

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



1st Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 21, 2021

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The Rt. Rev. Bishop JOHN, Diocese of Worcester and New England

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Leonard Faris

Pastor of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Email: fatherfaris@comcast.net

44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854

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

Web: www.saintgeorgelowell.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Every other Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 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 you have left the Church.

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.

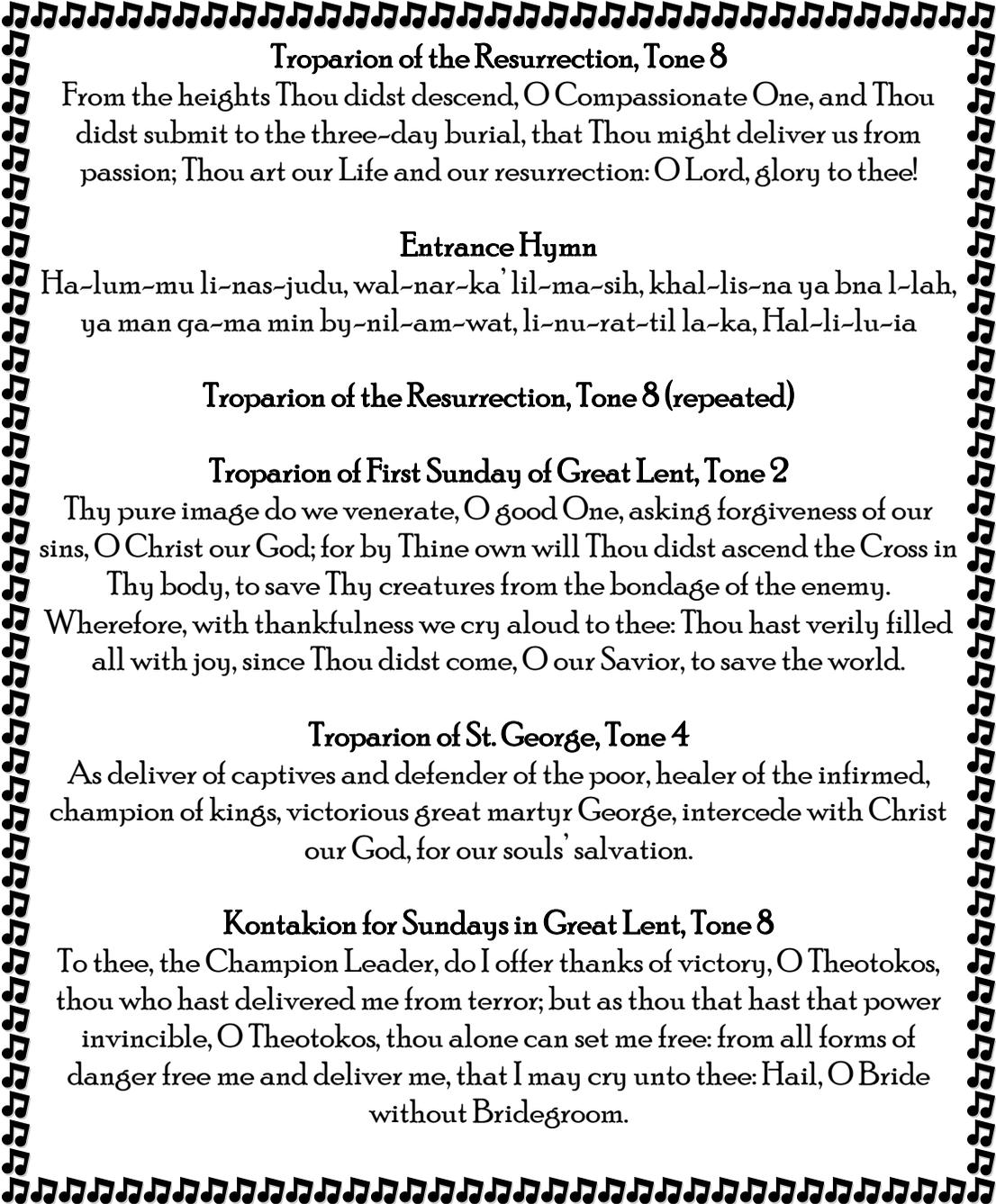
Thank you,

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

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!

