

**THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)**

On February 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Basil the Confessor, companion of Prokopios of Decapolis; Hieromartyr Proterios, archbishop of Alexandria; Righteous Kyra and Marana of Beroea in Syria; Apostles Nymphas and Euvoulos; and New-martyr Kyran-na of Thessalonica.

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**

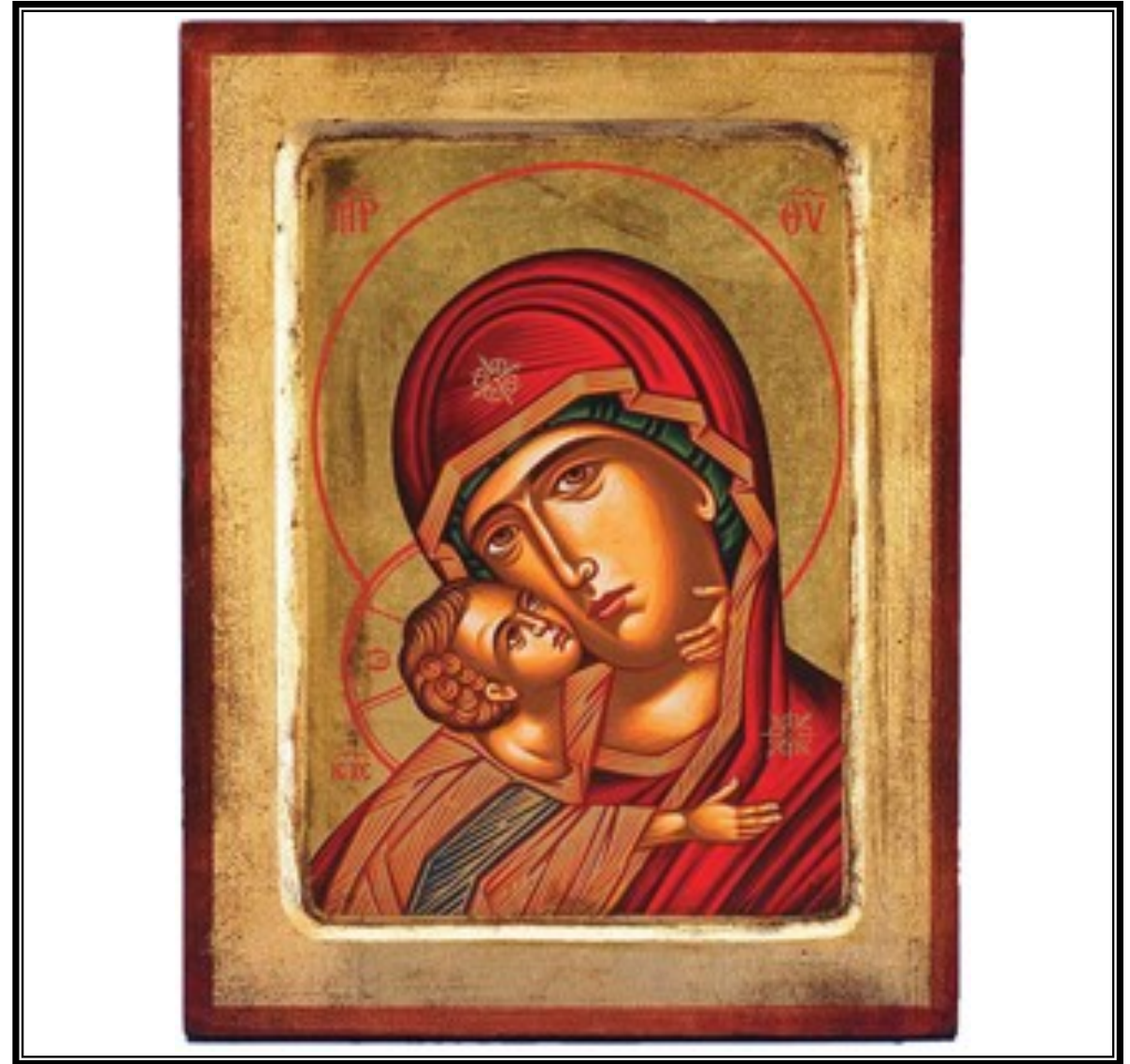
*O thou who art like me, a prodigal, come  
forward with confidence and tranquility;  
For unto all has been opened the door of Divine Mercy.*

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.*



*Sunday, February 28, 2021  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son*



***Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church***  
***"A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America"***

Church Office hours: Monday– Friday 9am-1pm  
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](mailto: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**  
**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.

