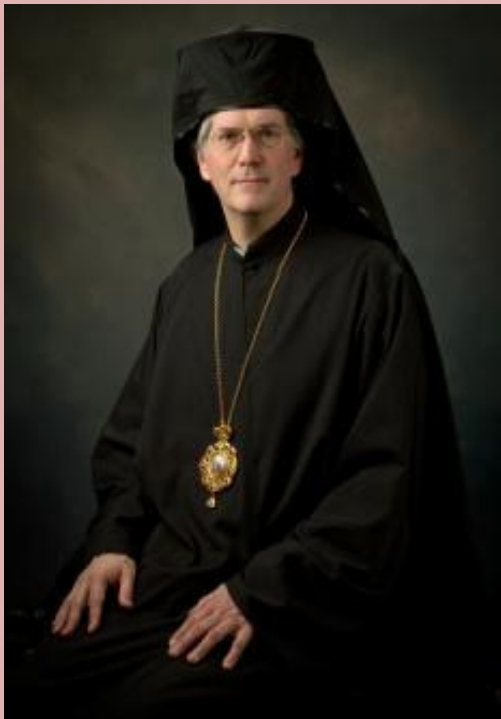
9:15 a.m. - Matins

10:30 a.m. - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
with His Grace Bishop ANTHONY

*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



# Triumph of Orthodoxy

## Pan Orthodox Vespers

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago

**Sunday, March 4, 2012  
at 6:30 p.m.**

**St. Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church  
10307 S. Kolmar Avenue  
Oak Lawn, IL**

**Homilist:  
His Grace Bishop DANIEL  
Western Eparchy,  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
of the U.S.A.**

**Responses chanted by  
The Pan Orthodox Choir  
of Greater Chicago**

**Gordana Trbuhovich, Director**



### **THE SYNODIKON**

**THIS is the Faith of the Apostles!  
THIS is the Faith of the Fathers!  
THIS is the Faith of the Orthodox!  
THIS is the Faith which has  
established the Universe!**

# Handmaids of the Lord

The handmaids of the lord will be selling jewelry. All proceeds go towards the new church.

Please help support the Handmaids of Lord.

Thank you!



## 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 WITH QUESTIONS

## **7th Annual SOYO Christmas Retreat 2012**

**YES, IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY!  
WE ARE PREPARING FOR OUR ANNUAL  
SOYO CHRISTMAS RETREAT.**



**Start making payments NOW!!!**

We will be accepting monthly payments starting  
**TODAY!**

The average cost of the retreat is approximately  
\$200.00 per person.

Any questions....see Father Malek or Elaine Riadi



# 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](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

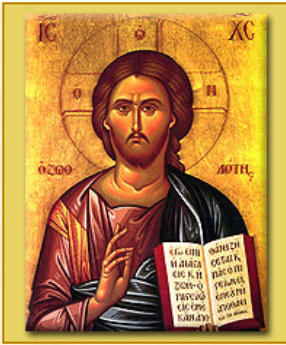
**DEADLINE FOR AD MATERIAL  
AND DONATION IS  
MAY 1, 2012**

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 February 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord in the Temple, and commemorate the holy and glorious Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; Polyeuktos, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Anthony of Athens; Venerable Theodosios of Scopelos; and Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov. On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist. In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights. Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.