

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1st: Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost
One Year Memorial Service for Patriarch IGNATUS IV

Thursday, December 5th: 1:00 P.M.– Arabic classes at Parish Center

Friday, December 6th: Ladies Christmas Party at Blithewold, meeting at church 3:30pm

Saturday, December 7th: 5:00 P.M.- Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, December 8th: Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

Thursday, December 12th: 1:00 P.M. Arabic classes at Parish Center
7:00 P.M.– Choir Practice

Sunday, December 15th: Twenty Ninth Sunday After Pentecost and Sunday of the Forefathers

Sunday, December 22nd: The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ
Sunday School Pageant

Tuesday, December 24th: 5:00 P.M.– Christmas Liturgy

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas (church office closed)

Sunday, February 2, 2014: General Assembly



Coffee Hour Calendar

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
December 1st:	Baalbaki/Salhany Family	
December 8th:	Cathy Wason	
December 15th:	Bassam & Pauline Khabbaz	
December 22nd:	Sunday School Pageant	
December 29th:	Nancy & Michael Muller	
January 5, 2014	Fatat El-Khouli	Nicholas El-Khouli (1 year)
January 12, 2014	Briggs & Wehbe Families	Florence David (1 year)
January 19, 2014	Ron & Janice Hallal	Linda Bowab (4 yr.)
January 26, 2014	Fred Kilsey	
February 2, 2014	General Assembly	

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 1, 2013

Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone (401) 726-1202 Fax: (401) 729-1203
Web site: <http://stmarypawtucket.org>

Prayerline: prayerline@stmarypawtucket.necoxmail.com

**His Grace Bishop JOHN, Auxiliary and Bishop of the
Diocese of Worcester and New England**

**V. Rev. Father Elie Estephan
70 Davis St., Seekonk, MA 02771
Cell- 1-(240) 205-9079**

Schedule of Services

*Sunday: Orthros (Matins) 8:45 a.m.
Church School 11:15 a.m.*

*Enter in Quietness, Rest in Prayer,
Worship in Reverence, Depart in Peace to Serve*

A Note Regarding Holy Communion:

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal. Confessions are heard on Saturdays, before and after Vespers, or by special appointment. The Eucharistic fast begins at midnight on Saturday and ends with the receiving of Holy Communion. Please see Fr. Elie if you have any questions or for inquiries on how to become a full member of the Church.

Prayer Requests and Bulletin News: All prayer requests and articles for the weekly bulletin must be submitted each week by noon Wednesday otherwise the requests and articles will be published the following week. Please use the envelopes provided when requesting prayers. Envelopes are available at the entrance of the Church, downstairs in the Church Hall, or in the Church Office.

View our website — <http://stmarypawtucket.org>

From The Synaxarion (The Lives of the Saints)
November 30th: Andrew the First Called of the Apostles

ANDREW, THE FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE. Andrew was at first a disciple of Saint John the Baptist, along with Saint John the Theologian. Later, they both became disciples of Jesus. After Pentecost, Andrew taught in Byzantium, Thrace, Scythia, Epiros, and Peloponnesus. In Amisos, he converted the Jews in the temple, baptized them, healed their sick, built a church, and left a priest for them. In Bithynia, he taught, healed the sick, and drove away the wild beasts that bothered them. In Sinope, he prayed for the imprisoned Apostle Matthias, his chains fell from him, and the cell door opened. The people beat Andrew, breaking his teeth and cutting his fingers, and left him for dead in a dung heap. Jesus appeared to him and healed him, telling him to be of good cheer. When the people saw him the next day, they were amazed and believed. In Patras, Andrew healed the wife of the proconsul Aegeates of an incurable disease of the eyes. He healed a paralytic, lepers, and all manner of disease. Aegeates heard all of this and arrested Andrew. He tried to compel him through beatings to sacrifice to idols and so restore idolatry to his country' When Andrew refused, he was tied to a cross upside down so that he would live longer and suffer more. Twenty thousand of the faithful stood by and mourned. Even then, Andrew taught and exhorted them to endure temporary sufferings for the kingdom of heaven. Fearing the people, Aegeates removed Andrew from the cross. However, Andrew said that Aegeates could still become a Christian, but that he had already seen Jesus and would not allow himself to be removed from the cross. Suddenly, a heavenly light illumined Andrew for about half an hour, and then he gave up his spirit. The prelate's wife prepared Andrew's body for burial, and a demon fell upon Aegeates and tormented him until he died. Andrew's relics are housed in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople.



