

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 28th: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

One Year Memorial Service for Charles Agaty

Two Year Memorial Service for Charles Abdelahad

Adult Education– Elmer Stanley speaking of “Christ as Prophet

Saturday, March 5th: 5:00PM– Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, March 6th: Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Ladies Society Project Luncheon at the Parish Center

Ladies Society Meeting after Luncheon

Adult Education– Matt Duncan speaking on “Faith & Reason in Christian Belief” during Coffee Hour

Tuesday, March 8th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 9th: 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM—Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 13th: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Adult Education– Matthew Cooper speaking during Coffee Hour

Sunday, March 20th: 1st Sunday of Lent (Orthodoxy)

Sunday, March 27th: 2nd Sunday of Lent (Gregory Palamas)

Sunday, April 3rd: 3rd Sunday of Lent (Holy Cross)

Sunday, April 10th: 4th Sunday of Lent (John Climacus)

Sunday, April 17th: 5th Sunday of Lent (Mary of Egypt)

Sunday, April 24th: Palm Sunday

Sunday, May 1st: Great & Holy PASCHA



SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday February 28, 2016

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone (401) 726-1202 Fax: (401) 729-1203
Web site: <http://stmarypawtucket.org>
Email: office@stmarypawtucket.org

**His Grace Bishop JOHN, Auxiliary and Bishop of the
Diocese of Worcester and New England**

V. Rev. Father Elie Estephan
395 Brown St.-Unit 2, Attleboro, MA 02703
Cell- 1-(240) 205-9079

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Orthros (Matins) 8:45 a.m.
Church School 11:15 a.m.

*Enter in Quietness, Rest in Prayer,
Worship in Reverence, Depart in Peace to Serve*

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 2016:

President: Salwa Khoury
Vice-President: Cindy Hayes
Secretary: Jamie Mitri
Treasurer: Fadia Kabak

Council Members: Joseph Samra III, Emad Amirhom, Scott Barnes, Cory Dupont, Lorice Hallal, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazieh, Walid Nakhoul, Elmer Stanley (*Church School*), Linda Dvelis, Hadeel Samaan

****Please feel free to contact Salwa Khoury at stkhoury@cox.net or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns****



The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

On this day we commemorate the parable of the Prodigal Son which is recounted in the Gospel according to Saint Luke (15:11 - to end). In the Gospel parable read on this day, the Saviour illustrated three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance, and the knowledge of God's compassion. The Fathers of our Church prescribed its reading on this day, for in the person of the Prodigal Son we view the wretched condition in which we are wallowing in sin, remote from God and his Sacraments. Finally we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening our return to Him through repentance, even in these days of holy fasting.

The Fathers also had another purpose. Because some people commit grave sins and iniquities, persisting therein for a long time, they are overtaken by despair, thinking that they have no more hope of forgiveness. In this way they fall deeper and deeper in their sinful acts, even committing worse ones. The Holy Fathers, realizing this, intended to remove the evil of despair from our hearts, encouraging us and reviving our energies for deeds of virtue. They decreed the reading of this parable in the days preceding the Great Lent, illustrating thereby the compassion of our most righteous God, and that no sin may overcome His kindness of His inclination for the love of mankind, however great the sin may be.

"O thou who art like me, a prodigal, come forward with confidence and tranquility for unto all has been opened the door of divine mercy!"



Welcome

We welcome and thank Fr. Joseph Purpura for celebrating Liturgy with us today at St. Mary Church.

Orthodox Vocabulary

Theandric

Theandric: (Theandrikos, “of the God-Man”). The term refers to the mystery of Christ, His divine-human reality. By extension, the word covers everything that depends on this mystery in the Christian life; the theandric nature of the Church, of Scripture (“inspiration”), of every ecclesial act. In Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite, the “theandric Energy” expresses the perfect agreement of the wills and acts of the God-Man. Lastly, theandricism is the unshakable foundation of synergism, the cooperation of Man and God.

