

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, April 19, 2026

Sunday of St. Thomas (New Sunday)

المسيح قام، حقا قام.

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 ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

HIEROMARTYR PAPHNOUTIOS OF JERUSALEM; TRYPHON, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

The priest begins Divine Liturgy with "Blessed is the Kingdom" and the choir responds "Amen." Bearing the paschal candle, the priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Apolytikion and censes the west side of the altar.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

The choir then sings this twice, and the liturgy continues with the great litany.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

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

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (**Refrain**)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

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

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. (**Refrain**)

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (**Refrain**)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. (**Refrain**)

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. (**Refrain**)

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. (**Refrain**)

After the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the following:

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

After the Little Entrance (Eisodos), sing these hymns in the following order.

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy 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 IN TONE EIGHT

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.



PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

THE EPISTLE

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

**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

**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



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 Lindsey Chammas ~ Thankful for the Church Community. Coffee Hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



SAVE THE DATE



Feast Day Weekend (Mahrajan)

Saturday, August 15th & Sunday, August 16th

We are planning a Fun Weekend Music and Ethnic food such as SAJ, Zaater and Cheese, Shawarma, Falafel, Knafee, Hooka and much more.

Visitations

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

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means “in place of Pascha” because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ’s Resurrection and disbelieved it. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection. As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, “Peace be unto you.” Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior’s wounds—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel His wounds. Then Thomas immediately cried out, “My Lord and my God!” But Jesus tells His Disciples, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ. By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on 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).

May Breakfast Fundraiser for Summer Camp ~ *Sunday, April 26th*

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage, Fruit, Danish, Orange Juice and Coffee

Adults/Teens: \$10 Children 12 years & under-\$5

Children 5 years & under -free

Please come support our Sunday School Fundraiser



Arabic Educational Foundation

Arabic Educational Foundation of RI is now accepting college scholarship applications.

High school seniors and current undergraduates of Arabic decent who are or will be enrolled as full-time students at an accredited college for the 2026-2027 academic year are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility information and applications can be found on our website:

www.aef-ri.org



2026 Annual Bazaar News...

Christ is Risen, Happy Bright Week.

I hope you all had a glorious Pascha.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We have officially started preparations for our Annual Holiday Bazaar being held on November 6th, 7th & 8th. As you may know, this is our biggest fundraiser of the year and would deeply appreciate all the help that you can offer either cooking beforehand, setting up, helping with booths, donating items for the penny social & silent auction, or being a Sponsor for the Bazaar. ***The first Bazaar meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29th at 7pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.***

Thank you,
Salwa Khoury
Bazaar Committee Chairwoman



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.

Orthodox Vocabulary

Parousia

Parousia: from a Greek word meaning "presence." This is the term used to refer to the second coming of the Lord. On that day, all persons will arise, their bodies transfigured, and all creation will be transformed: new earth and new heavens. This will also be the day of judgment, when the Lord "*will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead*" .
(Creed: Mt 25:31; Rom 2:5-11)

God has surrounded the tongue with a double wall— with the barrier of the teeth and fence of the lips— in order that it may not easily and heedlessly utter words it should not speak.

~St. John Chrysostom

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!



“If you cannot be merciful, at least speak as though you are a sinner. If you are not a peacemaker, at least do not be a troublemaker. If you cannot be assiduous, at least in your thought be like a sluggard. If you are not victorious, do not exalt yourself over the vanquished. If you cannot close the mouth of a man who disparages his companion, at least refrain from joining him in this.”

~St. Isaac the Syrian



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.

Coffee Hour Sponsorships

Date:

Sponsored by:

Sponsored for:

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 Chammas
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	The Order of St. Ignatius	Last Day of Church School Luncheon
June 14, 2026	Will Small	Memory of Fr. Isaac
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	Family Day at Buttonwoods Park (raindate for Family Day) 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>not available</i>	Feast Day Weekend
August 23, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
August 30, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
September 6, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
September 13, 2026	The Order of St. Ignatius	First Day of Church School Luncheon
September 20, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
September 27, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
October 4, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
October 11, 2026	<i>not available</i>	Bazaar Kick-off Luncheon
October 18, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
October 25, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
November 8, 2026	<i>not available</i>	Bazaar Weekend
November 15, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
November 22, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	
November 29, 2026	<i>available for sponsorship</i>	

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 19, 2026: Second Sunday of Pascha (Thomas)

Sunday, April 26, 2026: Third Sunday of Pascha (Myrrh-bearers)

Church School Pancake Breakfast Camp Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 29, 2026: 7:00 P.M.– First Bazaar Meeting

Saturday, May 2, 2026: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, May 3, 2026: Fourth Sunday of Pascha (Paralytic)

Sunday, May 10, 2026: Fifth Sunday of Pascha (Samaritan Woman)

Tuesday, May 12, 2026: 7:00P.M.- Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, May 17, 2026: Sixth Sunday of Pascha (Blind Man)

Sunday, May 24, 2026: Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council

Sunday, May 31, 2026: Holy Pentecost

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

Sunday, June 7, 2026: First Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints)

Last day of Church School & Luncheon

Tuesday, June 9, 2026: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, June 14, 2026: All Saints of Antioch



Parish Life Conference ~ Saturday, June 20th

Holy Transfiguration Church Hall (Lowell, MA)

hosted by: St. George Church (Lowell, MA)

CEMETERY NEWS....

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Now that spring is on the way, plans are being made for hydroseeding the bare spots at the cemetery as well as spreading fresh loam. This is a great opportunity for you to clear out the nasty weeds on your lot (s), and we will hydroseed that area so that new, “weed-free” grass will replace the unsightly areas. If you elect to do this, the clearing needs to be completed by **April 22nd**, which is one week later than originally planned; please take all debris with you.

Cemetery Committee