

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



*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*  
*& Eleventh Sunday of Matthew*  
*Prophet Zachariah,*  
*father of the Forerunner*

*September 5, 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.

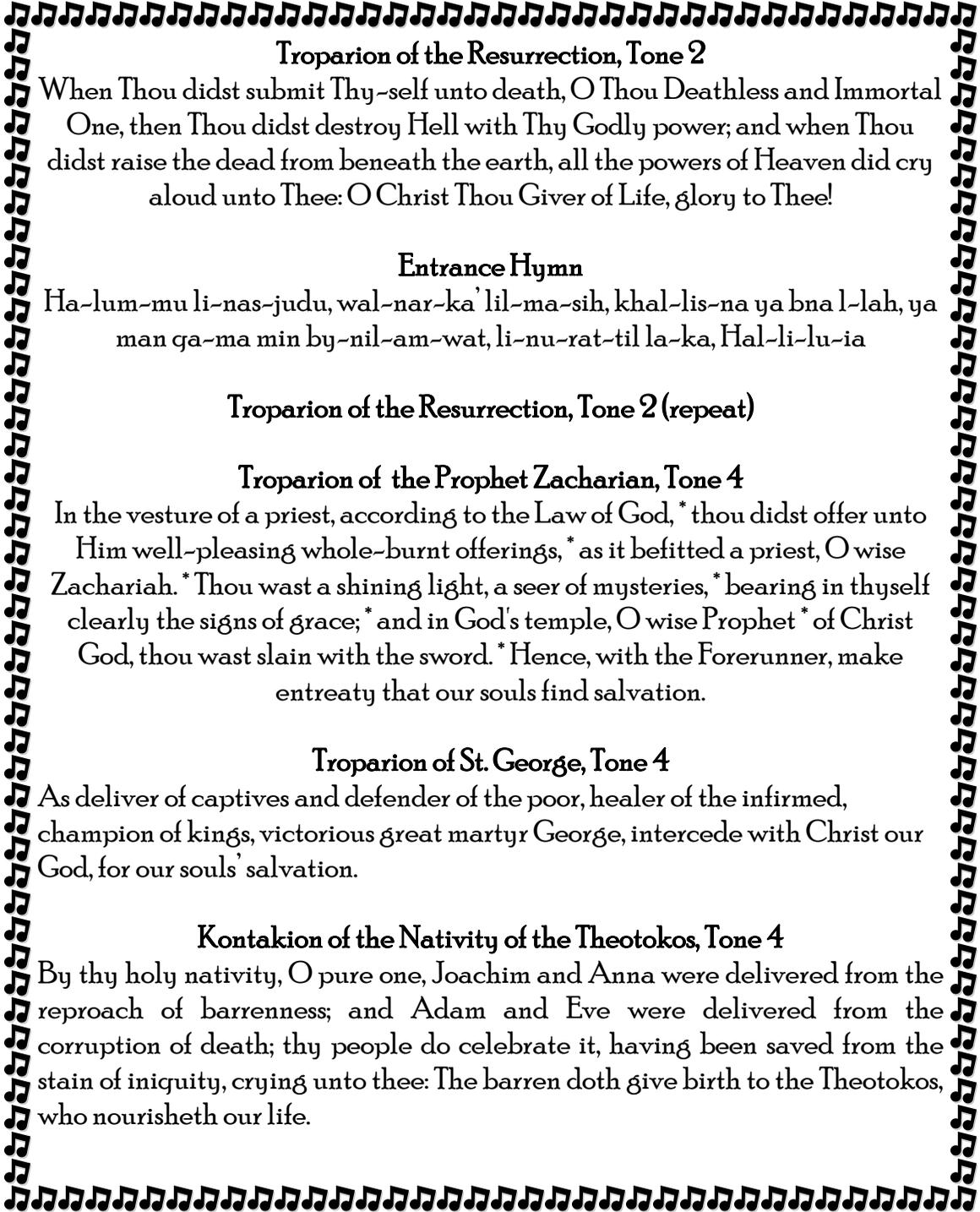
*Thank you,*

*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!



**Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 2**

When Thou didst submit Thy-self unto death, O Thou Deathless and Immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power; and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ Thou Giver of Life, 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 2 (repeat)**

**Troparion of the Prophet Zacharian, Tone 4**

In the vesture of a priest, according to the Law of God, \* thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings, \* as it befitted a priest, O wise Zachariah. \* Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries, \* bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace; \* and in God's temple, O wise Prophet \* of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword. \* Hence, with the Forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation.

**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 Nativity of the Theotokos, Tone 4**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

## THE EPISTLE

*The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.*

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)**

Brethren, the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord. My defense to those who would examine me is this: Do we have no authority regarding what to eat and what to drink? Do we have no authority to lead about a wife, who is a sister, as the rest of the apostles, even as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no authority to refrain from working? Which soldier ever served at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit thereof? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat from the milk of the flock? Do I speak of these things according to human nature? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Thou shalt not muzzle an ox which treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God cares, or does He say it altogether for our sakes? Indeed, for our sakes it was written: because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope, so that the same might partake in hope. If we have sown in you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we should reap your carnal things? If others are partakers of this authority over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we endure all things, in order that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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

Nora Abdelahad  
Connie Abodeely  
Virginia Andersson  
Lorice Ansara  
Yvette Ansara  
Nel Arsenault  
Siham Bahou  
Ray Beaudry  
Ed Betor  
Paul & Kerrie Betor  
David and Cindy Boragine  
Ida Boragine  
Sharon DeForest  
Charbel El-Hashem  
George Ellis  
Athanasia Grivas  
Duayne Habib  
Hanna Family  
Joe Kadir  
Fr. Stephen and Family  
Joseph Mansour  
Lynn, Thomas Marcotte & Family  
Clemence Maria  
Rami & Raphael Mendoza  
Karine Nabbout & Family  
Gwen Noonan  
Jamel Oujaimi  
Helen Poulos  
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  
Lillian Betor  
Dorothy Boragine  
Sal Boragine  
Cleopatra Bouras  
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Frank Ellis  
George & Elsie Faris  
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Phillip George  
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George P. Habib  
Emile & Teffaha Haddad  
Philip & Rosalind Hajjar  
Elias Hanna  
Dorothea Husson  
Eleanor Husson  
Joanne Husson  
N. Mary Husson  
Terry Husson Kadir  
Siham Khadij  
George & Rose Lowe  
Amanda Louh  
Nuha Shahin Louh  
Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis  
Robert Maria  
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Paul Panagopoulos, Sr.  
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Badawi Sabbouh  
Eleanor Shalhoup  
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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 the Parishioners of St. George and their families, requested by Fr. Leonard. As we begin a New Church Year may God bless you all with peace, health and happiness and may we all rededicate our lives to Almighty God.



## MEMORIAL

**NEXT SUNDAY - September 12th**

A 21 Year Memorial Service will be offered for the repose of the soul of the Servant of God, Andrew Ansara, requested by his wife, Yvette, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

May Andrew's memory be eternal!

A 20 Year Memorial will be offered for all those who died on 9/11 Terrorist Tragedy in New York. May all their memories be eternal!

## COMING UP week of 9/5

Fri 9/7 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy for the Feast of  
the Nativity of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary

## Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of Saint John the Baptist

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: Saint Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Saint Elizabeth was the sister of Saint Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, “walking in all the commandments of the Lord”, suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Saint Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who “will be great in the sight of the Lord” and “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias”. Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name. They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them. Herod knew about John’s unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar. Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

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