



SAINT GEORGE

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NORWOOD, MA

مرحبا بكم Καλώς ορίσαστε! Добро пожаловать
**Welcome ! It is a pleasure to have visitors and friends
 with us at Saint George. If you would like to know
 more about our parish or the Orthodox Church, please ask.**

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

**Most Rev. Archbishop
 JOSEPH**
*Metropolitan of North
 America*

Right Rev. Bishop JOHN
*Diocese of Worcester &
 New England*

**Very Rev. Father
 Joseph Kimmett, Pastor**



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Sunday 4 January 2015



Upcoming Services and Events

- Today - Matins / Divine Liturgy, 9:00 & 10:00 am
 Church School, 11:15 am
 20-Year Memorial for Celia Howard
 Blessing of the Vasilopita (Basil Bread) at coffee hour
 Services for Archdeacon Elias Hamaty (see enclosed notes)
- Monday - Theophany Vespers Liturgy, Boston, 9:00 am
 Theophany Matins & Liturgy, Worcester, 5:30 pm
- Saturday - Great Vespers, 5:00 pm
- Next Sunday - Matins / Divine Liturgy, 9 & 10:00 am
 Church School, 11:15 am
 25 Year Memorial for Joseph Purpura
- Fasting - *There is fasting tomorrow, in preparation for Theophany.
 The Wednesday and Friday fast resumes this week.*

MEMORY ETERNAL

From Saint George Church, West Roxbury:

We regret to announce the repose of the soul of the servant of God and Archdeacon Elias 'Ely' Hamaty. Fr. Ely fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday afternoon 28 December at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton MA, surrounded by his devoted family.

Fr. Ely was born in 1934 and raised in the 'Syrian Colony' of Boston's South End. His parents, Mousa and Nour Hamaty were among the early members of St. George Orthodox Church of Boston. The Hamaty family emigrated from the village of Aafsiq, Al-Koura near the Balamand Monastery where Mousa attended school and later worked as a cook. Fr. Ely's grandparents, Simon and Mariana, also worked at the Balamand Monastery. After arriving in Boston, his parents operated a successful family owned restaurant in the South End. Fr. Ely entered the family business and operated the restaurant before opening his own electronics firm. ELCO Electronics specialized in marine electronics and communications. Fr. Ely was an avid yachtsman and sports angler who fished the waters from Alaska to the Caribbean.

Growing up, Fr. Ely attended St. George Church where his uncle, Archimandrite Elias Hamaty once served as pastor. Fr. Ely assisted his uncle as an acolyte, reader and chanter and he was active in the parish youth organization. Father served on several parish committees and was a past president of the parish council. Father was also an active member of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. In 1988 he was ordained a sub-deacon and later he enrolled in the St. Stephens Course at the Antiochian House of Studies. His

Eminence, Metropolitan Philip, ordained Fr. Ely to the Deaconate at St. George Church on 30 April 1995 during the St. George Feast Day celebrations. Fr. Ely developed a regular visitation ministry to the elderly and shut-ins as well as to hospitalized parishioners. Father also developed an effective outreach ministry for the bereaved. On 24 November 2012, he was elevated to the rank of Archdeacon in recognition of his exemplary and dedicated service. Father and his beloved wife Millie maintained a winter home in Punta Gorda, Florida where he served at St. Paul's Antiochian Orthodox Church in nearby Naples. In addition to his beloved wife, Millie, Fr. Ely is survived by his son Richard and his wife Rhoda, and his daughter Deborah and her husband Daniel Galambos, he was preceded in death by his sons Stephen and David. Fr. Ely was the Grandfather of Susan O'Toole, Richard Hamaty, and Adam, David and Stephen Galambos. He was also the Great-grandfather of Sofia, Joseph, Sasha and Nadia.

Visitation for Archdeacon Ely will be at St. George Orthodox Church of Boston on Sunday 4 January from 4 until 8 pm. Trisagion Prayers will be prayed at 7 pm. On Monday morning, 5 January at 9:00 am the Hierarchal Vespers Liturgy for the For Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated by Bishop John and Bishop Nicholas assisted by the diocesan clergy. The Funeral service for Archdeacon Ely will be prayed at 10:30 am. Interment is at the family plot at St. Paul's Cemetery in Hingham, MA. followed by a Meal of Mercy served at a nearby restaurant.

VASILOPITA

The Tradition: One of the more inspirational traditions of the Orthodox Church is the annual celebration of the Vasilopita. This original event which happened in Cappadocia of Caesarea in the last half of the fourth century, is very much alive in our Orthodox homes each year.

The Greek word Vasilopita is directly translated as “Sweet Bread of Basil”. When the Vasilopita is prepared, a coin is baked into the ingredients. Sweet flavoring is added to the bread which symbolize the sweetness and joy of life everlasting. It also symbolizes the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of life, liberty, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita Observance.

When the observance begins, usually on New Years Day, the bread is traditionally cut by the senior member of the family, and the individual who receives the portion of the Pita which contains the coin is considered Blessed for the New Year.

Each portion of the Vasilopita are distributed as follows: The first portion is cut in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The second is for the Holy Mother of our Lord, The Virgin Mary. The third is for St. Basil the Great, the other portions are cut for the members of the family beginning with the eldest. Portions may also be cut for the Church, the house, the traveler, the visitor and the poor.

2015 STEWARDSHIP

Thanks to the eighty-six members who returned their pledge cards for the new year. Thus far, the average gift is \$734. This is a nice increase over past years; your generosity and love is much appreciated. There are copies of the stewardship form in the narthex if you need an extra.

