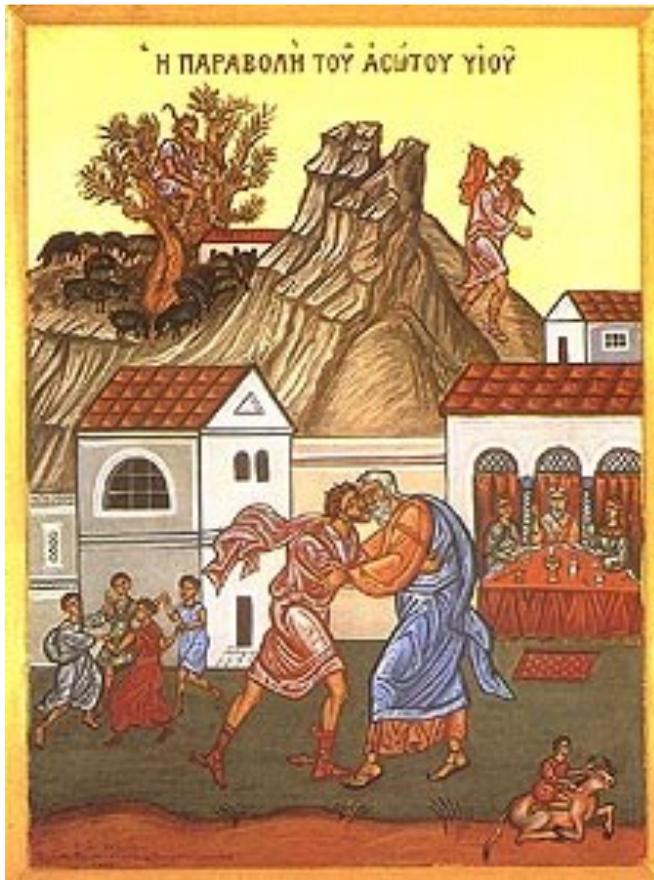


St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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

Email: fatherfaris@comcast.net

44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854

Phone: (978) 452-4816 Fax: (978) 452-6041

WEB: www.saintgeorgelowell.org

FACEBOOK: 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 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 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 the Prodigal Son

Foolishly I sprang away from Thy great fatherly glory, and dispersed in wicked deeds the riches that Thou didst give me. With the Prodigal I therefore cry unto Thee now: I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. But receive me in repentance; make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his

journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

*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
Diane,, David, Matthew and Alyssa
Holden
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
Dr. Vartan & Lisa Yeghiazarians &
Family
Genia Yeghiazarians
Khouryee Jane Zbeeb

Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

Charles Abdelahad
ABODEELY: Connie, George,
Miriam
Hayel Altali
ANSARA: Andrew, Elias
John, Maurice, Michael
Arthur Anton, requested by
Daniel Lynch and Socrates
Anton
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
Mark Holden
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
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
Fr. Andrew Zbeeb

REQUESTS FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES AND ALTAR BREAD

**Anyone wishing to offer a Memorial Service and offer the Altar Bread
for their loved ones please contact Fr. Leonard to schedule a date.**

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
NEW PARISH COUNCIL!!!**

We would like to congratulate our newly installed Parish Council and ask the Prince of Peace to bless them with peace, health and spiritual happiness during this coming year. We pray that they will continue to work for the “Glory of God” and for St. George Church. As we begin this New Year, 2023, let us all commit ourselves to working together as one family so that we may continue to achieve great things for our beloved community.

Board Members:

President	Eric Hassey
Vice President	Jacob Awad
Secretary	Martha Stewart
Treasurer	Gus Bahou

Parish Council Members:

David Oujaimi	Rhonda Murray	Nadia Hassey
Stephen Louh	Taleen Bahou	Tylda Bahou
Nicole Awad Marvel	Denise Oujaimi	Nuha Louh



“CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHOIR AND CHANTER
TODAY AS WE CELEBRATE
“CHOIR APPRECIATION DAY”.

We are blessed to have a beautiful choir and a very dedicated Chanter who, Sunday after Sunday, lift our minds and hearts to God through their beautiful and Angelic singing. May God continue to bless our church with a beautiful choir and chanter and may He bless each of them with peace, good health and happiness for many years.

WITH MUCH LOVE AND APPRECIATION,
+FR. LEONARD AND THE PARISHIONERS OF
ST. GEORGE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Lent begins on Monday, February 27. We will again have Services on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:00 pm. Those wishing to donate flowers, to decorate the Icon of the Blessed Virgin, on Friday evenings, please see Fr. Leonard with your request. The Fridays that are available are the following: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 & 3/31. The donation for the flowers is \$75.00 each week. As we get closer to Pascha I will list the needs for Holy Week and the cost of each.



SAVE THE DATE

St. George Teen SOYO Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 18 4:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Adults ~ \$15.00

Children 12 and under ~ \$10.00

The Teen SOYO will be selling tickets after church. Please support this event and help make this another successful event for our teens. If you are unable to attend this event, but would like to support the event, with a donation, please reach out to

Kristen Hopkinson

lebamoura82@gmail.com

Please make out all checks to "St. George Teen Soyo"

ST. GEORGE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

The financial requirements to be a voting member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Lowell.

Note: You must also meet Spiritual requirements

Weddings and Baptism ~ Anyone wanting to get married or get Baptized will need to be in good standing for at least 1 year.

Use of Church hall by Parishioners in good standing as defined above \$100.00

Use of Church hall by non-Parishioners \$300.00 upon approval of the board

Use of Church hall by outside group \$300.00 upon approval of the board

These are necessary for St. George to be able to survive



What is the Actual Meaning of Valentine's Day ~ February 14th

It originated as a **Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine.** Through later folk

traditions, it has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our **modern day of love.** Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named Valentine — on Feb. 14 of different years in the third century. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day.

Another common legend states that **St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war.** It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love. Red is traditionally associated with the color of blood. **Since people once thought that the heart, which pumps blood, was the part of the body that felt love,** the red heart (legend says) has become the Valentine symbol.

Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine's Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros. Accounts of his birth vary; some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus; others, of Aphrodite and Ares; still others suggest he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus (who would have been both his father and grandfather). According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn't until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he'd become on Valentine's Day cards.

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George L. Duncan

Founder and Chairman of the Board



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