Sunday, May 8th: Sunday of Myrrh-bearers  
Mother’s Day
Tuesday, May 10th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting
Sunday, May 15th: Sunday of the Paralytic
Sunday, May 22nd: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
Sunday, May 29th: Sunday of the Blind Man  
Memorial Service for Charitable Gift Participants
Monday, May 30th: Memorial Day  
9:00 A.M.- Prayers at Walnut Hill Cemetery
Saturday, June 4th: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy
Sunday, June 5th: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
Sunday, June 12th: Holy Pentecost  
Last day of Church School & Luncheon
Tuesday, June 14th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting
Sunday, June 19th: Sunday of All Saints  
Father’s Day
Sunday, June 26th: Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Luncheon in observance of Father’s Day offered by The Ladies Society
Saturday, July 2nd: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy
Sunday, July3rd: Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 10th: Joseph of Damascus; Fourth Sunday of Matthew
Sunday, July17th: Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council  
12pm-6pm-Family Day at Buttonwoods
Sunday, July24th: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Family Day– Rain date
Sunday, July 31st: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Upcoming events:
October 2nd: Kick-Off Luncheon for Bazaar
Annual Bazaar
November 4th, 5th & 6th

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!
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

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:
May 8th: No Coffee Hour Today
May 15th: Their Loving Family Memory of Fred, Sophie and Paula Hallal
May 22nd: Adolina & Alex Najjar & Family Rosette Wadih Alhaddad (1 year)
May 29th: Charitable Gift Program Participants
June 5th: Nabil & Salwa Khoury Health of Family
June 12th: St. Mary Church Last Day of Church School & Luncheon
June 19th: Karwashan Family Health of Family
June 26th: Ladies Society Father’s Day Luncheon
July 3rd: available for sponsorship
July 10th: available for sponsorship
July 17th: not available Family Day
July 24th: not available Family Day (rain date)
July 31st: Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos Health of Elias Morcos (son)
August 7th: St. Mary Church Falafel Sale
August 14th: Karwashan Family Health of Elias, Nicole & Olivia (happy birthday) Karwashan Feast Day Weekend Aug. 19th-21st
August 21st: not available
August 28th: Will Small Memory of deceased members of Will Small’s family available for sponsorship
September 4th: available for sponsorship
September 11th: St. Mary Church Welcome back Luncheon for Church School
September 18th: available for sponsorship
September 25th: Philip & Bette Ayoub Health of Ayoub & David Family
October 2nd: St. Mary Church Kick-Off Luncheon for Bazaar
October 9th: His Loving Family: Memory of William Salhany (1 year)
Barbara and George Moussalli
Ken and Rania Salhany
Bill and Susan Salhany

October 16th: available for sponsorship
October 23rd: available for sponsorship
**Orthodox Vocabulary**

**Altar Table**

The entire church building is centered around the altar table. The altar table does not merely symbolize the table of the last supper. It is the symbolic and mystical presence of the heavenly throne and table of the Kingdom of God. The Book of the Gospels is perpetually enthroned on the altar table. It is on the table that we offer the “bloodless sacrifice” of Christ to the Father. And from the altar table we receive the Bread of Life, the Body and Blood of the Lord’s Passover Supper. This table is the “table of God’s Kingdom.” (Luke 28:30). In Orthodox Tradition the altar table is often carved wood or stone. It is usually vested. It should always be of proportional dimensions, often a perfect cube, and is always free-standing so that it may be encircled. On the altar table one always finds the antimension. This is the cloth depicting Christ in the tomb which contains the signature of the bishop and is the permission for the local community to gather as the Church. “antimension” means literally “instead of the table.” Since the bishop is the proper pastor of the Church, the antimension is used instead of the bishop’s own table which is in his own church building, the place where the bishop has his chair (cathedra). The antimension usually contains a relic of a saint which shows that the Church is built on the blood of the martyrs and the lives of God’s holy people. This custom comes from the early Church practice of gathering and celebrating the eucharist on the graves of those who have lived and died for the Christian faith. Usually, a relic of a saint is embedded in the altar table itself as well. Also on the altar table there is a tabernacle, often in the shape of a church building, which is a repository for the gifts of holy communion that are reserved for the sick and the dying.

