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

Date: Sponsored by: Sponsored for:

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

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, December 1, 2013
Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost
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
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 sow 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 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 invit-
ed, 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 wor-
thly. 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."

St. Mary Teen SOYO News and Events

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:
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 a cappella group. We will car pool to the mansion, and reassemble at The Wharf Tavern in Warren for dinner 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 Slemmon
- 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 Elianna 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 Elianna Samra
- Joseph, Rebecca, Joe and Elianna, offered by Aunty Barbara
- Joseph, Rebecca, Joe and Elianna, 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

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!

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”.

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 director 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)

**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

**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

**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.