

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 14th: Twenty Ninth Sunday After Pentecost & Sunday of the Forefathers
40 Day Memorial Service for James Karneeb
Choir Appreciation Sunday

Tuesday, December 16th: 6:30 P.M.– Parish Council Dinner / Meeting

Wednesday, December 17th: Ladies Annual Christmas Party at The Stadium Theatre

Sunday, December 21st: The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ
Sunday School Pageant

Wednesday, December 24th: 4:00 P.M.– Royal Hours
5:00 P.M.– Matins for the Feast of the Nativity
6:00 P.M.– Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Thursday, December 25th: Christmas (Church office Closed)

Sunday, December 28th: Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Wednesday, December 31st: 6:00 P.M.– New Year Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Thursday, January 1, 2015 (New Year's Day– office closed)

Sunday, January 4, 2015: The Sunday before Epiphany

Monday, January 5, 2015: 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Meeting

Sunday, January 11, 2015: The Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, January 12, 2015: 7:00 P.M.– Bible Study

Tuesday, January 13, 2015: 7:00 Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2015: Commemoration of Sts. Athanasius & Cyril & Twelfth Sunday of Luke

Sunday, January 25, 2015: Commemoration of St. Gregory the Theologian & Fifteenth Sunday of Luke



Keep Christ in Christmas

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 14, 2014

**Twenty Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
and Sunday of the Forefathers**

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

**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

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 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

Sacrament

Sacrament: the possibility of “belonging to Christ,” of “participating in divine life,” is essentially revealed in the sacraments. These are ritual acts, aspects of the unique mystery which is the Church, in which God shares divine life with humanity, ransoming man from sin and death. The sacraments, as well as all liturgical celebrations, are not, and should not become, refuges from life, religious acts performed in the “spiritual” domain and totally cut off from daily life. The sacraments (*mysteria* in Greek) are acts of the Holy Spirit which unite humanity to Christ; they are thus privileged moments in our personal relationship with God, moments which create a vital link between him and us.

The chief sacraments are: baptism, chrismation, the eucharist, repentance (with confession and absolution), and laying on of hands (ordination), marriage, and the anointing of the sick.

What are we to do then, my friends? We must bestow our love on our brothers and sisters. We must not allow any malice at all to remain in our hearts. May almighty God have regard for our love of our neighbor, so that He may pardon our iniquities! Remember what He taught us: Forgive, and you will be forgiven. People are in debt to us, and us to them. Let us forgive them their debts, so that what we owe them may be forgiven.

~St. Gregory the Great



REMINDER– New Church Email Address

Please use our new email address **office@stmarypawtucket.org** for all church correspondence.

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.

If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, please see Fr. Elie. Please make check to St. Mary Church for coffee sponsorship and earmark “Coffee Hour”.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
December 14th	The Karneeb Family	James Karneeb (40 Day)
December 21st	No Coffee Hour	Church School Pageant
December 28th	Fatat ElKhaouli	Nicholas ElKhaouli (2 years)
<u>2015</u>		
January 4th	Ron & Janice Hallal	Memory of Linda Bowab (5years)
	Elaine Gauthier	Memory of Chris Gauthier (5years)
January 11th	William Small	Memory of Rev. Deacon Small
January 18th	The Kilsey Children	Fred Kilsey (20 years)
	Fred Kilsey & Family	Michele Kilsey (4 years)
January 25th	Dr. Zeyad Morcos & Family	Memory of Elias Morcos (24 years)
February 1st	Ayoub Family	Naseem Ayoub (1 year)
February 8th*	Catherine Wason	Health of Family
February 15th	Open for sponsorship	
February 22nd	Open for sponsorship	
February 29th	Open for sponsorship	
March 1st	Open for sponsorship	
March 8th	Open for sponsorship	
March 15th	Open for sponsorship	
March 22nd	William Salhany & Family	Ruth Salhany (5 years)
March 29th	Open for sponsorship	
April 5th	No Coffee Hour	Palm Sunday
April 12th	No Coffee Hour	Pascha
April 19th	Nora Abelahad & Family	Charles Abdelahad (1 year)
April 26th	Open for sponsorship	
May 3rd	Open for sponsorship	

