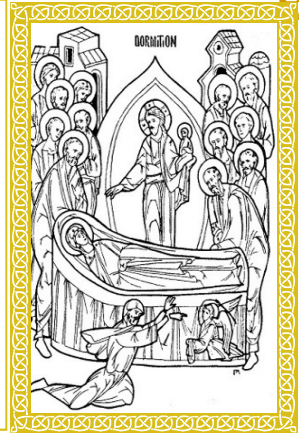




# Church of the Virgin Mary

كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America



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

## February 12, 2012 Sunday of the Prodigal Son أحد الإبن الشاطر

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*

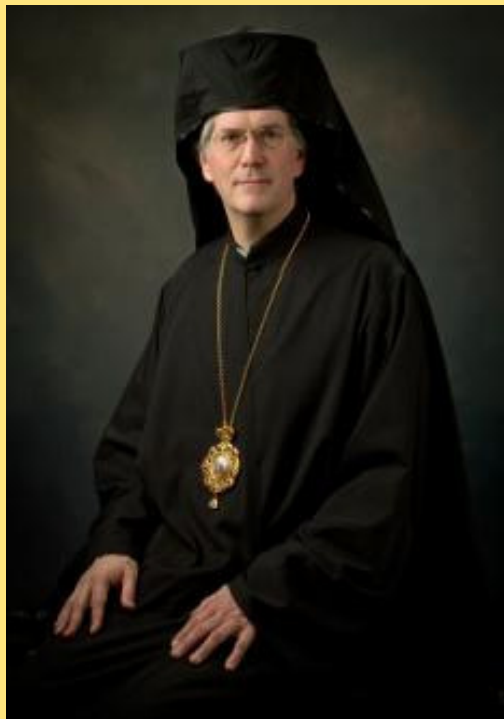
*Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. Matins -- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study  
(Confessions by Appointment)*

*St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Welcomes and Congratulates His Grace*

# **Bishop Anthony Michaels**

**Axios ! Mustaheq ! He is Worthy !**

We congratulate His Grace Bishop Anthony Michaels on his consecration and appointment as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest and we welcome him on the occasion of his first Archpastoral visit to Chicago and to St. Mary's!



As a token of our love, appreciation, and congratulations, our parish of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church has presented to His Grace a set of red episcopal vestments. May he always wear them in the best of health. Congratulations! Mabrouk!

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**

*Omar 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**

*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](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!

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

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Two)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

عندما انحدرت إلى الموت أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت. حينئذ أمت الجحيم ببرق لاهوتك. وعندما أقمت الأموات من تحت الثرى. صرخ نحوك جميع القوات السماويين. أيها المسيح الإله معطي الحياة المجد لك.

### Troparion of St. Meletios Archbishop of Antioch (Tone Four)

Thou didst appear to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence. Because of thy lowliness, heaven was opened to thee. Because of thy poverty, riches were granted to thee. Holy Bishop Meletios, pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

لقد أظهرتك أفعال الحق لرعينك قانونا للإيمان، وصورة للوداعة، ومعلماً للإمساك، أيها الأب رئيس الكهنة ملاتيوس. لذلك أحرزت بالتواضع الرفعة، وبالمسكنة الغنى. 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 Prodigal Son (Tone Three)

When I disobeyed in ignorance thy Fatherly glory, I wasted in iniquities the riches that thou gavest me. Wherefore, I cry to thee with the voice of the prodigal son, saying: I have sinned before thee, O compassionate Father, receive me repentant, and make me as one of thy hired servants.

لما عصيت مجدك الأبوي بجهل وغبوة، بددت في المعاصي الغنى الذي أعطيتني. فلذلك أصرخ إليك بصوت الابن الشاطر هاتفاً: خطيت أمامك أيها الأب الرؤوف، فاقبلني تائباً واجعلني كأحد أجرائك.

