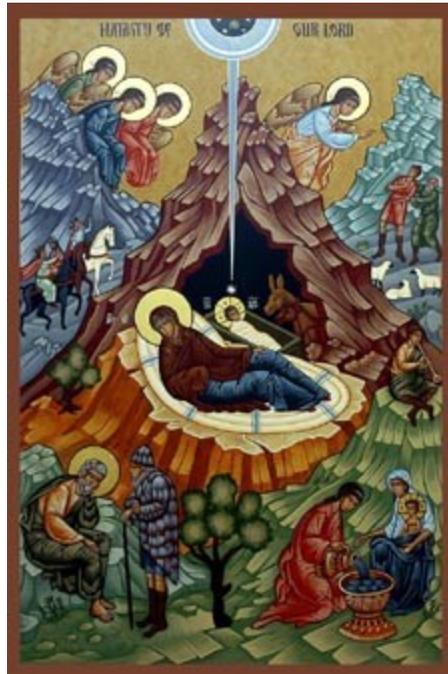


St. George Antiochian
Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



**FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
OF CHRIST**

December 23, 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 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Entrance Hymn

Ha-lum-mu lu li-nas-judu, lil-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 5 (repeated)

Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity, Tone 4

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Troparion of Sunday Before the Nativity, Tone 2

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

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

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.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

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.

On Sunday, December 23rd, His Grace, Bishop John will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in place of Fr. Leonard, who is recovering from pneumonia. May God bless Bishop John with peace, good health and happiness during this Holy Season.

On Monday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, Fr. Seraphim Solof will celebrate the Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy and deliver the sermon. May God bless Fr. Seraphim and his family with peace, good health and happiness during this Holy Season.

Fr. Leonard wishes everyone a blessed Nativity filled with peace, good health and happiness and a New Year with much joy and Love.

**With Much Love,
+Fr. Leonard**

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

Nora Abdelahad
Connie Abodeely
Kathy Ansara
Lorice Ansara
Phyllis Arsenault
Siham Bahou
Ray Beaudry
June Behrakis
Ed & Lillian Betor
David and Cindy Boragine
Ida Boragine
George Ellis
Athanasia Grivas
Veronique, Annabelle & Chloe Groff
Duayne Habib
Rosalind Hajjar & Family
Sam Halperin & Family
Lloyd Jennings
Joe Kadir
Nabil Khoury
Fr. Stephen and Family
Rose Lowe
Marcotte Family
Lynn Marcotte
Thomas Marcotte
Clemence Maria
Robert Maria
Megan MacDonald
Fred Noonan
Helen Poulos
Chakeep Skaff
Julia and Brian Sapienza
Amad Tayebi
Jack Trottier
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians &
Family
Michael Wade
Genia Yeghiazarians

Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

Charles Abdelahad
George Abodeely
Miriam Abodeely
Toula Anasoulis
Andrew Ansara
Elias Ansara
John Ansara
Maurice Ansara
Michael Ansara
Gladys Assaly
Linda Assaly
Yaacoub Awad
Juliette Bahou
Laurice Bahou
Widad Batten
James "Jimmy" Beaudry
Dorothy Boragine
Sal Boragine
Cleopatra Bouras
David Burs
Robert Coviello
Austin Dufault
Fred Ead
Frances Ellis
Frank Ellis
George & Elsie Faris
Mary T. Faris
Mary V. Faris
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb
Elias Grivas
George P. Habib
Philip Hajjar
Dorothea Husson
Eleanor Husson
N. Mary Husson
Terry Husson Kadir
Lissa Kowalski
George Lowe
Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
George Matook
Anthony Matysczak
Nafie Moses
Kay Moulton
Frederick & Matilda Noonan
Paul Panagopoulos, Sr.
Anisse Saad
Hanna Saad
Mary Saati
George W. & Mary Saba
Badawi Sabbouh
Eleanor Shalhoup
Fred Simon
Judy Skaff
Mildred & Arthur Skaff
Minnie Skaff
Nellie Husson Skaff
Ricky Skaff
Stephen Skaff
T. Michael Skaff
Edmond Solomon
J. B. Taleb
Elaine Vieira
Robert & Julia Wonneberger
Leon Yeghiazarians
Charles Zaharias
Mary Ann Zaharias
Hilda Zananiri
Nahil Zananiri



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!!



COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the Ladies of St. George to welcome Bishop John and for the health and safety of all St. George Parishioners, their family and friends. May you all have peace, good health and happiness during this Christmas season and for the New Year.

COME AND CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Beloved in Christ,

On Monday, December 24, 2018, we will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "The Word was made Flesh and Dwelt among us!"

You are all invited to come and attend Christmas Eve Services and receive Holy Communion on this Great Feast!

Festal Orthros (Matins) 5:00 pm

Procession to the Creche and Blessing 5:45 pm

Solemn Candlelight Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm

IN CASE OF A SNOW STORM, AND CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY IS CANCELLED, THE LITURGY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018 AT 10:00 AM.

Begin your Christmas celebration by coming to church first and wishing Our Lord "Happy Birthday"! May the Prince of Peace, Whose Birth we are celebrating, fill your hearts with joy and gladness during this Holy Season and may the New Year bring us all peace, good health and spiritual happiness!

With Love,
+Fr. Leonard

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Good Health to All !

**Robert and Elaine Maria &
Family**