Sunday, December 14, 2014

Twenty Nineth Sunday after Pentecost
and Sunday of the Forefathers

Tone: 2 Eothinon: 5

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Forefathers: Tone 2

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, 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 Preparation of Christ’s Nativity: Tone 3

(**The Original Melody**)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

The Epistle

Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon: O Lord, how magnificent are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians.

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Gospel

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married, a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. 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 ******

- * Dec. 20th the SOYO will be attending a Prov. Friar game with the Annunciation GOYA, We are trying to get a group of 20 in order to get discount of ticket prices. If interested please contact Emile Sarkis, via email at esarkis@hchc.edu, or phone 401-486-1633.

Bible Study

Come join us for Bible study, held every Second Monday at 7pm in the Church Hall. Remember to bring your copy of The Orthodox Study Bible for referencing during the Bible Study session.



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).

- * **Sunday, December 21st: Sunday School Pageant**

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 directress Dawn Boukari @ (401) 465-8909 or email her: daboukari@aol.com

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.

December is the month of The Order of St. Ignatius

During the month of December, in our Antiochian Archdiocese we commemorate the role of The Order of St. Ignatius in The Life of the Church and it's Ministry. Members of The Order will be reading the Epistle, taking the collection, and assisting in the Vestry. May God bless all the members of our parish chapter of The Order and guide them to fulfill their Ministry.

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.

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



40 Day Memorial Service



A Forty Day Memorial Service is being offered for the servant of God *James Karneeb* by The Karneeb Family. A Memorial Luncheon will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

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

Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ~ 2014

This year the Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ falls on Thursday, December 25th, 2014. St. Mary Church will celebrate The Nativity Season with the following Schedule of Services:

- ◆ **Sunday, December 21st:** Divine Liturgy and St. Mary Church School Christmas Pageant and Christmas Dinner.
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 24th:** 4:00pm: Royal Hours of The Nativity
5:00pm: Orthros (Matins) Service of The Feast of The Nativity
6:00pm: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 31st:** 6:00pm– New Year Liturgy of St. Basil the Great



PRAYER REQUESTS

Starting in December, we will have a new format for any prayer requests submitted for the bulletin. All prayers received within the month will be printed in the last bulletin of the month. Any names sent to the office, will be mentioned during Liturgy on the Sunday after it was received, but will only be in the bulletin on the last Sunday of the month. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Elie.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

HIS EMINENCE
THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN JOSEPH

December 14, 2014

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

*"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being."
(Psalm 103:33-34)*

Beloved Clergy, Parish Councils and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

We greet you during this holy season of the Nativity Fast as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, praying that you are all in good health.

On the second Sunday of December each year we honor our choir members and chanters in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the beauty of our church services each year. This year, that Sunday falls on December 14, 2014.

Whether at the Divine Liturgy, vespers, matins, sacraments or various other services of the Church, they give of their time and talents to offer up glory to God. Can we imagine one of our beautiful services without our choirs or chanters? Let us therefore honor them by doing something special, praying for their good health and thanking them on this day for their special offering as part of the body of Christ. Let us also use this Sunday to encourage our people to participate more fully in the divine services by joining the choirs and chanters in offering up our prayers to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Fast and a most joyous feast of our Lord's Nativity, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

2014

Parish Christmas Poinsettia Fund

*In anticipation of Christmas, we present our very important
"Poinsettia Fund" Project*

Please accept my donation of \$ _____
to be used in decorating the Church for Christmas.
This donation is made with the following intentions.



For the Good Health and Blessing of:

In Loving Memory of:

From: _____

Please remember to return the form to the Parish Office by TODAY!