

CHURCH CALENDAR

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



Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

2022

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

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

One Year Memorial Service for Elias Kandalaft

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

Sunday, February 6th: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Tuesday, February 8th: 7:00pm– Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, February 12th: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

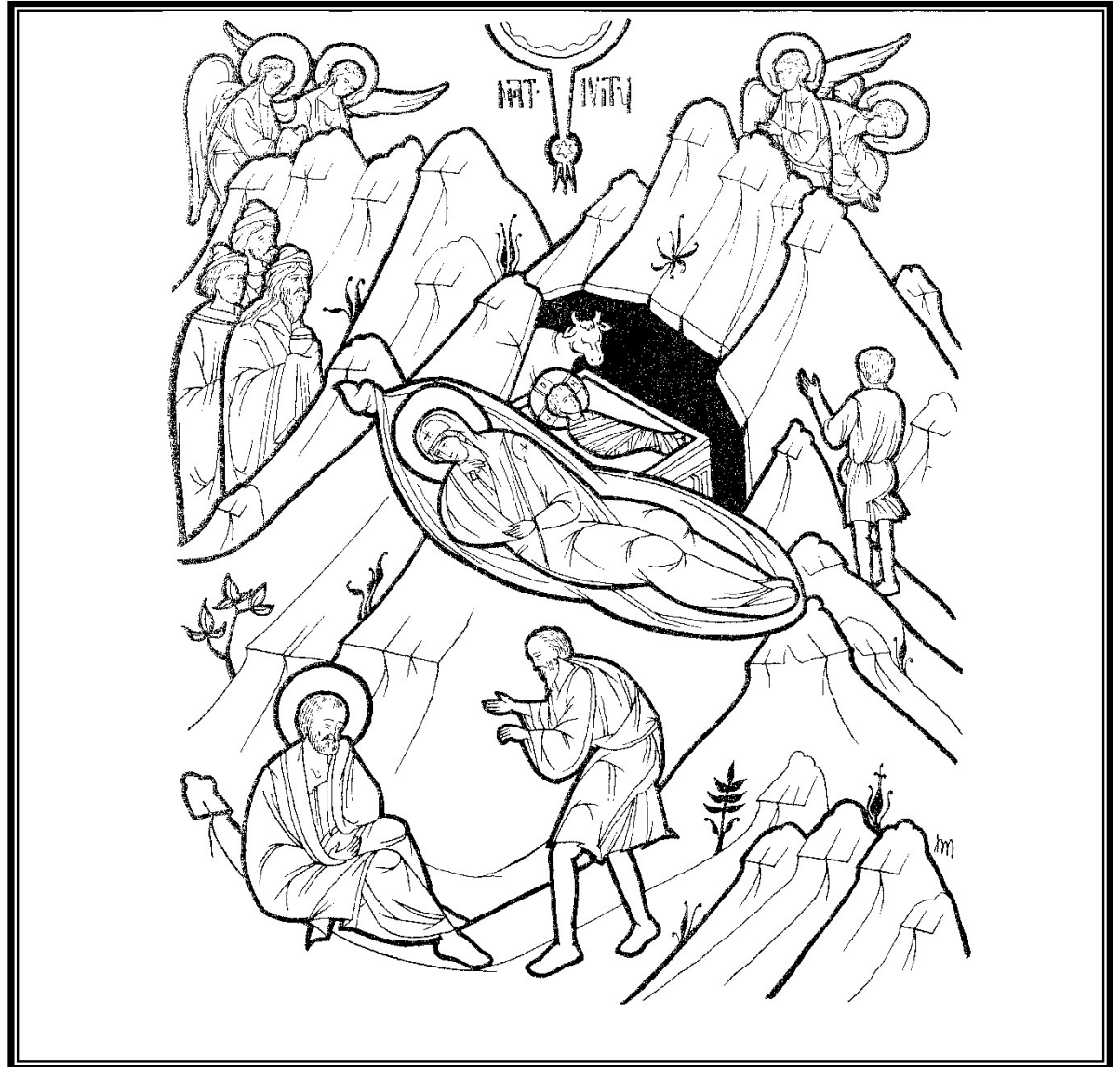
Valentines Hafleh

Sunday, February 13th: 33rd Sunday After Pentecost

Soup Kitchen Luncheon (Outreach)

Sunday, February 20th: Pharisee & Publican

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 26, 2021

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

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 26, 2021:	St. Mary Church Choir	All of the Departed Members of St. Mary 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:	The Parish Council	Health of the newly Chrismated Catechumens
January 30, 2022:	not available	General Assembly Meeting
February 6th:	available for sponsorship	
February 13th:	not available	Soup Kitchen Luncheon (Outreach)
February 20th:	available for sponsorship	
February 27th:	St. Mary Church	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.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On December 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the first day of the After-feast of the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate Euthymios the Confessor, bishop of Sardis; and Hieromartyr Constantios the Russian of the Great Lavra on Athos. On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos. Verses With words as blameless gifts, I welcome the blameless Mother, Who not knowing the bed of man, now lieth in child-bed. On the twenty-sixth I sing a song to the Most Pure in child-bed. This Synaxis, or our coming together, to glorify the Theotokos is celebrated especially in her honor because she gave birth supernaturally to the Son and Word of God, and thus became the instrument of the salvation of mankind. This feast of Mary is one of the earliest in Orthodox Christian tradition. Verses on the Most Holy Theotokos' Flight into Egypt He that smote thee of old, cometh to thee, O Egypt; Tremble before Him, and mind Him as God Almighty. God saw the wicked King Herod's plan to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel commanded him to take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Joseph did this. They first travelled to Nazareth (Lk. 2:39), where Joseph set his household affairs in order and then, taking his son James with them, went off to Egypt (Matt. 2:14). And so the words of the prophet: "The Lord, riding upon a swift cloud, shall come into Egypt" (Is. 19:1), were fulfilled. The family lived in Egypt for several years, and then returned to Palestine in response to a command by an angel of God. And so a second prophecy was fulfilled: "Out of Egypt have I called My Son" (Hosea 11:1). On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the first bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. Verses I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen. Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word, O blest James. What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The 23 Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Tone: 2 Eothinon: 5

