

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 6th: Theophany of Christ

Ladies Meeting during Coffee Hour at the Parish Center

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

Sunday, January 20th: Stewardship Sunday

Outreach Committee 'Soup Kitchen' 12:00-12:30pm

Monday, January 21st: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting **note date change**

Sunday, January 27th: Annual Parish Meeting

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

February 16th: Valentine Hafli 8pm-1am

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

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year



ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:
<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, January 6, 2019

Theophany (Epiphany) of Christ
Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

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

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**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 January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses

*Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens, leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.
On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.*

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world." When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Epiphany 2019- Blessing of Homes

With the celebration of The Feast of Epiphany and the Great Sanctification of the Water, house blessings are starting for the new year. If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact Fr. Elie and schedule an appropriate time. While it is traditional to begin house blessings following Epiphany, homes may be blessed throughout the year. May the Blessing of the Jordan River sanctify and protect each and every home and family in our community.



Coffee Hour

Today, Coffee Hour is being offered by Ghassan & Latifeh Alarmani for the health of their family. Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



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.

Antiochian Archdiocese Convention

July 21-28, 2019

St. Nicholas Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan

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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.

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

THE EPISTLE

*Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-15; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.”



Theophany of Christ

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST: Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST: Tone 4

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.



Orthodox Vocabulary

Holy Theophany

“Epiphany” means appearance. “Theophany” means the appearance of God. After Pascha and Pentecost, Theophany is considered the third greatest feast of the Orthodox Church, greater than Christmas. It commemorates Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River by Sr. John the Baptist. St. Cyril states that the beginning of the world was water; the beginning of the Gospel was the Jordan, when the Holy Trinity was revealed to the senses. The Father spoke, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” The Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a dove hovering over the waters, and St. John the Baptist bore witness, saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Jesus took on the sin of the world and symbolically died by being immersed in the Jordan, then rose again out of the Jordan.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Andrea & Stephanie
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Elaine Swistak & Family
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Maureen Gurghigian
Elaine Wilbur
Ed Bakleh & Family
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Mary Lou Catelli
Bryan, Stephanie, Nicholas, Leila &
Emily Chowning
Robert Laffey
Joe Samra
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Steve and Patricia Kilsey & Family

Elizabeth Votruba
Offered by: Sandra Matook



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

John Swistak
Christopher Gauthier
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family

John Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Christopher Gauthier
Matilda Josephs
John Swistak
Ronald Gauthier
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Matilda & Louis Josephs
Christopher Gauthier
Offered by: Mary Lou & Bill Catelli

Mona Bakleh
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury



Blessed is the person who has consented to become the close friend of faith and of prayer: he lives in single-mindedness and makes prayer and faith stop by with him. Prayer that rises up in someone's heart serves to open up for us the door of heaven: that person stands in converse with the Divinity and gives pleasure to the Son of God. Prayer makes peace with the Lord's anger and with the vehemence of His wrath. In this way too, tears that well up in the eyes can open the door of compassion.

~St. Ephraim the Syrian



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