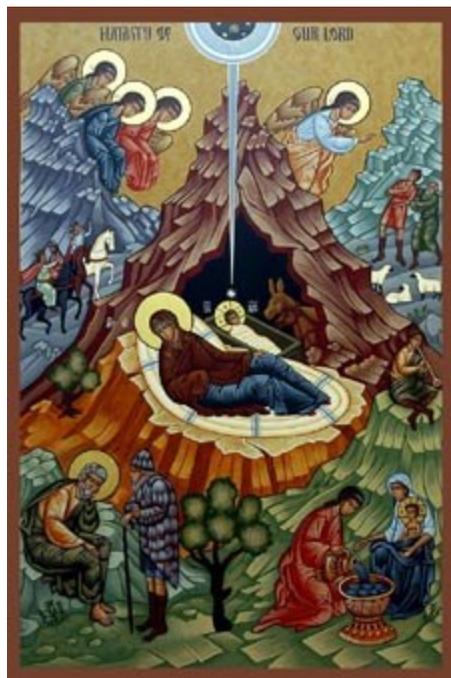


*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts*



**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

**DECEMBER 18, 2022**

# ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell](http://www.facebook.com/saintgeorgelowell)

INSTAGRAM: [stgeorgelowell](https://www.instagram.com/stgeorgelowell)

## 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 978-452-4816, otherwise, the requests and articles will be published the following week.

## 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, malikana wa eelaheena, 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 (repeated)**

### **Troparion of Sunday Before the Nativity, Tone 2**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, 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 of the Preparation of Christ's Nativity, Tone 3**

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

## THE EPISTLE

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

*For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted,

ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, 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. Matthew. (1:1-25)**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by

Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

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

Nora Abdelahad  
**ANSARA:** Lorice, Yvette  
Nel Arsenault  
**BETOR:** Ed, Paul & Kerrie  
**BORAGINE:** David & Cindy, Ida  
Sharon DeForest  
Daniella Forsley De LaFuente  
Charbel El-Hashem  
George Ellis  
Athanasia Grivas  
Duayne Habib  
Victoria Ishac  
Fr. Stephen and Family  
**MANSOUR:** Joseph, Ray  
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  
Khourjee Jane Zbeeb

*Prayers are being offered in Memory of:*

Charles Abdelahad  
**ABODEELY:** Connie, George,  
Miriam  
Hayel Altali  
**ANSARA:** Andrew, Elias  
John, Maurice, Michael  
Phyllis Arsenault  
**ASSALY:** Gladys, Linda  
Yaacoub Awad  
**BAHOU:** Juliette, Laurice, Siham  
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.  
Pamela Jo Forsley  
Elizabeth & Joseph Ghareeb  
Elias Grivas  
George P. Habib  
Emile & Teffaha Haddad  
Philip & Rosalind Hajjar  
Elias Hanna  
**HUSSON:** Dorothea,  
Eleanor, Joanne, Robert  
N. Mary Husson  
Joe & Terry Husson Kadir  
Salim Khabazeh

**LAKKIS:** Gerges, Michel  
**LOUH:** Amanda, Nuha Shahin  
**LOWE:** George & Rose  
Efthymios & Paraskevi Manolis  
Robert Maria  
Jenny Mansur  
George Matook  
Maurice Matte  
Denise McCrady  
Nafte 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  
Lydia Tateosian  
Elaine Vieira  
Leon Yeghiazarians  
Mary Ann & Charles Zaharias  
**ZANANIRI:** Hilda, Nahil  
Fr. Andrew Zbeeb



## ALTAR BREAD - December 18

Today's Altar Bread is given in memory of the Handmaid of God, Mary Ead, grandmother of Fr. Leonard and for the Handmaids of God, Amy & Mary Faris, aunts of Fr. Leonard. May their memories be eternal.



## MEMORIAL - December 18th

A Memorial is being offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God, Mary Ead, grandmother of Fr. Leonard and for the repose of the souls of the Handmaids of God, Amy & Mary Faris, aunts of Fr. Leonard. May their memories be eternal.

A 40 Day Memorial is being offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God, Noha Ash, the mother of Abraham and Nadeem Ash and Families, who fell asleep in the Lord in London. This Service is requested by Fr. Leonard. May Noha's memory be eternal.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the ladies who helped decorate the church for Christmas, Appa, Kristen and Martha. God bless you all with good health, happiness and long life!

