

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*



*Fiftieth Day after Pascha
The Great Feast of Pentecost*

June 8, 2025

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Leonard Faris ~ Pastor ~ Email: 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

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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 call 978-452-4816, otherwise, the requests and articles will be published the following week.

Troparion of Pentecost, Tone 8

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou has fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

Entrance Hymn

Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we shall praise and sing of Thy mighty acts. Save us, O Good Comforter, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Troparion of Pentecost, Tone 8 (repeated)

Kontakion of Pentecost, Tone 8

When the High One descended, confusing tongues, He divided the nations. And when He distributed the fiery tongues He called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

THE EPISTLE

Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (7:37-52; 8:12)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, many of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the Law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our Law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered in memory of the Handmaid of God, Lillian (Ghareeb) Panagopoulos, requested by her children, Martha, Lisa and Paul. May Lillian's memory be eternal and may God bless, Martha, Lisa and Paul and their families with peace, good health and happiness.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Today, June 1st

A 1 Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God Lillian (Ghareeb) Panagopoulos, requested by her children, Martha, Lisa and Paul. May Lillian's memory be eternal!

COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is being hosted in memory of the Handmaid of God, Lillian (Ghareeb) Panagopoulos, requested by her children, Martha, Lisa and Paul. May Lillian's memory be eternal and may God bless, Martha, Lisa and Paul and their families with peace, good health and happiness.

Prayers are being offered for the
Health and Safety of:

Nora Abdelahad
Elias AbouFarah
ANSARA: Lorice, Yvette
Ray Beaudry
BORAGINE: David & Cindy, Ida
David Ferris
Bob Gendron
Julie Grillakis
Athanasia Grivas
Duayne Habib
Clemence Maria
Elaine Maria
Helen Poulos
Tom Saad
Amad Tayebi
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
ARSENAULT: Phyllis, Lionel
ASSALY: Gladys, Linda
BAHOU: Juliette, Laurice, Siham
Widad Batten
BEAUDRY:
Barbara, James "Jimmy"
BORAGINE: Dorothy, Sal
Cleopatra Bouras
FARIS: George, Elsie,
Mary T., Mary V.
GHAREEB: Elizabeth & Joseph
Elias Grivas
George P. Habib
HAJJAR: Philip & Rosalind
HUSSON: Camille, 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
Ray Mansour
Robert Maria
George Matook
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
Alexa Tayebi
Elaine Vieira
Leon Yeghiazarians
ZAHARIAS:
Mary Ann & Charles
ZANANIRI: Abraham, Henry,
Hilda, Nahil

SCHOLARSHIPS

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 as 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 30th.

REQUESTS FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES AND ALTAR BREAD

Anyone wishing to offer a Memorial Service and offer the Altar Bread for their loved ones please contact Fr. Leonard to schedule a date.

COFFEE HOURS

We would like to see a coffee hour each week. For those interested in signing up to host a coffee hour please inform Fr. Leonard and 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.

Holy Pentecost

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit,
The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope,
The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all,
Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood,
Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians,
He brings together the whole council of the Church."

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth..." the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

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Elizabeth and Joseph Ghareeb
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You are missed*

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