## Epistle for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### الرسالة لأحد الإبن الشاطر

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us!*

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous!*

**The Reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:12-20).**

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

*لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا!*

*ابتهجوا أيها الصديقون بالرب!*

**\*فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس (6:12-20)\***

يا إخوة كل شيء مباح لي ولكن ليس كل شيء يوافق \* كل شيء مباح لي ولكن لا يتسلط علي شيء \* إن الأطعمة للجوف والجوف للأطعمة وسيبيد الله هذا وتلك. أما الجسد فليس للزنى بل للرب والرب للجسد \* والله قد أقام الرب وسيقيمنا نحن أيضاً بقوته \* أما تعلمون أن أجسادكم هي أعضاء المسيح. فأخذ أعضاء المسيح وأجعلها أعضاء زانية. حاشى \* أما تعلمون أن من اقترن بزانية يصير معها جسداً واحداً. لأنه قد قيل يصيران كلاهما جسداً واحداً \* أما الذي يقترن بالرب فيكون معه روحاً واحداً \* أهربوا من الزنى فإن كل خطيئة يفعلها الإنسان هي في خارج الجسد. أما الزاني فإنه يخطئ إلى جسده \* أم أستم تعلمون أن أجسادكم هي هيكل الروح القدس الذي فيكم الذي نلتموه من الله وأنكم لستم لأنفسكم \* لأنكم قد اشتريتم بثمن فمجدوا الله في أجسادكم وفي أرواحكم التي هي لله \*

## Gospel for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### الإنجيل لأحد الإبن الشاطر

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (15:11-32).**

The Lord spoke this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But the son was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost and is found.’”

## Gospel for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### الإنجيل لأحد الإبن الشاطر

\*فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير، التلميذ الطاهر (15:11-32)\*

قال الرب هذا المثل. إنسان كان له ابنان \* فقال أصغرهما لأبيه يا أبت اعطني النصيب الذي يخصني من المال. فقسّم بينهما معيشته \* وبعد أيام غير كثيرة جمع الابن الأصغر كل شيء له وسافر إلى بلد بعيد وبذر ماله هناك عائشاً في الخلاعة \* فلما أنفق كل شيء له حدثت في ذلك البلد مجاعة شديدة فأخذ في العوز \* فذهب وانصوى إلى واحد من أهل ذلك البلد فأرسله إلى حقله يرعى خنازير \* وكان يشتهي أن يملأ بطنه من الخرنوب الذي كانت الخنازير تأكله فلم يعطه أحد \* فرجع إلى نفسه وقال كم لأبي من أجراء يفضل عنهم الخبز وأنا أهلك جوعاً \* أقوم وأمضي إلى أبي وأقول له يا أبت قد أخطأت إلى السماء وأمامك. ولست مستحقاً بعد أن أددى لك ابناً فاجعلني كأحد أجرائك \* فقام وجاء إلى أبيه. وفيما هو بعد غير بعيد رآه أبوه فتحنن عليه وأسرع وألقى بنفسه على عنقه وقبله \* فقال له الابن يا أبت قد أخطأت إلى السماء وأمامك ولست مستحقاً بعد أن أددى لك ابناً \* فقال الأب لعبيده هاتوا الحلة الأولى والبسوه واجعلوا خاتماً في يده وحذاء في رجله \* وأتوا بالعجل المسمن واذبحوه فأكّل وفرح \* لأن ابني هذا كان ميتاً فعاش وكان ضالاً فوجد. فطفقوا يفرحون \* وكان ابنه الأكبر في الحقل. فلما أتى وقرب من البيت سمع أصوات الغناء والرقص \* فدعا أحد الغلمان وسأله ما هذا \* فقال له قد قدم أخوك فذبح أبوك العجل المسمن لأنه لقيه سالماً \* فغضب ولم يرد أن يدخل. فخرج أبوه وطفق يتوسل إليه \* فأجاب وقال لأبيه كم لي من السنين أخدمك ولم أتعّد لك وصية قط وأنت لم تعطني قط جدياً لأفرح مع أصدقائي \* ولما جاء ابنك هذا الذي أكل معيشتك مع الزواني ذبحت له العجل المسمن \* فقال له يا ابني أنت معي في كل حين وكل ما هو لي فهو لك \* ولكن كان ينبغي أن نفرح ونسرّ لأن أخاك هذا كان ميتاً فعاش وكان ضالاً فوجد.