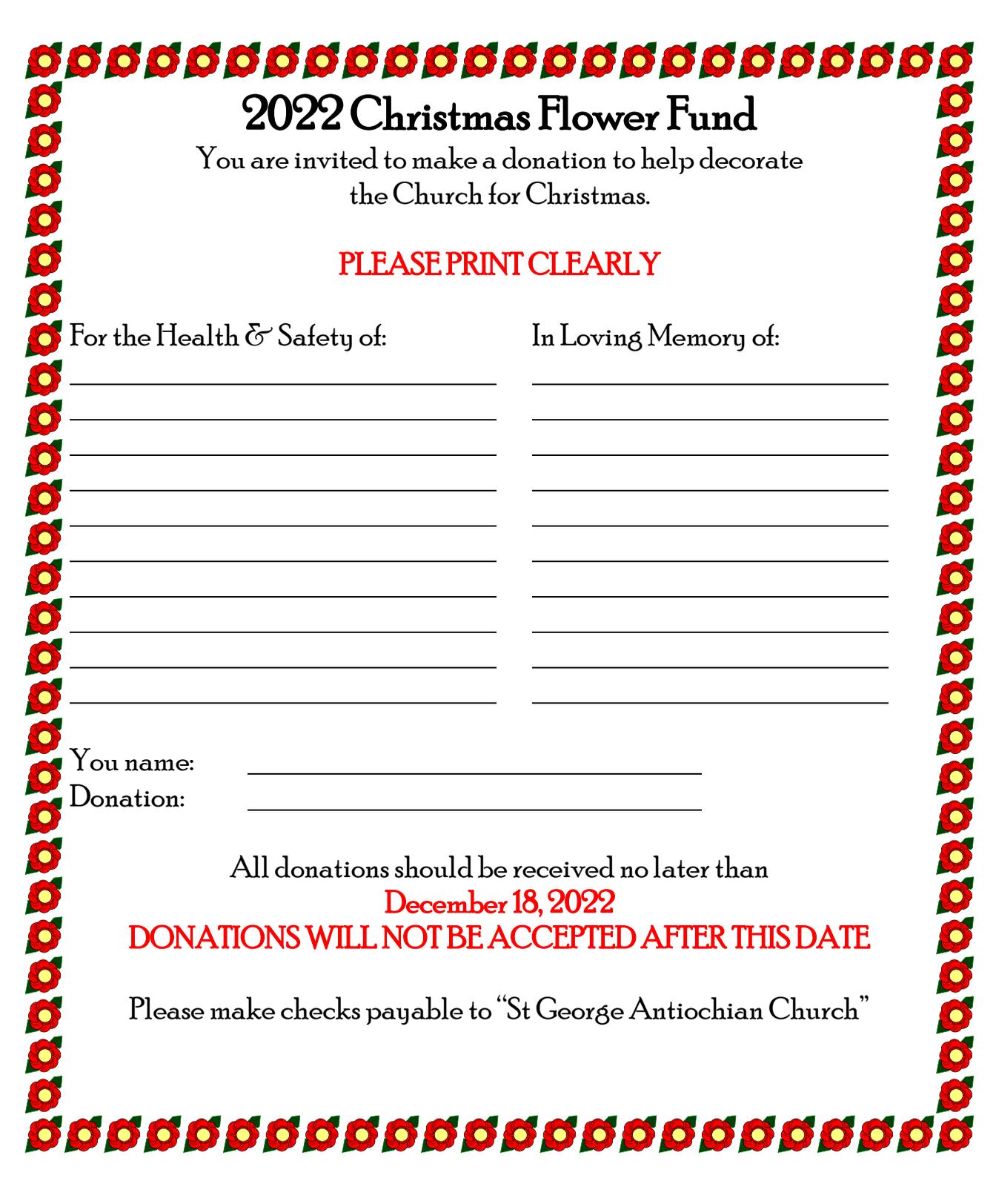
## NATIVITY FAST

This fast is divided into two periods: The first period is **November 15th through December 19th**, when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but with allowance for fish, wine, and oil on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The second period is **December 20th to 24th**, when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed Monday through Friday, but with allowance for wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHAT IS GIVEN HERE IS THE TRADITIONAL DISCIPLINE OF THE FAST. YOU MAY HAVE TO ADOPT THESE RULES TO YOUR PARTICULAR SITUATION.

