

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, March 1, 2026

**First Sunday of Great Lent:
Sunday of Orthodoxy**

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, MARCH 01, 2026

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 5

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)

VENERABLE-MARTYR EUDOKIA OF HELIOPOLIS; VENERABLE DOMNINA OF SYRIA;
MARTYRS MARKELLOS AND ANTHONY OF PAMPHYLIA

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

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

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can cause all his praises to be heard? Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

(Refrain)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Let them praise the Lord for His mercies, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the seat of the elders.

(Refrain)

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to hear the groaning of the prisoners, to loosen the sons of the slain. *(Refrain)*

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let the heavens and the earth praise Him. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.



*During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the **First Sunday of Great Lent**. 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, chant these hymns in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: Tone 2

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY): Tone 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.



THE EPISTLE

(For the First Sunday of Great Lent)

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

THE GOSPEL

(For the First Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

**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
Bryan Boulis & Family
Offered by: Fred Elliott

Ray & Leila Trabulsi
Offered by: 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

Charles Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

John Matook
Nicholas Matook
Alma Matook
Charlie Agaty
Fred Hashway
Offered by: Sandra Matook & Family

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 Saliba, Robin, Bianca & Michelle Saliba for the Health of Family. Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



GREAT LENT 2026

February 23rd ~ April 12th (Holy Pascha)



What is Lent?

Prayer † Fasting † Acts of Mercy

Orthodox Vocabulary

Prostration

A bodily posture of reverence and homage to God made by kneeling on both knees while touching the hands and forehead to the ground. The sign of the Cross is often made preceding or following each prostration. In prostrating, the believer demonstrates humility to God and at the same time trains the body in physical enactment and discipline of that foundational Spiritual posture.



The mathematics of God is completely different from the mathematics of humans. For us two and two equal four. For God two and two can make five or fifteen or anything else.

~Elder Epiphanius of Athens

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Pawtucket Schedule of Services: Great Lent 2026

Great Lent began on February 23rd

The Service of Great Compline (St. Mary Church) will be held on Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm

The Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. *Those wishing to partake of Holy Communion ought to be fasting from 12:00 noon on.*

The service of the Akathyst Hymn or Madeeh (The Salutations to the Virgin Mary) will be held on the first five Friday evenings of Great Lent at 6:30 pm with a pot-luck to follow.

The Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 4th will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with a luncheon following Liturgy.

Palm Sunday is on April 5th

Holy Week starts on Sunday evening April 5th with the Bridegroom Service at 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Week: Monday, April 6th- Saturday, April 11th

Great and Holy PASCHA (Easter) is April 12th

May the Living God, the Fountain of Wisdom, enlighten our minds, strengthen our bodies, and nourish our souls in the blessing of this holy season, the Lenten Spring.

Ladies Society News

March is Antiochian Women Ladies Month and the Ladies of our Parish will be Reading the Epistle, Collecting Trays, Ushering during Liturgy thru the month of March. We also will be having a Luncheon for the NAB Project, "Endowment Fund for our Beloved Widow Clergy Wives". This Luncheon will be held on Sunday March 28th following liturgy.

First, I want to thank everyone for their support of our Annual Souper-Bowl of caring fundraiser. We raised over \$700 for our Box Lunch Program.

As we are beginning Great Lent we have many exciting things happening with the Antiochian Women/Ladies Society and our church.

Second, We will be collecting items for our Warm Your Neighbor program through March. Hats, Gloves, Coats, Socks, Sweatshirts/pants, Hand Warmers, Blankets and toiletries can be brought to the collection box in the Parish Center.

We also will be having a Bake Sale for Lorda's Tuition.

Lastly, the season of Lent affords us many opportunities for increasing our Spiritual life through fasting, Prayer and almsgiving. We are hosting the Sunday of Orthodoxy program with the Rhode Island Orthodox Clergy on Sunday March 1st at 6PM with a coffee hour following at our Parish Center. We also will be having Compline and Presanctified Liturgy each Wednesday and the Akathist Hymns to the Theotokos on Fridays following with a Potluck dinner and speakers on some evenings. Please plan to attend these services and help when asked to bring a dish to potluck or to Usher/read, etc.

Thank you,
Cindy Hayes

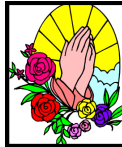




St. Mary Church School & Teen SOYO News

Attention All Parents: Please bring your children to the Liturgy before Church School. Church School starts every Sunday following communion (Approx. 11:15am).

- ◆ Lazarus Saturday Retreat and Church School hosting:
Potluck Luncheon-(*everyone invited to attend*)
10am-2pm-Church School Lazarus Saturday Lenten Retreat



THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

This restoration was accomplished in the year 843. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches. O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on 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:

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	Her Loving Family	Elizabeth McNeil (40 Day Memorial)
March 29, 2026	Ladies Society	Luncheon for the NAB Project, “Endowment Fund for our Beloved Widow Clergy Wives”
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)
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	Sean & Kayla Joaseus	The Catechumens
May 31, 2026	Emile Sarkis & Family	The Health of Family
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>	
July 26, 2026	Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos	my son, (ST Elias) & dad
August 2, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
August 9, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
August 16, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
August 23, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
August 30, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
September 6, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1, 2026: Sunday of Orthodoxy

Second collection for Seminarians

6:00 P.M.-Vespers for Sunday of Orthodoxy & Coffee Hour

Tuesday, March 3, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Wednesday, March 4, 2026: 6:30 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Thursday, Marcy 5, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Friday, February 27, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Akathyst Hymn & Pot-Luck to follow

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

Sunday, March 8, 2026: Sunday of Gregory Palamas

Daylight Savings Time begins

Tuesday, March 10, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting



Wednesday, March 11, 2026: 6:30 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Thursday, Marcy 12, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Friday, March 13, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Akathyst Hymn & Pot-Luck to follow

Sunday, March 15, 2026: Veneration of the Cross

Tuesday, March 17, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Wednesday, March 18, 2026: 6:30 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Thursday, Marcy 19, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Friday, March 20, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Akathyst Hymn & Pot-Luck to follow

Sunday, March 22, 2026: John of the Ladder

Tuesday, March 24, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Wednesday, March 25, 2026: 6:30 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Thursday, March 26, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Friday, March 27, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Akathyst Hymn & Pot-Luck to follow

Sunday, March 29, 2026: Mary of Egypt

Luncheon for the NAB Project, “Endowment Fund for our Beloved Widow Clergy Wives”

Tuesday, March 31, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Wednesday, April 1, 2026: 6:30 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts

Thursday, April 2, 2026: 6:30P.M.- Service of the Great Compline

Saturday, April 4, 2026: 10:00am– Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday