

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, February 2nd: Presentation (Meeting) of Christ
Second Tray for Souper Sunday (for Antiochian Women)
Ladies meeting during Coffee Hour

Sunday, February 9th: Pharisee & Publican
“Souper Bowl” Luncheon (Outreach Committee)

Tuesday, February 11th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, February 16th: The Prodigal Son
Outreach Committee ‘Soup Kitchen’ 11:30-12pm

Saturday, February 22nd: 8pm-1am Valentine Hafli

Sunday, February 23rd: Teen SOYO hosting Luncheon

Saturday, February 29th: 4pm-6pm– Church School Bowling Event (Town Hall Lanes)

Sunday, March 1st: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare)

Monday, March 2nd: Great Lent Begins

Sunday, March 8th: Orthodoxy Sunday
Daylight Savings Time

Tuesday, March 10th: 7:00 P.M.- Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, March 15th: Second Sunday of Lent (Gregory Palamas)
Outreach Committee ‘Soup Kitchen’ 11:30-12pm

Sunday, March 22nd: Sunday of the Holy Cross

Tuesday, March 24th: 7:00 P.M.-Liturgy for the Annunciation

Sunday, March 29th: Fourth Sunday of Lent (John Climacus)

Sunday, April 5th: 5th Sunday of Lent (Mary of Egypt)

Sunday, April 12th: Palm Sunday

Tuesday, April 14th: 7:00 P.M.- Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, April 19th: Great & Holy PASCHA
Outreach Committee ‘Soup Kitchen’ 11:30-12pm

Sunday, April 26th: Sunday of St. Thomas



Visitations

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

Sunday, February 2, 2020
Presentation 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

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 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

Verses

*The hands of righteous Simeon, as they bear Thee, depict,
O my Christ, the bosom of Thy Father.
On the second, Simeon received Christ in the Temple.*

The Greek word for the feast is "Hypapante" [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means "Encounter" or "Meeting." However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus' first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. "Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory" (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

Unto the very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.



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.

Congratulations & Blessings

St. Mary Church offers congratulations and prayers for the blessing of the newly elected and appointed members of the Parish Council, and their officers:

President: Salwa Khoury
Vice-President: Ghassan Alarmani
Treasurer: Walid Nakhoul
Secretary: Cindy Hayes



Elected members: Geoff Ayoub, Scott Barnes, Matthew Duncan, Jiana Diakh, Fadia Kabak, Matt Kelley, Yacoub (Jacob) Mitri, Edward Ayoub, Fred Slemon, Nancy Muller, Maria Saad

Appointed member: Ghassan Alarmani

May God bless them, strengthen and guide them, that together with their Pastor, Fr. Elie, and with the Arch-Pastoral guidance of Bishop JOHN, they may in unity and concord under take their Ministry to the Glory of God.

St. Mary Church would also like to thank outgoing member of the Parish Council, George Kilsey for his hard work and dedication throughout his term.



Orthodox Vocabulary

Heaven

Heaven: The Christian concept of heaven is that of the dwelling place of God and the angels; ultimately, also, of all the righteous who will inherit it as promised by Christ. In the Old Testament as well as in the Greek language, the term heaven-heavens signifies the visible sky as well as the abode of God. This abode is believed to be beyond the physical heavens. And though there are many instances in which 'God comes down from heaven', there are also instances in the Old Testament in which it is stated that 'the heaven and heavens of heavens cannot contain God', I Kings 8:27. In the apostolic Church the Hellenistic conception of a series of heavens was accepted. There, it was believed, angelic and demonic powers were existing over whom Christ reigns with the Father 'far above all heavens' (Eph. 4:10). And contrary to the Hebrew belief that only exceptional human beings were raised to heaven for the faithful to die was to be with Christ in heaven even before the general resurrection. Virtually all Christians believe that heaven, irrespective of how it is conceived by various peoples and particular regions, constitutes essentially the fulfillment of what is believed by the to be the chief end of man, that is, to serve God and live in His presence forever.

Presentation of Christ

Tone: 8 / Eothinon: 11

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST: Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST: Tone 1

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.



ONLINE BULLETIN

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

THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, “Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel.” And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

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. Elie & Kh. Rouba Estephan & Family
Fr. Isaac & Kh Dolly Crow
Walid & Mirna Nakhoul
Tawfik & Olga Hawwa
George & Barbara Moussalli
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Edward Bakleh & Family
To all our Families & Friends
Offered by: Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki

Geoffrey Ayoub
Michael Ayoub
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Philip G. Ayoub

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

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

Hannah Nakhoul
Mona Bakleh
Steve Kilsey
To all our Deceased Families & Friends
Offered by: Nabil & Gloria Baalbaki

Naseem Ayoub
Offered by: Geoffrey Ayoub

Naseem & Ann Ayoub
Offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub
Lisa Ayoub Parent

Naseem & Ann Ayoub
Offered by: Susan Warzycha & Family

Nicholas Tartaglione
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Naseem & Ann Ayuob
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Philip G. Ayoub



Coffee Hour

Today, Coffee Hour is being offered by Emile Sarkis & Family for the Health of their Family. Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

