

CHURCH CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

Friday, April 12th: 7:00 P.M.- Akathyst Hymn at St. Mary Church followed by Lenten Potluck at the Parish Center

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

12pm-3pm-Church School Potluck Luncheon and Retreat

Sunday, April 21st: Palm Sunday

8:50 A.M.- Orthros

10:00 A.M.- Divine Liturgy and Procession with Palms

6:30 P.M.- Bridegroom Service

Monday, April 22nd: Great and Holy Monday

7:00P.M.- Bridegroom Service

Tuesday, April 23rd : Great and Holy Tuesday

7:00 P.M.- Bridegroom Service

Wednesday, April 24th: Great and Holy Wednesday

7:00 P.M.- Sacrament of Holy Unction

Thursday, April 25th: Great and Holy Thursday

10:00 A.M.- Divine Liturgy

7:00 P.M.- Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Friday, April 26th: Great and Holy Friday

10:00 A.M.- Royal Hours

11:00 A.M.- Great Vespers of the Taking Down of the Cross

6:30 P.M.- Service of the Lamentations and Procession

Saturday, April 27th: Great and Holy Saturday

10:00 A.M.- Divine Liturgy

11:00 P.M.- Rush Service

Sunday, April 28th: GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

12:00A.M.- Divine Liturgy followed by Agape Breakfast

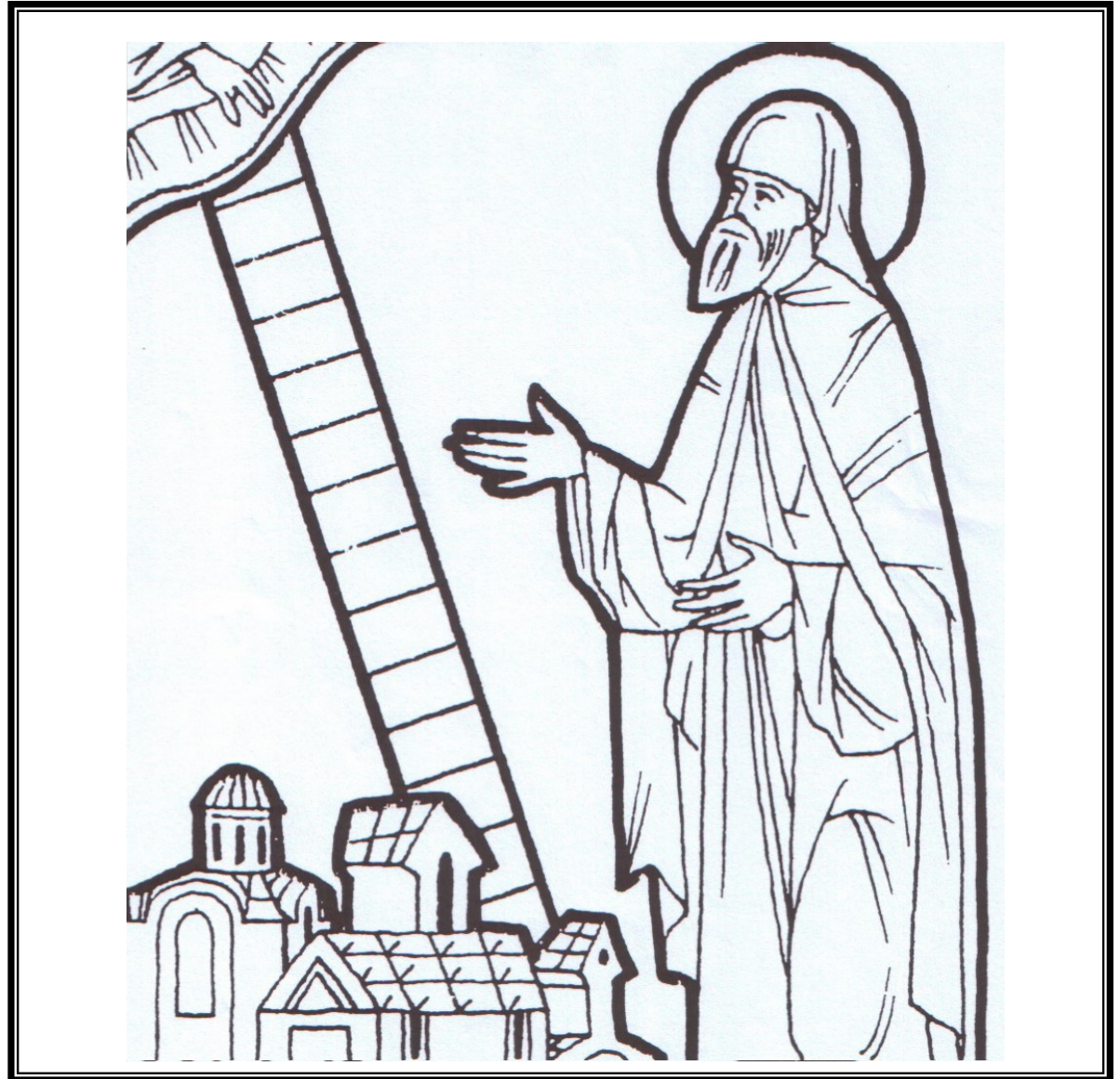
6:00 P.M.- Agape Vespers

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

Friday- Sunday, May 10th-12th: YES Weekend at the Parish Center



SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, April 7, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Lent:

The Commemoration of St. John of the Ladder

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

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

249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
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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

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

*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 April 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Kalliopios of Cilicia; Venerable George, bishop of Mitylene; and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America.

On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

Verses

*John, dead in the flesh and also living,
Liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.
Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,
He showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.*

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 7th: Fourth Sunday of Lent (John Climacus)

Ladies Society Meeting during Coffee Hour

Homemade Falafel Wraps & Zaatar Pies at the Parish Center following Liturgy
5:00 P.M.- RI Clergy Fellowship Services for Great Lent (St. Michael's Parish, Woonsocket)

Tuesday, April 9th: : 6:00 P.M.— Service of Great Compline at St. Mary Church

note time change

7:00 P.M.— Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th: 7:00 P.M.- Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Mary Church

Thursday, April 11th: 7:00 P.M.— Service of Great Compline at St. Mary (in Arabic)

Great Lent and Holy Pascha 2019 Easter Flowers (Holy Friday and Pascha)

Please make a donation to help decorate the Church for Holy Week and Easter.

For Good Health and Blessing of:

In Loving Memory of:

Your name:

Donation:

To all those who would like to contribute for the Easter Flowers; checks should be made out to St. Mary Orthodox Church and earmarked "Easter Flowers".

All donations should be received by April 21st.



THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Tone: 4 Eothinon: 1

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 ST. JOHN CLIMACUS: Tone 8

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to 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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT: Tone 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.



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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday of St. John Climacus

The Church calls our attention to St. John Climacus who realized in his own life the ideal of penitence on which we should fix our eyes during Lent. The Church gives a correct interpretation to the doctrine of St. John Climacus when it proclaims that ascetism has neither sense nor value if it is not an expression of love. During the liturgy we read from the epistle to the Hebrews (6:13-20). This tells of the patience and endurance of the patriarch Abraham, and of the final realization of the promises that God had made to him. It is impossible for God to lie: that is why, like Abraham, we have “strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.” Do we really live in this great hope? The gospel (Mark 9:16-30) describes the healing of the boy with the dumb spirit, whose father brings him to Jesus. The Lord says to the father: “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” The father cries out with tears: “Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.” We could find no better way to express both the fact of our faith’s existence, and of its weakness. But do the same burning tears fall from our eyes when we say to our Savior: “I believe, help thou mine unbelief?” Jesus takes pity on the father, He accepts such a faith, and heals the son. Later, speaking to the Master privately, the disciples ask him why they were not able to cast out such a spirit. Jesus answers: “This kind can come forth by nothing but prayer and fasting.” We must not imagine that prolonged fasting and repetitive prayer will suffice to give us a power which the disciples did not possess. Prayer and fasting in the deepest sense, mean a radical renunciation of self, a concentration of one’s soul in an attitude of trust and humility which leaves all to the mercy of God, the submission of our will to the will of the Lord, placing our whole being in the hands of the Father. He who - by the grace of God - reaches this state is able to cast out demons. Could we not take at least the first steps along this path. If we tried, we should be astonished by the successes that follow.

The Year of Grace of the Lord

Food For Hungry People Collection (F.F.H.P.)

“When you see a poor person, remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ by which He declared that it is He Himself who is fed. For through that which appears to be not Christ, yet in that person’s form, it is Christ Himself who receives and begs.”

~St. John Chrysostom

During the Holy Season of Lent, we collect alms to feed the hungry, as an act of Christian Mercy. Food for Hungry People collection boxes are available in the Vestibule & Church Hall. Take one home, fill it with coins during Lent and return it at Holy Pasha (Easter). Donations will also be accepted. To: St. Mary Orthodox Church earmarked “F.F.H.P.”

May we be generous to reach out to those who hunger and who are in need.
This “reaching out” and caring will help us to witness the resurrection.

GREAT LENT 2019

March 11th ~ April 28th (Holy Pascha)



What is Lent?

