Sunday, March 1st: First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy
   PLC Committee Meeting after Liturgy
   5:00 P.M.-St. Mary hosting: Vespers & refreshments following at Parish Center

Monday, March 2nd: 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Meeting
Tuesday, March 3rd: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline
Wednesday, March 4th: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Friday, March 6th: 7:00 P.M.- 2nd Akathyst Hymn (Al-Madeeh)
Saturday, March 7th: 5:00 PM- Arabic Liturgy
Sunday, March 8th: Second Sunday of Lent and the Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, Bishop of Thessalonica

Monday, March 9th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting (*please note date change)
Tuesday, March 10th: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline
Wednesday, March 11th: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Friday, March 13th: 7:00 P.M.– 3rd Akathyst Hymn (Al-Madeeh)

Sunday, March 15th: Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross
Tuesday, March 17th: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline
Wednesday, March 18th: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Friday, March 20th: 7:00 P.M.– 4th Akathyst Hymn (Al-Madeeh)
Sunday, March 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Lent: The Commemoration of our Righteous Father John of the Ladder
   ...}

Sunday, March 29th: Fifth Sunday of Lent: The Commemoration of our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt
Tuesday, March 31st: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline at St. Mary Church

Wednesday, April 1st: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts
Saturday, April 11th: 11:00P.M.– Rush Service
Sunday, April 12th: Great and Holy Pascha
   12:00A.M.– Divine Liturgy followed by Agape Breakfast
   3:00 P.M.– Agape Vespers
**A Note Regarding Holy Communion:**

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal. Confessions are heard by special appointment. The Eucharistic fast begins at midnight on Saturday and ends with the receiving of Holy Communion. Please see Fr. Elie if you have any questions or for inquiries on how to become a full member of the Church.

**Parish Council 2015:**

*President:* Joe Samra III (Fellowship)  
*Vice-President:* Salwa Khoury (Ladies Society)  
*Secretary:* Cindy Hayes  
*Treasurer:* Fadia Kabak

*Council Members:* Charles Abosamra, Emad Amirhom, Edward Ayoub, Scott Barnes, Cory Dupont, Janice Hallal (Choir), Lorice Hallal, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazioh, Jamie Mitri, Walid Nakhoul, Elmer Stanley (Church School)

**Please feel free to contact Joe Samra III (401) 334-0310 / joesamra@gmail.com or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns**

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**Orthodox Vocabulary**

**Prostration**

A bodily posture of reverence and homage to God made by kneeling on both knees while touching the hands and forehead to the ground. The sign of the Cross is often made preceding or following each prostration. In prostrating, the believer demonstrates humility to God and at the same time trains the body in physical enactment and discipline of that foundational Spiritual posture.

**The mathematics of God is completely different from the mathematics of humans. For us two and two equal four. For God two and two can make five or fifteen or anything else.**  
~Elder Epiphanius of Athens

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**Arabic Educational Foundation Scholarship**

The Arabic Educational Foundation is now taking applications for the 2015 school year. Applicants of Arabic descent that are enrolled full-time as an undergraduate student are eligible to apply. Applications and Scholarship Eligibility Requirements may be picked up at the Church Office or see Fr. Elie for an application.
Coffee Hour Sponsorships

The Parish Council has decided to implement a new system to organize our coffee hours. There are two ways to handle this: when a couple, family, or an individual decides to sponsor the coffee hour, you may do it on your own which entails purchasing the pastry & juice, making the coffee, setting up the table, and cleaning up. The second option is to donate $75.00 to the church so that a Parish Council member will handle the coffee hour on your behalf.

If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, please call the church office and speak with Sheryl. Please make check to St. Mary Church for coffee sponsorship and earmark “Coffee Hour”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
<th>Sponsored for</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>Massiwer Family</td>
<td>John Massiwer (15 years)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Kilsy Family</td>
<td>George Kilsy (30 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td>Antiochian Women</td>
<td>Metropolitan PHILLIP (1 year)</td>
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<td>March 22nd*</td>
<td>William Salhany &amp; Family</td>
<td>Ruth Salhany (5 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29th*</td>
<td>Fadi &amp; Hadeed Samaan</td>
<td>Health of Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5th</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12th</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Nora Abdelahad &amp; Family</td>
<td>Charles Abdelahad (1 year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26th</td>
<td>Fred Hallal &amp; Family</td>
<td>Sophie Hallal (5 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>May 10th</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<td>June 7th</td>
<td>The Samra Family</td>
<td>Joseph Samra Sr. (50 years)</td>
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<td>June 14th</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>June 21st</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
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<td>June 28th</td>
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<td>July 5th</td>
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<td>July 12th</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19th</td>
<td>Elias Morcos (son)</td>
<td>Dr. Zeyad &amp; Norma Morcos</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26th</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>August 2nd</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>August 9th</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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Sunday, March 1, 2015

First Sunday of Great Lent:
Sunday of Orthodoxy

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 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. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

Troparion of the Dormition: Tone 1

“In giving birth, Thou didst keep Thy virginity and in Thy repose, Thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos, for Thou art the mother of life, and Thou didst pass over into life; and through thy intercessions from death Thou dost redeem our souls.”

Kontakion for the Annunciation (And Great Lent): Tone 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that 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
Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Prokeimenon: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our Fathers.
Verse: For you are righteous in all things you have done for us.
The reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

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 fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, and 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 is 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.

The Gospel
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, you are the Son of God! You are 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."

Church News & Organization Activities

St. Mary Liturgical Choir
The St. Mary Liturgical Choir welcomes new members to join its Ministry of Sacred Music. Anyone interested in joining the choir (whatever their level of musical experience) are asked to contact the choir director Dawn Boukari @ (401) 465-8909 or email her: daboukari@gmail.com

2015 Church Calendars
We have beautiful Church Calendars now available for sale for the 2015 year. Please participate in this worthwhile fundraiser for our Church, give as a gift– or for your own use. The calendars are $10. If you wish to purchase a calendar, please see Fr. Elie.

Antiochian Village Summer Camp
Camp Registration is open! Come make friendships that will last a lifetime and make memories you will never forget!! Most New England campers attend the 2nd session, which is from June 28th to July 10th. Our campers will travel with a contingent from Boston and Worcester with at least one chaperone from St. Mary.

Visit www.avcamp.org to register today! Volunteers that are interested may also apply through the website. Last year most spots were filled before the end of February so don't delay. Following is a list of all the camp sessions for 2015:
Great Lent and Holy Pascha 2015
Easter Flowers (Holy Friday and Pascha)

Please make a donation to help decorate the Church for Holy Week and Easter.

For Good Health and Blessing of:

Your name: ____________________________
Donation: ____________________________

To all those who would like to contribute for the Easter Flowers; checks should be made out to St. Mary Orthodox Church and earmarked “Easter Flowers”.

All donations should be received by April 5th.

In Loving Memory of:

April Gentes Robert
Elaine Agaty
Massiwer Family
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad
Jacob Khoury
Offered by: Mr. & Mrs. Faraj Freij
Mary Massiwer & Family
Fred Hallal
Lily Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint
Mary Massiwer & Family
Offered by: Lily Massiwer
Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian
Elaine Gauthier
Bill & Mary Lou Catelli
Barbara Samra
Maria Matook
Offered by: Nora Matook
Elaine Wilbur
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

April Gentes Robert
Elaine Agaty
Massiwer Family
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad
Jacob Khoury
Offered by: Mr. & Mrs. Faraj Freij
Mary Massiwer & Family
Fred Hallal
Lily Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint
Mary Massiwer & Family
Offered by: Lily Massiwer
Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian
Elaine Gauthier
Bill & Mary Lou Catelli
Barbara Samra
Maria Matook
Offered by: Nora Matook
Elaine Wilbur
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Memorial Services

♦ A Memorial Service is being offered by The Massiwer Family for the repose of the soul of the Servant of God John Massiwer (15 years).

♦ A Memorial Service is being offered by The Kilsey Family for the repose of the soul of the Servant of God George Kilsey (30 years).

May God grant them peace and may their memories be eternal!

Elaine Wilbur
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Barbara Samra
Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Sandra Conca
Massiwer Family
Kilsey Family
Salhany Family
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Wilbur
Mary Massiwer & Family
The Kilsey Family
Offered by: Elaine Swistak
Elaine Wilbur
Massiwer Family
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
Elaine Wilbur
My Children & Grandchildren
The Tahmoush Family
The Laffey Family
The Josephs Family
Linda Matook & Family
Jamie, Chris & Leah Panagopolis
Tim, Catherine & John Matook
Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Mary Massiwer
PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:
Donald, Daniel & Sarah Hayes
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Mary Massiwer
Maureen, Paul & Mary Gurghigian
Mary, Bill, Bill Jr & Jon Franklin
Diane Andrew & Paul Bernier
Laura, Jim & Noelle Arriighi
John & Patricia Massiwer & Danielle Jordan
Linda Matook & Family
Tim, Catherine & John Matook
Jami, Chris & John Matook
Tahmoush, Josephs & Laffey Families
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Andrew Wylie
John Haddad
Lillian Haddad
Offered by: George A. Arees

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Charles Agaty
Nicholas Matook, Sr.
John Matook
Alma Matook
Fred Hashway
John Massiwer
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

John Massiwer
Sophie Hallal
David Massiwer
Moses Lajieh
Offered by: Holly Lajieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

John Massiwer
Sarah, George, Abraham & Emile Massiwer
Sophie Hallal
Offered by: Lily Massiwer

John Massiwer
Leon Matook
Offered by: Nora Matook & Family

John Massiwer
Donald Hayes
Thomas Andrew
John Matook
Nicholas Matook
Abe Tamoush
Offered by: Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian

Ida Lavin
Assad Ayoub
Naseem Ayoub
Mary Ayoub
Bob Corrado
Eddie Corrado
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub

John Massiwer
George Kiley
Ida Lavin
Charles Agaty
Offered by Joe & Marlene Samra

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
George Kilsey (30 years)
Offered by: Amen Kilsey & Family
Fred Kilsey & Family
Joyce Kilsey
Steve & Patty Kilsey
Jeff Kilsey & Family
The Kilsey Family
The Maurice Family

Charles Agaty
John Massiwer
Fred Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdulahad

Ida (Salhany) Lavin
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Pawtucket
Schedule of Services: Great Lent 2015

Great Lent begins on Monday, February 23rd

The Service of Great Compline for the N.E. Region, with Bishop JOHN
presiding, will be held on Monday evenings (see schedule below).
~ March 2nd: 7:00pm - St. Michael Church, Cotuit, MA
~ March 9th: 7:00pm - St. John of Damascus Church, Dedham, MA
~March 16th: 7:00pm - St. George Church, Lowell, MA
~March 23rd: 7:00pm - St. George Church, West Roxbury, MA
~March 30th: 6:30pm - St. George Cathedral, Worcester, MA

St. Mary’s Great Lent Prayer Schedule

The Service of Great Compline at St. Mary Church will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

The Liturgy of the Pre-sancitified Gifts will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Those wishing to partake of Holy Communion ought to be fasting from 12:00 noon on.

The service of the Akathyst Hymn or Madeeh (The Salutations to the Virgin Mary) will be held on the first five Friday evenings of Great Lent at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, March 1st: Special Vespers for Orthodoxy Sunday - 5:00pm at St. Mary Church, Pawtucket, RI

*May the Living God, the Fountain of Wisdom, enlighten our minds, strengthen our bodies, and nourish our souls in the blessing of this holy season, the Lenten Spring.*
What is Lent?

Prayer ✦ Fasting ✦ Acts of Mercy

Great Lent is the season to "Open the Gates of Repentance". The faithful are encouraged to enter into the sacrament of confession during the Forty-Day Fast. Confessions can be made before or after Divine Services, or by special appointment with the Priest.

Sacrament of Confessions

Liturgical Supplies and Offerings for Lent

During Great Lent the Church offers an intensified schedule of Divine Services and Prayers. Donations are being sought from the faithful for the many extra Liturgical Supplies needed for the Holy Season. These offerings include candles, wine, oil, incense, bread, service books, music and printed materials. Please earmark your donations and offerings “Liturgical Supplies.” Along with these offerings, bring also yourselves to pray the beautiful Lenten Services.

Food For Hungry People Collection (F.F.H.P.)

“When you see a poor person, remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ by which He declared that it is He Himself who is fed. For through that which appears to be not Christ, yet in that person’s form, it is Christ Himself who receives and begs.”

--St. John Chrysostom

During the Holy Season of Lent, we collect alms to feed the hungry, as an act of Christian Mercy. Food for Hungry People collection boxes are available in the Vestibule & Church Hall. Take one home, fill it with coins during Lent and return it at Holy Pasha (Easter). Donations will also be accepted. To: St. Mary Orthodox Church earmarked “F.F.H.P.”

May we be generous to reach out to those who hunger and who are in need. This “reaching out” and caring will help us to witness the resurrection.

March is Antiochian Women’s Month

During the month of March, in all the Churches of our Archdiocese, we highlight and remember the Ministry of Women in our Church. Being founded on the model of Mary the Mother of God herself and the Service of the Myrrh-bearer ministry is foundational for without it the Church would not exist.

During March, the Women will be reading the Epistle, taking the collection, and ushering as they do all year long. This year the Antiochian Women will also be sponsoring activities to raise funds for their NAB Project.

May God bless all of the Women of the Holy Church and bless their ministry.

Readers
Sunday, March 1st: Cindy Hayes
Sunday, March 8th: Mirna Nakhoui
Arabic– Salwa Khoury

Ushers
Sunday, March 1st: Sue Ayoub & Charlote Mitri
Beloved in the Lord:

Greetings and blessings to you as we enter this most holy season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During this time of the Great Fast, we once again turn our attention to the Food for Hungry People Program of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine. For more than 40 years, this campaign has had a tremendous impact throughout the world to help alleviate hunger and the numberless tragedies caused by poverty. With the many tragic events in our own country and throughout the world that happen each day, we continue to have a great need for almsgiving every day. As such, this special program of our Archdiocese helps with both large catastrophes or when smaller needs arise in any given year.

St. John Chrysostom, perhaps the greatest preacher in the history of the Church, once said: “Although fasting is more difficult than this, nothing is so strong and powerful to extinguish the fire of our sins as almsgiving. It is greater than all other virtues. It places its lovers by the side of the King Himself, and justly. For the effect of fasting is confined to those who fast, and no other is saved thereby. But almsgiving extends to all, embracing the members of Christ, and actions that extend their effects to many are far greater than those which are confined to one.” Through your generosity to the Food for Hungry People campaign, you embrace the world with the love of Christ, saving yourself as you literally save others.

We urge you, during this season of prayer, self-discipline and fasting, to be very generous in your contribution to this campaign. As we practice the virtues which cleanse our souls, let us not forget or refrain from the “greatest of the virtues.” As important as prayer and fasting are, they are of no avail to us if we fail to give to those in need.

Praying that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us as we embark on our journey to Pascha we remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+Metropolitan JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

“...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)