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
<b>02/12:</b> Emad and Issam Haddad & Family	<b>02/12:</b> عماد وعصام حداد والعائلة
<b>02/19:</b> Bishara Sweis & Family	<b>02/19:</b> بشارة صويص والعائلة
<b>02/26:</b> Elia and Lily Sweiss & Family	<b>02/26:</b> إيليا وللي صويص والعائلة

### Epistle Readers:

Today: *English* - Sandra Khouri , *Arabic* - Asmahan Fakhouri

Next Week: *English* - Lana Sweis, *Arabic* - Nour Swaiss

### Altar Server Ministry:

**02/12: Team C (Captain Arrar Alnaser):** Omar Nemri, Mathew Nemri, Samer Sweis , Elia Sweiss, 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

**02/26: Team B (Captain Ramiz Riadi):** Rami Sweis, , Yazen Swaiss, Anthony Rihani, Saleem Swais, Sharbel Samawi, Kyse Dahdal, Joseph Fallouh, Louis Corey, Alexander Corey

## “Bible Verse of the Week”

“Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.” [Proverbs 14:22](#)

أَلَا يَضِلُّ مُخْتَرِعُو الشَّرِّ؟ أَمَّا الْعَامِلُونَ خَيْرًا فَيَلْقَوْنَ رَحْمَةً وَصِدْقًا. [امثال 14:22](#)

## 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 و قداس 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**

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established the Universe!**

# 2012 Midwest Parish Life Conference

Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

*June 27th - July 1st, 2012*

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*[www.VirginMaryOC.org](http://www.VirginMaryOC.org) [VirginMary@VirginMaryOC.org](mailto:VirginMary@VirginMaryOC.org) (708)239-0004*





# 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



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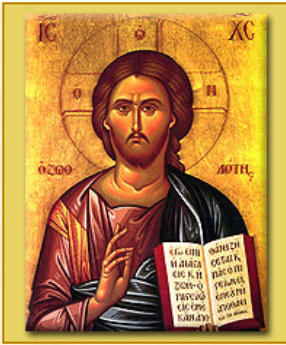
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# 55 Maxims for Christian Living

## By Fr. Thomas Hopko

1. Be always with Christ.
2. Pray as you can, not as you want.
3. Have a keepable rule of prayer that you do by discipline.
4. Say the Lord's Prayer several times a day.
5. Have a short prayer that you constantly repeat when your mind is not occupied with other things.
6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation.
8. Keep the Church's fasting rules.
9. Spend some time in silence every day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.
11. Go to liturgical services regularly
12. Go to confession and communion regularly.
13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings. Cut them off at the start.
14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings regularly to a trusted person.
15. Read the scriptures regularly.
16. Read good books a little at a time.
17. Cultivate communion with the saints.
18. Be an ordinary person.
19. Be polite with everyone.
20. Maintain cleanliness and order in your home.
21. Have a healthy, wholesome hobby.
22. Exercise regularly.
23. Live a day, and a part of a day, at a time.
24. Be totally honest, first of all, with yourself.
25. Be faithful in little things.
26. Do your work, and then forget it.
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first.
28. Face reality.
29. Be grateful in all things.
30. Be cheerful.
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and be attentive.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. When we speak, speak simply, clearly, firmly and directly.
37. Flee imagination, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, mumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
41. Don't seek or expect praise or pity from anyone.
42. We don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God alone.
46. Accept criticism gratefully but test it critically.
47. Give advice to others only when asked or obligated to do so.
48. Do nothing for anyone that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and with others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, not on sin and darkness.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your own faults and sins peacefully, serenely, because you know that God's mercy is greater than your wretchedness.
54. When we fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear and without shame.



## Weekly Synaxarion



On February 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Meletios, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; and Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow. On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstated in the Triodion. In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds. Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.