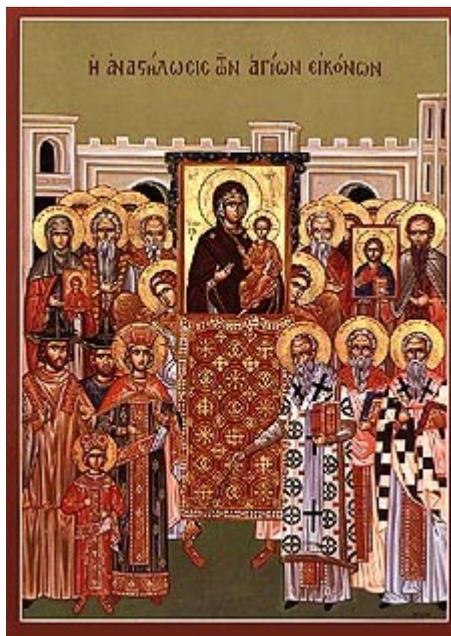


St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

MARCH 5, 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 First Sunday of Great Lent, Tone 2

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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 ga-ma min by-nil-am-wat, li-nu-rat-til la-ka, Hal-li-lu-ia

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of First Sunday of Great Lent, 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 Sundays in Great Lent, Tone 8

To Thee the Champion, Leader, do I offer thanks of victory. O Theotokos, thou who has delivered me from terror; but as thou that has the power invincible. O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me. That I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE EPISTLE

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

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, 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. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

*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
Najib Abi Aad
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: Geroges, 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.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Lent began on Monday, February 27. 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 - \$200.00

Red eggs - \$150.00

The Flowers adorning the Icon of the Blessed Virgin for the 1st Madayeh Service are donated by Fr. Leonard for the health and safety of his family. May God bless Fr. Leonard and his family with peace, good health and happiness.

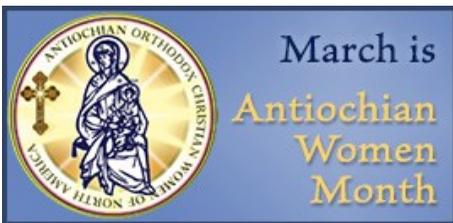
The Flowers adorning the Icon of the Blessed Virgin for the 2nd Madayeh Service are donated by George & Gale Nikolopoulos for the health and safety of their family. May God bless George, Gale and their family with peace, good health and happiness.

MEMORIAL - Sunday, March 12th

A 40 Day Memorial will be offered for the Handmaid of God Admarose Shaheen Bennett, requested by her cousin Fr. Leonard. May Admarose's memory be eternal and may God bless the Shaheen and Bennett families with peace, good health and happiness.

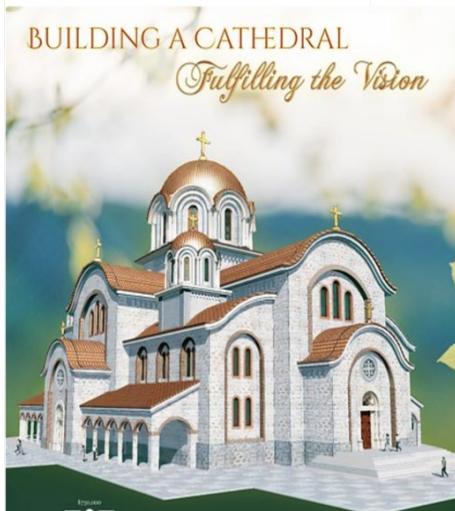
LENTEN SERVICES

Wed	3/8	7:00 pm	Great Compline Service
Fri	3/10	6:00 pm	Sunday School Madayeh dinner
		7:00 pm	2nd Madayeh Service
Sat	3/11	9:00 am	Saturday of the Souls



March is
Antiochian
Women
Month

THE 2023 ANTIOCHIAN
WOMEN PROJECT



The Antiochian Women have taken on the responsibility of raising \$750,000 by 2025 to help launch the Building an Archdiocese Cathedral project. They have already raised \$347,916 toward this goal. It is hoped that this project will bless the women of our local communities because the women have always been the visionary leaders of our parishes and Church. It is also hoped that the local efforts of the women will inspire individuals and organizations of the parishes to invest in the future of our beloved Church in North America. Please support your local Antiochian Women's Project and invest in the future of our God-protected Archdiocese.

