

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, February 8, 2026

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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, FEBRUARY 08, 2026
tone 2 / EOTHINON 2
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON &
AFTER-FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king.
My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

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

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore, God hath blessed thee forever.
(*Refrain*)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee. (*Refrain*)

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. (*Refrain*)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Presentation 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 TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades 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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Simeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.



Moderation adorns all things; for without moderation even things deemed good become harmful.

~St. Isaac the Syrian



THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

**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

Don, Lauren, Allie and Donald Joseph Hayes
Dan, Liz and Gabriella Hayes
Sarah Hayes & Dan Hennigan
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Mary Massiwer
Mauren, Paul & Mary Gurghigian
Mary & Bill Franklin & Family
Diane Andrew & Paul Bernier
Laura, Jim & Noelle Arrighi
John & Patricia Massiwer
Richard & Susan McNeil & Family
Darlene Elkas & Family
Judy Fortier & Family

Flo & Phil Spenard & Family
Kristen Silva & Family
Jacob Khoury & Family
Marietta Foster & Family
All Parishioners of St Mary Church
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Elias Morcos
Offered by: Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos

Philip & Bette Ayoub
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

**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
Elizabeth McNeil
Offered by: Salwa Khoury

Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Elizabeth McNeil
Departed members of St Mary Church
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Elizabeth McNeil
Offered by: Nora Matook

Elizabeth McNeil
Offered by: Flo & Phil Spenard & Family



Ladies Society News

Please Join Us for Our Annual SOUP-er Bowl of Caring Luncheon

TODAY- February 8th

Enjoy an endless Variety of Soups and Chili
A wonderful Children's Menu
Beverages & Dessert

**Suggested Donation \$10.00 per Person
Children under 5 free**

The Soup-er Bowl of Caring helps fund our Box Lunch Outreach. We prepare 65 box lunches on the last Sunday of each month. This program costs our group approximately \$200.00 a month. Our Outreach partners with the Teens to make the sandwiches and to feed those in need in our local community. We have continued to be generous and offer this outreach to the local Soup Kitchen through the generosity of our wonderful parishioners! Thank you for your support of this program!

"You shall be to Me a royal priesthood and a holy nation." -Exodus 19:6

2026

The Antiochian Women of the
Diocese of Worcester and New England

LENTEN RETREAT



"Raising Children with Guidance from St. Olga of Alaska,
the first Orthodox female saint in North America."

SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2026

St. George Orthodox Church
55 Emmonsdale Rd, West Roxbury, MA 02132



9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
10:30 AM Registration & Coffee Hour
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM Session 1
12:30 PM Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:45 PM Session 2

Breakfast and lunch will be served



REGISTER TODAY!

2026LentenRetreat.eventbrite.com



Speaker: Fr. George Parsenios,
Professor at Holy Cross Greek
Orthodox School of Theology

Admission is \$30.00

Contact Amal Hourani
for questions
(617) 930-7745

CHADI NADDAF



Valentine's Day Party

DANCE, MUSIC & MEZZA

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14TH- 8PM

REGULAR \$100 / VIP \$125

ST MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1 ST. MARY'S WAY, PAWTUCKET, RI 02860

For Reservation Call

Walid Nakhoul: 401-692-1250 • Ghassan Alarmani: 781-414-1091 • Maria Saad 508-380-1113



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).

♦ **Thank you for supporting our bake sale fundraiser last Sunday**

Sunday School Pasta Lunch Fundraiser

Sunday, February 15th

Menu: Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread & Dessert
Adults- \$10 Children- \$5 Children under 5- free

Please come support our Sunday School Fundraiser

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds. Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our 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:

February 8, 2026	Ladies Society	“Souper Bowl of Caring” Fundraiser
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 (2 years)
March 15, 2026	Dr. Zeyad Morcos & Family	Marie Haddad (40 Day Memorial)
March 22, 2026	<i>not available</i>	
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 Chammas	Thankful for the Church Community
April 26, 2026	Church School	Pancake Breakfast (Camp Fundraiser)

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sunday, February 8, 2026:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Ladies Society “Souper Bowl of Caring” Fundraiser
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026:** 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting
- Saturday, February 14, 2026:** 8:00 P.M.– Valentine’s Day Hafli
- 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
- Sunday, March 29, 2026:** Mary of Egypt



Palm Sunday– April 5th
PASCHA– April 12th

Orthodox Vocabulary

Economy

Economy: in contemporary life, this term refers to the avoidance of unnecessary expenses, or the art of administering a household. In the Church, the term is used on the one hand to designate God's plan for the salvation of man, *the whole divine plan from creation to the end of time*, accomplished by the redemptive incarnation of Jesus Christ, his death, and his resurrection. The work of Christ "*is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God*" (Eph 3:9). On the other hand, "economy" also refers to the totality of the decisions which the Church makes—in the face of certain problems—in the application of rules and canons. In the case of specific persons or situations, the bishop can waive strict rules. The "law" is needed, but it must be tempered by mercy; but these special cases can never themselves change the law. According to an expression by Patriarch Nicholas Mystikos (10th century), economy in this case is an "imitation of the love of God for man," and not a simple exception to the rule.