Entrance Hymn

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

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 8 (repeated)

Troparion of First Sunday of Great Lent, Tone 2

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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 Sundays in Great Lent, Tone 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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

Nora Abdelahad
Connie Abodeely
Virginia Andersson
Lorice Ansara
William Ansara
Nel Arsenault
Siham Bahou
Charles Behrakis
Ed Betor
Paul & Kerrie Betor
David and Cindy Boragine
Ida Boragine
George Ellis
Michael Faris
Michael Forsley
Athanasia Grivas
Duayne Habib
Sam Halperin & Family
Elias Hanna & Family
Jamie Jourakis
Joe Kadir
Fr. Stephen and Family
Nuha Louh
Rose Lowe
Joseph Mansour
Lynn, Thomas Marcotte & Family
Clemence Maria
Karine Nabbout & Family
Gwen Noonan
Helen Poulos
Lilanne Saad
Michael Saati
Amad Tayebi
Jack Trottier
Robert, Denise & Megan Wagstaff
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians &
Family
Genia Yeghiazarians
Fr. Andrew and Khouryee Jane Zbeeb

Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

Charles Abdelahad
George Abodeely
Miriam Abodeely
Andrew Ansara
Elias Ansara
John Ansara
Maurice Ansara
Michael Ansara
Phyllis Arsenault
Gladys Assaly
Linda Assaly
Yaacoub Awad
Juliette Bahou
Laurice Bahou
Widad Batten
James "Jimmy" Beaudry
Calvin Beede
June Behrakis
Lillian Betor
Dorothy Boragine
Sal Boragine
Cleopatra Bouras
Ella Jean Elias
Rosalind Elias
Frances Ellis
Frank Ellis
George & Elsie Faris
Mary T. Faris
Mary V. Faris
Phillip George
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb
Elias Grivas
George P. Habib
Afaff Haddad, mother of
Hanna Bahou who passed
Away in California
Emile & Teffaha Haddad
Philip & Rosalind Hajjar
Charles & Annie Hamwey
Bernice Higgins
Dorothea Husson
Eleanor Husson
Joanne Husson
N. Mary Husson
Terry Husson Kadir
Siham Khadij
George Lowe
Amanda Louh
Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
Robert Maria
George Matook
Denise McCrady
Nafie Moses
Elias Nabbout
Fred Noonan
Frederick & Matilda Noonan
Paul Panagopoulos, Sr.
Anisse Saad
Hanna Saad
Mary Saati
George W. & Mary Saba
Badawi Sabbouh
Eleanor Shalhoup
Fred Simon
Chakeep Skaff
Judy Skaff
Mildred & Arthur Skaff
Minnie Skaff
Nellie Husson Skaff
Ricky Skaff
Stephen Skaff
T. Michael Skaff
J. B. Taleb
Elaine Vieira
Leon Yeghiazarians
Mary Ann & Charles Zaharias
Hilda Zananiri
Nahil Zananiri



ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered for the Health and Safety of Lindsay and Patrick Kett, for their birthdays, requested by their family. May God bless Lindsay and Patrick with peace, good health and happiness!



MEMORIALS - Today, March 21st

A Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the souls of the Servants of God Charles Hamwey (15 years) and for his wife Annie (14 years), requested by his son and daughter-in-law, Alan and Elaine Hamwey. May Charles and Annie's memory be eternal.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 28th

A 33 Year Memorial Service will be offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God Fareeda Faris, grandmother of Fr. Leonard, requested by Fr. Leonard. May Fareeda's memory be eternal.



THIS WEEK

Wed 3/24 7:00 pm Great Vespers for the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thu 3/25 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fri 3/26 7:00 pm 2nd Madafeh Service



FLOWERS

The Flowers adorning the Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 26th are given in loving memory of Nahil and Hilda Zananiri, requested by Don and Nadia Hassey.

May Nahil and Hilda's memory be eternal and may God bless Don and Nadia and Family with peace, good health and happiness!

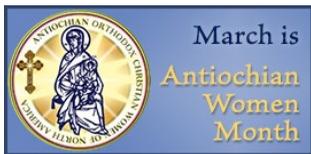


REMINDER

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK WHEN
ENTERING THE CHURCH AND
WEARING IT THROUGHOUT THE
LITURGY.**

St. George Antiochian Women's Project

"BUILDING A NEW CATHEDRAL"



This month, "Ladies Month" as we commonly refer to it in the Archdiocese, coincides with the beginning and first part of the Great Fast and always includes the Great Feast of the Annunciation. This year, we have as our project theme, "Fulfilling the Vision". This "vision" includes the next phases of the

