

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



16th Sunday after Pentecost & 16th Sunday of Matthew
Afterfeast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

February 7, 2016

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rt. Rev. Fr. Leonard Faris, Pastor

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	Every other Sunday
	9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Office hours: Tuesday—Friday	9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Important Notice: The reception of Holy Communion is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and recent Confession. Confessions are heard on Sunday mornings during the Matins Service or by special appointment. The Eucharistic Fast begins at midnight on Saturday and ends up with the receiving of Holy Communion. If you are on medication or a young child, you can have a light breakfast before coming to church. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Leonard.

*Thank you,
+ Father Leonard*

Prayer Requests and Bulletin News: All prayer requests and articles for the weekly bulletin must be submitted each week by **Noon, Tuesday**: emailed to Fr. Leonard at fatherfaris@comcast.net or call 978-452-4816, otherwise, the requests and articles will be published the following week.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

If anyone is in the hospital it is the duty of the family to inform the priest so that he can visit the patient. Also, if anyone is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, he/she or a family member should contact Fr. Leonard to make arrangements to bring the Sacrament to the shut-in. Fr. Leonard is always happy to bring the Sacraments to those in Hospitals, Nursing Homes or at home. Thank you and God bless!



Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm; He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first born from the dead; He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting world great mercy.

Entrance Hymn

Ha-lum-mu li-nas-jud, wa-nar-ka' lil-ma-sih, khal-lis-na ya bna l-lah, ya man qa-ma min bal-nil-am-wat, li-nu-rat-til la-ka, Hal-li-lu-ia

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 3 (repeated)

Troparion of the Presentation of Christ, Tone 1


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 elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

Troparion of St. George, Tone 4

As deliver of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirmed, champion of kings, victorious great martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ, Tone 1

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 wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.



Epistle: Paul 6:1 -10

The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." As Jesus said these things He cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"



Prayers are being offered for the Health and Safety of:

Nora Abdelahad
Connie Abodeely
Lorice Ansara
William Ansara
Yvette Ansara
Nabil Bahou
Ed & Lillian Betor
David and Cindy Boragine
Ida Boragine
Jacque and Camilla Cloutier and Family
Arthur and Alice Danas
Steve, Krissy, and Michael Steven Dardas
Shake Der Apkarian
George & Frances Ellis
Sal Fumia
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Grivas
Nicholas, Veronique, Annabelle
& Chloe Groff
Duayne Habib
Rosalind Hajjar & Family
Mary Howie
Joanne Husson
Lloyd Jennings

Joe Kadir
Fr. Stephen, and Family
Rose Lowe
Nick Manolis
Marcotte Family & Sgt. Peter Marcotte
Thomas Marcotte
Paul Panagopoulos
Evanthia Pappas
Freda Sadak & Family
Amad Tayebi
Jack Trottier
Basil Xeros
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians
& Family
Genia Yeghiazarians
Christian Yianopoulos
Mary Ann Zaharias
Nahil Zananiri

Maria Flaris



Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

Charles Abdelahad
 Delia Moses Abdinoor
 George Abodeely
 Miriam Abodeely
 Charles Agaty
 Mazen Alwarad
 Toula Anasoulis
 Andrew Ansara
 Elias Ansara
 John Ansara
 Maurice Ansara
 Gladys Assaly
 Linda Assaly
 Jacob Awad
 Juliette Bahou
 Laurice Bahou
 Widad Batten
 James "Jimmy" Beaudry
 Rita Beaudry
 Florence Beede
 Mary Bogosian
 Dorothy Boragine
 Sal Boragine
 Cleopatra Bouras
 Sofie & Paul Brown
 Toma Calache
 Dr. Christos Daoulas
 Fred Ead
 Frank Ellis
 George Faris
 Mary T. Faris
 Connie Fumia
 Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb
 Albert Ghassemian

Armenuhi Ghassemian
 John & Irene Gkolias
 George P. Habib
 Philip Hajjar
 Mary Hassey
 Frank Hurley
 Eleanor Husson
 N. Mary Husson
 Terry Husson Kadir
 Siham Khadij
 George Lowe
 Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
 Elsie Faris Mansor
 Nafie Moses
 Frederick & Matilda Noonan
 Hanna Saad
 Mary Saati
 George W. & Mary Saba
 Badwi Sabbouh
 Veto & Vasiliki Selvagio
 Eleanor Shalhoup
 Darlene Simon
 Judy Skaff
 Mildred & Arthur Skaff
 Minnie Skaff
 Nellie Husson Skaff
 Ricky Skaff
 Stephen Skaff
 T. Michael Skaff
 Sr. Homerine Soucy
 Elaine Viera
 John Yeannakopoulos
 Leon Yeghiazarians
 Charles Zaharias

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 MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!!
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ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered for the health and safety of the Noonan, Steele, and Kett families. May God bless them with peace, good health and long life!

