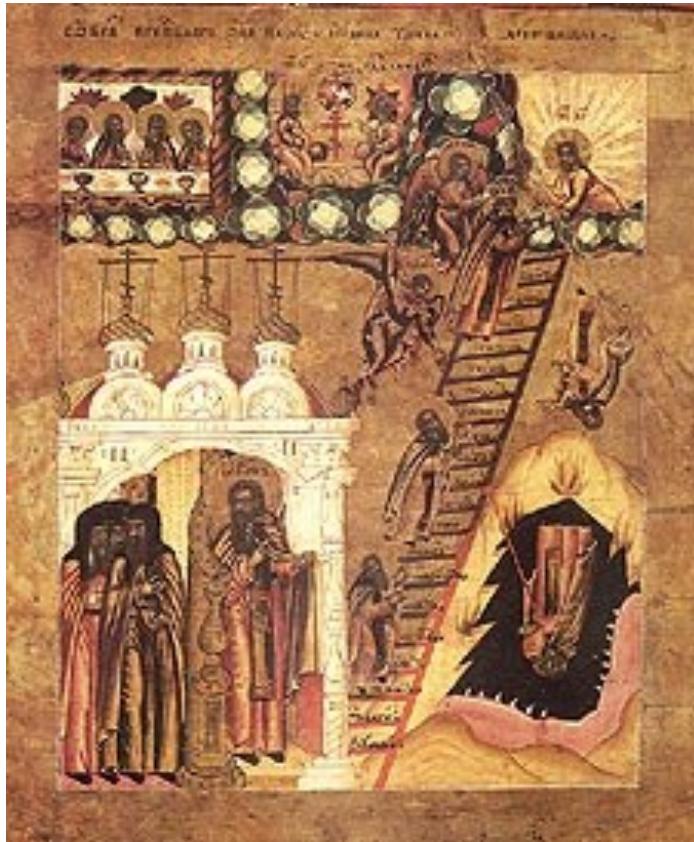


St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Lowell, Massachusetts



**4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
ST. JOHN CLIMACUS (OF THE LADDER) &
THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL**

MARCH 26, 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 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our Life and our resurrection: O Lord, glory to thee!

Entrance Hymn

Ha-lum-mu lu-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 8 (repeated)

Troparion of the Archangel Gabriel, Tone 4

Supreme Commander of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, importune and beseech thee that by thy supplications thou encircle us in the shelter of the wings of thine immaterial glory; guarding us who now fall down and cry to thee with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshal of the heavenly hosts on high.

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

The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

**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
BEAUDRY Barbara James "Jimmy"
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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Today, March 26th

A Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the souls of the Servants of God, Naif and Freeda Faris & Kalil Ead, the grandparents of Fr. Leonard, requested by Fr. Leonard. May their memories be eternal!

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Flowers adorning the Icon of the Blessed Virgin for the 5th Madayeh Service are donated by the Oujaimi Family for the Health and Safety of their family. May God bless the Oujaimi family with peace, good health and happiness.

Great Lent began on Monday, February 27. We will again have Services on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:00 pm.



March is
**Antiochian
Women
Month**

**THE 2023 ANTIOCHIAN
WOMEN PROJECT**

BUILDING A CATHEDRAL

Fulfilling the Vision



2023 PROJECT (2019 - 2025)



OUR GOAL:
7 YEARS TO RAISE \$750,000

NORTH AMERICAN BOARD - ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

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 26th

Epistle-Arabic	Tylda Bahou
Epistle-English	Denise Oujaimi
Collectors/Ushers	Denise Oujaimi
	Rona Hassey
Bread	Henrietta Zananiri

LENTEN SERVICES

Wed	3/29	7:00 pm	Compline Service
Fri	3/31	6:00 pm	5th & Final Madayeh Dinner - Parish Council
		7:00 pm	5th & Final Madayeh Service
Sat	4/8	9:00 am	Lazarus Saturday—Divine Liturgy
Sun	4/9	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



2023 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:

In Loving Memory of:

All donations should be received no later than Sunday, **April 9, 2023**.

Please make checks payable to "St George Antiochian Church".

You can see Martha in church or

You can mail your form and donation to:

Martha Stewart

330 Tyngsboro Road #2

Dracut, MA 01826

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Bennett family for their donation to St. George Church in memory of Handmaid of God Admarose Shaheen Bennett. May Admarose's memory be eternal and may God bless the Bennett family with peace, good health and happiness.

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.

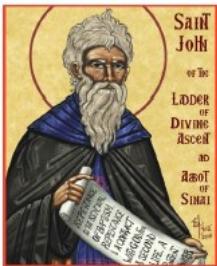
Use of Church hall by Parishioners in good standing as defined above \$100.00

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



St. John Climacus

On the fourth Sunday of Great Lent, the Orthodox Church always honors St. John Climacus, who died in the year 606. He was one of the great ascetics of the Church and received his name a well-known book of spiritual exercises which he wrote.

The book was called “The Ladder of Perfection” and contains chapters for attaining the thirty steps of religious perfection. It was designed as a means for Christians to climb spiritually from earth to heaven.

The vocabulary of this writer is the vocabulary of the Great Fast. That is to say, he speaks of such things as prayer, meditation, silence, contemplation, obedience, control of the passions, fasting and confession.

Some of his short writings are as follows:

“Let the memory of Jesus combine with your breath then will you know the profit of silence”.

“Flog the foes with the name of Jesus, for there is no stronger weapon against them either in heaven or on earth”.

“Men whose minds have truly learned to pray, indeed converse with the Lord face to face, as those who have the ear of the king (that is, his most close and trusted servants)”.

“The beginning of prayer is to banish oncoming thoughts as soon as they appear. Its middle stage is to keep the mind contained in the words we say or think. The perfection of prayer is ravishment to the Lord”.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in the weeks remaining in Great Lent let us try to emulate the virtues of St. John Climacus so that we may worthily and lovingly celebrate Our Lord’s glorious Resurrection.

Cord of Three Strands

Gold Strand: Represents God at the Center
The Lord Jesus has been invited to the position
Of authority in this marriage relationship.

Purple Strand: Represents the Groom
The majesty of God is head over the husband.
As a husband submits himself to the Lord, the
Lord in turn will hold the marriage together
through the husband.

White Strand: Represents the Bride
This strand represents the purity of the bride of
Christ. As each has received Jesus Christ as
personal Savior and Lord, they are cleansed
through Christ.

“Though one may be overpowered, two can
defend themselves. A cord of these strands is
not quickly broken”.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

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Donna Christopoulos and Julie Grillakis

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Robert Maria.
Always in our Hearts !
The Maria Family



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Founder and Chairman of the Board



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