

CHURCH CALENDAR

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



SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, February 24, 2019
Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

"A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America"

249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone (401) 726-1202 Fax: (401) 729-1203
Parish Center Phone (401) 725-5150
Web site: <http://stmarypawtucket.org>
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 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 who 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 maidservant, 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 Baptizer. He revered it and reburied 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.

Orthodox Vocabulary

Economy

Economy: in contemporary life, this term refers to the avoidance of unnecessary expenses, or the art of administering a household. In the Church, the term is used on the one hand to designate God's plan for the salvation of man, *the whole divine plan from creation to the end of time*, accomplished by the redemptive incarnation of Jesus Christ, his death, and his resurrection. The work of Christ "*is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God*" (Eph 3:9). On the other hand, "economy" also refers to the totality of the decisions which the Church makes—in the face of certain problems—in the application of rules and canons. In the case of specific persons or situations, the bishop can waive strict rules. The "law" is needed, but it must be tempered by mercy; but these special cases can never themselves change the law. According to an expression by Patriarch Nicholas Mystikos (10th century), economy in this case is an "imitation of the love of God for man," and not a simple exception to the rule.

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!"

THE EPISTLE

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my voice.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:6-15)

Brethren, it is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. While we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

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.'"

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, by thine 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 Kilsey
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