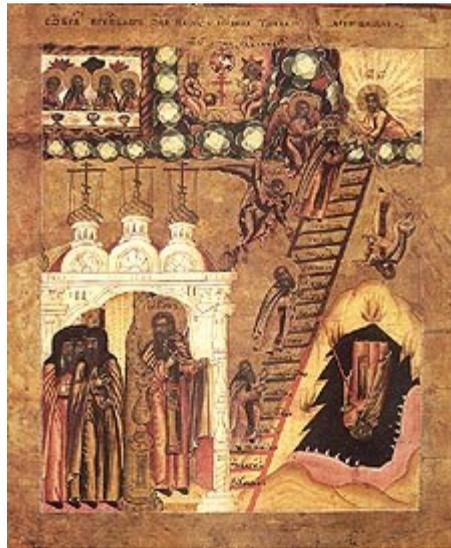


St. George Antiochian  
Orthodox Church  
Lowell, Massachusetts



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**  
**COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS,**  
**AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"**

April 7, 2019

**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

Email: [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net)

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell](http://www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell)

**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](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!

### **Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 4**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

### **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 4**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm; He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first born from the dead; He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting world great mercy.

### **Troparion of the St. John Climacus, Tone 8**

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to 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 for Sundays in Great Lent, Tone 8**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who has delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free; from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

## THE EPISTLE

*The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)**

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

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

Nora Abdelahad  
Connie Abodeely  
Lorice Ansara  
Phyllis Arsenault  
Siham Bahou  
Ray & Barbara Beaudry  
June Behrakis  
Ed & Lillian Betor  
David and Cindy Boragine  
Ida Boragine  
April Bouras  
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  
Denise McGrady  
Fred Noonan  
Helen Poulos  
Julia and Brian Sapienza  
Amad Tayebi  
Jack Trottier  
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians &  
Family  
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  
Linda Deeb  
Austin Dufault  
Fred Ead  
Ella Jean Elias  
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 Matyszczak  
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  
Chakeep Skaff  
Judy Skaff  
Mildred & Arthur Skaff  
Minnie Skaff  
Nellie Husson Skaff  
Ricky Skaff  
Stephen Skaff  
T. Michael Skaff  
Edmond Solomon  
Robert Sweet  
J. B. Taleb  
Elaine Vieira  
Robert & Julia Wonneberger  
Leon Yeghiazarians  
Charles Zaharias  
Mary Ann Zaharias  
Hilda Zananiri  
Nahil Zananiri



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (ARABIC)

Aba-na llathee fee ssamawat, lee yataqaddas is-mook, lee ya'tee malakotok, lita-kon mashee-a-took, kama fee ssama'ka-tha-leeka ala ll-ard. khoobza-na lljow-hha-ree aatina llyoum, what-rook la-na ma aalayna, kama nat-rook nah'noo lee-man la-na aalayeh wa la toodkhilna fee tta-jreeba; lah-kin najji-na meena 'shirreer. Ameen

أبانا الذي في السموات ، ليتقدس إسمك ، ليأتملكوتك ، لتكن مشيئتك  
كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض خبزنا الجوهري أعطنا اليوم  
واترك لنا ما علينا كما نترك نحن لمن لنا عليه  
ولا تدخلنا في التجربة ، لكن نجنا من الشرير



## ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered for the health and safety of all the Sunday School Children, their parents, godparents and teachers. May God bless them all with peace, good health and long life!

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of you who donated coffee to be delivered to the Lowell Transitional Living Center. Thank you to Marwan Sabbouh for his very generous donation towards the meals served at the shelter.

Lisa Ansara

## FLOWERS

The Flowers adorning the Icon of the Virgin Mary for Friday, April 5th were donated for the health and safety of Marwan, Carla, Gabby and Peter Sabbouh, requested by Marwan Sabbouh. May God bless Marwan and his family with peace, good health and happiness!

## NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK

Icon of Myrrh Bearing Women - \$75.00

Icon of St. George - \$75.00

Icon of the Resurrection (small one) - \$75.00

16 dozen red eggs - \$90.00

Anyone interested in donating these items, please see Fr. Leonard

## GODPARENTS SUNDAY

Dear Godparents and Loved Ones

The Saint George Sunday School would like to invite you to our Godparent Sunday today. Right Reverend Father Leonard Fairs will have a brief blessing following the church service to honor Godparents or a special someone close to our Sunday School children.

