

# CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, July 5th:** St. Athanasios of Athos & Fifth Sunday of Matthew  
Memorial Service for Evelyn Ayoub Mardini (40 day)

**Wednesday, July 8th:** 7:00 P.M.– Follow-up PLC Meeting in the Church Hall

**Saturday, July 11th:** 5:00P.M.-Arabic Liturgy

**Sunday, July 12th:** Sixth Sunday after Pentecost & Sixth Sunday of Matthew  
Memorial Service for Helen White (40 day)

**Tuesday, July 14th:** 7:00P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

**Sunday, July 19th:** Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council

**July 20th-July 26th: 52nd Antiochian Archdiocese Convention, Boston, MA**  
**(No Church Services held at St. Mary Church)**

**Sunday, July 26th:** Eighth Sunday of Matthew

**Sunday, August 2nd:** Ninth Sunday after Pentecost & Ninth Sunday of Matthew

**Tuesday, August 5th:** 7:00P.M.– Liturgy for the Transfiguration (Bishop JOHN presiding)

**Sunday, August 9th:** Tenth Sunday after Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Matthew

**Tuesday, August 11th:** 7:00P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

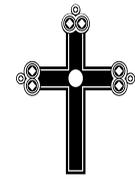
**Sunday, August 16th:** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost & Eleventh Sunday of Matthew

**Sunday, August 23rd:** Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost & Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

**Sunday, August 30th:** Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew

## Arabic Liturgy Schedule

- ♦ **July:** 5:00pm– July 11th
- ♦ **August:** No Arabic Liturgy



# SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



*Sunday, July 5, 2015*

*Venerable Athanasios of Athos &  
Fifth Sunday of Matthew*

## *Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church*

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

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

**V. Rev. Father Elie Estephan**  
**395 Brown St.-Unit 2, Attleboro, MA 02703**  
**Cell- 1-(240) 205-9079**

### **Schedule of Services**

<i>Sunday: Orthros (Matins)</i>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Church School</i>	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday: Divine Liturgy</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>

*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 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.

### **Parish Council 2015:**

**President:** Joe Samra III (*Fellowship*)

**Vice-President:** Salwa Khoury (*Ladies Society*)

**Secretary:** Cindy Hayes

**Treasurer:** Fadia Kabak

**Council Members:** Charles Abosamra, Emad Amirhom, Edward Ayoub, Scott Barnes, Cory Dupont, Janice Hallal (*Choir*), Lorice Hallal, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazieh, Jamie Mitri, Walid Nakhoul, Elmer Stanley (*Church School*)

**\*\*Please feel free to contact Joe Samra III (401) 334-0310 / [joesamra@gmail.com](mailto:joesamra@gmail.com) or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns\*\***



## ***Salvation Is Possible with God***

Do we take our salvation for granted? The answer to this question is “Yes, we do!” We do when we say that all we need is faith, but we do not act as people of faith, or when we put trust in His love and we do not have love. For if I “*have no love,*” says St. Paul, “*I am nothing*” (I Corinthians 13:3). The thief crucified with Jesus appeared to obtain his Salvation just by asking, “*Lord, remember me when You come into your kingdom*” (Luke 23:42). Immediately, Jesus assured him: “*I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.*” Looking carefully at this passage in the Gospel of Luke, we can see that the thief’s salvation was a much more complex event than it seems. Like the prodigal son, the thief “*came to himself*” (Luke 15:17) and had a change of heart. When another thief started mocking the Lord, the first thief rebuked him: “*Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?*” We can see the thief going through a process of repentance when he tells the other scornful thief that they have received their condemnation: “*indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds.*” Then, he makes a confession of faith: “*this man (Who) has done nothing wrong,*” recognizing that Jesus can save him in His Kingdom. A young rich man came to Jesus to find justification. He asks the Master’s advice. “*Keep the commandments!*” says our Lord. And he indeed had kept all of them “*since his youth.*” But when Jesus asks him to sell his riches and give the money to the poor, he is saddened, for he is very much attached to them. And so, he turns his back on the Lord. The young man did much for his soul, but he “*lacked one thing,*” says the Lord—and that thing was major enough to keep him away from the Kingdom. For him, the obstacle was being rich. For others, the obstacles could be many and could take on many shapes and forms. Unless we give that “*thing*” or “*things*” up and follow the Lord, we cannot enter the Kingdom. The Lord says that “*it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God*” (Luke 18:25). Those who heard these words of the Lord realized how difficult or how impossible it is for anyone to enter the Kingdom. So, they ask Him, “*Who then can be saved?*” The Lord replies, “*the things that are impossible with man are possible with God.*” Immediately, after Jesus speaks these words, He calls the disciples aside and tells them, “*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. And they will scourge Him and put Him to death. And the third day, He will rise again.*” (Luke 18:31-33)

