Sunday, December 16th: Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ
Church School Pageant & Luncheon
Outreach Committee ‘Soup Kitchen’ 12:00-12:30pm

Wednesday, December 19th: 7:00 P.M.– Adult Bible Study

Sunday, December 23rd: Sunday before the Nativity (Genealogy)

Monday, December 24th: 4:00 P.M.– Matins
5:00 P.M.- Liturgy of John Chrysostom

Tuesday, December 25th: Christmas Day (church office closed)

Saturday, December 29th: Church School Parent/Teacher get-together at the Parish Center

Sunday, December 30th: Sunday after the Nativity

Monday, December 31st: 5:00 P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
8pm-1am– New Year’s Eve Pot Luck Gathering

Tuesday, January 1st: New Year’s Day (church office closed)

Upcoming events:
January 27, 2019: Annual Parish Meeting
February 16, 2019: Hafli 8pm-1am
February 10, 2019: “Souper Bowl” Luncheon hosted by the Outreach Committee

Our Creator already rules, at the beginning and the end of our lives; why not allow Him to rule our entire lives from start to end? He is the Master of birth and death; may He rule over all the time between birth and death.

~St. Nikolai Velimorvich
We welcome our Visitors & Guests: Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card.

We invite you to join us for coffee hour at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

Receiving Communion: Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

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

Prayer Line
St. Mary - Internet Prayer Line
Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at
office@stmarypawtucket.org

Antiochian Village Winter Family Camp
Antiochian Village Winter Family Camp program to be held January 18-21 (MLK Jr. weekend), 2019! It is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend a weekend growing closer to Christ together. Please visit avcamp.org to register. Please feel free to contact us at (724)-238-9565 or e-mail office@avcamp.org. (optional snow tubing)

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On December 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy and glorious Prophet Haggai; Theophania the empress; and Modestos, archbishop of Jerusalem. On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

Verses

Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,
As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.

Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.
**Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Liturgical Schedule 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 16th</td>
<td>Church School Nativity Pageant following Liturgy &amp; Luncheon hosted by The Order of St. Ignatius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 24th</td>
<td>10:00 A.M. - Royal Hours</td>
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**Note: From Christmas Day until January 6th inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting**

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**Arabic Liturgy**

Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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**Visitations**

Please contact Fr. Elie with any names of parishioners that are in need of visitation either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

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**THE EPISODE**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.  
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.  Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.  On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.  In these you once walked, when you lived in them.  But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth.  Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.  Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

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**THE GOSPEL**

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”
Sunday of the Forefathers
(Ancestors) of Christ

Tone: 4    Eοθινων: 7

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION: Tone 4
Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS: Tone 2
Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION: Tone 1
In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST’S NATIVITY: Tone 3
On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

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PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

George & Lois Kilsey & Family
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

George & Lois Kilsey
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Samra Family
Marshall Family
Lorice Hallal
Barbara Samra
Sandra Conca
Pappas Family
Julia Vale
Mary Massiwer
Charlotte & Yacoub Mitri
Sue Ayoub
George & Lois Kilsey & Family
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Offered by: A Friend

George & Lois Kilsey & Family
Audrey, Wayne & Deborah Kilsey
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Mary Massiwer
Julia Vale
Salwa Khoury
William Osborne & Family
Joe & Marlene Samra
George & Lois Kilsey & Family
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Julia Vale
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Jacob & Charlotte Mitri
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra
George & Lois Kilsey
Offered by: Linda Dvelis

Joe Samra
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Samaan Family
Offered by: Hadeel Samaan

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Camelia Koury
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Mary Masry
Camelia Koury
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Camelia Koury
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Camelia Koury
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Mary Masry
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

John Swistak
Camelia Koury
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Louise Osborne
Camelia Koury
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Camelia Koury
Offered by: Linda Dvelis