This is also open to children not enrolled in Sunday School as well. Please consider joining us for this wonderful celebration.

Applications are now being accepted for the Andrew W. Ansara Memorial Scholarship. **First time applicants only.** Eligible applicants must be a graduating senior in high school, continuing his/her education or a college student already in a degree program. The applicant must also be in good standing with St. George Church. See Fr. Leonard or any member of the Ansara family for further details. Application deadline is June 9th.

## COMING UP

Sun	4/7	Following Liturgy	Men's club meeting
		6:00 pm	Great Vespers at St. George Greek Church
Wed	4/10	6:00 pm	Great Compline Service in Arabic
		7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting
Fri	4/12	6:00 pm	Lenten Supper—Final hosted by the Ladies
		7:00 pm	Madayeh Service
Sun	4/14	6:00 pm	Great Vespers at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Church

# Where do Godparents come from?

Godparents have been around since the earliest days of the Church. Initially their role was to vouch for the character of adults who were being baptized. They assured everyone that the person coming to the faith was serious about his or her obligations. The godparent, who is the same sex as the candidate, would then assist the clergy at the baptism. After a few centuries though, infant baptism became the regular practice of the Church, so in addition to the Godparents' role at the baptism, they also undertook the responsibility of guiding the moral and spiritual upbringing of the child. For these reasons godparents must be Orthodox and in good standing with the Church.

No Godparent should ever take their role lightly, or assume that they are simply a functionary during a Christening. The Godparent's role in the spiritual growth of a child is as important as that of the mother and father. Some of the things that take the child to Holy Communion, visit them regularly and remember them on their name day and baptismal anniversary. The Godparents need to be a part of the lives of their Godchildren, assuring them of their love and teaching them about the faith. Most importantly, a Godparent needs to remember his or her spiritual children in daily prayer. The Spiritual bond between and Godmother or Godfather and the Godchild is very real and is very different from other relationships. For this reason, parents and spouses cannot function as Godparents. Further, the relationship is so sacred that a Godparent would not be allowed to marry a Godchild, in the same way that blood relatives are not allowed to marry.

## A LAMENT FOR SIN

St. Basil the Great says: “ *Weep over your sin: it is a spiritual ailment, it is death to your immortal soul; it deserves ceaseless, unending weeping and crying; let all tears flow for it, and sighing come forth without ceasing from the depth of your heart* ”.

In profound humility I weep for all my sins committed both voluntarily and involuntarily, consciously and unconsciously, covertly and overtly, great and little, committed by word and deed, in thought and intention, day and night at every hour and minute of my life.

*I weep* - over my pride and my ambition, my self-love and my boastfulness;

*I weep* - over my fits of anger, irritation, excessive shouting, swearing, quarreling and cursing;

*I weep* - for having criticized, censured, gossiped, slandered and defamed, for my wrath, enmity, hatred, envy, jealousy, vengeance and rancor;

*I weep* - over my indulgences in lust, impure thoughts and evil inclinations, covetousness, gluttony, drunkenness and sloth;

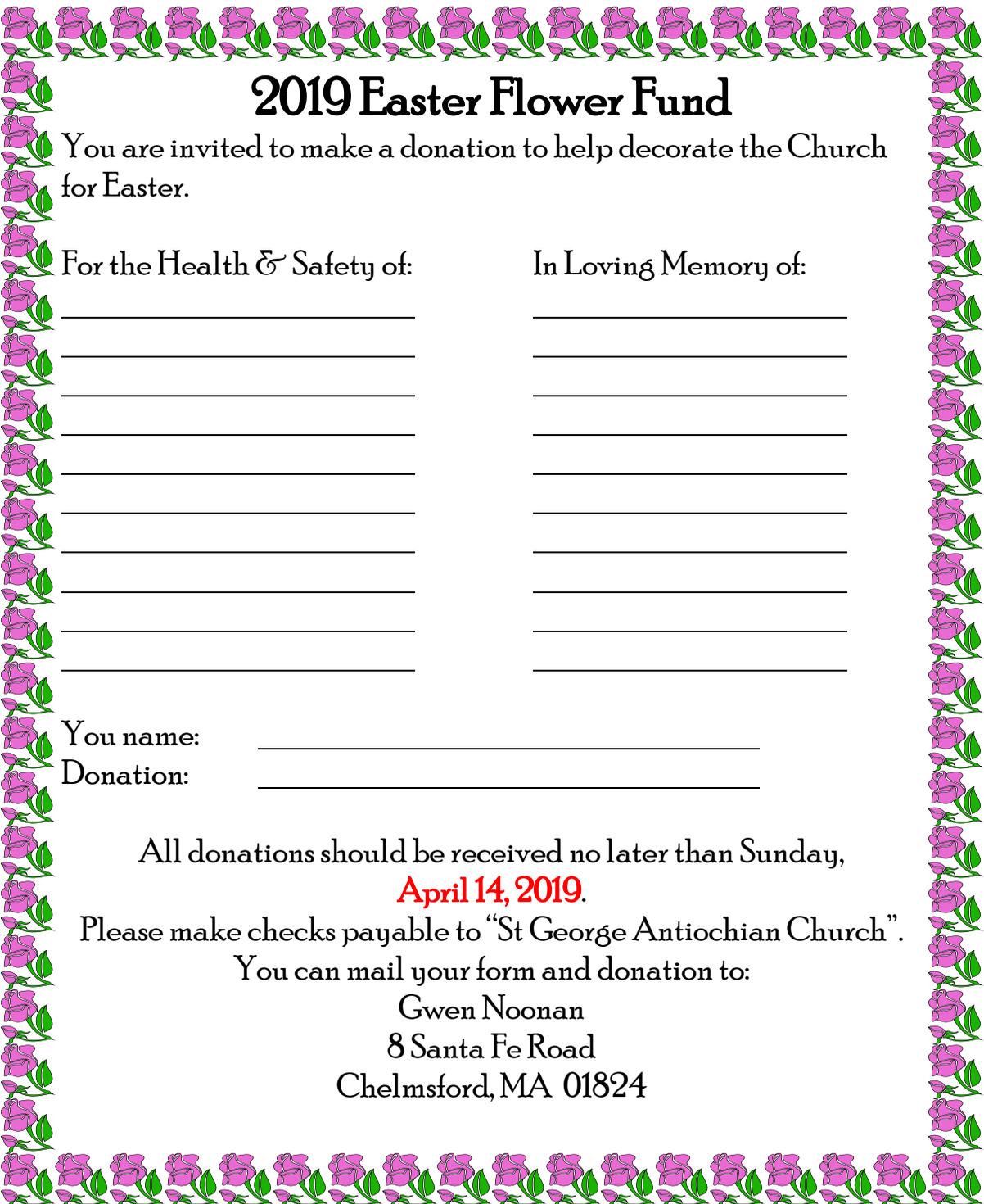
*I weep* - for having talked idly, used foul language, blasphemed, derided, joked, ridiculed, mocked, enjoyed empty gaiety, singing, dancing and every pleasure to excess;

*I weep* - over my self-indulged, cupidity, love of money and miserliness, unmercifulness and cruelty;

*I weep* - over my laziness, indolence, negligence, love of comfort, weakness, idleness, absent-mindedness, irresponsibility, inattention, love of sleep, for hours spent in idle pursuits and for my lack of concentration at prayer and in church, for not observing fasts and not doing charitable works;

*I weep* - over my lack of faith, my doubting, my perplexity, my coldness, my indifference in what concerns the Holy Orthodox Catholic Faith, and over all my foul, cunning and reviling thoughts;

*I weep* - over my exaggerated sorrow and grief, depression and despair, and over sins committed willingly.



# 2019 Easter Flower Fund

You are invited to make a donation to help decorate the Church for Easter.

For the Health & Safety of:

In Loving Memory of:

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

All donations should be received no later than Sunday,

**April 14, 2019.**

Please make checks payable to "St George Antiochian Church".

You can mail your form and donation to:

Gwen Noonan  
8 Santa Fe Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

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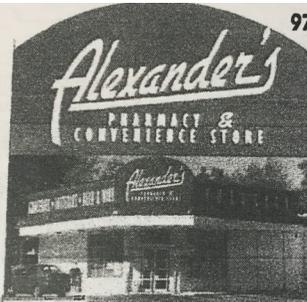
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**Donna Christopulos and Julie Grillakis**

Good Health to All !

Robert and Elaine Maria &  
Family

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