



SAINT GEORGE

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Most Rev. Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

Right Rev. Bishop JOHN
Diocese of Worcester & New England

Very Rev. Father Joseph Kimmett, *Pastor*

Welcome. It is a great pleasure to have visitors and friends with us at Saint George. If you would like to know more about our parish, or the Orthodox Faith, please don't hesitate to ask.

Communion: Orthodox Christians who have confessed their sins, who and have prepared themselves by fasting, and who have been present from the start of the service are invited to approach the chalice. Everyone may partake of the holy bread.

CALENDAR

- Today - Church School Choir performance follows Liturgy
Choir Christmas Concert & Reception, 4:00 pm
- Tuesday - Feast of the Hiero-Martyr Ignatius, God-bearer of Antioch
Many Years to all the members of the Order!
Advent Paraklesis, 7:00 pm
- Friday - Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 am
- Saturday - Matins & Divine Liturgy for the Nativity, 5:00 pm
- Next Sunday - The Sunday services will take place on Saturday the 24th.

The Advent fast continues through Christmas Eve.

From Christmas Day through January 4th there is no fasting.

18 December
2011



Sunday before
the Nativity



The
Genealogy

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THE MOST REVEREND
METROPOLITAN PHILIP



ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL
NORTH AMERICA

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA

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December 11, 2011

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

"I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 104:33)

Beloved in Christ,

As we gather together each day and each week to participate in the liturgical life of our Church, and celebrate the mysteries of our Faith, we realize that none of this would be possible if it were not for the presence of our faithful chanters, choir directors and choir members. They are there not simply to sing the hymns and responses for us, as if we were coming to listen to a concert of Orthodox music each week. Rather, they are there to help guide and lead us all in our worship of God, as we give thanks to Him who given us this life through our own perfect offering and sacrifice of praise.

Therefore, through music they sing and chant, the prayers and hymns of our church come alive for us and give meaning and understanding to our Faith, so that we all may be edified and spiritually uplifted, and our God may be praised, honored and glorified. Their role, then, is to help us not only "sing with the spirit" in a tongue, but more importantly to "sing with the understanding" of what we are praying. Through this, the Church of Christ continues to grow, as the joy of our salvation is proclaimed to the whole universe.

On this Sunday, I ask you to remember the choir members in your prayers and join me in thanking them for their love and dedication each week throughout the year.

Your Father in Christ,

Here in Norwood we are celebrating Choir & Chanter Sunday today. With both our Church School and Liturgical Choir performing, it is a great opportunity for the rest of us to show how much we appreciate them by supporting their concerts and thanking God for their talents.

FEAST DAYS

✂ In preparation for Christmas, the Advent Paraklesis will be served on Tuesday at 7:00 pm. The Royal Hours will be December 23rd at 9:00 am. *Matins and Liturgy for the Nativity are Saturday at 5:00 pm* (no services on the morning of the 25th.)

✂ For the Feast of Theophany on January 5th, we will welcome our new bishop to the diocese. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, the Blessing of Water and a reception will take place at the cathedral in Worcester at 6:00 pm.

AXIOS

✂ *The Rt. Rev. John Abdalah was consecrated as bishop* at the Patriarchal monastery at the Balamand in Lebanon last Sunday. He is serving his former parish in Pittsburgh today and will be in the diocese next week. We look forward to welcoming our bishop to Norwood very soon.

✂ The parishes of the Diocese will be presenting gifts to our new bishop in January. Saint George will give him bishop's vestments. The cost is \$600. Everyone is welcome to contribute toward our gift (use a "Special Offering" envelope and mark it for the bishop.)

LAST SUNDAY

If you were with us last week at Byblos Restaurant to celebrate the church's 90th anniversary then you already know what a wonderful and special time was had by the huge crowd. Fellowship, slides from the past and good food were the order of the day. Thanks to Linda Thomas and Joe Eysie for organizing the event; thanks to Hayes Kelley and Deborah for arranging the slide show and to David Franciosi and Richard Shay for their help.

HOLIDAY OUTREACH

Our parish teamed with *Cambridge Family Childrens Service* to provide gifts for underprivileged children and their families. Together we provided over 100 gifts. Thanks to everyone who reached out.

CHOIRS

✂ This afternoon is the *Choir Christmas Concert*. It begins at 4:00 sharp (Tebow fans, set your TVs to record the game and watch it later tonight.)

✂ If you have children who enjoy music, stay after Liturgy this morning because our choir and *Church School will be singing right after the service.*

2012

The 2012 wall calendars have arrived and are in the narthex this morning. There is one for each family, courtesy of Guardian Appraisal: Don & Camille Florio and their family.

STEWARDSHIP

Our 2012 Stewardship campaign is underway. If you would like to join the church please pick up information from the usher in the narthex. If you have questions, see Father Joseph or a Council member.