Salvation, therefore, was made possible through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross and His Resurrection. We must appropriate this Salvation—“*objectively*” made possible by Christ for us all— for ourselves. Therefore, Salvation is a life-long process in which, as St. Paul writes, “*We are fellow-workers with God*” (I Cor. 3:9). We collaborate with the Grace of God. For this reason, Salvation cannot be taken lightly or for granted. Concerning the question of whether or not one is saved, Bishop Kallistos Ware writes, “*Instead, then of answering ‘I am saved,’ I prefer to make use of the continuous present: ‘I trust that by God’s mercy and grace I am being saved.*” He goes on to say, “*I am on a journey..., and that journey has not yet reached its conclusion.*” I pray to God that as I am still on my journey, He will help me discover those things that I lack for my Salvation and help me deal with them. But above all, I thank the Lord for His Cross and Resurrection, for by them, He makes Salvation possible for us. And like the thief, I ask Him to “*Remember me. O Lord, in your kingdom*” (Prayer before Holy Communion).

## *Orthodox Vocabulary*

### Essence

**Essence:** the Orthodox Church distinguishes between the essence of God and his energies. In speaking of his essence, we affirm that God is absolutely transcendent, beyond all creatures, unknowable and ineffable. But we also affirm that God is “everywhere present and filling all things,” and that *we can participate in him through grace*. Indeed, God remains “totally other,” while revealing himself to us through his *energies*, through his deifying grace and divine light.



Let mercy outweigh all else in you. Let our compassion be a mirror where we may see in ourselves that likeness and that true image, which belong to the Divine nature and Divine essence. A hard and unmerciful heart will never be pure.

~St. Isaac the Syrian

## Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

- ◆ **July 20th-26th**– St. Mary Church, Cambridge, MA: Hosting 52nd Archdiocesan Convention, Boston, MA

**Sunday, July 5, 2015**

## *Venerable Athanasius of Athos & Fifth Sunday of Matthew*

**Tone: 4 Eothinon: 5**

### **Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 4**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### **Troparion of St. Athanasius the Athonite: Tone 3**

*(\*\*Awed by the beauty\*\*)*

The Angels' ranks were awed by thy life in the flesh, \* how, though corporeal, and clad with earthly clay, \* thou didst set forth with courage to invisible wars and wrestlings \* and didst boldly smite the hordes \* of the demons with mortal wounds. \* Wherefore, Christ rewarded thee \* with abundant gifts in return. \* Entreat Him that our souls find salvation, \* O most renowned Father Athanasius.

### **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 Ordinary Sundays, Tone 2**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## THE EPISTLE

*The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (5:22-6:2)**

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provocation of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

*Please help support our fundraising efforts*

**\*\*\*\*\*2015 RAFFLE/ 20 WEEK CLUB\*\*\*\*\***

Raffle tickets are still available for purchase- \$25.00 each.

(1) \$50.00 Prize each week

(1) Grand Prize of \$1,000 to be drawn on September 13th during Coffee Hour.

