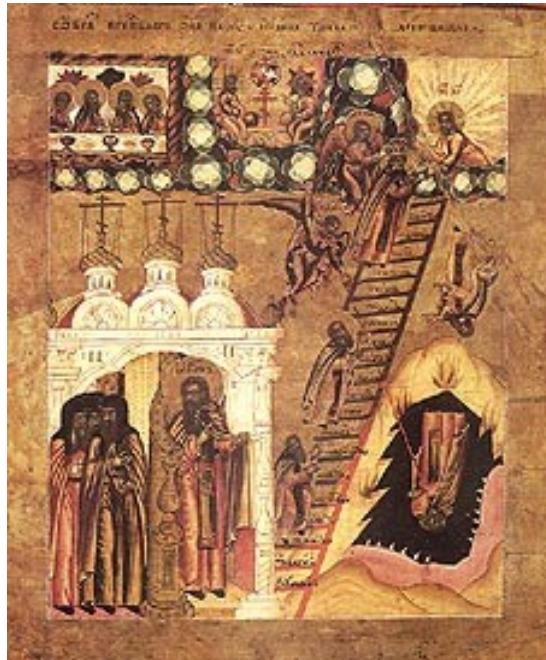


*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts*



*4th Sunday of Great Lent:
St. John Climacus of the Ladder*

April 11, 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

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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 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm; He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first born from the dead; He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting world great mercy.

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 3 (repeated)

Troparion for St. John Climacus, Tone 8

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears;
and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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. Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people. Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord glory and honor. The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

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

Nora Abdelahad
Connie Abodeely
Virginia Andersson
Lorice Ansara
Yvette 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
Elias Hanna & Family
Joe Kadir
Fr. Stephen and Family
Nuha Shahin Louh
Rose Lowe
Joseph Mansour
Lynn, Thomas Marcotte & Family
Clemence Maria
Karine Nabbout & Family
Gwen Noonan
Helen Poulos
Jamalie 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
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 McCradu
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 repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God, Phyllis Skaff Arsenault, requested by her husband, Lionel, and her children and grandchildren. May Phyllis' memory be eternal!



MEMORIALS - Today, April 11th

A 40 Day Memorial is being offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God, Phyllis Skaff Arsenault, requested by her husband, Lionel, and her children and grandchildren. May Phyllis' memory be eternal!



THIS WEEK

Tue 4/13 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Wed 4/14 7:00 pm Great Compline Service in Arabic

Fri 4/16 7:00 pm 5th Madayeh Service



FLOWERS

The Flowers adorning the two Icons of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 16th are given for the Health and Safety of Marwarn, Carla, Gabby and Peter Sabbouh and the Health and Safety of Elias, Ines, MaryRose, Lilianne and Hanna Saad. May God bless them all with peace, good health and happiness!



IMPORTANT REMINDER

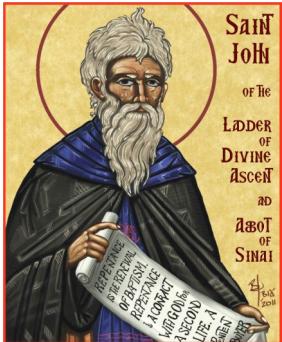
Confessions are heard before and after all Lenten services and on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy. During Holy Week, confessions will be heard “ONLY” on Monday and Tuesday, before or after the Bridegroom Service. If you plan on receiving Holy Communion during Holy Week or on Pascha, you must first come to confession. This is the rule of the Church. Any question see Fr. Leonard.



REMINDER

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

St. John Climacus



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom. The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ...". Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved".

SPECIAL THANK YOU

A very special thank you to all the friends and family, of Phyllis Arsenault, who donated \$5,005.00 to St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in her memory. May God bless you all with good health, happiness and long life!

Explanation—God

Written by 8 year old Danny Dutton, of Chula Vista, CA
for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God.



- ❖ One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.
- ❖ God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.
- ❖ God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom's and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.
- ❖ Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.
- ❖ Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.
- ❖ His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.
- ❖ You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. Besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway." 22
- ❖ If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and big kids throw you in real deep water.
- ❖ But, you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. *And...that's why I believe in God.*

A LAMENT FOR SIN

St. Basil the Great says: “*Weep over your sin: it is a spiritual ailment, it is death to your immortal soul; it deserves ceaseless, unending weeping and crying; let all tears flow for it, and sighing come forth without ceasing from the depth of your heart*”.

In profound humility I weep for all my sins committed both voluntarily and involuntarily, consciously and unconsciously, covertly and overtly, great and little, committed by word and deed, in thought and intention, day and night at every hour and minute of my life.

I weep - over my pride and my ambition, my self-love and my boastfulness;

I weep - over my fits of anger, irritation, excessive shouting, swearing, quarreling and cursing;

I weep - for having criticized, censured, gossiped, slandered and defamed, for my wrath, enmity, hatred, envy, jealousy, vengeance and rancor;

I weep - over my indulgences in lust, impure thoughts and evil inclinations, covetousness, gluttony, drunkenness and sloth;

I weep - for having talked idly, used foul language, blasphemed, derided, joked, ridiculed, mocked, enjoyed empty gaiety, singing, dancing and every pleasure to excess;

I weep - over my self-indulgences, cupidity, love of money and miserliness, unmercifulness and cruelty;

I weep - over my laziness, indolence, negligence, love of comfort, weakness, idleness, absent-mindedness, irresponsibility, inattention, love of sleep, for hours spent in idle pursuits and for my lack of concentration at prayer and in church, for not observing fasts and not doing charitable works;

I weep - over my lack of faith, my doubting, my perplexity, my coldness, my indifference in what concerns the Holy Orthodox Catholic Faith, and over all my foul, cunning and reviling thoughts;

I weep - over my exaggerated sorrow and grief, depression and despair, and over sins committed willingly.



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".

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Chelmsford, MA 01824

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