OLDIES DINNER

Friday, February 6th: Oldies Night at Saint George. Great food, great music and lots of fun. Mark your calendars now.

ALSO FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- January 17 - Diocesan Parish Council Workshop
- February 14 - Family Day (Pre-Lenten Retreat & Youth Day)
- February 21 - Pre-Lenten Gathering: (Topic: Forgiveness) at Bishop John's House
- February 23 - Great Lent begins
- April 5 - Western Easter
- April 12 - Pascha
- June 18-21: Parish Life Conference, Providence
- July 19-26: Archdiocese Convention at the Sheraton in Boston. Hosted by Saint Mary of Cambridge.

BOX FOR DONATIONS

You will find a “mailbox” in the parish hall, attached to the shelf with the coffee hour notebook and newsletters. For those who write donation checks or take care of other contributions whilst downstairs -- please leave the envelopes in this box. The Treasurer or a Council member will make sure everything is collected after coffee hour. Of course, like always, you can leave an envelope in the narthex when you arrive at church, or send in a donation by US Mail.

DRIVERS NEEDED

For over 35 years, HESSCO has been supporting elders and people living with a disability in south Norfolk County who wish to remain living at home for as long as possible. Home delivered meals, information and referral services, homemaking, and family caregiver support programs are just some of the programs we offer. At this time, they are in desperate need of volunteers to deliver meals in Norwood. Contact, Debbie Fradkin at DFrادkin@hessco.org

HOLY BREAD - The gifts today are offered by the family of Celia Howard in her memory. A 20-year memorial will be served at Liturgy. Gifts are also offered by Lina Karam in memory of Gergi & Jamila Dayaa and Hanna Karam.

COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for refreshments after Liturgy today, sponsored by the Howard family.

GIFTS TO SAINT GEORGE

Marwan & Ibtisam Samman, Lina Karam & family*Christmas offering*
 The Eysie Family*in memory of George & Helen Eysie*
 Family of Elias Laham*in thanksgiving*

MEMBER IN PRAYER

Pray for Metropolitan Paul of Aleppo and Archbishop Yohanna (Syriac bishop), all who are in danger and captivity and the suffering Christians of Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and the Middle East

Pray also for Archpriest Michael & the Abdelahad Family, Kh Elizabeth (Bethoney), Evgenia (Georges), Dana, Sarah (Pucci), Frances (Giandomenico), Elias (Laham, Cindy’s father), Elaine (Bitar), Ronald (Nicholson), Joyce (Boulis), Kenneth (Hadge), Helen (Kelley), Marcia (Shapiro), Dolores (Elias), Marion (Corcoran), Ernest (Peter), Florence (Esper), Shannon (Prevatt), Patricia (Elliot), Margaret (Domet), Effie (Kalliel), Marion (Redonnet), Nicolae (Daniela’s father), Sam and Beverly (DiFlaminies), Fred (Tomm), John (Howard), Darcey, David (Knipe & family), Alan (Andrew), Lana (Joseph), Christina (Adams), Emaline (Eakle), Cleo (Eysie), Kathryne (Howard), Lovee (Thomas), Sandy (Thomas), Josephine (Purpura).

Pray for newly departed Archdeacon Elias (Hamaty)

December 28 Income	Pledges	Donations & Memorials	Tray	Special Collection
\$5756.00				\$454.50

Council & Parish Leaders

- Cindy Appgar
- Christine Byron (Vice Chair)
- Barbara Campbell
- Joan Cassidy (Chair)
- Subdn Gheorghe Doros
- Anthony Grasso
- Subdn Joseph Kouyoumjian (Treas.)
- Richard Plouffe (Secretary)
- Jenna Weiskerger

- Arabic Bulletin - Kh. Ramia Issa
- Bookkeeper - Marlene Lupaczyk
- Building Committee - Andrew Howard
- Chanter - Erik Potter
- Choir Director - David Franciosi
- Christmas Card - Cindy Appgar
- Christmas Outreach - Lucine K.
- Church Custodian - Gerry Mullen
- Epistle Readers - Lovee Thomas
- FSJD Dio. Secy - Leeann Plouffe
- Food Pantry Rep. - Kay Moseley
- Holy Bread - Beverly DiFlaminies
- Ladies President - Katie Birtwell
- Lawn Care - Owen & Zach
- Order of St Ignatius Liaison - Erin K.
- Sacristan - Subdn. Gheorghe Doros
- Scholarship Committee - Helen Abril
- School Superintendent - Rich Plouffe
- Seminarian - Nicholas Livingston
- Teen President - Nick Kimmett
- TLC Coordinator - Sheila Bennett
- Usher - Andrew Howard
- Web-Master - Ekaterina Oleinik



**Forefeast of & Sunday before Theophany of Christ
Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily;
Venerable Martyrs Euthymios & his companions of Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos**

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 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal 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 THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (TONE 4)

Make ready, O Zebulon, and prepare, O Nephtali, and thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. And thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, and hide not yourselves as ye did of old in paradise; for having seen thee naked, He appeared to clothe thee with the first robe. Yea, Christ hath appeared desiring to renew the whole creation.

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.

KONTAKION FOR THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (TONE 4)

Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan, crying to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my Baptism; for I have verily come to save Adam, the first to be created.

EPISTLE AND GOSPEL

Prokeimenon and Verse:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading is from the Apostle Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

(4:5-8; Sunday before Theophany)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark (1:1-8; Sunday before Theophany)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."