

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
May 14, 2017

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rt. Rev. Fr. Leonard Faris, Pastor

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.**

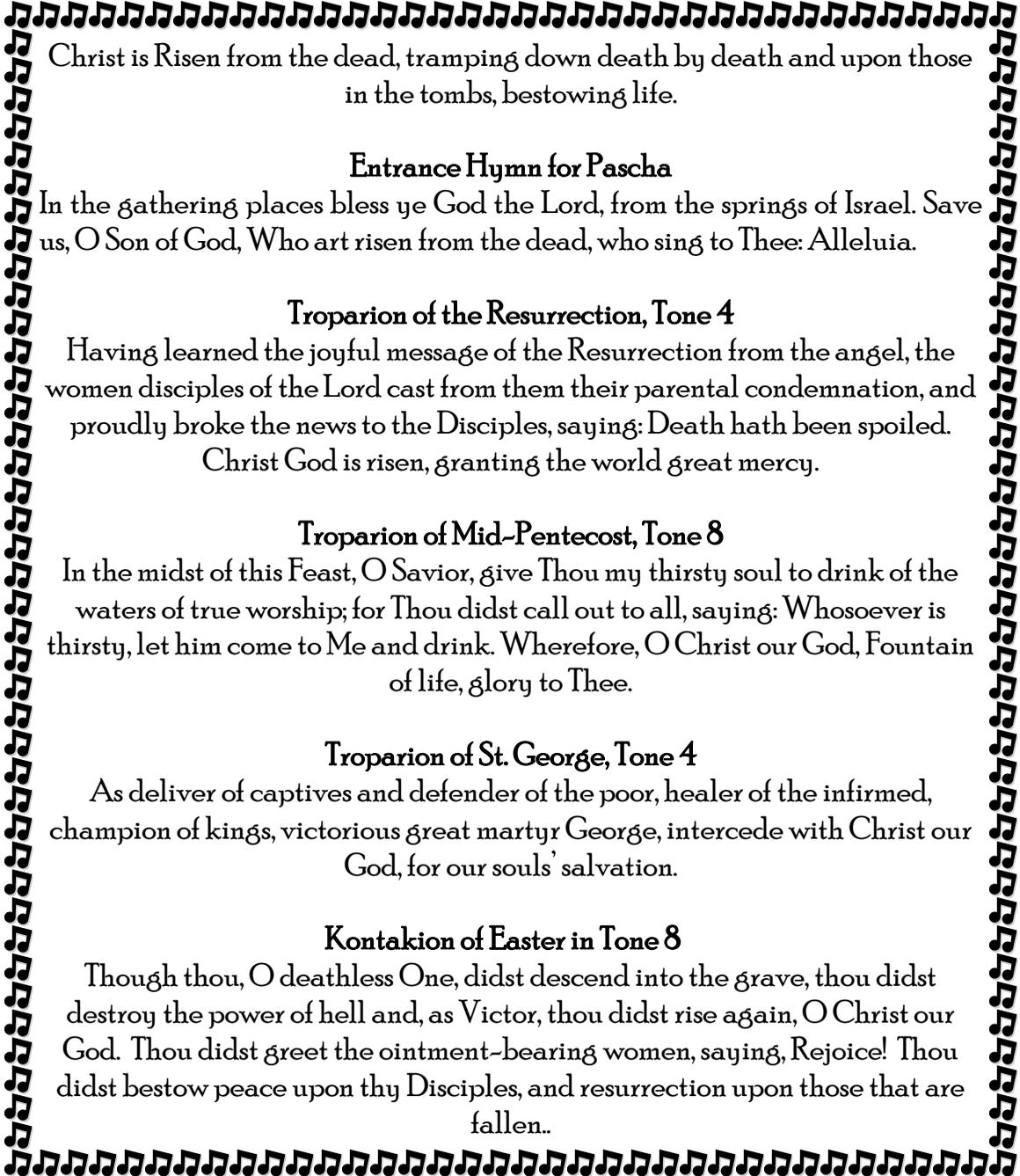
Important Notice: The reception of Holy Communion is limited to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and recent Confession. Confessions are heard on Sunday mornings during the Matins Service or by special appointment. The Eucharistic Fast begins at midnight on Saturday 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!