Orthodox Vocabulary

Redemption

Redemption: from a Latin word meaning “ransom.” Through the fall, humanity became enslaved to sin and death. In order to restore human liberty, God himself became incarnate and saved all men by his passion and resurrection. St Paul expresses this: “*You were bought with a price* [the blood of Christ]” (1 Cor 6:20).

When you hear the songs of birds in the trees in springtime, or other sweet singing, raise your mind to the sweetest songs of paradise and think how the heavens echo forever with Alleluia and other angelic praises, and pray God to let you sing His praises forever, in company with those heavenly spirits, of whom Revelation says: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God” .

~St. Theophan the Recluse



Christmas Ornaments

Christmas Ornaments that were at the bazaar are for sale- \$15 each.
(Nativity, St. George, St. Patrick) See Cindy Hayes at the Coffee Hour Sunday.



Sunday, December 1, 2013

Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost

Tone:6

Eothinon:1

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 6

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. Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Prophet Nahum: Tone 2

The memory of thy Prophet Nahum we celebrate today, O Lord. by his prayers, we beseech thee, O Christ God, 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 intercessions from death Thou dost redeem our souls.”

Kontakion of the Theotokos: Tone 2

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.



Epistle
Eph. 2:4-10

Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

To you, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God--not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand, that we should walk in them.

The Gospel
Matthew 22:2-14

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found. Both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called but few are chosen."

Attention All Teens

(12 years and older)

***** Come and join The St. Mary Teen SOYO Youth Group *****

The Teens would like to thank everyone for their generosity with the Thanksgiving Food Drive. With the help of the Sunday School can drive and the money received we were able to distribute **27 Thanksgiving Baskets!!!** Each basket contained fresh fruits, vegetables and a turkey.

We are now asking for your help again. We have adopted 4 families and 5 foster children for the Christmas Holiday. We are looking for monetary donations so that the teens can go out and purchase items and gift cards to be delivered to these families. Please give your donation to a Teen or Nancy Muller. **Please make your donation by December 8th!!**

YES Bridgeport, CT– December 13th-15th

When: Friday, December 13th– Sunday, December 15th

What? A wonderful opportunity to serve and love our most needy neighbors in Bridgeport, CT.

Who? 8th grade (or 13 years old), through 12th grade.

Where? 5pm at Holy Ghost Orthodox Greek Church in Bridgeport, CT. Pick up will be after Liturgy on Sunday.

Cost? A registration gift of \$150 a person will cover all trip expenses, make it possible for the YES program to prepare and execute the trip, and enable our service team to meet the needs of those we serve. Scholarships are available!

To register:

<http://yesnorthamerica.org/upcoming-trips/yes-bridgeport-ct-december-13-15-2013>

St. Mary Ladies Society News

The Ladies annual Christmas party will be held on December 6th at Blithewold in Bristol R.I. The ladies will meet in the church parking lot at 3:30 P.M. and enjoy a guided tour of the museum, greenhouse and some Christmas caroling with the Roger Williams University acapella group. We will car pool to the mansion, and reassemble at The Wharf Tavern in Warren for diner at 7pm.~ Cost of Blithewold is \$15pp. Dinner at The Wharf Tavern is off the menu and at your own cost. *Please pay Julia Vale- payment due today.*



The Parish Council has adopted a Fee schedule for the following services:

Baptism: Member- \$100
Non-Member- \$200

Wedding: Member- \$300
Non-Member- \$600

(Plus offering to clergy & cost of choir)

Parish Council President: Edward Ayoub

Bible Study

Bible study will resume in January 2014 due to the activities the parish is involved in for the Bazaar. So mark your calendars for THE BIBLE STUDY to start up on Monday, January 13, 2014. Remember to bring your copy of The Orthodox Study Bible for referencing during the Bible Study session.



One Year Memorial Service



Today, a One Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of Patriarch IGNATUS IV.

May God grant him peace and repose and may his memory be eternal.

A VOTIVE CANDLE IS LIT FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Paula Hallal offered by her father, Fred Hallal

Alicia Maurice, offered by her parents Glenn & Donna Maurice



Our Sisters in Christ- wishing that our prayers bring you comfort and health, offered by the Ladies Society Parishioners and their Families who are ill- praying for your comfort and health, offered by St. Mary Parish Francine and Julie, offered by Louis Slemon

Amy Saulen, offered by Samy and Helen Morcos

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Sgt. Thomas Schillawski, offered by Jim and Beth Schillawski

Peter Marcotte, offered by Edward and Lillian Betor

Violette Habib, offered by Emad Amirhom

Essam Amirhom, offered by Emad Amirhom

Emad Amirhom, offered by Emad Amirhom

Maria Santos, offered by Emad Amirhom

George Matook, offered by St. Mary's Choir

April Gentes Robert, offered by George and Sandra Matook

Joe, Rebecca, Joseph and Ellianna Samra,

Keith, Marlene and Madelyn Marshall, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

Fr. Harry and Kerry Pappas & Family, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

Stella Papanikolas, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

Kevin Hashway, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

Naseem and Ann Ayoub, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

George and Connie Matook, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

Joe and Marlene Samra, offered by Joe and Marlene Samra

Joseph, Rebecca, Joe and Ellianna, offered by Aunty Barbara

Joseph, Rebecca, Joe and Ellianna, offered by Sandra

Joe and Marlene, offered by Barbara

Joe and Marlene, offered by Sandra

Fr. Harry and Kerry Pappas, offered by Barbara

Fr. Harry and Kerry Pappas, offered by Sandra



PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Frances Slemon, offered by Louis Slemon
Stephen Pimental, offered by Lori Pimental
Atalla Amirhom, offered by Emad Amirhom
Labiba Nicola Hanna, offered by Magdy Guirguis
John Swistak, offered by His Loving Family
Nellie Hallal, offered by Elaine Swistak
Ron Gauthier, offered by His Loving Wife
Christopher Gauthier, offered by His Mom
Fred Hashway, offered by Elaine Wilbur
Abraham George, offered by The George Family



Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Liturgy this year will be on December 24th at 5:00 P.M.



Our Coffee Hours are under new management!

The Parish Council has decided to implement a new system to organize our coffee hours. There are two ways to handle this: when a couple, family, or an individual decides to sponsor the coffee hour, you may do it on your own which entails purchasing the pastry & juice, making the coffee, setting up the table, and cleaning up.

The second option is to donate \$ 75.00 to the church so that a Parish Council member will handle the coffee hour on your behalf.

If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, please speak with Fr. Elie at church or call him at: (240)-205-9079 and call Beth Schillawski at: (508)-339-0946.

****Please make check to St. Mary Church for coffee sponsorship and earmark "Coffee Hour".****

2012 Christmas Concert CD's

Announcing the release of the 2012 Christmas Concert recording by the Choir and Chanters of our Diocese.

They make great Christmas gifts!
Available December 15th. CD's \$10
See Yaraslava (choir directress) to reserve your copy!



Assessment Fee

The St. Mary Parish Council wishes to kindly remind the Faithful to send in their Archdiocese Assessment of \$125 made out to St. Mary Church. Please help us to be able to meet our obligations to the Archdiocese.

