

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Monday, December 24th: 4:00 P.M.– Matins

5:00 P.M.- Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

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

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

Sunday, December 30th: Sunday after the Nativity

Monday, December 31st: 5:00P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

New Year's Eve

8pm-1am– New Year's Eve Pot Luck Gathering

2019:

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

Saturday, January 5th: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, January 6th: Ladies Meeting during Coffee Hour at the Parish Center

Sunday, January 13th: Outreach Meeting during Coffee Hour at the Parish Center

Sunday, January 20th: Outreach Committee 'Soup Kitchen' 12:00-12:30pm

Sunday, January 27th: Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 10th: "Souper Bowl" Luncheon hosted by the Outreach Committee

February 16th: Hafli 8pm-1am

Sunday, February 17th: Outreach Committee 'Soup Kitchen' 12:00-12:30pm



Keep Christ in Christmas

Antiochian Archdiocese Convention

July 21-28, 2019

St. Nicholas Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 23, 2018

**Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(The Genealogy)**

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church
“A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America”

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Email: office@stmarypawtucket.org

**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
& Metropolitan of all North America**

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

**V. Rev. Father Elie Estephan
Cell- 1-(240) 205-9079**

Sub-Deacon Emad Amirhom

Schedule of Services

<i>Sunday: Orthros (Matins)</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Church School</i>	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday: Divine Liturgy</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>

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

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.



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.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On December 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Ten Martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; and Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Coffee Hour

Today, Coffee Hour is being offered by Walid & Mirna Nakhoul in memory of Hanneh Nakhoul (11 years). Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2018

Monday, December 24th: 10:00 A.M.-Royal Hours

4:00 P.M.– Matins

5:00 P.M.– Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Monday, December 31st: 5:00P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

****Note: From Christmas Day until January 6th inclusive,
there is a general dispensation from all fasting****



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.

Visitations

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

“St. Mary's phone app coming soon!
Stay tuned for more details...”

THE EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, 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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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 was 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

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

Sunday before the Nativity

Tone: 5 Eothinon: 8

APOLYTIKION 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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY: Tone 4

*(**Joseph was amazed**)*

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY: Tone 2

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.

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 CHRISTS NATIVITY: Tone 3

*(**The original melody**)*

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.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Charlotte & Jacob Mitri
Dr. Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Julia Vale
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Jacob & Charlotte Mitri
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Salwa Khoury
Mary Massiwer
Julia Vale
Jacob Mitri
Offered by: Lorice Hallal



Ed & Sue Ayoub
Dr. Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Phil & Bette Ayoub
Joe & Marlene Samra
Nancy Muller
Cindy Hayes
Offered by: Jacob & Charlotte Mitri

Walid & Mirna Nakhoul
Jacob & Charlotte Mitri
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Louise Osbourne
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Camelia Koury
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Orthodox Vocabulary

Four Liturgies

There are four different liturgies in the Orthodox church:

- 1.) **The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** which is the most common liturgy celebrated on Sundays and weekdays.
- 2.) **The Liturgy of St. Basil the Great** which is celebrated only ten times a year, mainly during the Sundays of Lent. St. Basil's liturgy is very much like that of St. John Chrysostom with the exception of the prayers offered privately by the priest. These are much longer.
- 3.) **The Liturgy of St. James, the Brother of the Lord**, which is celebrated only once a year on the Feast Day of St. James, October 23, and only in certain places such as Jerusalem..
- 4.) **The Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts** which is used only on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent and on the first three days of Holy Week.. It is called pre-sanctified because no consecration takes place. The communion elements distributed are reserved from the Eucharist of the previous Sunday. Thus, the Pre-Sanctified is not a Eucharistic liturgy but rather an evening Vesper Service that includes the distribution of pre-consecrated elements of Holy Communion. Its purpose is to offer its more frequent opportunity during Lent to receive Holy Communion. It is used during Lent because the normal liturgy is an extremely joyful expression of the Resurrection and is considered to be inappropriate to the deeply penitential season of Lent.