As of last Friday, 77 members had turned in their pledge cards; the average is \$720. We asked for cards to be in last week, but there are still a number sitting on your kitchen counters. Please, bring them back asap. Thanks to those who have paid in advance and thanks also to those who are completing their 2011 pledge.

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

Have you circled June 21-24 yet? It is the *Parish Life Conference in Ogunquit* which we are hosting. It isn't too early to make reservations at the resort. Go on-line to www.CliffHouseMaine.com/attendees User Name: PARISH Password: pa986B

LAST MINUTE SHOPPING

If you are going on-line to make a few last purchases, stop first at www.StGeorgeNorwood.org. Click the *Marketplace logo* and then shop as usual. We get a percentage of what you buy. Safe, secure and private!

HOLY BREAD

The gifts today are offered by the Parish Council.

COFFEE HOUR

Please stay for refreshments following the Liturgy. There will also be a reception following the Concert this afternoon.

GIFTS TO SAINT GEORGE

The Members of the Choir *to the Choir Fund*
 *in thanksgiving for our director, David Franciosi*
 Anthony Grasso *in memory of Sarah Grasso*
 Joyce Boulis *in memory of Shafie & Barbara Boulis*
 *and Leo & Kay Walsh*

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Please use the enclosed envelope for your feast day gift to the church. A list of donors will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER -

Pray for the servants of God: Archpriest Michael and the Abdelahad Family; Archpriest Alexander (Atty), Archpriest Elias and Kh. Joanne (Bitar), Sheila (Bennett), Debbie (Braun), Pedro (Angie's brother), Margaret (Domet), Effie (Kalliel), Anne (Krekis), Marion (Redonnet), Sarah (Kelley), Nicolae (Daniela's father), Jack (Lucine's father), Karen, Charles, Mahasen Yacoub (Ibti's mother), David (Rediker), Beverly (DiFlaminies), Pamela (Manikas), Deacon Elias (Hamaty), Fred (Tomm), John (Howard), Nicole (Tourigney), Darcey, David (Knipe and family), Alan (Andrew), Lana (Joseph), Christina (Adams), Emaline (Eakle), Cleo (Eysie), Timothy (Wright), Kathrynne (Howard), Nicholas, Claudia (Eysie), Najlae (Solomon), Lovee (Thomas), Sandy (Thomas), Charles (Howard), Mary, Catherine, Josephine, Sterling.
Pray for the handmaid of God Rezanne (Toumi) who is with child.

Dec. 11 Income	Pledges	Donations & Memorials	Tray	Christmas Donations
\$8033.00	\$5825 .00		\$323.00	\$1970.00

Council & Parish Leaders

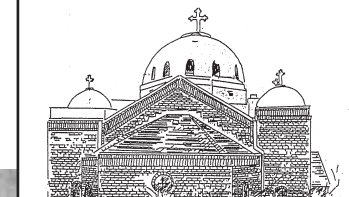
- Christine Byron
- Joan Cassidy (Chair)
- Joseph Eysie (Vice Chair)
- Gheorghe Doros (Treasurer)
- Anthony Grasso
- Katia Oleinik (Secretary)
- Richard Plouffe
- Ibtisam Samman
- Linda Thomas

Assistant Treasurers:

- Beverly DiFlaminies
- Leeann Plouffe

Building Committee - Andrew Howard

- Chanter - Erik Potter
- Choir Director - David Franciosi
- Christmas Card - Doris Copoulos
- Church Custodian - Gerry Mullen
- Epistle Readers - Lovee Thomas
- Food Pantry Rep. - Kay Moseley
- Holy Bread - Catherine Keches
- Hospitality -
- IOCC Rep. - Emily Pappas
- Ladies President - Katie Birtwell
- Order of St Ignatius Liason - Erin K.
- Sacristan - Subdn. Gheorghe Doros
- Scholarship Committee - Helen Abril
- School Superintendent - Rich Plouffe
- Seminarian - Jason Falcone
- Teen Advisor -
- Teen President - Alex Oleinik
- Usher - Andrew Howard
- Web-Master - Ekaterina Oleinik



Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
Sunday of the Genealogy
Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome

EISODIKON

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto thee, Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (TONE 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself 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 art the Giver of life! Glory to thee, O our God!

APOLYTIKION OF THE FATHERS IN TONE 2

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

TROPARION OF SAINT GEORGE, PATRON OF OUR COMMUNITY (TONE 4)

As deliverer of captives, and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great-Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

PREPARATORY KONTAKION FOR THE NATIVITY (TONE 3)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.

Prokeimenon and Verse:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

The Reading is from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Hebrews

(11:9-10; 17:23, 32-40, Sunday before the Nativity)

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, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, 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.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice. *Alleluia.* For the Lord hath chosen Sion. *Alleluia.*

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

(1:1-25, Sunday before the Nativity)

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 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 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 fulfil 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 commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.