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is now available online on our website at:
<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

Church News & Organization Activities

St. Mary Liturgical Choir

The St. Mary Liturgical Choir welcomes new members to join its Ministry of Sacred Music. Anyone interested in joining the choir (whatever their level of musical experience) is asked to contact the choir directress Mrs. Yaraslava Klinovsky tel:(401)272-7776 or email yklinovskiy@gmail.com. The next choir rehearsal will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 P.M.

2013 Christmas Concert: This year, our Diocesan Choir will participate in the first "Orthodox Christmas around the World" concert at the Malliotis Center in Brookline on Sunday, December 15 at 4pm. This is a pan-Orthodox effort organized by Holy Cross Seminary featuring choirs from different jurisdictions.

Rehearsals will be at St. John of Damascus in Dedham:
• Sunday, December 8, 4pm-6pm (**note date change**)
• Thursday, December 12, 7pm-9pm (Dress Rehearsal)

If you would like to sing, or for more info, contact Charlie Marge (marge@alum.mit.edu)

E-mail Addresses

The Church office is compiling a list of parishioner email addresses to make it easier to communicate with our members of St. Mary Parish. Please help us in getting our list updated as soon as possible. The church e-mail address is prayerline@stmarypawtucket.necoxmail.com

Arabic Liturgy

Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 5:00 P.M. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Arabic Classes

Arabic classes will be given by Khouria Ruba are held every Thursday at 1:00pm at the Parish Center. Anyone interested is asked to call the church office at (401) 726-1202

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

Once again the holiday season is upon us, and, once again, it is time to start thinking about sending Christmas cards to those with whom we worship and love. Every year the choir sponsors a card which is sent to every family in our parish—sending **your** best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.



This letter is to ensure that **all** parish members are approached and have an opportunity to participate in the Christmas card being prepared- we do not wish to overlook anyone!

Below is a form, which you may complete and submit—either in person or by mail- containing your family name and your holiday greetings. Your holiday wishes will be sent to all parishioners. This is a wonderful way to be remembered by our community during this busy season- it is also an inexpensive and easy way to have your card sent to all your friends and relatives. All proceeds go into the choir fund, which is our only source of revenue to continue to upgrade our supplies and continue to provide you with meaningful liturgical music.

In order to be listed in this year's card, your response must be received no later than Sunday, December 8th. If there are any questions, or if you wish to give your response and donation in person, please contact the church office.

Thank you for helping us in this endeavor. All of us in the choir sincerely appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Sincerely, The St. Mary Liturgical Choir

FAMILY NAME(S) _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION: _____

Please Remember

— **LAST DATE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND DONATION IS DECEMBER 8th!**

By mail, send to: St. Mary Orthodox Church, Choir Christmas Card Fund,
249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour today is being sponsored by the Baalbaki/Salhany Family. Coffee hour will be held in the church hall today after Liturgy.



St. Mary Parish Bookstore

Many beautiful Orthodox religious items are available from the St. Mary Parish bookstore and display case. These include a new collection of Icons, Christmas and greeting cards, Liturgical music CD's, prayer books, coloring books, Crosses and Orthodox Bibles. These make wonderful gifts and reflect the *Tradition of our Orthodox Faith*. All proceeds benefit the general fund of the Church. Please see Fr. Elie if you wish to purchase these gifts.

New Study Bibles have arrived and are available for purchase - \$40.

Prayer Line

St. Mary ~ Internet Prayer Line

Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at

prayerline@stmarypawtucket.necoxmail.com

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.



St. Mary Needs You!

Preparations for our annual elections are underway. St. Mary is looking for committed and motivated pledging members to run for the 5 elected seats we have open in 2014.

Interested members should contact a member of the nomination committee. Please consider serving your church! St. Mary needs you!

The Nomination Committee

Fr. Elie, Ed Ayoub, Salwa Khoury, Holly Lazieh, Maureen Gurghigian & Joe Samra



St. Mary Church School News

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

We are preparing for our Sunday School Pageant which will take place on **Sunday the 22nd**. Sunday school dismissal will be 12:30 during the next few weeks as we prepare for the Pageant.