Christ is Risen from the dead, tramping down death by death and upon those
in the tombs, bestowing life.

Entrance Hymn for Pascha

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save
us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

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.

Troparion of Mid-Pentecost, Tone 8

In the midst of this Feast, O Savior, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the
waters of true worship; for Thou didst call out to all, saying: Whosoever is
thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain
of life, glory to 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 Easter in Tone 8

Though thou, O deathless One, didst descend into the grave, thou didst
destroy the power of hell and, as Victor, thou didst rise again, O Christ our
God. Thou didst greet the ointment-bearing women, saying, Rejoice! Thou
didst bestow peace upon thy Disciples, and resurrection upon those that are
fallen..

Epistle: Apostles 11:19-30

How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles

In those days, the Disciples, who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen, traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the Word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, upon coming to Antioch, spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the Disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the Disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His Disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that Thou, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst forever; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and Thou sayest that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming [He Who is called Christ]; when He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I Who speak to you am He." Just then His Disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, "What dost Thou wish?" or, "Why art Thou talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man Who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the Disciples besought Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the Disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He said to me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His words. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."



ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is given in memory of our Mothers, Grandmother, Godmothers, and Mother-in-Laws. May their memories be eternal! Also, today's Altar Bread is given for all our Mothers, Grandmother, Godmother, and Mother-in-Laws who are still with us. We pray that Our Good and Loving God grant them good health, happiness and long life!

Today's Holy Bread is given in memory of the repose of the souls of the Handmaids of God Elizabeth Ghareeb and Matilda Noonan. May their memories be eternal.

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 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

Applications are now being accepted for the "St. George Ladies Society" Scholarship. Eligible applicants must be female, 22 years of age or older, be a member in good standing in the church, be actively involved in the worship, service, and social life of the church, be applying for, or registered in, an academic or trade study program, and demonstrate financial need. See Fr. Leonard or Martha Stewart for further details and an application. Application deadline is June 18th.



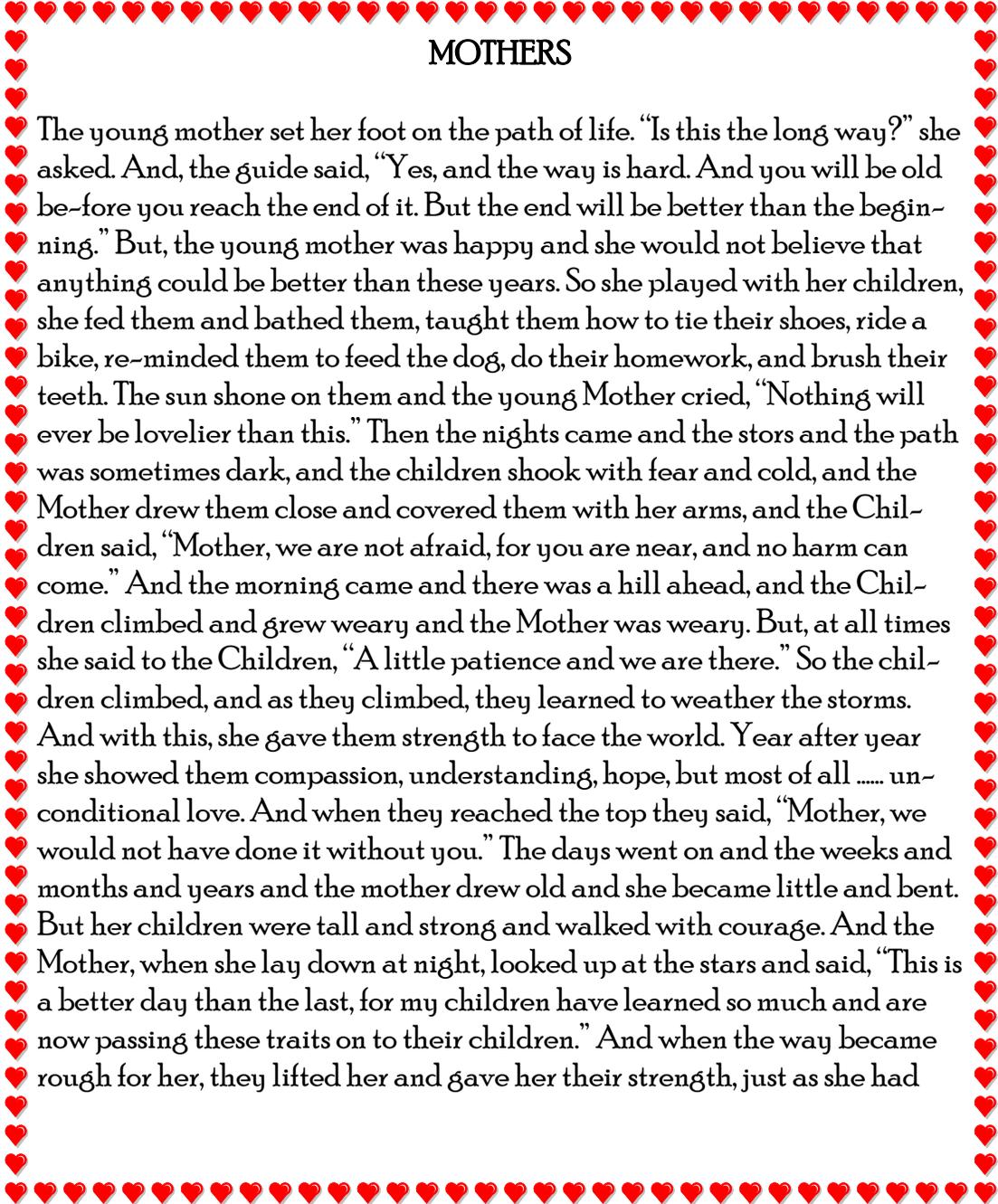
SAVE THE DATES
Lowell Folk Festival
July 28, 29 and 30, 2017

