

*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Lowell, Massachusetts*



*The Feast of the Circumcision in the Flesh of Our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great*

*January 1, 2012*

# ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854  
Church Phone: (978) 452-4816 Fax: (978) 452-6041  
Rt. Rev. Fr. Leonard Faris, Pastor  
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## WORSHIP SERVICE

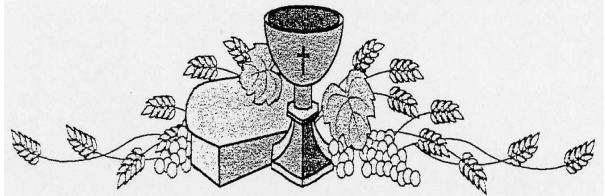
Sunday: Matins (Orthros) Service 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School, Every third Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, January 1, 2012**

**Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12**

**Gospel: St. Luke 2:20-21, 40-51**

***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.







### Troparion of the Resurrection in 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

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto thee: Alleluia.

### Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 4 (repeated)

### St. Basil in Tone 1

#### Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

In all the earth that received thy sayings, thy melody did resound, O righteous Father, through which thou didst go about and proclaim, as worthy of God, the nature of creatures, cultivating the character of mankind, O thou of kingly Priesthood, Basil. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

### Circumcision in Tone 1

#### Both now and every and unto ages of ages, Amen

O most compassionate Lord, while yet God after thine essence, thou didst take human likeness without transubstantiation; and having fulfilled the law thou didst accept willingly circumcision in the flesh, that thou mightest annul the shadowy signs and remove the veil of our passions. glory to thy goodness, glory to thy compassion, glory to thine ineffable condescension, O Word.

### Troparion of St. George in 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 Circumcision in Tone 3

The Master of all endureth humiliation and is circumcised for the iniquities of mankind; for he is good, and granteth salvation to the world. And in the highest the High Priest of the Creator, clothed with light, the divine initiate of Christ, Basil, rejoiceth.



## **Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12**

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

## **Gospel: St. Luke 2:20-21, 40-51**

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:20-21, 40-51)

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.



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



Charles and Nora Abdelahad  
George & Connie Abodeely  
Mindy Abodeely  
Thomas Archibald  
Gladys Assaly  
Baby Brooke Marie Benjamin  
Anthony Bertos  
Ed & Lillian Betor  
Olga Betso  
David and Cindy Boragine  
Sal and Ida Boragine  
Patricia Boros  
Toma and Miriam Calache  
Jacque and Camilla Cloutier  
and Family  
David DeForrest  
Ghassemian Family  
Elias Grivas  
Duayne Habib  
Dorothy Haddy  
Rosalind Hajjar & Family  
Mary Howie  
Lloyd Jennings  
Siham Khadij  
Joe Kadir  
Kaliopie Karagianes  
Rose Lowe  
Marcotte Family  
Sgt. Peter Marcotte  
H. John and Clemence Maria  
Florence Mourlas  
Colleen Olivieri  
Ryan OMalley

Elaine Panagopoulos  
Paul Panagopoulos  
Vangie Pavlakos  
Rita Priolisi  
Joni Finegold Sachs  
Freda Sadak & Family  
Fred Simon  
Minnie Skaff & Family  
Peter, Jacqui, Amanda, and Peter Vitello  
Joseph and Mae Vitello  
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians & Family  
Leon & Genia Yeghiazarians  
MaryAnn Zaharias  
Nahil Zananiri  
Sean and Family  
Scott and Family  
Michael Bulgaris, Requested by Fred & Elaine Simon  
Kaliopie Karagianes, Requested by Katherine Ansara  
Darlene Simon, Requested by Fred & Elaine Simon  
George and Anna Stewart,  
Requested by Martha Stewart  
Fr. Nik Pelekoudes, Requested by Fr. Leonard  
Fr. Andrew Zbeeb,  
Requested by the Parishioners of St. George  
MaryAnn Zaharias  
Requested by the Ladies of St. George  
Charles Panacopoulos,  
Requested by Fred & Elaine Simon  
Rita Beaudry, Requested by Fr. Leonard  
Fr. Stephen, Presbyteria Kelley, Alec and Zack Lawrence and Lynda and Michael Lawrence, requested  
by Fr. Leonard

*May God Grant You Good Health and Long Life!!!*



*Prayers are being offered In Memory of:*



Delia Moses Abdinoor

Mazen Alwarad

Toula Anasoulis

Andrew Ansara

Elias Ansara

John Ansara

Maurice Ansara

Linda Assaly

Juliette Bahou

Laurice Bahou

James "Jimmy" Beaudry

Dorothy Boragine

Dr. Christos Daoulas

Isa Elias

Rose "Joanne" Elias

George Faris

Mary T. Faris

Thomas Gelardares

Elizabeth Ghareeb

Joseph Ghareeb

Armenuhi Ghassemian

George Habib

Philip Hajjar

Mary Hassey

Eleanor Husson

N. Mary Husson

Terry Husson Kadir

Fr. Vartan Kassabian

George Kouloheras

Elena Lawrence

George Lowe

Elsie Faris Mansor

Edward Mansour

Faye Maria

Jalil Matta

Brian McCoy

Nafie Moses

Violet Husson Mullins

Hanna Saad

Mary Saati

George W. Saba

Mary Saba

Elaine Salameh

Eleanor Shalhoup

Janice Simon

John Simon

Judy Skaff

Nellie Skaff

Richard "Ricky" Skaff

Stephen Skaff

T. Michael Skaff

Robert and Julia Wonneberger

Charles Zaharias

Ann Attick, requested by Lynne Wade

*May their Memory be Eternal!!!*

## ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is offered for the health and safety of the Parishioners of St. George and their Families and in memory of George and Elsie Faris Mansor requested by Fr. Leonard.

