



ST. GEORGE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH
 8 Lowell Street
 Lawrence, MA 01840
 Very Rev. Edward Hughes, Parish Priest
 Rectory Phone: (978) 686-3274
 Church Phone: (978) 685-4052
www.StGeorgeLawrence.org

HOLY EUCHARIST (COMMUNION) is ADMINISTERED ONLY to MEMBERS of the ORTHODOX CHURCH who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and recent confession of sins.

“The means to confirm and strengthen Christian Hope are prayers, especially frequent and sincere prayer, confession of our sins, frequent reading of the Word of God, and above all, frequent communion of the holy life-giving sacraments of the Body and Blood of Christ.” *St. John of Kronstadt*

December 23rd, 2018
THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
The Geneology

Tone - 5

Eothina – 8

THE TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION in tone 5

Let all us believers give praise and worship to the Word, of one essence with the Father and with the Spirit, and who is eternal. Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He did willingly ascend in the flesh to be hung from the Cross and to suffer pain and death, and to lift up the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

THE TROPARION FOR THE FOREFEAST in Tone 4

Make ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her womb did appear as a supersensual paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

THE TROPARION FOR THE FATHERS in Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

THE TROPARION OF ST. GEORGE in Tone 4

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

THE KONTAKION Preparatory to Christmas in Tone 3

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave, to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, Begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice therefore, O Universe if thou shouldst hear, and glorify with the Angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by His will shall become a new-born Babe, and who is our God before all Ages.

THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL: Geraldine Deschênes

THOSE IN REHAB FACILITIES, NURSING HOMES and SENIOR CARE FACILITIES, Norma Samra, Amaline Bastaty, Joanne Samra (Florida), Michel Chuairy, Henry Hyder, Vivian Runions.

THOSE ILL, IN PAIN, OR SHUT IN BY INFIRMITY: Elizabeth Ferris, Khalil Touma, Lorraine Kalil, Claudette Erban, Fouad Hajjar, Vivian Runions, Nassif Hamaoui, Jeanette Hamaoui, Christine Hassan, Gabriel Josiah Hassan, Caleb Hassan, Jessica Savory, Albert Hayek, Toni Orefice, Kim Goodspeed, Angela Scherer, Carole Farrell, Donna Najem Avakoff, Jacob Malinchak, Charles Timko, Jr., William Haddad, Lila Haddad, Stacia Mullens, Sandra Widdall, Joanne Gray, Cheryl Brown, Fran Brown, Anita Brown, Andrew Brown, Christopher Boshar, Ramy Bassit, and John Ayoub.

THOSE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, FAR AWAY, OR OTHERWISE IN NEED OF PRAYER: Brandon Touma, Tom Girardi, Warren & Elizabeth, Warren & Catherine Ferris, Carl, Lauren, Caitlin, Aalin, & Aidan Bellinger, Ann Balsamo, Alice Ziady, Kenneth Keamy, Carol Aberizk, Maria Morales, Miguel Angel Morales, Santo Thomas Morales, Santa Maria Morales, Anderson Miguel Morales.

FOR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH & GOD'S BLESSINGS: Charles Girardi, Theresa Girardi, Gianna Gehringer, Libby Morley, George Touma & Family; Naime Touma & Family, Jihad, Lynn, Janelle Hajjar, Joshua Linnie, Kate Gaiver & Jacob Hajjar.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM.

THE NATIVITY FAST began on Thursday, Nov. 15th and lasts through Dec. 24th. From Nov. 15th through Dec. 13th, we abstain from meat, dairy products, and eggs. From then on we abstain from Fish, Olive Oil and Alcohol as well until Dec. 25th. (Olive oil and Alcohol are allowed on weekends.) May God grant us a spiritually profitable and peaceful fast, and bring us safely to His Glorious Nativity.

THE PARISH COUNCIL would like to remind our members that it is important to pay the special Archdiocese Assessment of \$100. Per pledging unit in addition to your pledge.

HOME BLESSINGS begin in September, and usually continue throughout the year. Anyone who would like their home blessed at this time, please contact Fr. Edward.

SPONSORS are needed for Coffee Hour. Several families can join together. Very little is actually necessary – you don't have to serve a full luncheon. If no one has sponsored coffee hour, **please remember** to leave a donation to be used for the next week's coffee hour.

THE PARISH WEBSITE is a good source for information on current parish news. The website is listed at the top of the bulletin each week.

HOLY BREAD is available for those who would like to offer it in memory, or for the good health of someone, on anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, &cet. Anytime you would like to offer Holy Bread, consider buying from the Church rather than from one of the bakeries. Please contact Mrs. Ramza Touma for details.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018

Monday, Dec. 24: 9:00 AM Royal Hours of the Nativity
11:00 AM Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil (Christmas Gospel)
5:00 PM Great Compline with Litya
6:30 PM Matins
8:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Adoration of Magi Gospel)

Wednesday, Dec. 26: 7:30 AM Matins
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos

Thursday, Dec. 27 7:30 AM Matins
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy for St. Stephen