

## SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Sunday, December 15th:** Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ  
Church School Pageant & Luncheon  
Outreach Committee 'Soup Kitchen' 11:30-12pm

**Sunday, December 22nd:** Sunday before the Nativity (Genealogy)

**Tuesday, December 24th:** 9:00 A.M.– Royal Hours  
4:00 P.M.– Matins  
5:00 P.M.– Liturgy of John Chrysostom

**Sunday, December 29th:** Sunday after the Nativity

**Tuesday, December 31st:** 5:00 P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
New Year's Eve

### Upcoming events:

January 26th: Annual Meeting

February 9th: "Souper Bowl" Luncheon

February 22nd: Hafli \*please note date change\*

February 23rd: Teen SOYO hosting Luncheon & Bake Sale



### Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Liturgy this year will be on December 24th at 5:00 P.M.



### December is the month of The Order of St. Ignatius

During the month of December, in our Antiochian Archdiocese we commemorate the role of The Order of St. Ignatius in The Life of the Church and it's Ministry. Members of The Order will be reading the Epistle, taking the collection, and assisting in the Vestry. May God bless all the members of our parish chapter of The Order and guide them to fulfill their Ministry.



*Sunday, December 15, 2019*

*Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria &  
Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ*

## *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  
Sub-Deacon Elijah Vollendorf**

### **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](mailto: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 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; and Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga. On this day, we also commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Saint Anthia.

#### *Verses*

*Eleutherios, being by nature no servant, gave no service to error on seeing the broadswords.  
Blades on the fifteenth murdered Godlike Eleutherios and Anthia.*

Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul himself, and was baptized by him. Being early left a widow, she entrusted her only son to the education and service of the Bishop of Rome, Anacietus. Seeing how greatly Eleutherios was gifted and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him as bishop of Illyria at age 20. This Godly man kept his flock like a good shepherd, adding to their number from day to day. In the year 120, Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent a commander, Felix, with soldiers, to seize Eleutherios. Instead, Felix became a Christian, as did the Governor Choribus. They went back to the capitol where all three men were tortured and beheaded. As Anthia held the dead body of her son, she was also beheaded. Their bodies were taken to Valona in Albania, where Eleutherios glorifies the name of Christ to this day by many wonders.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

- ♦ We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

***By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.***

## **Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

### **Liturgical Schedule 2019**

**Sunday, December 15th:** Church School Nativity Pageant following Liturgy & Luncheon hosted by The Order of St. Ignatius

**Tuesday, December 24th:** 9:00 A.M.-Royal Hours

4:00 P.M.– Matins

5:00 P.M.– Liturgy of John Chrysostom

**Tuesday, 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\*\***



### **ONLINE BULLETIN**

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

### **Visitations**

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

### **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.

### **Please Note:**

- ♦ Advent Fast: November 15th-December 24th– Please abstain from meat & dairy.

## **HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIOS, BISHOP OF ILLYRIA & SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST**

**Tone: 1 / Eothinon: 4**

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: Tone 1**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

### **APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS: Tone 2**

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA: Tone 5**

*(\*\*Let us worship the Word\*\*)*

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes \* and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, \* thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; \* hence never cease to intercede \* for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, \* thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios

### **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 CHRIST'S 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.



THE EPISTLE

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.  
What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?*

**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18)**

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)**

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR  
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:**

Kevin Hashway  
Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Elizabeth Votruba  
Offered by: Sandra Matook

Fr. Isaac & Kh. Dolly Crow  
Simon Karam  
Edward Betor  
Josephine Karam  
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Fr. John Salem & Family  
Offered by: Cindy, George & Michael Antypas

Order of St. Ignatius Members  
Louise Megalli  
Dr. Nabil Khoury  
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Fred & Adele Shwaery  
Lily Massiwer  
John & Patricia Massiwer  
Sam Matook  
Elaine Wilbur  
Offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal

John Massiwer  
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Fred Hashway Jr.  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Lillian Betor  
Georges Karam  
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Clara Mae Salem  
Offered by: Cindy, George & Michael Antypas

John Swistak  
Charles Agaty  
Offered by: Elaine Swistak



Our Creator already rules, at the beginning and the end of our lives; why not allow Him to rule our entire lives from start to end? He is the Master of birth and death; may He rule over all the time between birth and death.

~St. Nikolai Velimorvich