If you haven't already bought a ticket, please see Ed Ayoub or a Parish Council member.

### **WINNERS:**

*Week 1-* Scott Barnes \$50

*Week 2-* Steven Kilsey \$50

*Week 3-* Rebecca Samra \$50

*Week 4-* Fred Hallal \$50

*Week 5-* Lisa Ayoub Parent \$50

*Week 6-* Diana Hashway \$50

*Week 7-* Adele Shwaery \$50

*Week 8-* Teresa Haddad \$50

*Week 9-* Fadi Samaan (Thank you to Fadi for donating his winnings back to the church)



### **ONLINE BULLETIN**

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:

<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

### **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.

# Metropolis of Boston Camp Summer 2015



Family Camp: July 1 to July 5  
 Session 2: July 6 to July 12  
 Session 3: July 13 to July 19  
 Session 4: July 22 to July 26  
 Session 5: July 27 to Aug 2  
 Session 6: Aug 3 to Aug 9



**REGISTER TODAY!!!**

[www.mbcamp.org](http://www.mbcamp.org)



## 40 Day Memorial Service



A Memorial Service is being offered for the servant of God *Evelyn Ayoub Mardini* by her Son and Grandchildren; Samer, Salim & Nicole Mardini. A Memorial Coffee Hour (light luncheon) will be offered in her memory following Liturgy at the Parish Center.

*May God grant her peace and may her memory be eternal*

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR  
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:**

April Gentes Robert  
 Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

Mark Hashway  
 Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Samer, Salim & Nicole Mardini  
 Offered by: Elias Baalbaki & Family

The Samra Family  
 Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Fred Hallal  
 Albert Hallal  
 Jim & Laura Arrighi & Family  
 Offered by: Holly Lazieh and Sons &  
 Bob Dessaint

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Fred Hashway Jr.  
 Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Evelyn Ayoub Mardini  
 Offered by: Elias Baalbaki & Family

Joseph Samra  
 Mary Samra  
 Murad Laffey  
 John Swistak  
 Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Sophie Hallal  
 Joseph Samra Sr.  
 Howard Arrighi  
 John Swistak  
 Offered by: Holly Lazieh and Sons &  
 Bob Dessaint

Lilly & Leon Hattab  
 Valentine, Baseem & John Trabulsi  
 Adele Hadad  
 Offered by: Leila & Ray Trabulsi



## Coffee Hour Sponsorships

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.

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

*If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, please call the church office and speak with Sheryl.*

**\*\* ALL Coffee hour's will now be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.\*\***

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
July 5th	Samer Mardini	Evelyn Ayoub Mardini (40 Day)
July 12th	Kilsey/Maurice Families	Helen White (40 Day)
July 19th	Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos	Elias Morcos (son)
July 26th	Walid & Mirna Nakhoul	Salim Audi (3 years)
August 2nd	The David Family	George "Sippi" David (5 years)
August 9th	Caesar & Therese El Khoury	Health of their Family
August 16th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
August 23rd	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
August 30th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 6th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 13th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 20th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 27th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
October 4th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
October 11th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
October 18th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
October 25th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
November 1st	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
November 8th	No Coffee Hour	2015 Holiday Bazaar
November 15th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	

## **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) are asked to contact the choir director Dawn Boukari @ (401) 465-8909 or email her: daboukari@gmail.com

### 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.

**\*\*Assessment letters were mailed out– if you have already paid your Assessment Fee and received this letter, it was sent to you in error. Thank you for your understanding.\*\***

### Cemetery Plots

If you wish to purchase a cemetery plot at Walnut Hill Cemetery, the cost is \$1,000. Please contact Ed Ayoub for more information or to purchase a plot.

### Bulletin Submissions

*Please help us provide a quality weekly bulletin by submitting all prayer requests and announcements to the church office by Noon on Wednesdays. Any requests received after this time will be in the following week's bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.*