

# SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



*Sunday, January 11, 2026*

*Sunday After Theophany of Christ*

# *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](mailto: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**

*Sunday: Orthros (Matins) 9:00 a.m.*

*Sunday: Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.*

*Church School 11:15 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](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.

# DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 9

SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

THEODOSIOS THE GREAT, HEAD OF MONASTERIES  
(CENOBIARCH)

## THE FIRST ANTIphon

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

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

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? (**Refrain**)

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

## THE SECOND ANTIphon

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. (**Refrain**)

Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. (**Refrain**)

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

## THE THIRD ANTIphon

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

*During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of Theophany. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is “O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead...” as on ordinary Sundays. After the Little Entrance, sing these hymns in the following order:*

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### **APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEODOSIOS IN TONE EIGHT**

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Theodosios, intercede 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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR**

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

On this day Thou hast appeared \* unto the whole world, \* and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, \* is signed on us who sing Thy praise \* and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, \* Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

## THE EPISTLE

(For St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch)

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.  
What shall we render to the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?*

### ***The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:7-16)***

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore, let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city, which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany)

### ***The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)***

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**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 Gurgigian  
Offered by: Salwa Khoury

Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurgigian  
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

Marlene Samra (Birthday Wishes)  
Cheryl DArezzo  
Offered by: Leilia & Ray Trabulsi



Elizabeth Edes  
Offered by: Fred Elliott  
  
Kristen Silva  
Linda Dvelis  
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad  
Elaine Agaty  
Sandra Matook

**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

Louis DArezzo  
Offered by: Leilia & Ray Trabulsi

**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 by Bassam, Karen, Rachel, Rebecca & Christian Zankul for the Health of Family. Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



# Ladies Society News

**As the Ladies of St Mary Church in Pawtucket RI begin the New Year, we have a very ambitious calendar for Fundraising and Outreach in our community. Our efforts reach so many, Locally, Nationally and Globally.**

On February 1st, we are holding our Annual Soup-er Bowl of Caring Fundraiser where you can enjoy up to 10 different soups and the proceeds will help fund our Box Lunch program. We have raised over \$30,000.00 for the SOup-er Bowl of Caring during these past 25 years. Before we started the Box Lunch Program we would send the funds to local Soup Kitchens/Food Pantries but this gives us a chance to partner with our Teens to give Back to the Community. Our parish packs 65 lunches on the last Sunday of each month with many of our Teens, the lunches are then brought to the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen. This act of kindness affords the workers Soup Kitchen a day off but it costs us approximately \$200.00 per month to create these lunches. We continue to be generous and offer this program to the Soup Kitchen through the generosity of our parishioners.

During February and March we will continue to collect coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, sweats, blankets, etc for our Warm Our Neighbor project. We have been very successful with this collection for the past several years and helped many in our community. Our collection is not only in the winter months but we also do collections in the Summer months for Backpacks, toiletries, gift cards and baby items for the homeless and also the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center for Women & Children. A Collection Box will be placed in the entry of the Parish Center.

During March we will participate in Antiochian Women Ladies Month activities where we will perform Vestry duties Ushering and Collecting Trays, Reading the Epistle and hosting a Dinner to support the National Antiochian Women (NAB) Endowment project for Widow Clergy Wives.

Lastly we will be having an Easter Bake Sale of Arabic Pastry and treats to help fund Tuition for Lorda. Lorda is a young girl in Palestine who we met when on a trip with Fr Constantine Nasr several years ago. We Ladies have committed to funding her school tuition through graduation from High School. Lorda's Tuition has been \$1100.00 per year and we are praying for her and her family during these difficult times.

Please plan on Supporting the Ladies as we hold fundraisers for our Outreach to the Community.

If you would like to help with any of these programs please see Linda Dvelis or Cindy Hayes

Thank You  
Cindy Hayes

Dear Brethren In Christ,

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

We ask our Savior, Who was born for our Salvation, to look fondly upon you and grant you His peace and love, and we hope that all of you and your loved ones enjoy a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

According to our Constitution and By Laws, we are to hold a General Assembly Meeting on the last Sunday of January. ***Our meeting will be held on January 25, 2026.***

All parishioners in good standing who “accept, profess and practice the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Faith” are welcome to vote at the meeting. Practicing the discipline of the faith involves regular and consistent attendance at Divine Liturgy and participation in the Sacrament of the Church, as well as completing a stewardship pledge for the year 2025 and making a pledge commitment for the year 2026.

This year four vacancies, three elected and one appointed on the Parish Council must be filled. If you are interested in running for a seat on the Parish Council, please speak to either Fr. Elie or Linda Dvelis; *Chairman of the Nominating Committee.*

A copy of our budget will be sent out, prior to our Annual Meeting for your review. Please submit any concern via email to the church office in advance so we can answer any of your concerns.

We have three items that require voting:

Approval of the budget.

Three vacancies on the council that need to be filled.

