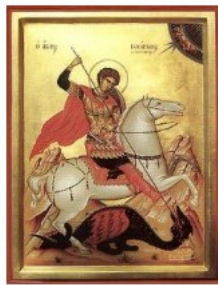


His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA,  
Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America



His Grace Bishop JOHN,  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of  
Worcester and New England

*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*  
*61 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854*



**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
& TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**  
VENERABLE MAKARIOS THE GREAT OF EGYPT, THE ANCHORITE

**January 19, 2024**

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Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Leonard Faris ~ Pastor ~ Email: [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net)

Phone: (978) 452-4816 Fax: (978) 452-6041

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

Web page: [www.saintgeorgelowell.org](http://www.saintgeorgelowell.org)

INSTAGRAM: [stgeorgelowell](https://www.instagram.com/stgeorgelowell)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell](https://www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell)

EGIVING: <https://www.myeegiving.com/app/giving/St9999948>

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) Service 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. and we should not arrive late

Sunday School: Every other Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**Prayer Requests and Bulletin News:** All prayer requests and articles for the weekly bulletin must be submitted each week by  
**Noon, Monday:** emailed to Fr. Leonard at [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net) call 978-452-4816,  
otherwise, the requests and articles will be published the following week.

**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, wal-nar-ka' lil-ma-sih, malikana wa eelaheena,  
khal-lis-na ya bna l-lah, ya man qa-ma min by-nil-am-wat, li-nu-rat-til la-ka,  
Hal-li-lu-ia

**Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 5 (repeated)**

**Troparion of St. Makarios of Egypt, Tone 1**

Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker, O Makarios, our God-bearing Father. By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of them that have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him that hath given thee strength. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

**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 2**

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

*Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.*

*Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)**

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.

### THE GOSPEL

#### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

### **MEMORIAL ~ Next Sunday ~ January 26th**

A 40 Day Memorial will be offered for the repose of the soul of the Servant of God Nicola Altalli, offered by Mutiaa, Khalil and Ned Altalli and family and Lila Khabazeh and family. May Nicola's memory be eternal.

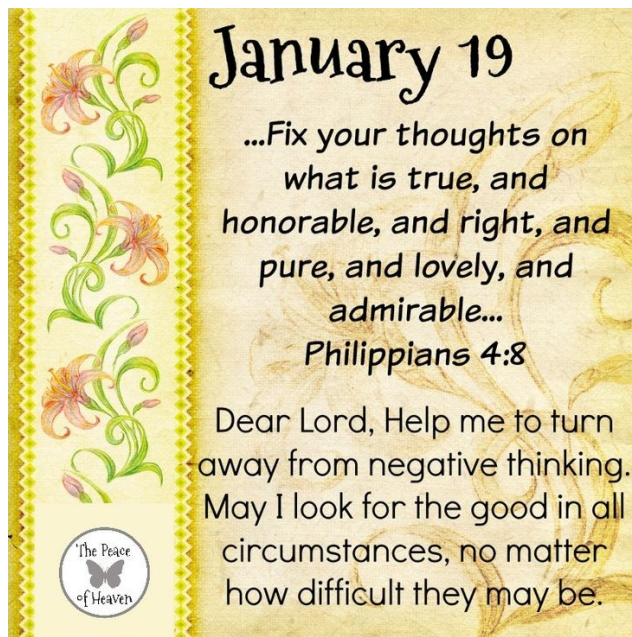
*Prayers are being offered for the  
Health and Safety of:*

Nora Abdelahad  
**ANSARA:** Lorice, Yvette  
Ellia Armano  
Ray Beaudry  
**BORAGINE:** David & Cindy, Ida  
Bob Gendron  
Athanasia Grivas  
Duayne Habib  
Ray Mansour  
Clemence Maria  
Doha and Salim Mitri  
Ama Lucia Moussa  
Gwen Noonan  
Helen Poulos  
Tom Saad  
Laurence Skaff  
**TAYEBI:** Amad & Alexa  
Nancy Husson Tafe  
**Yeghiazarians:** Dr. Vartan, Lisa &  
Genia

*Prayers are being offered in Memory of:*

Charles Abdelahad  
**ABODEELY:** Connie, George  
Adam Aiken  
**ANSARA:** Andrew, Elias  
John, Maurice, Michael  
**ARSENAULT:** Phyllis, Lionel  
**ASSALY:** Gladys, Linda  
**BAHOU:** Juliette, Laurice, Siham  
Widad Batten  
**BEAUDRY:**  
Barbara, James "Jimmy"  
**BETOR:** Lillian, Edward  
**BORAGINE:** Dorothy, Sal  
Cleopatra Bouras  
**FARIS:** George, Elsie,  
Mary T., Mary V.  
**GHAREEB:** Elizabeth & Joseph  
Elias Grivas  
George P. Habib  
**HADDAD:** Emile & Teffaha  
**HAJJAR:** Philip & Rosalind  
Elias Hanna  
**HUSSON:** Dorothea, Eleanor,  
Joanne, Robert, N. Mary  
**KADIR:** Joe & Terry Husson  
Salim Khabazeh  
**LAKKIS:** Gerges, Michel  
**LOUH:** Amanda, Nuha Shahin

**LOWE:** George & Rose  
**MANOLIS:**  
Efthymios & Paraskevi  
Robert Maria  
George Matook  
Maurice Matte  
Denise McCrady  
Fred Noonan  
**NOONAN:** Frederick & Matilda  
**PANAGOPOULOS:**  
Paul & Lillian  
**SAAD:** Anisse, Hanna  
Mary Saati  
**SABA:** George W. & Mary  
Badawi Sabbouh  
Eleanor Shalhoup  
Fred Simon  
**SKAFF:** Chakeep, Judy,  
George M., Mildred,  
Arthur, Minnie,  
Nellie, Ricky, Stephen,  
T. Michael  
J. B. Taleb  
Elaine Vieira  
Leon Yeghiazarians  
**ZAHARIAS:**  
Mary Ann & Charles  
**ZANANIRI:** Hilda, Nahil



## ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered for the health and safety of our Choir director and all our members and their families as we celebrate Choir Appreciation Sunday! May God bless them all with peace, good health and happiness.

## CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Today is Choir Appreciation Sunday and we would like to thank our choir for participating in the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. We would also like to thank Steve Abodeely for directing the choir each week. May the Prince of Peace grant good health, happiness and long life to all who have served so faithfully during this time.

## COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the Parish Council in honor of our beautiful choir and choir director. May God bless them all with peace, good health and happiness!

## THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, January 19, 2025 9:30 AM      Sunday School      Life and Teachings of Jesus Video

## COFFEE HOURS

For those interested in signing up to host a coffee hour please put your name and the reason you 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.

## The Tradition of the Vasilopita



The tradition of baking and cutting a special "pita" (which can mean a loaf of bread, a cake, or even a pie!) each year on January 1, New Year's Day in the civil calendar, is observed in honor of our Holy Father [Basil the Great](#), archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia - hence its name Vasilopita. This tradition is observed in both parish churches and in the homes of the faithful. What is the meaning of this tradition and how did it begin? For centuries upon centuries parents, grandparents and Godparents have related the following story to Orthodox children about St Basil and the Vasilopita.

*One year, during a time of terrible famine, the emperor levied a sinfully excessive tax upon the people of Caesarea. The tax was such a heavy burden upon the already impoverished people that to avoid debtors' prison each family had to relinquish its few remaining coins as well as pieces of jewelry, including precious family heirlooms. Learning of this injustice against his flock, St Basil the Great, the archbishop of Caesarea, took up his bishop's staff and the book of the holy Gospels and came to his people's defense by fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. By God's grace, the emperor did repent! He cancelled the tax and instructed his tax collectors to turn over to St Basil all of the chests containing the coins and jewelry which had been paid as taxes by the people of Caesarea.*

*But now St Basil was faced with the daunting and impossible task of returning these coins and pieces of jewelry to their rightful owners. After praying for a long time before the icons of our Master Christ and His All-holy Mother, St Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge "pita." He then called all the townspeople to prayer at the cathedral and, after Divine Liturgy, he blessed and cut the "pita," giving a piece to each person. Wondrously each owner received in his piece of Vasilopita his own valuables. They all joyfully returned home, giving thanks to God who had delivered them from abject poverty and to their good and holy bishop, St Basil the Great.*

In remembrance of that miracle wrought by God as a result of St Basil's love and defense of his people, Orthodox Christians have observed the tradition of the Vasilopita each year on January 1st - the date on which St Basil reposed in the Lord in the year 379.

In some places the Vasilopita is prepared as a loaf of rich bread (like that used for Artoklasia), while in other places it takes the form of a spicy sheet cake (without frosting). But no matter what form a Vasilopita may take, they all have one thing in common - each contains a single coin. After placing the bread dough or batter in the proper baking pan, the baker makes with the foil wrapped coin the sign of the Cross over it, closes his/her eyes, and then secretly places it into the unbaked Vasilopita.



After the Vasilopita is baked and cooled, it is blessed and cut following Divine Liturgy for the feast of St Basil on January 1. At churches it is blessed and cut in the parish fellowship hall by the bishop or priest, and in homes it is blessed and cut by the head of the household. The blessing of the Vasilopita usually begins with the Apolytikion of St Basil the Great, chanted in tone 1:

*Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth that received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; Thou hast made manifest the nature of things that be; Thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.*

(In Greek the name Basil means “royal” or “kingly.”)

Then the following prayer may be said:

*Let us pray unto the Lord. Lord, have mercy. O Creator of all things, Lord and King of the ages, plenteous in mercy and bountiful in goodness, who didst accept the Magi's gifts in Bethlehem, who art the Bread of life that came down from heaven, who by Thine authority didst establish the seasons and the years and dost hold our life in Thy hands. Hear us who pray to Thee on this holy day upon our entrance into the new year of Thy goodness and bless (+) this loaf/cake, which has been offered to Thy glory and in honour of our Father among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. Do Thou who art Benevolent, look down from Thy holy heaven and send down upon us, upon those who have offered these gifts and upon them that partake thereof, Thine heavenly gifts, for our hope is in Thee, the living God, unto the ages. Bless this parish (home, school, foundation, etc) and our entrances and exits; replenish our life with all good things and direct our footsteps that we may keep Thy divine commandments, for man shall not live by bread alone; Through the intercessions of Thy Most pure Mother, of our Father among the saints Basil the Great and of all Thy saints who from all ages have been well pleasing to Thee. Amen.*

The sign of the Cross is then made over the Vasilopita with a knife while saying, "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All respond "Amen." Then pieces of the Vasilopita are cut in the following order: The 1st piece is set aside for Christ, the 2nd piece for Theotokos, the 3rd piece for St Basil, and the 4th piece for the poor. Then pieces are given to all present, beginning with the eldest and ending with youngest. He or she who receives the piece containing the coin is traditionally considered to be especially blessed for the New Year.

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