

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



*Forefeast of the Theophany of our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

*January 3, 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](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!

A decorative border consisting of a series of musical notes and stems, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

**Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 6**

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world; O thou Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**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 6 (repeated)**

**Troparion of the Forefast of the Theophany, Tone 4**

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. \* River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive \* the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. \* O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; \* hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. \* Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now \* to clothe you in the first robe again. \* Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

**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 Forefast of the Theophany, Tone 4**

Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan, crying to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my Baptism; for I have verily come to save Adam, the first to be created.

**Epistle: Timothy 4:5-8**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
Unto The will I cry, O Lord my God.

**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



*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  
 Steve, Krissy, and Michael Steven Dardas  
 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  
 Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians & Family  
 Genia Yeghiazarians  
 Christian Yianopoulos  
 Mary Ann Zaharias  
 Nahil Zananiri

For the continued good health of my parents Bob  
 and Elaine Maria, requested by Linda Rizos

*Prayers are being offered  
in Memory of:*

Charles Abdelahad	Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb
Delia Moses Abdinoor	Albert Ghassemian
George Abodeely	Armenuhi Ghassemian
Miriam Abodeely	John & Irene Gkolias
Charles Agaty	George P. Habib
Mazen Alwarad	Philip Hajjar
Toula Anasoulis	Eleanor Husson
Andrew Ansara	Mary Hassey
Elias Ansara	N. Mary Husson
John Ansara	Terry Husson Kadir
Maurice Ansara	Siham Khadij
Gladys Assaly	George Lowe
Linda Assaly	Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
Jacob Awad	Elsie Faris Mansor
Juliette Bahou	Nafie Moses
Laurice Bahou	Frederick & Matilda Noonan
Widad Batten	Hanna Saad
James "Jimmy" Beaudry	Mary Saati
Rita Beaudry	George W. & Mary Saba
Florence Beede	Badwi Sabbouh
Mary Bogosian	Veto & Vasiliki Selvagio
Dorothy Boragine	Eleanor Shalhoup
Sal Boragine	Judy Skaff
Cleopatra Bouras	Mildred & Arthur Skaff
Sofie & Paul Brown	Minnie Skaff
Toma Calache	Nellie Husson Skaff
Dr. Christos Daoulas	Ricky Skaff
Fred Ead	Stephen Skaff
Frank Ellis	T. Michael Skaff
George Faris	Sr. Homerine Soucy
Mary T. Faris	Elaine Viera
Connie Fumia	John Yeannakopoulos
	Leon Yeghiazarians
	Charles Zaharias

+++++  
 + MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL! +  
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## ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is given for the health and safety of the New Parish Council as they are being sworn in for 2016. May the Prince of Peace give them the courage and strength to work for the Glory of God and for St. George Church. May this year be the year that we deepen our Faith and Commitment to Almighty God and to St. George Church. May God bless them all and their families with good health, happiness and long life.

## COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the Tesfagaber and Abera families for the health and safety of their families. May God bless them all with peace, good health and happiness always!

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Life's Greatest Skill: Keeping Yourself Inspired.  
Life's Greatest Habit: Recording Your Thoughts  
Relentlessly

## THIS WEEK

Tue 1/5 5:30p Serving dinner at the Lowell Transitional Living Assistance Center. If you would like to help serve on one or any of these dates, please contact Lisa Ansara at 978-649-8797 or [lisaansara@verizon.net](mailto:lisaansara@verizon.net)

6:00p Hierarchical Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord to be celebrated by Saidyna John and the Deanery Clergy at St. George in West Roxbury followed by the Great blessing of Water and a Dinner. All are invited to attend THIS BEAUTIFUL LITURGY!

Wed 1/6 6:30p Parish Council meeting

## BLESSING OF HOMES

As is the custom during the Season of Epiphany, anyone wishing to have their homes blessed should contact Fr. Leonard and arrange for a suitable time. This is a beautiful tradition and all families should avail themselves of it. Fr. Leonard will bless homes until the beginning of Great Lent (March 12, 2016) and after Holy Pascha (May 1, 2016). Please use the form on the last page of this bulletin.

## BLESSING OF HOMES- WHY IS A HOME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS BLESSED?

*We all know that when a monument is unveiled; when a building is opened; when significant undertaking is begun, it is customary for a ceremony of dedication to be held. So too, our Holy Orthodox Church has special blessings for those moving into a new home, a newly constructed or renovated home, a place of business, as well as the annual blessing of the home during the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6. With these rites the home is dedicated or rededicated and sanctified as an abode of a Christian believer under the Holy Trinity.*

*In the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 19: 1-10 we read of the time our Blessed Lord visited the home of Zacchaeus, the rich publican. When Jesus entered Zacchaeus' house he said: "today salvation has come to this house since he too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save what is lost."*

*Therefore, during the services for the Blessing of homes, the priest prays that God will grant sanctification, blessings, purification, and health to those whose home is blest. He also prays for their spiritual and temporal welfare throughout the year. The Holy Orthodox Church sanctifies the lives of her faithful, to consecrate them, and to insure their salvation by every means at Her command.*

### **During the Blessing of homes, please adhere to the following guidelines:**

1. Have as many family members there as possible.
2. Set up a place for prayers, in the dining room or kitchen, with an Icon and candle.
3. Take this time to get to know the priest better, asking any questions you may have.
4. Please don't feed the priest! We don't want to play favorites, and we also don't want to gain weight by eating everything that is offered to us.

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Dear Father Leonard,

Yes, I/we would like to have my/our home blessed in 2016. The most convenient days and times are as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Best day:    Mon    Tue    Wed    Thu    Fri    Sat

Best time:    AM    PM