Antiochian Village. When our beloved Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice-blessed memory purchased and founded the Antiochian Village in the late 1970s, he had many visions for this beautiful piece of land, some of which he realized in his lifetime like the Camp and the Heritage and Learning Center, and others that have yet to be fulfilled. After assessing the needs of our Archdiocese over the past five years, in addition to his "visions", I have added some of my own and, now, in 2021, it is part of that continued overall vision to begin the next phase of growth on this sacred piece of land. The "vision" includes a new cathedral with a crypt for our past and future hierarchs, a shrine for St. Raphael of Brooklyn for the proper veneration of his holy relics, offices and a conference room, a residence for our hierarchs when they retire, and a monastery on a secluded part of the property. We know with faith and help of our Antiochian Women, this dream this vision, will become a reality. Recently, many of us heard of the repose of the Elder Ephraim of Arizona. This humble monk came to this country and, with the faith and support of his followers, established 17 fully functioning and majestic monasteries for men and women all over the United States and Canada in just the past 30 years. If he was able to do this, I have faith that we in our Archdiocese can also plant a thriving monastic community in this beautiful piece of land that has been entrusted to us from God. As such, I am grateful in advance for your charitable and fund-raising efforts in helping with this grand project. Finally, as we begin our Lenten journey, I pray that each one of you will be spiritually strengthened to accomplish the course of the Fast with humility and love for one another. Wishing you all a blessed season of fasting, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

During the month the Ladies will read the Epistle, Collect and Usher for Communion.

March 21st

Epistle-Arabic	Carla Sabbouh
Epistle-English	Tylda Bahou
Collectors/Usher	Nicole Marvel / Rona Hassey
2nd Collectors	Martha Stewart / Nuha Louh

Fasting

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah describes fasting in the following way:

This is the fast that I choose to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo those things which hold us captive to free the oppressed, to break every bond. To fast is to share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house, to cover the naked when you see them. Then shall your light break forth like the dawn.

Jesus fasted. He prepared Himself for His public ministry by fasting for forty days. And Jesus challenged His disciples when they failed to heal a suffering child by saying, “This demon never comes out except by prayer and fasting” (Matt 17:21).

Fasting is not an act of mortification or “self-denial” for its own sake. It is not intended to bring about suffering which is somehow pleasing to God. It is not a “law” which, if endured, wins us favor with God or which, if ignored, brings about guilt. On the contrary, fasting is intimately connected with giving and less concerned with giving up. It involves regaining control of those things which we have allowed to control us; food, leisure, anger, pride, jealousy, money, power, in short anything which we should control but don't. Fasting challenges us to do without certain things so that we might take the initiative to do those things which we often fail to do, to give up unnecessary things in order to give more time and attention to the really important elements we overlook. One of the Lenten hymns makes precisely this point:

Let us begin the most precious Fast with joy.

Let us shine with the holy commandments of Christ our God,

With the splendor of love, with the brilliance of prayer, with the cleanness of purity and the strength of blessed courage.

If we fast from food but not from our passions, our fasting is in vain.

The true fast is the rejection of evil, the silencing of the tongue, the laying aside of anger, and the cutting off of lust, foolish talk, lying and cursing.

Those things which disappear only through true and acceptable fasting.

Traditionally, Orthodox Christians fast on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year, and daily during the four Lenten seasons. Within the Christian community, each person fasts differently, according to his or her personal capability, spiritual insight and vision. All should fast, at least minimally, and in every instance, our fasting should be done in secret without revealing to others what we are doing and joyfully because our aim lies in giving, rather than giving up.

Subject: ASKING GOD

I asked God to take away my pride. And God said “No”.
He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. And God said “No”.
He said “her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary”.

I asked God to grant me patience. And God said “No”.
He said “patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted, it is earned”.

I asked God to give me happiness. And God said “No”.
He said He gives me blessings, happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain. And God said “No”.
He said “suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me”.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. And God said “No”.
He said I must grow on my own, but that He would prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. And God said “No”.
He said “I will give you life, that you may enjoy all things”.

I asked God to help me Love others, as much as He loves me.
And God said, “Ah, finally, you have the idea”.



2021 Easter Flower Fund

You are invited to make a donation to help decorate the Church for Easter.

Name

Amount

Check #

Cash

For the Health & Safety of:

In Loving Memory of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

All donations should be received no later than Sunday, **April 18, 2021**.

Please make checks payable to "St George Antiochian Church".

You can mail your form and donation to:

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Chelmsford, MA 01824

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Robin Abodeely

Arbonne Independent Consultant

Area Manager

22478142

603.943.0079

abodeelyarbonne@gmail.com

robinabodeely.arbonne.com

Robin Abodeely, Arbonne Health and Beauty

[rabodeely](https://www.instagram.com/rabodeely)

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