HOWEVER, EVERYONE SHOULD ADOPT SOME REGIMEN OF FASTING IN PREPARATION FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST



# 2022 Christmas Flower Fund

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

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

For the Health & Safety of:

In Loving Memory of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____

You name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

All donations should be received no later than

**December 18, 2022**

**DONATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE**

Please make checks payable to "St George Antiochian Church"

## Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ we commemorate Adam and Eve (the first-created), the righteous Abel, son of Adam, the righteous Seth, son of Adam, the righteous Enos, son of Seth, the righteous Kenan, son of Enos, the righteous Mehaliel (Maleleim), son of Kenan, the righteous Jared, son of Mehaliel, the righteous Enoch, son of Jared, the righteous Methuselah, son of Enoch, the righteous Lamech, son of Methuselah, the righteous Noah, son of Lamech, the righteous Shem, son of Noah, the righteous Japheth, son of Noah, the righteous Arphachshad, son of Shem, the righteous Canaan, son of Arphachshad (in some versions of the OT, Canaan is called the son of Ham), the righteous Shelah, son of Canaan (some versions of the OT call Shelah the son of Arphachshad), the righteous Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), son of Shelah, the righteous Peleg, son of Eber, the righteous Ragab (Reu), son of Peleg, the righteous Serug, son of Ragab, the righteous Nahor, son of Serug, the righteous Terah, son of Serug. The holy Patriarchs: the righteous Patriarch Abraham, son of Terah, the righteous Patriarch Isaac, son of Abraham, the righteous Patriarch Jacob, son of Isaac, the righteous Patriarch Reuben, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Simeon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Levi, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Judah (Christ was of this tribe), the righteous Patriarch Zebulon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Issachar, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's maid), the righteous Patriarch Gad, son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's maid), the righteous Patriarch Asher, son of Jacob and Zilpah, the righteous Patriarch Naphthali, son of Jacob and Bilhah, the righteous Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the righteous Patriarch Benjamin, son of Jacob and Rachel.

The righteous Pharez and Zerah, twin sons of Judah, the righteous Hezron, son of Pharez, the righteous Aram, son of Hezron, the righteous Aminadab, son of Aram, the righteous Nahshon, son of Aminadab, the righteous Salmon, son of Nahshon, the righteous Boaz, son of Salmon, the righteous Obed, son of Boaz and Ruth, the righteous Jesse, son of Obed.

The holy Prophet-King David, son of Jesse, King Solomon, son of David, King Rehoboam, son of Solomon, King Abijah, son of Rehoboam, King Asa, son of Abijah, King Jehosaphat, son of Asa, King Joram (Jehoram, an evil king), son of Jehosaphat, King Ochoziah (Ahaziah), son of Joram, King Jotham, son of Uzziah (Oziah), King Ahaz (a faithless king), son of Jotham, King Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, King Manesseh, son of Hezekiah, King Amos (Ammon), son of Manesseh, King Josiah, son of Amos, King Jechoniah, son of Josiah.

Shealtiel, son of Jechoniah, Zerubbabel (who led captives back to Jerusalem, and laid the foundations of the new Temple), son of Shealtiel, Abiud, son of Zerubbabel, Eliachem, son of Abiud, Azor, son of Eliachem, Zadok, son of Azor, Achim, son of Zadok, Eliud, son of Achim, Eleazar, son of Eliud, Matthan, son of Eleazar, Jacob, son of Matthan, St Joseph the Betrothed, son of Jacob.

The righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem, the righteous Job, the holy Prophet Moses, the priests Hur and Aaron, Joshua, son of Nun. The holy prophet Samuel, the holy prophet Nathan, the holy prophet Daniel, the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham, the righteous Rebecca, wife of Isaac, the righteous Leah, first wife of Jacob, the righteous Rachel, second wife of Jacob, the righteous Asineth, wife of Patriarch Joseph the all-comely, the righteous Miriam, sister of Moses, the righteous Deborah, Judge of Israel and prophetess, the righteous Ruth, wife of Boaz, the righteous woman of Zarephath, to whom Elias was sent (3 Kings 17), the righteous woman of Shunem, who was hospitable to Elisha (4 Kings 4), the righteous Judith, slayer of Holofernes, the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death, the righteous Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, the righteous Susanna.



## COME AND CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Beloved in Christ,

On Saturday, December 24, 2022, we will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "The Word was made Flesh and Dwelt among us!"

You are all invited to come and attend Christmas Eve Services and receive Holy Communion on this Great Feast!

Festal Orthros (Matins)

5:00 pm

Procession to the Creche and Blessing

5:45 pm

Solemn Candlelight Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

6:00 pm

**In case of a snow storm, please see the church's website.**

**If Liturgy is cancelled on 12/24, it will be held on Sunday at 10:00 am**

Begin your Christmas celebration by coming to church first and wishing Our Lord "Happy Birthday"! May the Prince of Peace, Whose Birth we are celebrating, fill your hearts with joy and gladness during this Holy Season and may the New Year bring us all peace, good health and spiritual happiness!

With Love,  
+Fr. Leonard



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