Sunday, February 24th: John the Baptist; Prodigal Son
Outreach Committee ‘Food Pantry’ 11:30am-noon

Saturday, March 2nd: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, March 3rd: Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

Friday, March 8th-Sunday, March 10th: Teen SOYO- YES weekend

Sunday, March 10th: Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese Fare)
Daylight Savings Time Begins

Tuesday, March 12th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, March 17th: Sunday of Orthodoxy
Outreach Committee ‘Soup Kitchen’ 11:30am-noon
5:00 P.M.- RI Clergy Fellowship Services for Great Lent (St. Mary Church, Pawtucket)

Sunday, March 24th: Second Sunday of Lent (Gregory Palamas)
Annunciation Day with Bishop JOHN presiding
Antiochian Women Fish at the Parish Center following Liturgy
Outreach Committee ‘Food Pantry’ 11:30am-noon
6:15 P.M.- RI Clergy Fellowship Services for Great Lent (Annunciation Church, Cranston)

Sunday, March 31st: Third Sunday of Lent (Holy Cross)
5:00 P.M.- RI Clergy Fellowship Services for Great Lent (St. John’s Parish, Woonsocket)

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

Sunday, April 7th: Fourth Sunday of Lent (John Climacus)
5:00 P.M.- RI Clergy Fellowship Services for Great Lent (St. Michael’s Parish, Woonsocket)

Tuesday, April 9th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, April 14th: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Mary of Egypt)
5:00 P.M.- RI Clergy Fellowship Services for Great Lent (Sts. Mary & Mena, Cranston)

Saturday, April 20th: Lazarus Saturday
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy
Church School Potluck Luncheon following Liturgy– Everyone is invited!

Sunday, April 21st: Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 28th: Great & Holy PASCHA

Saturday, May 4th: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, May 26th: Charitable Gift Coffee Hour

Sunday, February 24, 2019
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
We welcome our Visitors & Guests: Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card.

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

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

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)
On February 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the First and Second Discoveries of the Honorable Head of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Verses
From the earth, the Forerunner showeth forth his august head, Exhorting us once again to bring forth fruits that are worthy. Thou didst once baptize the throngs in springs of waters, Appearing from the earth, baptize with springs of wonders. On the twenty-fourth the Precursor’s head appeared.

When John was beheaded, Herodias—the wicked wife of Herod—ordered that his head not be buried with his body for she feared that this awesome prophet, somehow, would resurrect. Therefore, she took his head and buried it deep in the ground in a secluded and dishonorable place. Her maid servant, the good and devout Johanna, could not tolerate this. Secretly she unearthed it, translated it to Jerusalem and buried it on the Mount of Olives. After a considerable period of time, the monk Innocent took up abode there, exactly in the place where the head of the Baptist was buried. Wanting to build himself a cell for himself, he dug deep and discovered an earthen vessel and in it a head, which was mysteriously revealed to him to be the head of the Baptist. He reverenced it and reburyed it in the same spot. Later, according to God’s Providence, this miracle-working head of St. John traveled from place to place, sunk into the darkness of forgetfulness and again was rediscovered. Finally, during the reign of the pious Empress Theodora, it was translated to Constantinople. It now rests in the Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria near the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Patriarchate.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstituted in the Triodion.

Verses
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.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God’s compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.
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!"
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Tone: 6   Eothinon: 6

APOLYTIKION 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.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST : Tone 4
(**Be quick to anticipate**)
The Forerunner’s sacred head, having dawned forth from the earth, * doth send incorruption’s rays unto the faithful, whereby they find healings of their ills. * From on high he gathereth the choirs of the Angels * and on earth he summoneth the whole race of mankind, * that they with one voice might send up glory to Christ our God.

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, through intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

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.

Memorial Services
Memorial Services are being offered for the servants of God Mayez Nehme and Wissam Greigre by Ricky & Roula Greigre. Coffee hour is being offered in their memories following Liturgy at the Parish Center.

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

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:
Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
Elizabeth Votruba
Offered by: Sandra Matook
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family
Lily Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Alexander Lazieh
Mary Lou Catelli
Nancy & Mike Muller
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint
Ricky & Roula Greigre & Family
Offered by: Elias & Samar Baalbaki & Family
Lois Kilsay
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
Charlie Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
John Matook
Alma Matook
Fred Hashway
Charlie Agaty
Offered by: Sandra Matook & Family
Lillian & Leon Hattab
Adele Haddad
Charlie Agaty
Offered by: Leila & Ray Trabulsi
Kamel & Ethel Salhany
Theodore & Ida Lavin
Offered by: John Salhany
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family
Sophie Hallal
Fred Hallal
Moses Lazieh
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint
Mayez Nehme
Wissam Greigre
Offered by: Elias & Samar Baalbaki & Family