God is kind by nature, and always provides for our good; and - when we ask for something - He always will provide it, as long as it is for our good. Whatever is necessary for the salvation of our soul and for the maintenance of our physical existence, God will provide it in abundance; and we will have His blessing. Whatever He deprives us of, either to test us or protect us, we accept with joy as well as thoughtfulness, as it is for our benefit.

~Elder Paisios the Athonite



St. Mary Parish Bookstore

Many beautiful Orthodox religious items are available from the St. Mary Parish bookstore and display case. These include a new collection of Icons, Christmas and greeting cards, Liturgical music CD's, prayer books, coloring books, Crosses and Orthodox Bibles. These make wonderful gifts and reflect the *Tradition of our Orthodox Faith*. All proceeds benefit the general fund of the Church. Please see Fr. Elie if you wish to purchase these gifts.

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Tone: 6 Eothinon: 6

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee

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 intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

Kontakion for the Prodigal Son: Tone 3

*(**On this day the Virgin**)*

Foolishly I sprang away * from Thy great fatherly glory, * and dispersed in wicked deeds * the riches that Thou didst give me. * With the Prodigal I therefore * cry unto Thee now: * I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. * But receive me in repentance; * make me as one of * Thy hired servants, O Lord.



THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Assessment Fee

The St. Mary Parish Council wishes to kindly remind the Faithful to send in their Archdiocese Assessment of \$125 made out to St. Mary Church. Please help us to be able to meet our obligations to the Archdiocese.

AEF Scholarship

Scholarship applications are now available in the church office. Eligibility information & applications may also be downloaded from their website at aef-ri.org. The application deadline is April 15, 2016.

Cemetery Plots

If you wish to purchase a cemetery plot at Walnut Hill Cemetery, the cost is \$1,000. Please contact Ed Ayoub for more information or to purchase a plot.

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:

<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

2016- Food For Hungry People

Again this year, we have Lenten Alms Boxes available for you to have for the Food For Hungry People program. Pick up your family’s box for use during the Great Fast. Save your pocket change for the box, or place the box on your kitchen table and snake a donation at each mealtime. We have also placed a box in the vestibule of the Church in which you can place your Food For Hungry People money. Every Lent, the parishes of our Archdiocese collect money for the hungry, poor, and needy throughout the world. Be sure to get your alms box, and bring it back full after Pascha.

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 to the church so that a Parish Council member will handle the coffee hour on your behalf.

Please make check to St. Mary Church for coffee sponsorship and earmark "Coffee Hour".

If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, please call the church office and speak with Sheryl.

**** ALL Coffee hour's will now be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.****

~Please consider sponsoring a Coffee Hour~

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
February 28, 2016	Elaine Agaty & Nora Abdelahad	Charles Agaty (1 year memorial) & Charles Abdelhad (memory)
March 6, 2016	Ladies Society	Ladies Project Luncheon
March 13, 2016	Massiwer, Gurghigian, Hayes, Franklin & Arrighi Families	John Massiwer (memory)
March 20, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
March 27, 2016	Marwan & Huda Al-Amir	Health of their Family
April 3, 2016	William Salhany and family	Ruth Salhany (6 years)
April 10, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
April 17, 2016	Her Daughters & their Families	Sophie Hallal (6 years)
April 24, 2016	no coffee hour	Palm Sunday
May 1, 2016	no coffee hour	Great & Holy PASCHA
May 8, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
May 15, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
May 22, 2016	Kamal, George, Gladys, Therese Haddad & Their Families	Emile Haddad (1 year memorial)



Memorial Services



Today, a One Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of *Charles Agaty* and a Two Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of *Charles Abdelahad* offered by Nora Abdelahad and Elaine Agaty. A luncheon is being offered by Nora Abdelahad & Elaine Agaty at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

May God grant them peace and repose and may their memories be eternal.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

George Mousalli
Offered by:
His Family, Barbara, Susan, Kristen and Daniel

George Mousalli
Offered by: St. Mary Church

Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad & Family
Elaine Wilbur & Family
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family

Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
Charlie Abosamra
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Edward & Lillian Betor
Paul & Kerrie Betor
Thomas & Lynn Marcotte
Matthew & Adrienne Dykstra
Peter Marcotte
Laurice Zambie
William & LaVerne Ameen



Great-Granddaughters Joelle & Rose Dykstra
Newborn Great-Grandson, Daniel Thomas Dykstra (Born 11-11-15)
Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor

George & Barbara Mousalli & Family
Offered by: Charles & Angela Abosamra

Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Linda Dvelis
Jason & Stephanie Dvelis & Family
Kristen & Robert Silva & Family
Fred & Cathy Shwaery
Elizabeth & Michael Melcher
Nicholas Shwaery
Offered by: Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery

Charlie Abosamra
Leila, Christine, Mandy & Constantine Nasr
Offered by: Mary Lou & Bill Catelli

Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad & Family
Elaine Swistak & Family
Offered by: Cindy, George & Michael Antypas

Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad & Family
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Patrick & Melanie Merner
George Mousalli
Charlie Abosamra
Offered by: Steve & Patricia Kilsey

Nora Abdelahad
Elaine Agaty
George & Nora Matook
Fr. Michael & Selma Abdelahad
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: The Briggs & Wehbe Families

Nora Abdelahad
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Fr. Michael & Selma Abdelahad & Family
George & Sandra Matook & Family

Elaine Agaty & Family
Elaine Swistak & Family
Nora Abdelahad & Family
George & Sandra Matook & Family
Fr. Michael Abdelahad & Family
George & Barbara Mousalli & Family
Offered by: Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian

Nora Abdelahad & Family
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Swistak & Family
Offered by: Mary Massiwer & Family

Donald, Daniel & Sarah Hayes
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Mary Massiwer
Maureen, Paul & Mary Gurghigian
Mary, Bill, Bill Jr., & Jon Franklin
Diane Andrew & Paul Burnier
Laura, Jim & Noelle Arrighi
John & Patricia Massiwer & Danielle Jordan
Nora Abdelahad & Family
Elaine Agaty

Elaine Swistak & Family
Susan Hosey
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Children

Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery
Joe & Marlene Samra
Cindy, George & Michael Antypas
Offered by: Steve & Patricia Kilsey & Family

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Fred Hashway Jr.
Vincent Hurley
Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad
Linda Levin
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur



Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
Fred Hashway
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad

Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad
Fred Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad
Fred Hashway
John Swistak
Offered by Elaine Swistak & Family

Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad
John Swistak
Ida Lavin
Offered by: Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian

Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty (one year)
Offered by: Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Abdelahad & Family

S t . M a r y T e e n S O Y O N e w s a n d E v e n t s

Attention All Teens
(12 years and older)

*** **Come and join The St. Mary Teen SOYO Youth Group** ***

- ***Be the Bee** will take place on March 19th.
- *The **Lenten Retreat** March 25th-27th.



We were created for eternal life by our Creator, we are called to it by the word of God, and ***we are renewed by holy Baptism. And Christ the Son of God came into the world for this, that He should call us and take us there, and He is the one thing needful. For this reason your very first endeavor and care should be to receive it.***

~***St. Tikhon of Zadonsk***



Prayer Line

St. Mary ~ Internet Prayer Line
Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at

office@stmarypawtucket.org

All requests must be received by Wednesday noon to be included in that week’s bulletin.
Any requests received after that time will be included in the following week’s bulletin.

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

*****Choir Practice will be held on Wednesday, February, 24th from 6:45-8:30pm at Church*****

Bulletin Submissions

Please help us provide a quality weekly bulletin by submitting all prayer requests and announcements to the church office by Noon on Wednesdays. Any requests received after this time will be in the following week's bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Change of Address

All the faithful who have a recent or future change of address, phone number or email address please remember to inform the church office at (401) **726-1202**.