**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.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Janice Hallal  
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Al Hallal  
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Albert Hallal  
Offered by: Rhonda, Keith & Sharyn Hallal  
& Family

Georges Karam  
Elaine Swistak  
Julia Enright  
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Charles Agaty  
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Charles Agaty  
Offered by: Andrea & Stephanie Swistak



Azmy Y. Morcos (first year memorial)  
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Charles Agaty  
Alma Matook  
Nicholas Matook, Sr.  
John Matook  
Fred Hashway  
Offered by: Sandra Matook & Family

Charles Agaty  
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Fred Hashway  
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad  
Elaine Agaty  
Sandra Matook

George Kilsey (35th Anniversary)  
Offered by: Joyce Kilsey



**ONLINE BULLETIN**

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



Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for the many prayers, calls and cards that we received following the falling asleep of our beloved mother, Antwanet Kasatli Baalbaki.

~Nabil Baalbaki,  
~Eli Baalbaki  
~Rania Salhany

*~Thank you~*

## THE EPISTLE

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)**

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

## 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: 5 Eothinon: 5**

### **RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION: Tone 5**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### **TROPARION OF THE DORMITION: Tone 1**

In giving birth, Thou didst keep Thy virginity and in thy repose, Thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos, for Thou art the mother of life, and Thou didst pass over into life; and through thy intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

### **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.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, February 28th:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Sunday, March 7th:** Sunday of Last Judgment (Meat Fare)

1 Year Memorial Service for Janice Hallal

**Sunday, March 14th:** Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)

**Monday, March 15th:** Great Lent Begins

**Sunday, March 21st:** Sunday of Orthodoxy

**Sunday, March 28th:** Second Sunday of Lent (Gregory Palamas)

*Palm Sunday– April 25th  
PASCHA– May 2nd*





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

Kevin Hashway  
Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur



Victoria Hallal  
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Josephine Karam  
Mother Xenia Minihan  
Ed Betor  
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Ron Hallal  
Offered by: Rhonda Hallal, Bob Lienert, Hanna &  
Emma, Sharyn Hallal, Keith & Maria Hallal, Isabel  
& Matthew

Elaine Agaty  
Offered by: Andrea & Stephanie Swistak

Danielle Morcos Nasr  
Soheir, Tamer, Rania, Nadine & Rowan Morcos  
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Elaine Agaty  
Offered by: Sandra Matook & Family

Elaine Agaty  
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Elaine Wilbur  
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad  
Elaine Agaty  
Sandra Matook

Fr. Elie, Kh. Rouba Estephan & Family  
Mother Xenia Minihan  
Laurice Nawar  
All St. Mary's Parishioners  
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller



Special prayers of good health & blessing are  
being offered for Victoria Muller on the occasion  
of her 18th Birthday.

Offered by: Michael, Nancy & Jacob Muller



*Happy  
Birthday !*

The great work of God, the creation of man, and then after his fall, his restoration by redemption, ought to be well known to every Christian. Without this knowledge one cannot know and fulfill the obligations of a Christian; but the knowledge of this great work of God cannot be acquired with distraction.

~St. Ignatious Brianchaninov



**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.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PHOTO ALBUM?**

A family photo album with great sentimental value is missing from our Sunday School. We are asking anyone who remembers seeing it to let us know. The album is approximately 9" by 9", creme color and includes pictures of Three Adult Baptisms at our Church. A family loaned the album to Sunday School for a unit on Baptism. It was last seen in one of the classrooms prior to the "stay at home" order last March. If you recall seeing it or have any other information that may be helpful, please contact Sheryl at the office ([401-726-1202](tel:401-726-1202)), Matt Duncan (714-686-0541) or Maureen Gurghigian (401-486-3711). **Dear Parents: as you read this bulletin, please ask your children if they have seen this photo album. Thank you very much.**



**Arabic Educational Foundation**

Arabic Educational Foundation of RI is now accepting college scholarship applications.

**High school seniors and current undergraduates of Arabic decent who are or will be enrolled as full-time students at an accredited college for the 2021-2022 academic year are encouraged to apply. The deadline for all applications is June 1, 2021.**

Eligibility information and applications can be found on our website: [www.aef-ri.org](http://www.aef-ri.org) or on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/aefrhodeisland> or contact AEF board member: Fadia Khoury Kabak @ 401-692-8273