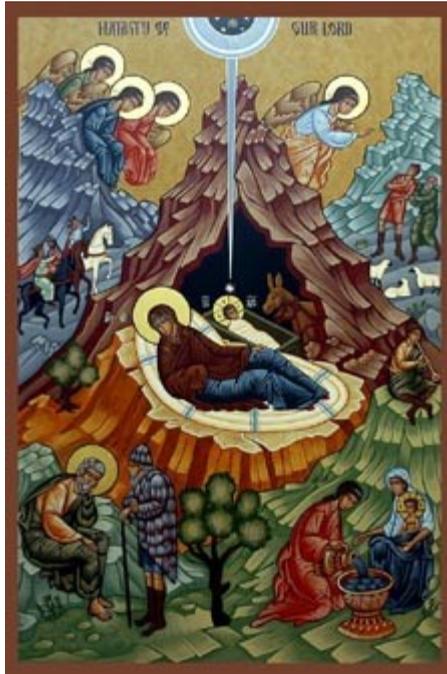


*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts*



*Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ (The Genealogy)*

*December 18, 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.  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Every other Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 a.m. and we should not arrive late. When we do arrive late and the Epistle or Gospel is being read or the priest is preaching the sermon or the Great Entrance is taking place, please **REMAIN** in the Vestibule until it is finished before entering the Church. At the end of the Divine Liturgy please keep your conversation until the "Coffee Hour". We should leave the Church in silence.

**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.

Our faithful are reminded that as you leave the sanctuary, to do so **reverently and quietly**. Properly, one should approach the celebrant to receive his blessings, kiss the cross, depart and **then greet neighbors and friends at fellowship hour**. We must never lose reverence for our church sanctuary as the house of God simply because services have ended. Also, please take the Sunday bulletins with you or return them to the Vestry Committee rather than leaving them in the pews or bookracks. Also, out of respect to your fellow parishioners and to God, **please turn off all electronic devices such as cell phones before entering** the church so as to not interrupt the solemnity of our prayers.

*Thank you,*  
*+ Father Leonard*

**Church Office Hours:** If you would like to meet with the Pastor, please call the office to set up an appointment. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**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.

### **Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 1**

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!

### **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 1 (repeated)**

### **Troparion of Sunday before the Nativity of Christ**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

### **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 Preparation of Christ's Nativity, Tone 3**

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

## Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### **The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



### **ALTAR BREAD**

Today Altar Bread is given for the health and safety of all the Parishioners and their Families, requested by Fr. Leonard. May God bless them all with peace, good health, and happiness for many years.

## Gospel: Matthew 1:1 -25

### The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.



*Prayers are being offered for  
the Health and Safety of:*

Nora Abdelahad  
 Connie Abodeely  
 Patti Aiken  
 Yvette Ansara  
 Barbara Beaudry  
 Ed & Lillian Betor  
 David and Cindy Boragine  
 Ida Boragine  
 George Ellis  
 Mary Faris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Elias Grivas  
 Nicholas, Veronique, Annabelle  
 & Chloe Groff  
 Duayne Habib  
 Rosalind Hajjar & Family  
 Mary Howie  
 Lloyd Jennings  
 Joe Kadir  
 Fr. Stephen, and Family  
 Rose Lowe  
 Marcotte Family  
 Thomas Marcotte  
 Paul & Lillian Panagopoulos  
 Freda Sadak & Family  
 Fred Simon  
 Amad Tayebi  
 Jack Trottier  
 George Tsekrekas  
 Dr. Vartan & Lisa  
 Yeghiazarians & Family  
 Genia Yeghiazarians  
 Christian Yianopoulos  
 Nahil Zananiri  
 Drs. Michael & Mary Husson &  
 Family with gratitude from Fred and  
 Elaine Simon  
 Ed & Sandy Creamer and Family from  
 Fred & Elaine Simon

*Prayers are being offered in Memory of:*

Charles Abdelahad  
 George Abodeely  
 Miriam Abodeely  
 Mazen Alwarad  
 Toula Anasoulis  
 Andrew Ansara  
 Elias Ansara  
 John Ansara  
 Maurice Ansara  
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 Eleanor Husson  
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 Terry Husson Kadir  
 Emtisal & Musalam Kazmeh  
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 Elaine Viera  
 Joseph Vitello  
 Tony Yacoub  
 Leon Yeghiazarians  
 Charles Zaharias  
 Mary Ann Zaharias  
 Mahfouz Zananari

+++++  
 MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!  
 +++++

*'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME*

*'Twas the night before Jesus came and all thru the house  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care  
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.  
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.  
And Mom in her rocker with the baby on her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.  
When out of the East there arose such a clatter;  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!  
The light of His face made me cover my head  
It was JESUS! Returning just like He said.  
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.  
In the Book of Life, which He held in His hand,  
Was written the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;  
When He said, "It's not here", my head hung in shame.  
The people whose names had been written with love,  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready, He rose without a sound,  
While all the rest were left standing around.  
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;  
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;  
Oh, if only we had been ready tonight.  
In the words of this poem, the meaning is clear,  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last call,  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all! ! !*



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