As in prior years, we will participate in the Lowell Folk Festival which is scheduled for July 28-30, 2017. Please save these dates as we all depend on your help that weekend. If you would like make a donation towards the Folk Festival expenses please see Azar Louh, Mack Louh, or Ron Tayebi.

SAVE THE DATE

The Sixth Annual Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church Night At The Lowell Spinners Baseball Game will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2017, at 5:30 PM at LeLacheur Park in Lowell MA. Further details will follow.

Andrew Saati
Chairman



MOTHERS

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked. And, the guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning." But, the young mother was happy and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, she fed them and bathed them, taught them how to tie their shoes, ride a bike, re-minded them to feed the dog, do their homework, and brush their teeth. The sun shone on them and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this." Then the nights came and the storms and the path was sometimes dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the Mother drew them close and covered them with her arms, and the Children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come." And the morning came and there was a hill ahead, and the Children climbed and grew weary and the Mother was weary. But, at all times she said to the Children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and as they climbed, they learned to weather the storms. And with this, she gave them strength to face the world. Year after year she showed them compassion, understanding, hope, but most of all unconditional love. And when they reached the top they said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you." The days went on and the weeks and months and years and the mother drew old and she became little and bent. But her children were tall and strong and walked with courage. And the Mother, when she lay down at night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned so much and are now passing these traits on to their children." And when the way became rough for her, they lifted her and gave her their strength, just as she had

given them hers. One day they came to a hill and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And Mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk with dignity and pride, with their heads held high and so can their children after them." And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates." And they stood and watched her as she went on along and the gates closed after her. And they said, "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory, she is a living presence." Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street, she's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick and perfume that she wore, she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well, she's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day. She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of a rainbow, she is Christmas morning. Your Mother lives inside your laughter and she's crystallized in every tear drop. A Mother shows every emotion....happiness, sadness, fear, jealousy, love, hate, anger, helplessness, excitement, joy, sorrow....and all the while, hoping and praying you will only know the good feelings in life. She's the place you came from, your first home, and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's low with every step you take. She's your first friend, even your first enemy, but nothing on earth can separate you. Not time, not space....not even death.





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