

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 12th: Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Choir Appreciation Sunday

Bishop JOHN visit

Tuesday, December 14th: 7:00pm– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, December 19th: Sunday before the Nativity (Genealogy)

Sunday School Pageant & Luncheon

One Year Memorial Service for Sue Ayoub

Friday, December 24th: 10:00 A.M.– Royal Hours

4:00 P.M.-Matins

5:00 P.M.- Christmas Eve Liturgy

Sunday, December 26th: Sunday After the Nativity

One Year Memorial for Elaine Swistak

Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Choir in memory of All Departed

St. Mary Church Choir Members

Friday, December 31st: 5:00 P.M.– New Years Eve Liturgy



Keep Christ in Christmas

2022

Sunday, January 2nd: Sunday before Theophany (Epiphany)

Sunday, January 9th: Sunday after Theophany (Epiphany)

One Year Memorial Service for Elias Kandalaf

Tuesday, January 11th: 7:00pm– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 16th: Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Memorial Service for Michelle Kilsey (11 years)

Memorial Service for George (58 years) & Antwanet (Kasatli Baalbaki (1 year)

Sunday, January 23rd: Thirty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, January 30th: General Assembly Meeting at the Parish Center

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 12, 2021

Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ

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

**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.

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.

Coffee Hour Committee: Latifa Alarmani- (781)414-6281
(Please contact her to sponsor a coffee hour.)

The Parish Council has decided to implement a new system to organize our coffee hours. There are two ways to handle this: when a couple, family, or an individual decides to sponsor the coffee hour, you may do it on your own which entails purchasing the pastry & juice, making the coffee, setting up the table, and cleaning up. The second option is to donate \$200 to the church so that a Parish Council member will handle the coffee hour on your behalf.



Coffee Hour Sponsorships

Date:

Sponsored by:

Sponsored for:

December 12, 2021: St. Mary Church
December 19, 2021: St. Mary Church

Choir Appreciation
Sunday School Pageant & Luncheon
Memory of Sue Ayoub (1 year)
All of the Departed Members of
St. Mary Choir

December 26, 2021: St. Mary Church Choir

January 2, 2022: Ricky, Roula, Randy & Rani Greigre Health of Family
January 9, 2022: Russell & John Kandalaft Memory of Elias Kandalaft (1 year)
January 16, 2022: Fred Kilsey & Family Michelle Kilsey (11 years)

January 23, 2022: available for sponsorship

January 30, 2022: not available

February 6th: available for sponsorship

February 13th: not available

February 20th: available for sponsorship

February 27th: St. Mary Church

Soup Kitchen Luncheon (Outreach)

Luncheon for Antiochian Women Project

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.

Bulletin Submissions

Please help us provide a quality weekly bulletin by submitting all prayer requests and announcements to the church office by Noon on Wednesdays. Any requests received after this time will be in the following week's bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.



St. Mary Church School & Teen SOYO News

Attention All Parents: Please bring your children to the Liturgy before Church School. Church School starts every Sunday following communion (Approx. 11:15am).

✱ **Sunday, December 19th:** Sunday School Pageant & Luncheon

-Gifts for Children's Wishes need to be dropped off by TODAY-Sunday, December 12. Please bring them unwrapped. If you are unable to buy a gift, we appreciate any donations and are happy to purchase for you. The Sunday School children appreciate your help as we give to others this year! Please contact Matt Duncan with any questions.



Bulletins are available on our website. Other important information, flyers, recipes, etc. can also be found on our website at www.stmarypawtucket.org

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2021

Friday, December 24th: 10:00 A.M.– Royal Hours

4:00 P.M.– Matins

5:00 P.M.-Christmas Eve Liturgy

Saturday, December 25th: no services

Friday, December 31st: 5:00 P.M.– New Years Eve Liturgy



****Note: From Christmas Day until January 6th inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting****

Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ

Tone: 8 Eothinon: 3

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: TONE 8

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

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. SPYRIDON: TONE 1

Thou wast shown forth as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father. Wherefore, thou didst speak unto one dead in the grave, and didst change a serpent to gold. And while chanting thy holy prayers, thou hadst Angels serving with thee, O most sacred one. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

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**) (CHANT) (CHORAL) 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

The saints shall boast in glory. Sing unto the Lord a new song.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth—proving what is acceptable to the Lord; and have no communion with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them; for it is a shame even to speak of the things which they do in secret. But all things when they are exposed are made manifest by the light, for everything that is made manifest is light. Therefore, he says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon thee.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your heart to the Lord.

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.”



Orthodox Vocabulary

Eden

Eternity that which is outside time. In fact, any notion of time is linked to that of creation. Time is something created. Eternity belongs to God alone, it is uncreated.

Those things we don't have the strength to perform on our own, we can accomplish easily through persevering prayer. For we have the duty to pray without ceasing. Those in pain and those spared from pain must pray. So must those in danger and those in prosperity. For those who have ease and wealth must pray that these things may never change. Those in pain and in danger must pray that some favorable change will come to them, so that they may move into a comfortable, calm state.