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Today, February 7th

A One Year Memorial Service will be offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God, Widad Batten, requested by her son, Mark Batten. May her memory be eternal!

A Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the souls of the Servants of God, Emile and Teffaha Haddad and Georgette Attieh, requested by Gladys Tracanna and Family. May their memories be eternal!

COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the Noonan, Steele, and Kett families for the health and safety of their families. May God bless them with peace, good health and long life!

THIS WEEK

Sun 2/7 after Liturgy Ladies Meeting

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS

We would like to encourage our parishioners to sign up to host a Coffee Hour after Sunday Church Services. If there is no sponsor on any given Sunday there will be no Coffee Hour. Anyone can sponsor a Coffee Hour either for the health and safety of their family or "in memory of" a loved one. They can be very simple, coffee, donuts and muffins. If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Hour please sign your name on the sign up sheet near the water bubbler.

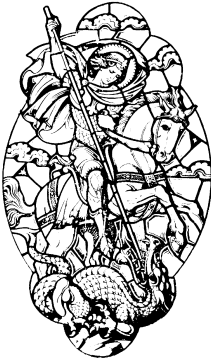
One of Jesus' most significant parables regarding work is set in the context of investments (Matt. 25:14-30). A rich man delegates the management of his wealth to his servants, much as investors in today's markets do. He gives five talents (a large unit of money) to the first servant, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third. Two of the servants earn 100 percent returns by trading with the funds, but the third servant hides the money in the ground and earns nothing. The rich man returns, rewards the two who made money, but severely punishes the servant who did nothing.

The meaning of the parable extends far beyond financial investments. God has given each person a wide variety of gifts, and he expects us to employ those gifts in his service. It is not acceptable merely to put those gifts on a closet shelf and ignore them. Like the three servants, we do not have gifts of the same degree. The return God expects of us is commensurate with the gifts we have been given. The servant who received one talent was not condemned for failing to reach the five-talent goal; he was condemned because he did nothing with what he was given. The gifts we receive from God include skills, abilities, family connections, social positions, education, experiences, and more. The point of the parable is that we are to use whatever we have been given for God's purposes. The severe consequences to the unproductive servant, far beyond anything triggered by mere business mediocrity, tell us that we are to invest our lives, not waste them.

Yet the particular talent invested in the parable is *money*, on the order of a million U.S. dollars in today's world. In modern English, this fact is obscured because the word *talent* has come to refer mainly to skills or abilities. But this parable concerns money. It depicts investing, not hoarding, as a godly thing to do if it accomplishes godly purposes in a godly manner. In the end, the master praises the two trustworthy servants with the words, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave. In these words, we see that the master cares about the results ("well done"), the methods ("good"), and the motivation ("trustworthy").

More pointedly for the workplace, it commends putting capital at risk in pursuit of earning a return. Sometimes Christians speak as if growth, productivity, and return on investment were unholy to God. But this parable overturns that notion. We should invest our skills and abilities, but also our wealth and the resources made available to us at work, all for the affairs of God's kingdom. This includes the production of needed goods and services. The volunteer who teaches Sunday school is fulfilling this parable. So are the entrepreneur who starts a new business and gives jobs to others, the health service administrator who initiates an AIDS-awareness campaign, and the machine operator who develops a process innovation.

God does not endow people with identical or necessarily equal gifts. If you do as well as you can with the gifts given to you by God, you will hear his "Well done." Not only the gifts, but also the people have equal worth. At the same time, the parable ends with the talent taken from the third servant being given to the one with ten talents. Equal worth does not necessarily mean equal compensation. Some positions require more skill or ability and thus are compensated accordingly. The two servants who did well are rewarded in different amounts. But they are both praised identically. The implication of the parable is that we are to use whatever talents we've been given to the best of our ability for God's glory, and when we have done that, we are on an equal playing field with other faithful, trustworthy servants of God.



Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church
44 Bowers Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854
Right Rev. Fr. Leonard Faris, Pastor



January 1, 2016

Dear St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church parishioners and vendors:

We're accepting advertisements to appear in our church bulletin (see last page). For \$250 you can advertise your business to our community weekly for one year. Our bulletin is distributed weekly in church in hard copies as well as electronically to approx. 250-300 people from the greater Lowell area.

Advertisements are approx. 3" wide x 2" high (business card size).

To submit your business card or if you have any questions please contact,
Ron Tayebi
978.337.0843.

We look forward to your support,

St. George's Church Parish Council



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