St. Mary Church School News

Attention All Parents: Please bring your children to the Liturgy before Church School. Church School starts every Sunday following communion (Approx. 11:15am).

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Ameen & Nayfey Sabath
Petros & Afife Betor
Helen Betor
Fred Sabath
Fred "Fritzie" & Jimmy Sabath
Offered by: Ed & Lillian Betor

Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Fouad & Houida ElKhaouli
Fatat ElKhaouli
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Lorice Hallal

Charlie Agaty
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Susan Warzycha & Family

Fred Hashway, Jr
Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Barbara Samra

Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad (uncle)
Offered by: Fran, Sharon (Abdelahad) Wall & Family

Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
George Kilsey (31 years)
Offered by: Steve and Patricia Kilsey & Family

Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Mary Lou & Bill Catelli

Charles Agaty
Charles Abdelahad
John Swistak
Florence David
Adele David
Offered by: The Briggs & Wehbe Families

Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Fr. Michael & Selma Abdelahad & Family
George & Sandra Matook & Family

Charles Abdelahad (our Jido)
Offered by: George & Kim Matook & Family
Steve & Elaina Zabak & Family
Charles & Brittany Abdelahad & Family
Nicholas & Johanna Abdelahad
Christopher Abdelahad

Charles Agaty (our uncle)
Offered by: George & Kim Matook & Family
Steve & Elaina Zabak & Family
Charles & Brittany Abdelahad & Family
Nicholas & Johanna Abdelahad
Christopher Abdelahad

George Panichas
John Matook
Nicholas Matook, Sr.
Alma Matook
Fred Hashway
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family

Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
Offered by:

John Swistak
Offered by: Mary Massiwer & Family



PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Charles Abdelahad
Charles Agaty
John Swistak
Sherry Abraham-Morrow

Steven Boisclair
Kevin Hosey
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Children



Saint Mary's Adult Education

"...to equip his people for the work of the Church, so that the body of Christ may be built up...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ!" (Ephesians 4:12,13)

Everyone is welcome each Sunday after the Divine Liturgy for Adult Education in the Parish Center. Along with our priest, Fr. Elie, our Adult Education team encourages each and every parishioner to deepen his or her personal devotion, knowledge of and passion for the Orthodox Faith.

Along with prayer and fasting, Great Lent is also one of the most teachable periods of the Church's liturgical year. As we prepare to embark upon our Lenten journey with one another *in Christ* let us learn from the depth of wisdom the Church has gifted to us, in order that we might make the words of St. Paul above a reality for our parish.

Any questions regarding Adult Education can be directed to either Fr. Elie or any member of our Adult Education team: Cory Dupont, Dr. Matt Duncan, Matthew Cooper, and Elmer Stanley.

I wish to thank everyone for your prayers, visits, cards, and well wishes following my recent surgery.

Your support and concern has been greatly appreciated. I hope to be back to church soon.

In Christ,
Charles Abosamra



Congratulations & Blessings

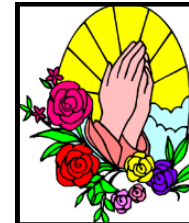
St. Mary Church offers congratulations and prayers for the blessing of the newly elected and appointed members of the Parish Council, and their officers:

Chair: Salwa Khoury (Ladies Society)
Vice Chair: Cindy Hayes (Choir)
Treasurer: Fadia Kabak
Secretary: Jamie Mitri



Elected members: Joseph Samra III, Lorice Hallal, Emad Amirhom, Scott Barnes, Cory Dupont, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazieh, Walid Nakhoul, Linda Dvelis, Elmer Stanley (Church School),

Appointed member: Hadeel Samaan



Fr. Elie will be away from February 22nd to March 4th. If you need any help conserving church/sacramental matters, please contact Salwa or Sheryl so that your needs may be attended.

Salwa (h)-(401) 434-8877 / © (401) 447-3585
Sheryl (o)- (401) 726-1202 / © (401) 617-2393

