St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)

March 6, 2022

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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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

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 li-nas-judu, wal-nar-ka' lil-ma-sih, sayidna wa elahena 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 4 (repeat)

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 Forgiveness Sunday, Tone 6

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

THE EPISTLE

O chant unto our God, chant ye. Clap your hands, all ye nations!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Prayers are being offered for the Health and Safety of:

Nora Abdelahad
Connie Abodeely
ANSARA: Lorice, Yvette
Nel Arsenault
Siham Bahou
BETOR: Ed, Paul & Kerrie
BORAGINE: David & Cindy, Ida
Sharon DeForest
Charbel El-Hashem
George Ellis
Athanasia Grivas
Duayne Habib
Fr. Stephen and Family
MANSOUR: Joseph, Ray & Jenny
Lynn, Thomas Marcotte & Family
Clemence Maria
Karine Nabbout & Family
Gwen Noonan
Helen Poulos
Michael Saati
Bassam Taleb
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
ABODEELY: George, Miriam
ANSARA: Andrew, Elias John, Maurice, Michael
Phyllis Arsenault
ASSALY: Gladys, Linda
Yaacoub Awad
BAHOU: Juliette, Laurice
Widad Batten
James "Jimmy" Beaudry
Lillian Betor
BORAGINE: Dorothy, Sal
Cleopatra Bouras
ELIAS: Ella Jean
ELLIS: Frances, Frank
FARIS: George & Elsie, Mary T., Mary V.
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb
Elias Grivas
George P. Habib
Emile & Teffaha Haddad
Philip & Rosalind Hajjar
Elias Hanna
HUSSON: Dorothea, Eleanor, Joanne
N. Mary Husson
Joe & Terry Husson Kadir
Salim Khabazeh
George & Rose Lowe
LOUH: Amanda, Nuha Shahin
Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis
Robert Maria
George Matook
Denise McCrady
Nafie Moses
Elias Nabbout
Fred Noonan
Frederick & Matilda Noonan
Paul Panagopoulos, Sr.
SAAD: Anisse, Hanna
Mary Saati
George W. & Mary Saba
Badawi Sabbouh
Eleanor Shalhoup
Fred Simon
SKAFF: Chakeep Mildred & Arthur, Minnie Nellie, Ricky, Stephen, T. Michael Skaff
J. B. Taleb
Elaine Vieira
Leon Yeghiazarians
Mary Ann & Charles Zaharias
ZANANIRI: Hilda, Nahil

ALTAR BREAD

Today's Altar Bread is being offered for all the Ladies of St. George during Ladies Month. May God bless them all with peace, good health and happiness!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to wish a Happy 90th Birthday to Yvette Ansara, today, requested by her family.

A donation was made to by her children and grandchildren for her health, safety, and long life!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Lent begins on Monday, March 7, 2022. We will again have Services on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:00 pm.

The following is a list needed for Holy Week and the cost of each:
Palm Sunday Palm ~ $150.00
Red eggs ~ $100.00
Flowers for Holy Thursday Wreath
Flowers for Cross for Wreath
Decorate the Naash

NEXT WEEK

Tue 3/8 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

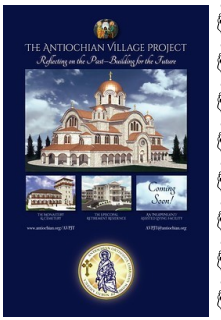
IMPORTANT REMINDER

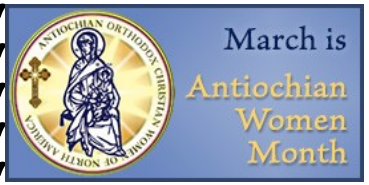
Confessions are heard before and after all Lenten services and on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy. During Holy Week, confessions will be heard "ONLY" on Monday and Tuesday, before or after the Bridegroom Service. If you plan on receiving Holy Communion during Holy Week or on Pascha, you must first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

2022ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN PROJECT

St. George Antiochian Women's Project
"Reflecting on the Past – Building for the Future"

Our focus turned inward as we all struggled to maintain some normalcy in our lives. And despite the difficulties, the Antiochian Women stepped up and contributed $61,492.64 in 2020 and another $73,419.52 in 2021. Given the very difficult circumstances these last two years, that seemed to me a miracle and a credit to our women and their love for our Antiochian Village and its mission to our Archdiocese. I look forward to the challenge of the new year and what we will be able to do in 2022.