~Rev. Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith.*

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**Visitations**

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

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**CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

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**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

**Tone 2 / Eothinon 4**

**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 JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA:** *Tone 2*

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting to the world Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN:** *Tone 2*

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting to the world Great Mercy.

**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.

**THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA:** *TONE 8*

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.
THE EPISTLE

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (1:1-7)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life—
the Life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the Eternal Life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is
with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a long white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you.” And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.
THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On May 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Venerable Arsenios the Great, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the Holy Dust, that is, the Manna, that issued from the grave of the holy and glorious Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, the Virgin and Beloved Bosom Friend of Christ. Verses Mankind from the manna of thy grave receiveth not food, but health, O initiate of Jesus. On the eighth they bedeck Thunderson’s grave with roses. When St. John was 105 years old, he took seven of his disciples, went outside the city of Ephesus and told the disciples to dig a grave in the form of a cross. Then the old man went down into the grave, from where his soul departed this life. When the faithful later opened St. John’s grave, they did not find the body in it. And on May 8 each year a dust arose from the grave, from which those suffering from many diseases were healed. On this day, the third Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the feast of the holy Myrrh-bearing women. And we also make commemoration of Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple, and Nicodemus, who was a disciple by night. Verses The women disciples bring myrrh unto Christ; And I bring a hymn as it were myrrh unto them. The women went to Christ’s tomb on Holy Pascha to anoint His body, only to discover it empty. We know the names of only eight of these women: Mary the Theotokos, the “mother” of James and Joses, who were the sons of Joseph the Betrothed from his previous marriage (Matt. 27:56 and Mark 15:40); Mary Magdalene; Mary, the wife of Cleopas; Joanna the wife of Chuza; Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee; Susanna; and Mary and Martha, the sisters 23 of Lazarus. Joseph was a rich and noble man, and a member of the Privy Council of Jerusalem. He dared to ask Pilate for the undefiled body of our Savior, which he took and buried in his own new tomb. Accompanying Joseph to the sepulcher was Nicodemus, a Jerusalemite who was one of the leaders of the Pharisees. Nicodemus brought 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes to scent and embalm the body of Christ. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

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Save the Date

Falafel Sale following Liturgy
Sunday, August 7th

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION, FLYERS, RECIPES, ETC. CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.STMARYPAWTUCKET.ORG
To qualify for consideration, the applicant must be a graduating high school senior who is a member of any of the Antiochian Orthodox Churches in the Diocese of Worcester and New England, and who has been accepted by an institution of higher learning entering as a freshman. In awarding the scholarships, consideration is given to the following factors: participation in church, church-related activities, extracurricular & civic activities, academic record & financial need. If you are interested in applying, please contact the church office at office@stmarypawtucket.org and we will email you an application.

Because of the Resurrection of Christ, because of His victory over death, men have become, continue to become, and will continue becoming Christians. The entire history of Christianity is nothing other than the history of a unique miracle, namely, the Resurrection of Christ, which is unbrokenly threaded through the hearts of Christians from one day to the next, from year to year, across the centuries, until the dreaded judgment.

~St. Justin Popovich

**Orthodox Vocabulary**

**Doctrine of Immortality**

In pre-Christian times, the Greeks, especially, reasoned out a doctrine of immortality. They showed an essential connection of the soul with the principles governing reasoning and they took both to be eternal. Plato inferred from this belief the existence of the soul before birth as well as its survival after death. On the other hand the constant striving of the virtuous man after the eternally valid principles of morality was thought to point to the same belief Plato and other Greek philosophers dwelt on the fact that matter imposes limitations on the soul. The body was believed to be a prison-house, from which death released the soul into a fuller and more perfect existence. The doctrine of immortality in Christianity arose from the fact of Christ’s Resurrection. Thus, man’s highest destiny was more than the mere survival of an immortal soul. Rather, it was a life of continued union with the risen Christ which reached its completion only by the reunion of body and soul after death. St. Paul sketches in his First Epistle to the Corinthians and elsewhere the essence of this Christian belief. The Fathers explain the hope of immortality only in relation with the redemptive work of Christ. The Fall of Adam had brought death and it was only through the Second Adam (Christ) that life was regained (St. Athanasios, Gregory of Nyssa.) Later theological developments on the concept of immortality reached the stage by which the resurrection of the body was necessary for a full human life in the world to come; else, a disembodied soul was no true being.