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: TONE 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST: TONE 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY: TONE 2

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou 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 OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY: TONE 3

****The original melody****) (CHANT) (CHORAL) On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.



THE EPISTLE

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Please remember that in our Orthodox Christian Tradition, the Great Feast of the Nativity is a 12 day observance that is linked directly to the Great Feast of Theophany, The Baptism of Christ, held on January 6th.

During the 12 days of Christmas there is no fasting, not even on Wednesday and Fridays. This is the true "Time of the Feast", when visitations and family celebrations should occur.

The season of the Feast ends on January 6, with the great blessing of the Waters of Epiphany.



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**

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2021

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****



St. Mary Church School & Teen SOYO News

There will be no Sunday School each of the next two Sundays as we take our Winter Break. We look forward to seeing you on Jan. 9, 2022, for a new semester with a few fun additions to our Sunday School curriculum.

Visitations

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

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.

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



One-Year Memorial Service



A One-Year Memorial Service is being offered for the servant of God *Elaine Swistak* and is being offered by her loving daughters Andrea & Stephanie.

May God grant her peace and may her memory be eternal

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

Nabil Khoury
Maria Eugenia Gonzalo
Faraj Freij
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
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Madison Tucker
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller

Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Tom Trabulsi
David Trabulsi & Family
Stephanie & Andrea Swistak
Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Ron Hallal & Family
Vickie Hallal & Family
Elaine Gauthier & Family
Susan Harvey
Julia Harvey (congratulations in passing the Bar)
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Phil G. Ayoub

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

Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Susan Warzycha & Family

Donnie, Lauren, Allison, Dan, Liz & Sarah
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Mary Massiwer
John & Patricia Massiwer
Maureen, Paul & Mary Gurghigian
Mary & Bill Franklin
Billy & Britt, Jon & Meagan
Diane Andrew & Paul Burnier
Laura, Jim & Noelle Arrighi
Lil Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Holly, Jordan & Alexander Lazieh & Bob Dessaint
Cheryl, Anthony, Emma and Evan Nassaney
Nancy, Demitrios, Steven and Nicholas Sterpis
Mitchell Massiwer & Family
Linda Dvelis & Family
Fred & Adele Shwaery
Sammy Hawks
Fr Elie, Kh Ruba, Tala, Chadi and Bassam
Nora Matok & Family
William Osborn & Family
Alan Matook
Florence & Phil Spenard & Family
Sandra Matook & Family
Linda Matook & Family
Nick & Elaine Matook & Family
Darlene & Doug Elkas & Family
Judy & Russell Fortier & Family
Richard & Susan McNeil & Family
Janice Cuzzo & Family
Donna & Dana Schock & Family
Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Stephanie & Andrea Swistak
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

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

Eddie Ayoub
Lisa Parent
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Barbara Samra

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

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Andrea & Stephanie Swistak

Elaine Swistak
John Swistak
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Patricia & Melissa Kilsey

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Elaine Swistak
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Nora Matook

Elaine Swistak
Steve Kilsey
Sue Ayoub
Janice Hallal
Chris Gauthier
Yola
All Dearly Departed Members of the Choir
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Farid & Nabila Hawwa
Offered by: Joseph & Cheryl Tong

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
Sandra Matook

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Phil G. Ayoub

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Susan Warzycha & Family

Memory of all our departed Choir members
Offered by: St. Mary Liturgical Choir

Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Departed members of the Choir
Sarah, George, Emile, Abraham Massiwer
Sophie, Fred & Paula Hallal
Moses Lazieh
Louis Hashway
David Massiwer
Tooffic, Elizabeth, John, Helen, George, Alma,
Nicholas, Jane, Olga, Florence, Leon Matook
Tom Matook
George T Matook
Scott Bleasdale
John Matook
Elaine & John Swistak
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Sue Ayoub
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Barbara Samra

Orthodox Vocabulary

Myrrh

Myrrh: a fragrant resin obtained from a tree in Arabia, it is used to make a per-
fume commonly used to anoint the dead. The magi brought gold, incense, and
myrrh when they came to worship the Messiah in Bethlehem. The liturgical texts
interprets this gift as a symbol of the passion of the Lord.



Love of the Good

“We place our hopes upon the things which are beyond, and in preparation for life eter-
nal we do all things that we do. Accordingly, whatever helps us towards this we say
that we must love and follow after with all our might, but those things which have no
bearing upon it, they should be held as naught.”

~*St. Basil The Great*



Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

Coffee Hour

Today, Coffee Hour is being offered by St. Mary Choir in memory of
All Departed St. Mary Choir Members. Coffee Hour will be
held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