Potential Parking Lot Rental

We lift up our prayers for your good health and participation in the life of the church and blessing for the New Year, we remain,

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Elie Estephan  
Pastor

Walid Nakhoul  
Parish Council President

## **PLEDGE 2026**

Our 2026 pledge drive has started. Please begin to prayerfully consider your pledge commitment for this year. For your convenience, Pledge cards are available at the back of the church and in the parish center.

Giving is easy through our church app, with options for a one-time donation or weekly/biweekly/monthly donations. In addition to your personal donation, an often overlooked option is to inquire as to whether your employer offers a matching gift program for any charitable donation(s) that you make. Many larger employers offer this benefit which will effectively double the amount of your gift! We can assist with any verifications your company needs to facilitate the matching gift. Please make every effort to complete and return the Pledge card ASAP so we can have an accurate representation of the planned giving for 2026.



Dear Brethren in Christ,

On Sunday, January 25, 2026 the Annual Parish Meeting will be held. This year four vacancies (three elected and one appointed) on the Parish Council must be filled. Please remember the following guidelines for service on the Parish Council:

1. No siblings or husband and wives will be allowed to serve at the same time.
2. Each candidate must be actively practicing the faith and discipline of the Holy Orthodox Church. This means that in addition to supporting the maintenance of the Church through Christian pledges the candidate must be regular and consistent in their attendance at Divine Liturgy and participation in the Sacramental Life of the church.
3. Anyone willing to be nominated from the floor at the annual Meeting must have met these prior guidelines and must also have secured the approval and blessing of the Pastor at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Those members who are presently serving terms on the Council must meet the same canonical requirements.

Please do review these guidelines. The nominating committee of the Parish Council will be preparing a list of qualified and eligible candidates to be submitted at the Parish meeting.



## 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 classes will resume TODAY Sunday, January 11, 2024**
- ♦ **Sunday School will having a Bake Sale on Sunday, January 25th during the General Assembly Meeting. Please support their fundraiser.**

### **THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)**

Theodosios the Great lived in Palestine. The founder and organizer of cenobitic (communal) monasticism, as a young man he visited Simeon Stylites, who blessed him and predicted for him great spiritual glory. Once Theodosios founded his monastery, many monks of different nationalities and languages quickly gathered around him. He built churches for each language group, but on a day when they were to receive Communion, all the brethren gathered in the great church. Together with Saint Sabbas, he defended Palestine from the heresy of the Monophysites. God endowed Theodosios with the gifts of wonderworking, to heal the sick, to be present and help from a distance, to tame wild beasts, among other gifts. Theodosios entered peacefully into rest in the Lord in the year 529, at the age of 105.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Theodosios of Philotheou monastery on Athos; and Venerable Agapios of Apamea in Syria. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## 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

### Date:

### Sponsored by:

### Sponsored for:

January 11, 2026	Bassam Zankul & Family	Health of Family
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	Her Loving Family	Memory of Lorice Hallal
March 15, 2026	available for sponsorship	
March 22, 2026	available for sponsorship	
March 29, 2026	available for sponsorship	
April 5, 2026	<i>not available</i>	Palm Sunday
April 12, 2026	<i>not available</i>	PASCHA
April 19, 2026	Lindsey’s Birthday	
April 26, 2026	Church School	Pancake Breakfast (Camp Fundraiser)
May 3, 2026	Her Loving Family	Memory of Doha Geha Chamas
May 10, 2026	No Coffee Hour	
May 17, 2026	Charitable Gift Program	Charitable Gift Participants
May 24, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
May 31, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
June 7, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
June 14, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
June 21, 2026	Salwa Khoury	Memory of Dr. Nabil Khoury
June 28, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
July 5, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
July 12, 2026	<i>not available</i>	
July 19, 2026	<i>not available</i>	

# CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, January 11, 2026:** Sunday After Theophany

Sunday School classes resume

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

**Sunday, January 18, 2026:** Athanasios & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

**Sunday, January 25, 2026:** Sunday of Zacchaeus

Annual General Assembly

Sunday School Bake Sale to benefit campers this summer

**Sunday, February 1, 2026:** Ladies Society “Souper Bowl of Caring” Fundraiser

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

**Sunday, February 8, 2026:** Sunday of Publican & Pharisee

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

**Saturday, February 14, 2026:** 8:00 P.M.– Valentine’s Day Hafla

**Sunday, February 15, 2026:** Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)

Church School Pasta Lunch (Camp Fundraiser)

**Sunday, February 22, 2026:** Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

**Monday, February 23rd, 2026:** Lent Begins

**Sunday, March 1, 2026:** Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

**Sunday, March 8, 2026:** Sunday of Gregory Palamas

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

**Sunday, March 15, 2026:** Veneration of the Cross

**Sunday, March 22, 2026:** John of the Ladder



## Cemetery information

If you are in need of a cemetery lot, please contact Flo Spenard at 508-930-6630 or Linda Dvelis at 401-749-1278. Please be aware that the cost of a lot which accommodates one or two people, has been updated.