May the New Year bring you all peace, good health and happiness always!




## THANK YOU!!!

"A very special Thank You" to the Parish Council, the Ladies of St. George and all the parishioners who remembered me in a very special way on Christmas. Your cards and gifts were very much appreciated and I pray that with God's help we continue to work together for the Glory of God and St. George Church. Love you all!

+Fr. Leonard

## COMING UP

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- Wed. January 4th 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting in Church Hall
- Thur. January 5th 4:45 pm Orthros of the Epiphany  
6:00 pm Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of the Epiphany celebrated by His Grace, Bishop John of the Diocese of Worcester at the St. George Cathedral in Worcester. It will be followed by a reception and presentation of gifts by each of the New England parishes. All are welcome to attend and meet our new Bishop and extend our best wishes to Him.
- Fri. January 6th 1:00 pm Blessing of the Merrimack River at the boathouse on Varnum Ave, sponsored by the Lowell Orthodox Council of Churches. Come and witness this beautiful even on this the Feast of Epiphany.
- Sun. January 8th Immediately following the Divine Liturgy the new Parish Council and Ladies officers will take their oath of office.



## ST. BASIL'S BREAD

Today, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, prayers will be offered for the Health and Safety of all our parishioners and benefactors and the traditional Vasilopeta (St. Basil's Bread) will be blessed and distributed during Coffee Hour. The Vasilopeta is being donated by Fr. Leonard..

May the Prince of Peace bring us all His blessings for the New Year and may our Faith be renewed and deepened through Christ Our Lord.

+Fr. Leonard

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL AND TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS OF THE LADIES SOCIETY!!!

We would like to congratulate our newly installed Parish Council and our new board members of the Ladies Society and ask the Prince of Peace to bless them with peace, health and spiritual happiness during this coming year. We pray that they will continue to work for the "Glory of God" and for St. George Church. As we begin this New Year 2012 let us all commit ourselves to working together as one family so that we may continue to achieve great things for our beloved community.

# Commemorated on January 1

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 17:10-14, Lev. 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31). The Church explains that the Lord underwent circumcision in ample fulfillment of how faithfully to be fulfilled. The Lord no one would doubt that His an illusion, as certain

In the New Testament, the way to the Mystery of Circumcision of the Lord Church right up through Canon of the Feast was St Sava Monastery

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt.1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.



Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord underwent circumcision in ample fulfillment of how faithfully to be fulfilled. The Lord no one would doubt that His an illusion, as certain

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sion, which the Lord ac-

**BLESSING OF HOMES- WHY IS A HOME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS BLESSED?**

*We all know that when a monument is unveiled; when a building is opened; when significant undertaking is begun, it is customary for a ceremony of dedication to be held. So too, our Holy Orthodox Church has special blessings for those moving into a new home, a newly constructed or renovated home, a place of business, as well as the annual blessing of the home during the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6. With these rites the home is dedicated or rededicated and sanctified as an abode of a Christian believer under the Holy Trinity.*

*In the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 19: 1-10 we read of the time our Blessed Lord visited the home of Zacchaeus, the rich publican. When Jesus entered Zacchaeus' house he said: "today salvation has come to this house since he too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save what is lost."*

*Therefore, during the services for the Blessing of homes, the priest prays that God will grant sanctification, blessings, purification, and health to those whose home is blest. He also prays for their spiritual and temporal welfare throughout the year. The Holy Orthodox Church sanctifies the lives of her faithful, to consecrate them, and to insure their salvation by every means at Her command.*

**During the Blessing of homes, please adhere to the following guidelines:**

1. Have as many family members there as possible.
2. Set up a place for prayers, in the dining room or kitchen, with an Icon and candle.
3. Take this time to get to know the priest better, asking any questions you may have.
4. Please don't feed the priest! We don't want to play favorites, and we also don't want to gain weight by eating everything that is offered to us.

*Remember the priest will be making many visitations. A lengthy social visit may not be possible at this time. In order to make it possible to visit as many homes a possible, you may prefer a Season other than Epiphany for a visitation. This year I will also be Blessing homes between Easter and Pentecost and between the Feast of the Holy Cross, September 14 through October 1, 2012.*

Dear Father Leonard,

Yes, I/we would like to have my/our home blessed in 2012. The most convenient days and times are as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best season:                      After Epiphany (January 6)  
 (please circle one)              After Easter (April 15)  
     After the Feast of the Holy Cross (Sept.14)

Best day:            Mon    Tue    Wed    Thur    Fri    Sat

Best time:            AM    or    PM