~ Saint John Chrysostom



Orthodox Vocabulary

Iconostasis

Screen of ICONS separating the ALTAR from the NAOS in Byzantine rite churches. The haikal screen dividing the sanctuary or haikal from the nave of a Coptic church may be of carved wood or may take the form of an iconostasis. In Byzantine churches, larger screens usually have three doors: a northern leading to the PROTHESIS, a southern to the DIAKONIKON, and the central holy doors, the gates leading into the sanctuary. Small chapels, as in Athonite monasteries, often have only a central and a north door. Small, low screens may have just the central doors, or a hanging curtain. (ROYAL DOORS). Icons were being hung on the sanctuary barrier by the sixth century and on the VLADIMIR Dormition cathedral of 1408 Andrei RUBLEV and Daniil Cherny added a tier of prophets. In the seventeenth century another two rows were added. Only ordained clergy may use the holy doors. In the case of a Byzantine rite priest he must be wearing at least EPITRACHELION and PHELONION, a deacon the STICHARION and ORARION. Coptic Orthodox clergy entering the haikal remove their shoes before doing so. The word iconostasis has a second use to describe the domestic icon stand used in many private houses.

2021

Parish Christmas Poinsettia Fund

*In anticipation of Christmas, we present our very important
"Poinsettia Fund" Project*

Please accept my donation of \$ _____
to be used in decorating the Church for Christmas.
This donation is made with the following intentions.



For the Good Health and Blessing of:

In Loving Memory of:

From: _____

Please remember to return the form to the Parish Office by TODAY.

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
Ed Betor
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Faraj Freij
Maria Eugenia Gonzalo
Sub-deacon Emad Amirhom & Family
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Saliba, Robin, Bianca, Michelle Saliba
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Tony and Fadia Kabak
Nabil and Salwa Khoury
Mack and Louise Megalli
Mother Xenia Minihan
Ronald Muller
Elmer and Cheryl Stanley and Family
Madison Tucker
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller

Emad Amirhom
Bette & Philip Ayoub
Leila & Ray Trabulsi
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Emad Amirhom & Family
Bette Ayoub
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Bette Ayoub
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
Sandra Matook

Andrea & Stephanie
Bette Ayoub
Bob Laffey
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Lorice Hallal
Salwa Khoury
Robert Laffey
Offered by: Victoria Hallal

Andrea & Stephanie
Eddie & Lisa
Offered by: Nancy Penta & Family



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Janice Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Fred Hashway
Albert Hallal
William Salhany
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Al Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

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

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

Violette Riad Habib
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Violette Riad Habib
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Violette Riad Habib
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Al Hallal
Robert Gorab
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Stephanie & Andrea Swistak

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
Sandra Matook

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Elaine Swistak
Suzanne Ayoub
Offered by: Nancy Penta & Family



THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

Ye he hath not ceased from working still more wonders. On the twelfth, Spyridon departed this life. Spyridon was of simple farming stock, and remained simple and humble to the end of his days. He married young and had children, but, when his wife died, he devoted himself entirely to the service of God. When he became Bishop of Trimythous, Spyridon did not change his simple style of life, taking charge of his cattle himself and tilling his own land. He consumed very little of his own produce, giving the greater part to the poor. Spyridon performed great wonders by God's power, making rain fall in a drought, stopping the course of a river, raising several of the dead, healing the Emperor Constans of a grave sickness, seeing and hearing angels, foreseeing future events and penetrating the secrets of the human heart. Spyridon was present at the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, and, by his simple and clear expositions of the Faith, as well as by convincing miracles, brought back many heretics to Orthodoxy. He entered into rest in the Lord in 348, and his wonderworking relics now lie on the island of Corfu. On this day, we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. Verses Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime, As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah. Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. 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.



Cemetery Plots

If you wish to purchase a cemetery plot at Walnut Hill Cemetery, the cost is \$1,000. Please contact Ed Ayoub for more information or to purchase a plot.

CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

TODAY- December 12th, the second Sunday of the month, our Antiochian Archdiocese is celebrating Choir/Chanter Appreciation Sunday. We appreciate our choir and chanters many other times throughout the year, for all the liturgical services they beautify and make possible with their singing and chanting. That Sunday we will especially acknowledge them particularly throughout the Archdiocese, and thank them for their ministry in the parish. Coffee Hour is offered after Liturgy at the Parish Center in their honor. All are welcome to attend.



Luncheon for the Antiochian Women Project & Lorda's Tuition

Sunday February 26th immediately following Liturgy.

The menu will include:

Kibbe, Grape leaves, Lubia, Rice and Salad

\$15.00 for adults,

\$5.00 children 10 under

Under 5 free.

**thanks
for the
support**

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>