

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



*Sunday of Forefathers of Christ*

*December 11, 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.  
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 8**

From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our Life and our resurrection: 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 8 (repeated)**

### **Troparion of the Forefathers, Tone 2**

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, 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: Colossians 3:4-11

*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 Colossians**

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke**

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DUES

As we are closing in on the end of 2016, I wanted to send a reminder to those who have not fully paid their pledges. To get the full tax benefit, please have your donation made no later than December 11<sup>th</sup>.

For those who have not committed a pledge but would still like to submit a donation please send a check via mail to the address below or place it in the basket when you enter the church.

St. George Church    Attn: Treasurer    44 Bowers Street    Lowell, MA 01854

To better communicate and manage questions I have created a mailbox. Please feel free to ask questions, provide feedback or submit requests by email at [stgeorgeTreasurerlowell@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeTreasurerlowell@gmail.com)

Thank you  
Mack Lou

## NATIVITY FAST

This fast is divided into two periods:

The **first** period is November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup>, when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but with allowance for fish, wine, and oil on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The **second** period is December 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed Monday through Friday, but with allowance for wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday.

Please note that what is given here is the traditional discipline of the fast. You may have to adopt these rules to your situation. However, everyone should adopt some regimen of fasting in preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of Christ.

## COMING UP

Wednesday    12/14    6:30pm    Parish Council Meeting in  
Church hall

## Pre Lenten Retreat

We hope and pray you are enjoying a blessed season of preparation for our Lord's Nativity!

We know it's just the beginning of December, but Lent will be here before we know it! So, just a quick note regarding the 2017 Pre-Lenten Retreat sponsored by the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Worcester and New England. While we are busy finalizing details and designing the flyer/application, we wanted to give you the details so you can begin promoting this incredible opportunity in your parish newsletters and weekly bulletins. This year, we are hoping to include programs for youth as we have in some of the previous years so it should prove to be an amazing day of fellowships and spiritual growth for the entire family!

**Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017**

**Time: 10am - 2:30pm (begins with Divine Liturgy at 9am)**

**Place: St. John's Dedham MA**

**Featured Speaker: V. Rev. Michael Ellias, pastor of Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Brooklyn, NY**

**Topic: We are All Prodigal Sons and Daughters: Coming to Ourselves in Repentance and Spiritual Direction**

*Additional details and publicity materials to follow in the coming weeks.*

As always, we hope that you will show your support by helping us to spread the word within your community. God-willing we will see you there!

Love in Christ,



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