Prayer † Fasting † Acts of Mercy

Sacrament of Confessions

Great Lent is the season to “Open the Gates of Repentance”. The faithful are encouraged to enter into the sacrament of confession during the Forty-Day Fast. Confessions can be made before or after Divine Services, or by special appointment with the Priest.

Teen SOYO Invites You to join all of us for *PASCHAL BREAKFAST*

After Easter Liturgy- Sunday, April 28th
In the early morning hours at the Parish Center

Breakfast is complimentary, your donation is welcome.

Menu to follow....

Hope you will join us as we proclaim, “Christ is Risen!”



One-Year Memorial Service



A One-Year Memorial Service is being offered for the servant of God *John Haddad* and is being offered by George A. Arees and Andrew Wylie-Arees.

May God grant him peace and may his memory 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

Dr. Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Albert & Vicki Hallal
Mary Lou Catelli
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Holly Lazieh
Fr. Steven Burke
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Phil & Bette Ayoub
Karam Family
Sam & Helen Morcos
Joe & Marlene Samra
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Dr. Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Bill & Mary Lou Catelli
Alan Matook
Mackenzie & Mason Matook
Offered by: Sam Matook

Al Hallal
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Donnie & Lauren Hayes
Daniel Hayes
Sarah Hayes
Offered by Cindy Hayes

Liz Larose & Family
Mary Massiwer
Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurchigian
Mary & Bill Franklin & Family
Diane Andrew & Paul Burnier



Laura, Jim & Noelle Arrighi
John & Patricia Massiwer & Danielle
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Al & Vicki Hallal & Family
Bill & Mary Lou Catelli
Julia Vale
Alan Matook
Douglas, Darlene & Gabrielle Elkas
Judy & Russell Fortier
Judy Karneeb & Family
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

John Haddad
Offered by: George A. Arees
Andrew Wylie-Arees

William Abraham
Offered by: Hyiam Abraham

Mona Bakleh
Offered by: Nodal & Yola Karraz

Kay Matook (2 years)
George Karam
Offered by: Sam Matook

Steve Scola
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Mary Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Mary Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family

Joseph Karneeb
Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Orthodox Vocabulary

Resurrection

RESURRECTION: The reunion of the soul and body after death which will revitalize and transform the physical body into a spiritual body. Jesus Himself is the firstfruits of perfect resurrection; He will never again be subject to death. Because He conquered death by His Resurrection, all will rise again: the righteous to life with Christ, the wicked to judgment. See John 5:28, 29; 1 Cor. 15:35-55.

God has surrounded the tongue with a double wall— with the barrier of the teeth and fence of the lips— in order that it may not easily and heedlessly utter words it should not speak.

~St. John Chrysostom



Liturgical Supplies and Offerings for Lent

During Great Lent the Church offers an intensified schedule of Divine Services and Prayers. Donations are being sought from the faithful for the many extra Liturgical Supplies needed for the Holy Season. These offerings include candles, wine, oil, incense, bread, service books, music and printed materials. Please earmark your donations and offerings “Liturgical Supplies.” Along with these offerings, bring also yourselves to pray the beautiful Lenten Services.

Visitations

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

ONLINE BULLETIN

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

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Pawtucket Schedule of Services: Great Lent 2019

Meat-fare Sunday is March 3rd

Cheese -fare Sunday is March 10th

Great Lent begins on March 11th

The Service of Great Compline (Diocese) will be held on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm.

The Service of Great Compline (St. Mary Church) will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm (**except April 9th~ will be held at 6:00pm**), Thursday Evenings (in Arabic) at 7:00pm

The Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Those wishing to partake of Holy Communion ought to be fasting from 12:00 noon on.

The service of the Akathyst Hymn or Madech (The Salutations to the Virgin Mary) will be held on the first five Friday evenings of Great Lent at 7:00 pm.

**The service of Lenten Vespers will be held on the following Sunday evenings at the following churches at 5:00 pm:

~ April 7th: St. Michael's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

~ April 14th: Sts. Mary & Mena Coptic Church, Cranston, RI

***These Vespers are held and organized by the Rhode Island Orthodox Clergy Fellowship*

The Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 20th, will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday is on April 21st. Holy Week starts on Sunday evening April 21st with the Bridegroom Service at 7:00 p.m.

Great and Holy Week: Monday, April 22nd - Saturday, April 27th.

Great and Holy PASCHA (Easter) & Agape Breakfast following Liturgy is April 28th.

May the Living God, the Fountain of Wisdom, enlighten our minds, strengthen our bodies, and nourish our souls in the blessing of this holy season, the Lenten Spring.

