

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



*Sunday of the After-Feast of the Ascension*  
*Commemoration of the Holy Fathers*  
*of the First Ecumenical Council*

*June 13, 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](mailto: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!



### 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 6

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers  
shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard  
became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby;  
Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world; O thou Who art  
risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### Troparion of the Ascension, Tone 4

Thou has ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples  
with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the  
blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

### Troparion of the Holy Fathers, Tone 8

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy  
Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto  
the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

### 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 of the Ascension, Tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials  
with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable  
in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am  
with you, and no one shall be against you.

## THE EPISTLE

**Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou hast done to us. The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)**

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

## THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)**

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

*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  
Rose Lowe  
Joseph Mansour  
Lynn, Thomas Marcotte & Family  
Clemence Maria  
Karine Nabbout & Family  
Gwen Noonan  
Helen Poulos  
Jamalie Saad  
Michael Saati  
Amad Tayebi  
Jack Trotter  
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  
Robert Forsley  
Phillip George  
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb  
Elias Grivas  
George P. Habib  
Emile & Teffaha Haddad  
Philip & Rosalind Hajjar  
Charles & Annie Hamwey  
Dorothea Husson  
Eleanor Husson  
Joanne Husson  
N. Mary Husson  
Terry Husson Kadir  
Siham Khadij  
George Lowe  
Amanda Louh  
Nuha Shahin Louh  
Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis  
Robert Maria  
George Matook  
Denise McCrady  
Nafie Moses  
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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 given in loving memory of Amanda Louh, requested by her family. May Amanda's memory be eternal and may God bless her family with peace, good health and happiness!



## MEMORIALS - June 13th

A 2 Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of Handmaid of God, Amanda Louh, requested by her husband and children. May Amanda's memory be eternal!

A 10 Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of the Servant of God, Stephen Skaff, requested by his family. May Stephen's memory be eternal!

Electronic giving helps parishioners to give more consistently and improves St. George's cash flow. It's fast, simple, and convenient. No more checks, no more cash, no more envelopes. (if you chose). Please go to the following link to make your online donation today.

<https://www.myegiving.com/app/giving/St9999948>

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

Thank You,  
Parish Council

## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ. Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being. A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea. Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos, and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers. With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria]. He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle." The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous." Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep. The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion. In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox

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