During the month the Ladies will read the Epistle, Collect and Usher for Communion.

March 5th

Epistle-Arabic
Epistle-English
Trays/Ushers

Hala Abou Sekeh
Katrina Awad
Henrietta Zananiri/
Nadia Hassey

COFFEE HOURS

For those interested in signing up to host a coffee hour please put your name and the reason you are hosting it on the calendar in the back of the hall. If no one sponsors a coffee hour there will NOT be any for that day. Please see Fr. Leonard if you have any questions.

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

Any questions, please see a member of the Parish Council



AFTER LITURGY

MARCH 19TH

CAN'T STAY? ORDER TO GO



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ANY ST. GEORGE LADIES**



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40"

FUNDRAISER

*to support the Syrians affected
by the earthquake*

MARCH 19TH

**You can make a difference with
your prayers and generosity**

**St. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
LOWELL, MA**

Checks can be made payable to St. George Ladies

Subject: ASKING GOD

I asked God to take away my pride. And God said “No”.
He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. And God said “No”.
He said “her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary”.

I asked God to grant me patience. And God said “No”.
He said “patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted, it is earned”.

I asked God to give me happiness. And God said “No”.
He said He gives me blessings, happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain. And God said “No”.
He said “suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me”.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. And God said “No”.
He said I must grow on my own, but that He would prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. And God said “No”.
He said “I will give you life, that you may enjoy all things”.

I asked God to help me Love others, as much as He loves me.
And God said, “Ah, finally, you have the idea”.

Fasting

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah describes fasting in the following way:

This is the fast that I choose to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo those things which hold us captive to free the oppressed, to break every bond. To fast is to share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house, to cover the naked when you see them. Then shall your light break forth like the dawn.

Jesus fasted. He prepared Himself for His public ministry by fasting for forty days. And Jesus challenged His disciples when they failed to heal a suffering child by saying, “This demon never comes out except by prayer and fasting” (Matt 17:21).

Fasting is not an act of mortification or “self-denial” for its own sake. It is not intended to bring about suffering which is somehow pleasing to God. It is not a “law” which, if endured, wins us favor with God or which, if ignored, brings about guilt. On the contrary, fasting is intimately connected with giving and less concerned with giving up. It involves regaining control of those things which we have allowed to control us; food, leisure, anger, pride, jealousy, money, power, in short anything which we should control but don't. Fasting challenges us to do without certain things so that we might take the initiative to do those things which we often fail to do, to give up unnecessary things in order to give more time and attention to the really important elements we overlook. One of the Lenten hymns makes precisely this point:

Let us begin the most precious Fast with joy.

Let us shine with the holy commandments of Christ our God,

With the splendor of love, with the brilliance of prayer, with the cleanness of purity and the strength of blessed courage.

If we fast from food but not from our passions, our fasting is in vain.

The true fast is the rejection of evil, the silencing of the tongue, the laying aside of anger, and the cutting off of lust, foolish talk, lying and cursing.

Those things which disappear only through true and acceptable fasting.

Traditionally, Orthodox Christians fast on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year, and daily during the four Lenten seasons. Within the Christian community, each person fasts differently, according to his or her personal capability, spiritual insight and vision. All should fast, at least minimally, and in every instance, our fasting should be done in secret without revealing to others what we are doing and joyfully because our aim lies in giving, rather than giving up.

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George L. Duncan

Founder and Chairman of the Board



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