We would like to welcome the Ladies of St. George who will be reading the Epistles, ushering and collecting during this month. We would also like to thank the Ladies for volunteering. May God Bless all our Ladies with health and happiness for all the work they do for the "Glory of God" and St. George Church.

March 6th

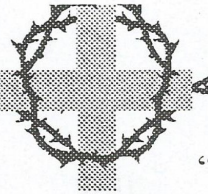
Epistle-Arabic	Hala Abousekeh
Epistle-English	Martha Stewart
Trays/Ushers	Martha Stewart / Henrietta Zananiri

LENTEN SERVICES THROUGH EASTER

Mon	3/7		**GREAT LENT BEGINS**
Wed	3/9	7:00 pm	PreSanctified Liturgy
Fri	3/11	7:00 pm	**1st Madayeh Service ~ Ladies Madayeh dinner**
Mon	3/14	7:00 pm	Regional Compline
Wed	3/16	7:00 pm	Compline Service in Arabic with Speaker
Fri	3/18	7:00 pm	**2nd Combined Madayeh Service** with Greek Churches~ **Sunday School & Teen Soyo Madayeh dinner**
Wed	3/23	7:00 pm	Compline Service
Thu	3/24	7:00 pm	Great Vespers of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Fri	3/25	7:00 pm	Divine Liturgy of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary & **3rd Madayeh Service**
Wed	3/30	7:00 pm	Great Compline Service
Fri	4/1	7:00 pm	**4th Madayeh Service ~ _____dinner**
Fri	4/8	7:00 pm	**5th & Final Madayeh Service ~ Parish Council Madayeh dinner**
Sat	4/16	9:00 am	Lazarus Saturday—Divine Liturgy
Sun	4/17	9:00 am	Palm Sunday—Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem—Matins
		10:00 am	Palm Sunday—Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem—Divine Liturgy
		7:00 pm	Palm Sunday Evening—Bridegroom Matins

HOLY WEEK

Mon	4/18	7:00 pm	Holy Monday—Bridegroom Matins
Tue	4/19	7:00 pm	Holy Tuesday—Bridegroom Matins
Wed	4/20	7:00 pm	Holy Wednesday—Holy Unction Service
Thu	4/21	9:00 am	Holy Thursday—Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper
		7:00 pm	The Serviced of the Twelve Passion Gospels
Fri	4/22	3:00 pm	Great & Holy Friday—Service of the Descent from the Cross
		7:00 pm	Lamentation Service
Sat	4/23	9:00 am	Great & Holy Saturday—Vesper Liturgy of St. Basil
Sat	4/23– Sun 24	10:00 pm	Hajme, Matins & Divine Liturgy of Pasch



A Time for Change" "A Time for Joy"

GREAT LENT

When the word "Lent" is mentioned, some Christians react in a rather negative way. The images which come to mind are often those of removing pleasant things and activities from our daily life—indeed, for a full seven weeks favorite foods are removed and less tasty foods are substituted. Social events and fun times are prohibited, even weddings are not held during this time.

Perhaps some Christians even view the Special Lenten worship services, the Presanctified Liturgies, the Salutations to the Theotokos, the Great Complines and the emphasis on meditation, repentance, confession and scripture reading as additional disturbances of our comfortable life-style.

Lent, then, may create feelings of heaviness, drudgery and burdensome physical and intellectual effort. All in all, it is not a pretty picture.

Yet, there is a more positive way to view Great Lent. Consider the words of His Grace, Bishop Kallistos Ware, a great Orthodox theologian and spiritual Father, who said, "the period of Great Lent is a time not of gloom but of joyfulness." It is true that fasting brings us to repentance and to grief for sin, but this penitent grief, in the words of St. John Climacus, is a "joy-creating sorrow."

