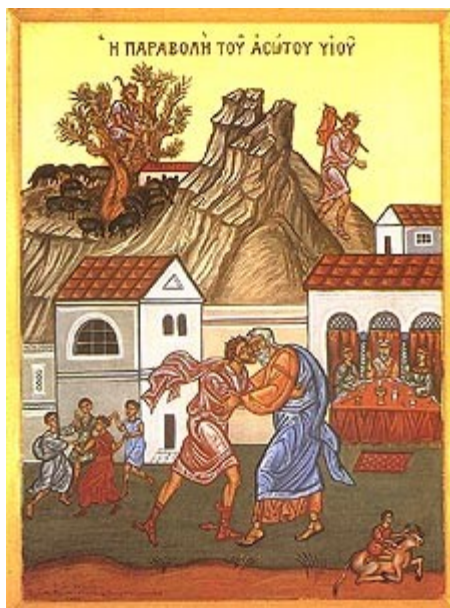




St. George Antiochian
Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON &
AFTER-FEAST OF PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST**

February 4, 2018

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The Right Reverend Bishop JOHN, Diocese of Worcester and New England

Rt. Rev. Archmandrite Leonard Faris
Pastor of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

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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.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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.

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 2

When Thou didst submit Thy-self unto death, O Thou Deathless and Immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power; and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ Thou Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

Entrance Hymn

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

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 2 (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.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



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

Nora Abdelahad
 Najeeb Abeaad
 Connie Abodeely
 Lorice Ansara
 Phyllis Arsenault
 Siham Bahou
 June Behrakis
 Ed & Lillian Betor
 David and Cindy Boragine
 Ida Boragine
 Miriam Calache
 George Ellis
 Mr. & Mrs. Elias Grivas
 Veronique, Annabelle & Chloe
 Groff
 Duayne Habib
 Rosalind Hajjar & Family
 Mary Howie
 Dorothea Husson
 Lloyd Jennings
 Joe Kadir
 Nabil Khoury
 Fr. Stephen and Family
 Rose Lowe
 Marcotte Family
 Thomas Marcotte
 Fred Noonan
 Paul & Lillian Panagopoulos
 Eric Soucy
 Amad Tayebi
 Jack Trottier
 Dr. Vartan & Lisa
 Yeghiazarians & Family
 Genia Yeghiazarians
 Nahil Zananiri

Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Charles Abdelahad | Eleanor Husson |
| George Abodeely | N. Mary Husson |
| Miriam Abodeely | Terry Husson Kadir |
| Mazen Alwarad | Emtisal & Musalam Kazmeh |
| Toula Anasoulis | Siham Khadij |
| Andrew Ansara | George Lowe |
| Elias Ansara | Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis |
| John Ansara | George Matook |
| Maurice Ansara | Nafie Moses |
| Gladys Assaly | Frederick & Matilda Noonan |
| Linda Assaly | Anisse Saad |
| Yaacoub Awad | Hanna Saad |
| Juliette Bahou | Mary Saati |
| Laurice Bahou | George W. & Mary Saba |
| Widad Batten | Badwi Sabbhough |
| James "Jimmy" Beaudry | Freda Sadak |
| Mary Bogosian | Veto & Vasiliki Selvagio |
| Dorothy Boragine | James Demetri Sarantos |
| Sal Boragine | Eleanor Shalhoup |
| Cleopatra Bouras | Fred Simon |
| Sofie & Paul Brown | Judy Skaff |
| Toma Calache | Mildred & Arthur Skaff |
| Dr. Christos Daoulas | Minnie Skaff |
| Fred Ead | Nellie Husson Skaff |
| Frances Ellis | Ricky Skaff |
| Frank Ellis | Stephen Skaff |
| George & Elsie Faris | T. Michael Skaff |
| Mary V. Faris | Edmond Solomon |
| Connie & Sal Fumia | J. B. Taleb |
| Elizabeth & Joseph | Elaine Viera |
| Ghareeb | Leon Yeghiazarians |
| John & Irene Gkolias | Charles Zaharias |
| George P. Habib | Mary Ann Zaharias |
| Philip Hajjar | |

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!!



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 all with peace, good health and long life!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. 2/11 Fr. John Bacon will celebrate the Divine Liturgy as Fr. Leonard is having surgery on Thursday, February 8th.

Wed. 2/14 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Sun. 2/25 His Grace, Bishop John and Deacon Nicholas will be at our Church to celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the First Sunday of Great Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy. Please make an effort to be with us on that day and receive Sayidna John's blessing.

Mon. 2/26 7:00 p.m. Great Compline with the region here at St. George

Wed. 2/28 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Fri. 3/2 5:30 p.m. Lenten dinner
7:00 p.m. First Madayah Service

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank John and Clemence Maria for their generous donation to St. George Church on the recent Birth of their grandson, Sebastian Maria, son of Michael and Guenaelle Maria. May God bless Sebastian and his parents and grandparents with good health, happiness and long life!

COFFEE HOURS

For those interested in signing up to host a coffee hour please put your name and the reason your are hosting it on the calendar in the back of the hall. If no one sponsors a coffee hour there will NOT be any for that day. Please see Fr. Leonard if you have any questions.

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