

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 28, 2025

Sunday After the Nativity

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-2pm

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 SABA, 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 Cory Dupont**

Schedule of Services

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Sunday: Orthros (Matins)</i> | <i>9:00 a.m.</i> |
| <i>Sunday: Divine Liturgy</i> | <i>10:00 a.m.</i> |
| <i>Church School</i> | <i>11:15 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

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.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7

AFTER-FEAST OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE PROPHET AND KING,
AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (*Refrain*)

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.



During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant these hymns in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

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 IN TONE TWO

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.

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 OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

*(**The original melody**)*

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

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

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

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

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."

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

Mark Hashway
Barbara Samra
Sandra Conca
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Victoria Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Jacob, Maria, Sofia & Emilia Khoury
Nouhad Kardous
Linda Dvelis
Kristen Silva
Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian
Offered by: Salwa Khoury

Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian
Cindy Hayes & Family
Mack and Louise Megalli
Mother Xenia Minihan
Jacob Muller
Ronald Muller
Victoria Muller
Michelle Saliba
Kristen Anne Silva
Phil Spenard
Madison Tucker
Offered by: Michael & Nancy Muller

Kristen Silva & Family
Jacob Khoury & Family
Salwa Khoury & Family
Offered by: Linda Dvelis

Salwa Khoury
Jacob, Maria, Sophia, Emilia Khoury
Offered by: John & Anita Chamoun

Elizabeth Edes
Offered by: Fred Elliott



**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Janice Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Mary Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Son Ron

Fred Hashway
Kevin Hashway
Lorice Hallal
Robert Laffey
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Fred & Adele Shwaery
Offered by: Linda Dvelis & Family

Nabil Khoury
George Kardous
Offered by: Salwa Khoury

Suzanne Ayoub (5 years)
Offered by: Ed & Lisa Ayoub



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.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is being offered in memory of Dr. Nabil Khoury by His Loving Family. Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



Holiday Liturgical Schedule

- ♦ Wednesday, December 31st: 6:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Circumcision of our Lord
- ♦ Monday, January 5, 2026: 6:00 P.M.– Liturgy for Epiphany Feast



Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

ADULT EDUCATION

Every Thursday we will be having Vespers at 6:30pm followed by Adult Education. Everyone is 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS– new policy

If you would like prayers to be included in the weekly bulletin, **please email** them to office@stmarypawtucket.org by Wednesday of the week you would like them included. This new policy is in effect to make sure the office receives any prayers requested. Thank you.

December is the month of The Order of St. Ignatius

During the month of December, in our Antiochian Archdiocese we commemorate the role of The Order of St. Ignatius in The Life of the Church and it's Ministry. Members of The Order will be reading the Epistle, taking the collection, and assisting in the Vestry. May God bless all the members of our parish chapter of The Order and guide them to fulfill their Ministry.

Visitations

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

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

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 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 intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.



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 School Pageant

Thank you to the teachers and students for providing the wonderful production of the Nativity for the parish to enjoy. Also, many thanks to the Order of St. Ignatius for graciously hosting the luncheon.

♦ *Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, January 4, 2024*

Fundraiser for the Ladies Society Outreach Program "Souper Bowl of Caring"

February 1, 2026



Cemetery survey/data form reminder

The Cemetery Committee is reminding everyone to please return your completed survey/data form to the church. If anyone needs one, there are some available on the candle stand.

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.

Monday, January 5, 2026: 6:00 P.M.—Liturgy for Epiphany Feast

Donation Made to the Charitable Gift Program by Jacob Muller

One of our endowment fund's youngest supporters fulfills his commitment within 9 months.

We are proud to share that Jacob Muller has fulfilled his commitment to Saint Mary's Charitable Gift Program, just nine months after making it in March 2025.

This achievement is remarkable not only for its timeliness, but also because Jacob is one of the youngest parishioners in our Church's history to complete his gift so quickly. Rather than making a future bequest, Jacob chose to give now—accelerating the growth of our Church's endowment fund and increasing its long-term impact.

A lifelong member of Saint Mary's and an alumnus of our Sunday School, Jacob continues to lead by example. His commitment ensures that the Church he grew up in will remain strong for future generations.

May God grant him many years!

~ Charitable Gift Program Committee



Coffee Hour Update

Contact Ghassan Alarmani (Gus) to sponsor a coffee hour- (781)414-1091

For those who are sponsoring a coffee hour, the contribution is \$200, including food, paper goods and beverage.

Memorial coffee hour:

Family providing food, we kindly request a contribution of \$250.00. All necessary supplies will be provided at no extra cost to you. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Coffee Hour Sponsorships

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Sponsored by:</u> | <u>Sponsored for:</u> |
|-------------------|--|---|
| December 28, 2025 | Salwa Khoury | Dr. Nabil Khoury (Birthday Remembrance) |
| January 4, 2026 | Yuliia & Michael Raposa | For the Baptism of our baby Gabriel |
| January 11, 2026 | <i>available for sponsorship</i> | |
| January 18, 2026 | Fred Kilsey & Family | Memory of Michelle Kilsey (15 years) |
| January 25, 2026 | <i>not available</i> | Annual General Assembly |
| February 1, 2026 | Ladies Society | "Souper Bowl of Caring" Fundraiser |
| February 8, 2026 | Maen, Diana, Mariana & Adam Albatarseh | Health of Family |
| February 15, 2026 | Church School | Pasta Luncheon (Camp Fundraiser) |
| February 22, 2026 | Walid & Mirna Nakhoul | Health of Family |
| March 1, 2026 | Saliba, Robin, Bianca & Michelle | Health of Family |
| March 8, 2026 | <i>available for sponsorship</i> | |
| March 15, 2026 | <i>available for sponsorship</i> | |
| March 22, 2026 | <i>available for sponsorship</i> | |
| March 29, 2026 | <i>available for sponsorship</i> | |
| April 5, 2026 | <i>not available</i> | Palm Sunday |
| April 12, 2026 | <i>not available</i> | PASCHA |

Cemetery

Please note: All real wreaths need to be removed from the cemetery by January 10th.

Thank you,
Cemetery Committee



CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 28th: Sunday after the Nativity

Wednesday, December 31st: New Year's Eve

6:00 P.M. – Liturgy of the Circumcision of our Lord

Looking ahead:

Thursday, January 1, 2026: New Year's Day

Saturday, January 3, 2026: 6:00 P.M. – Arabic Liturgy

Tuesday, January 13, 2026: 7:00 P.M. – Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2026: Annual General Assembly

Sunday, February 1, 2026: Ladies Society "Souper Bowl of Caring" Fundraiser

Saturday, February 7, 2026: 6:00 P.M. – Arabic Liturgy

Tuesday, February 10, 2026: 7:00 P.M. – Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, February 15, 2026: Church School Pasta Lunch (Camp Fundraiser)

Monday, February 23rd, 2026: Lent Begins

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Epiphany 2025- Blessing of Homes

With the up-coming celebration of The Feast of Epiphany and the Great Sanctification of the Water, house blessings are starting for the new year. If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact Fr. Elie and schedule an appropriate time. While it is traditional to begin house blessings following Epiphany, homes may be blessed throughout the year. May the Blessing of the Jordan River sanctify and protect each and every home and family in our community.