Joy is present in Great Lent because it leads us, as no other time of the year, to our basic goal as human beings, to become sons and daughters of our Father, who is in heaven.

Lent is a time set aside for us to take a "personal inventory" of his or her Christian living, to take a sincere and honest at one's inner self and relationship to God, to see where changes for the better can be made.

Lent is also a time when more works of mercy and charity are done for those less fortunate, such as visitation and prayers for the sick, helpful deeds and assistance to the poor, and generally more pleasant and joyful countenance for those closest to us, our parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends.

All we have to do is look around and see the horrible things going on in the world, drugs, alcohol, sex and violence. We as Orthodox Christians can make a difference in our lives and in those around us if we avoid these very harmful and often times deadly situations. If because of "peer pressure" you have become involved in these things, now is the time to change.

Finally, Lent is a time for joy! An opportunity for a "new beginning" a cleansing of body and soul in preparation and anticipation of the "Feast of Feasts" of Pascha! The glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord!

May this be a new beginning for all of us, a turning away from the old and the putting on of the new. ——HAPPY GREAT LENT!

2022 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:

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In Loving Memory of:

_____
_____
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All donations should be received no later than Sunday, April 17, 2022.
Please make checks payable to "St George Antiochian Church".
You can mail your form and donation to:

Fr. Leonard Faris
44 Bowers St.
Lowell, MA 01854

FLOWERS

The flowers adorning the Icon of the Blessed Virgin for March 11, is donated by Fr. Leonard for the health and safety of his family and in memory of his beloved parents, George and Elsie Faris. May God bless Fr. Leonard and his family with good health and happiness and may his parent's memory be eternal!

With the blessing of his Grace Bishop John and Father Leonard, I bring you the first of three articles on the Mystery of Repentance.

ARTICLE 2

I ended last week's article with the notion of the godly sorrow which produces repentance leading to salvation (2 Cor 7:10). St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain defines repentance as the hatred of sins. How many of us confess our sins only to commit them repeatedly? The answer to that is that we haven't brought ourselves to kill the sin. Rather, we still delight in them. St. Nicodemus speaks of three aspects of repentance. They are affliction, contrition, and confession.

Affliction is a disposition of the soul of those who are imperfect on account of their sins. It does not proceed from the love of God, just as a hired servant repents simply because he is afraid of losing his wage.

St. Nicodemus says, "Contrition is sorrow and perfect pain of heart, which comes about in a person who, on account of the sins committed, disappointed God and transgressed His divine Law". Thus, the contrition of St. Nicodemus is the sorrow which produces repentance leading to salvation of St. Paul. These can be understood from examples in our own lives. When I was very young, and I disobeyed my parents, I would be terrified of the upcoming punishment. However, as I have grown older and became a father myself, I became "heartbroken" for disappointing my parents. This is the "broken and a humble heart, which God will not despise" (Psalm 50:17). The first disposition relates to that of affliction. While the second, relates to that of contrition.

The sorrow which produces repentance that leads to salvation begets the forgiveness of sins and healing. Therefore, it opens the spiritual eye to behold the Lord. It restores, renews, and reintegrates the sinner into the body of Christ. The thief came face-to-face with a crucified Man, having confessed his sins, and judged himself deserving of the fate of the cross, received the forgiveness of his sins, recognized Him to be the Christ, and was awarded the kingdom. The Samaritan woman encountered a thirsty Jewish Man but having spoken the truth and longing for the time of the Messiah, received the forgiveness of sins, recognized Him to be the Christ and became a great Saint. In the Old Testament, the encounter with God was often through a prophet. David received God's judgment for the evil he had done through the prophet Nathan and the forgiveness of his sins (2 Samuel 12:13). David's deep repentance is illustrated in his great penitential Psalms. Finally, this sorrow of the prodigal son is revealed in," I am no longer worthy to be called a son but treat me like one of your servants" (Luke 15:19). In all the above, after they were healed, they sinned no more.

(To be continued in next week's bulletin.)

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