

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church Lowell, Massachusetts



**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

June 3, 2018

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

44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854

Web: www.saintgeorgelowell.org

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

Facebook: 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 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 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One,
and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might
deliver us from passion; Thou art our Life and our resurrection: O
Lord, glory to thee!

Troparion of All Saints, Tone 4

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the blood of
Thy Martyrs throughout the entire world, as in porphyry and
purple. Through them she lifteth her voice crying: Turn with Thy
compassion toward Thy people, and grant peace to Thy city, and
to our souls the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. George, Tone 4

As deliver of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the
infirm, champion of kings, victorious great martyr George,
intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

Kontakion of All Saints, Tone 8

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, * the
world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering
unto Thee, O Lord. * Through their earnest entreaties, * keep Thy
Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, * through the pure
Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

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 EPISTLE

God is wonderful among His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:33-12:2)

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30)

The Lord said to His disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name's sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

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

Nora Abdelahad
Connie Abodeely
Lorice Ansara
Phyllis Arsenault
Siham Bahou
June Behrakis
Ed & Lillian Betor
David and Cindy Boragine
Ida Boragine
George Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Grivas
Veronique, Annabelle & Chloe Groff
Duayne Habib
Rosalind Hajjar & Family
Sam Halperin & Family
Lloyd Jennings
Joe Kadir
Fr. Stephen and Family
Rose Lowe
Marcotte Family
Lynn Marccotte
Thomas Marcotte
Robert Maria
Kay Moulton
Fred Noonan
Chakeep Skaff
Amad Tayebi
Jack Trottier
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians &
Family
Genia Yeghiazarians

Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

Charles Abdelahad	Terry Husson Kadir
George Abodeely	George Lowe
Miriam Abodeely	Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
Toula Anasoulis	George Matook
Andrew Ansara	Nafie Moses
Elias Ansara	Frederick & Matilda Noonan
John Ansara	Paul Panagopoulos, Sr.
Maurice Ansara	Anisse Saad
Gladys Assaly	Hanna Saad
Yaacoub Awad	Mary Saati
Juliette Bahou	George W. & Mary Saba
Laurice Bahou	Badawi Sabbouh
Widad Batten	Eleanor Shalhoup
James "Jimmy" Beaudry	Fred Simon
Dorothy Boragine	Judy Skaff
Sal Boragine	Mildred & Arthur Skaff
Cleopatra Bouras	Minnie Skaff
Fred Ead	Nellie Husson Skaff
Frances Ellis	Ricky Skaff
Frank Ellis	Stephen Skaff
George & Elsie Faris	T. Michael Skaff
Mary T. Faris	Edmond Solomon
Mary V. Faris	J. B. Taleb
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb	Elaine Vieira
George P. Habib	Leon Yeghiazarians
Philip Hajjar	Charles Zaharias
Dorothea Husson	Mary Ann Zaharias
Eleanor Husson	Hilda Zananiri
N. Mary Husson	Nahil Zananiri

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!!

Synaxis of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy". Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints. He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology. Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nicodemus is found in his book. The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...." Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men"

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Lowell Transitional Living Center serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner to over one hundred people at each meal daily! I volunteer to help serve dinner the first Tuesday of every month. Won't you join me? If you'd like to help in this very rewarding experience, see Lisa Ansara or email me at lisaansara17@gmail.com.

As you are aware, feeding over 100 people a hot, full meal is expensive! If you'd like to donate towards the meal, checks can be made to LTLC and given to Lisa. It costs approximately \$350 for each dinner so any and all donations are appreciated.

COMING SOON

Let's Party

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! FUN EVENING, MUSIC, RAFFLE

This year we will be celebrating our 34th annual Cocktail Raffle fundraiser on September 21st at the Andover Country Club. Please help us make this a joyous and successful.

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 3rd.

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 July 22nd.

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**Robert and Elaine Maria &
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