

*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts*



**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
& FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

*July 21, 2019*

**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**

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**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](mailto: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 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**

Ha-lum-mu lu li-nas-judu, lil-nar-ka' lil-ma-sih, khal-lis-na  
ya bna l-lah, ya man qa-ma min bal-nil-am-wat, li-nu-rat-til  
la-ka, Hal-li-lu-ia

### **Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 4 (repeated)**

### **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 for Ordinary Sundays, Tone 2**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## THE EPISTLE

*How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (10:1-10)**

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

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

Nora Abdelahad  
Connie Abodeely  
Lisa Ansara  
Phyllis & Nel Arsenault  
Siham Bahou  
Ray & Barbara Beaudry  
June Behrakis  
Ed Betor  
David and Cindy Boragine  
Ida Boragine  
April Bouras  
George Ellis  
Athanasia Grivas  
Veronique, Annabelle & Chloe Groff  
Duayne Habib  
Rosalind Hajjar & Family  
Sam Halperin & Family  
Lloyd Jennings  
Joe Kadir  
Charles Kourkalakos  
Fr. Stephen and Family  
Rose Lowe  
Marcotte Family  
Lynn Marcotte  
Thomas Marcotte  
Clemence Maria  
Gwen Noonan  
Julia and Brian Sapienza  
Toula Sparages  
Amad Tayebi  
Jack Trottier  
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians &  
Family  
Genia Yeghiazarians

*Prayers are being offered in Memory of:*

Charles Abdelahad	Lissa Kowalski
George Abodeely	George Lowe
Miriam Abodeely	Amanda Louh
Toula Anasoulis	Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
Andrew Ansara	Robert Maria
Elias Ansara	George Matook
John Ansara	Anthony Matysczak
Maurice Ansara	Denise McCrady
Michael Ansara	Nafie Moses
Gladys Assaly	Kay Moulton
Linda Assaly	Fred Noonan
Yaacoub Awad	Frederick & Matilda Noonan
Juliette Bahou	Paul Panagopoulos, Sr.
Laurice Bahou	Anisse Saad
Widad Batten	Hanna Saad
James "Jimmy" Beaudry	Mary Saati
Lillian Betor	George W. & Mary Saba
Dorothy Boragine	Badawi Sabbouh
Sal Boragine	Eleanor Shalhoup
Cleopatra Bouras	Fred Simon
David Burs	Chakeep Skaff
Robert Coviello	Judy Skaff
Linda Deeb	Mildred & Arthur Skaff
Austin Dufault	Minnie Skaff
Fred Ead	Nellie Husson Skaff
Ella Jean Elias	Ricky Skaff
Frances Ellis	Stephen Skaff
Frank Ellis	T. Michael Skaff
George & Elsie Faris	Edmond Solomon
Mary T. Faris	J. B. Taleb
Mary V. Faris	Elaine Vieira
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb	Robert & Julia Wonneberger
Elias Grivas	Leon Yeghiazarians
George P. Habib	Charles Zaharias
Philip Hajjar	Mary Ann Zaharias
Dorothea Husson	Hilda Zananiri
Eleanor Husson	Nahil Zananiri
N. Mary Husson	
Terry Husson Kadir	

## Prophet Ezekiel

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces. Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back. There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow. The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory; and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life. The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter, is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ. The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

St Demetrius of Rostov (October 28 and September 21) explains to believers the following concepts in the book of the Prophet Ezekiel: if a righteous man turns from righteousness to sin, he shall die for his sin, and his righteousness will not be remembered. If a sinner repents, and keeps God's commandments, he will not die. His former sins will not be held against him, because now he follows the path of righteousness.



## ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered for the health and safety of Tony, Natalie, Joe and Jack Metri. May God grant the good health, happiness and long life.

**COMING SOON - SAVE THE DATE**

**Let's Party**

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

This year we will be celebrating our 36th annual Cocktail Raffle fundraiser on September 13th at the Four Oaks Country Club. Please help us make this a joyous and successful. Tickets will be mailed out in July.

**Martha Stewart  
Chairwoman**



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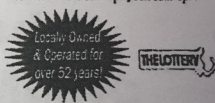
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