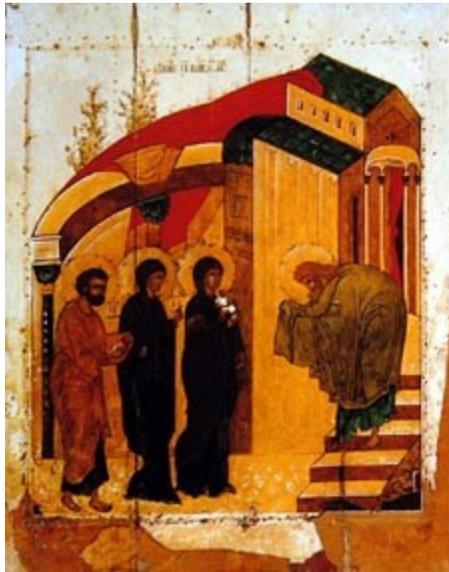


*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts*



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

*February 7, 2016*

# ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

44 Bowers Street,  
Phone: (978) 452-4816

Lowell, MA 01854  
Fax: (978) 452-6041

Email: [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net)

Web: [www.saintgeorgelowell.org](http://www.saintgeorgelowell.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell](http://www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell)

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

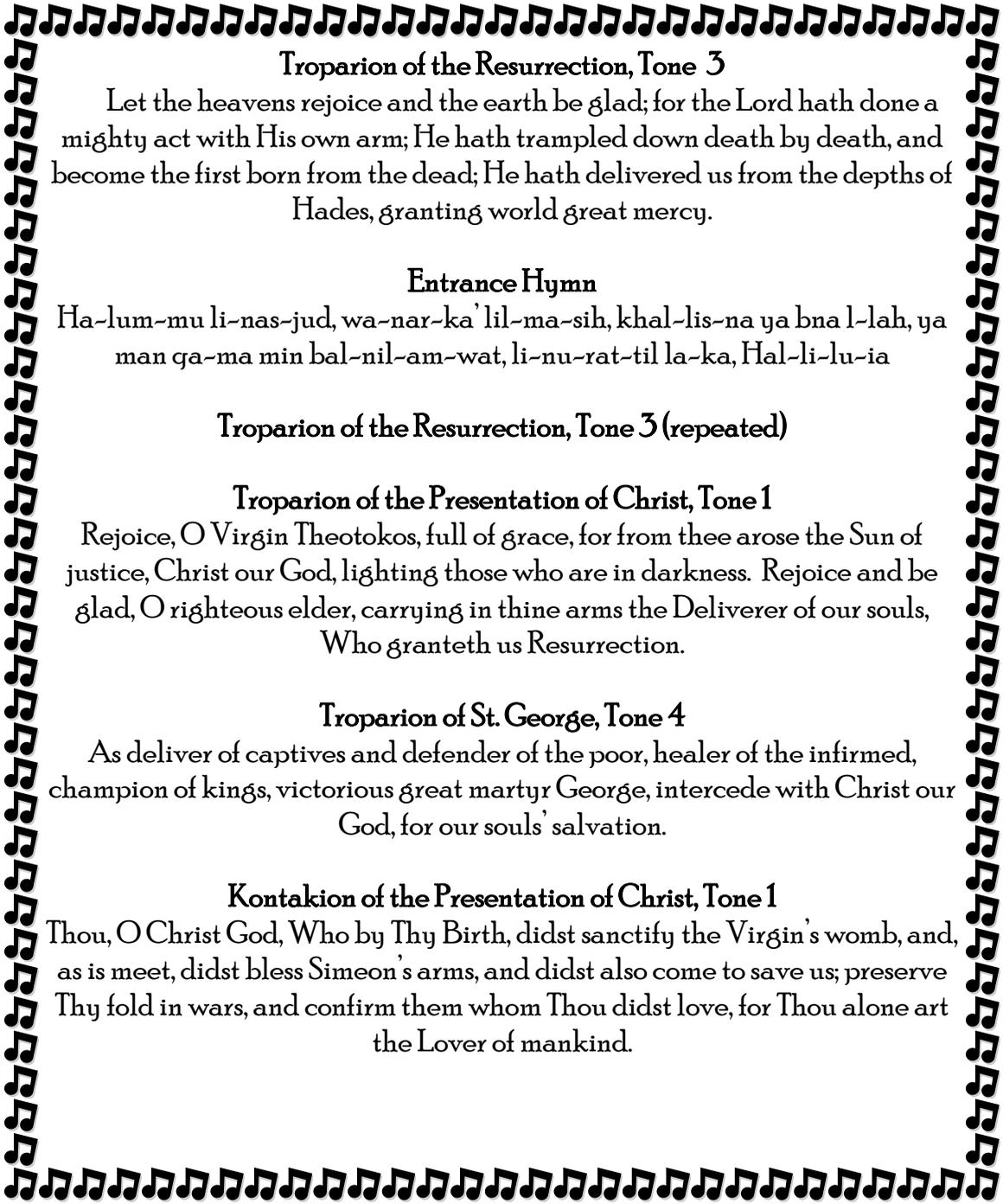
**Important Notice:** The reception of Holy Communion is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and recent Confession. Confessions are heard on Sunday mornings during the Matins Service or by special appointment. The Eucharistic Fast begins at midnight on Saturday 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](mailto: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



## 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.

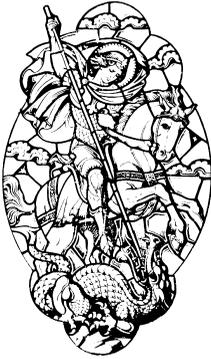
One of Jesus' most significant parables regarding work is set in the context of investments (Matt. 25:14-30). A rich man delegates the management of his wealth to his servants, much as investors in today's markets do. He gives five talents (a large unit of money) to the first servant, two talents to 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



## **Mindy Abodeely Music**

Private Lesson Instructor  
Voice, Piano, & Clarinet

Mindy Abodeely  
Bachelor of Music  
Keene State College

**Phone /** 603.943.1536

**Email /** [mindyabodeelymusic@gmail.com](mailto:mindyabodeelymusic@gmail.com)

**Website /** [www.mindyabodeely.com](http://www.mindyabodeely.com)

Conveniently located less than 1 mile off of Rte. 3 (Exit 4) in  
Nashua, NH.

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**

# **Advertise**

## **YOUR Business**



### **HERE**