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
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
Patriarch
Patriarch is the ecclesiastical title dating from the 6th century and accorded to the bishops of the five chief sees of Christendom; Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, and Jerusalem. Their jurisdiction extended over the adjoining territories and included certain important rights such as the right to ordain the metropolitans, that is, the bishops of the principal sees within their jurisdiction and also to put them to trial when accused, and of hearing appeals against the judgments of these metropolitans. The earliest bishops exercising such extensive powers were those of Rome (jurisdiction over the whole or part of Italy); Alexandria (jurisdiction over Egypt and Libya); and Antioch (jurisdiction over large parts of Asia Minor). These three were recognized by the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325). But the Fourth Ecumenical Council at Chalcedon (451) recognized as well Jerusalem and Constantinople. According to the 28th Canon of this Synod, a number of privileges were accorded to the see of Constantinople, by which it was raised to the position of second after Rome and its jurisdiction was extended over Thrace, Asia, and Pontus. And though the bishop of Rome protested against the importance and extent of the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Constantinople, the latter became a little later Ecumenical Patriarch, that is, the first among the rest of the Patriarchates of the East.

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

Pray simply. Do not expect to find in your heart any remarkable gift of prayer. Consider yourself unworthy of it. Then you will find peace. Use the empty cold dryness of your prayer as food for your humility. Repeat constantly: I am not worthy: Lord, I am not worthy! But say it calmly, without agitation.
~St. Macarius of Optina

Special Thanks!!!
A very special THANK YOU is offered to the ladies and gentlemen who helped prepare and cook the food for bulk sales- as a result of orders from the Bazaar. We made over $2,800 net….great job!! We still have a limited supply of Kibbee (3 trays), 5 lbs of Kabob, and 2 dozen Sfeeha. If interested, please see Elaine Gauthier at today’s luncheon.

~Salwa Khoury
Bazaar Chairperson
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”.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 21st</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Church School Pageant</td>
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<td>December 28th</td>
<td>Fatat ElKhaouli</td>
<td>Nicholas ElKhaouli (2 years)</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>January 4th</td>
<td>Ron &amp; Janice Hallal</td>
<td>Memory of Linda Bowab (5 years)</td>
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<td>January 11th</td>
<td>Elaine Gauthier</td>
<td>Memory of Chris Gauthier (5 years)</td>
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<td>January 18th</td>
<td>William Small</td>
<td>Memory of Rev. Deacon Small</td>
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<td>January 25th</td>
<td>The Kilsey Children</td>
<td>Fred Kilsey (20 years)</td>
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<td>January 25th</td>
<td>Dr. Zeyad Maros &amp; Family</td>
<td>Memory of Elas Maros (24 years)</td>
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<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Ayoub Family</td>
<td>Naseem Ayoub (1 year)</td>
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<td>February 8th*</td>
<td>Catherine Wason</td>
<td>Health of Family</td>
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<td>February 15th</td>
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<td>March 15th</td>
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<td>March 22nd</td>
<td>William Salhany &amp; Family</td>
<td>Ruth Salhany (5 years)</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>April 12th</td>
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<td>Pascha</td>
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<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Nora Abdelahad &amp; Family</td>
<td>Charles Abdelahad (1 year)</td>
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<td>April 26th</td>
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<td>May 3rd</td>
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Sunday, December 21, 2014

The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ
(Sunday of Genealogy)

Tone: 3 Eothenon: 6

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 3
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion for the Forefeast of the Nativity: Tone 4
(**Joseph was amazed**)  
Be thou ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a noetic paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

Troparion of Sunday before the Nativity: Tone 2
Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. 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
Hebrews 11:9-10; 17:23-32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him in the same promise. For we looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, and enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world is not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel
Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram and Aram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'aaz by Rahab, and Bo'aaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rebo'am, and Rebo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezek'i'ah, and Hezek'i'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josi'sah, and Josi'sah the father of Jechni'ah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechni'ah was the father of Sheal'ti-eli, and Sheal'ti-eli the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Mathan, and Mathan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

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

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.

2015 Church Calendars
We have beautiful Church Calendars now available for sale for the 2015 year. Please participate in this worthwhile fundraiser for our Church, give as a gift-- or for your own use. The calendars are $10. If you wish to purchase a calendar, please see Fr. Elie.
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

Sunday School Pageant Today

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

**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 School Pageant Today**

**7 DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A Seven-Day Memorial Service is being offered today for the repose of the soul of George Zin by his loving daughter Huda Zin & Family.

_May God grant him peace and may his memory be eternal._

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

- Jacob Khoury, offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury
- Elaine Swistak
- George & Sandra Matook
- Nabil & Salwa Khoury, offered by: Elaine Swistak
- George & Sandra Matook
- Samy Morcos offered by: Helen Morcos
  - Danielle & Milad Nasr & Family
  - Michelle & Fred Smith & Family
  - Elaine Swistak
  - Philip & Bette Ayoub
  - Elaine Gauthier
  - Elias & Samar Bahlbaki
  - Nancy Penta & Family
  - Ray & Leila Trabulsi
  - Helen Morcos, offered by: Elaine Gauthier
  - Nancy Penta & Family
  - Joseph & Marlene Samra: offered by: Elaine Gauthier
    - Zafer & Maureen Farah
    - Philip & Bette Ayoub
    - Susan Warzych & Family
    - Elaine Swistak
    - Samy & Helen Morcos
    - Mary Lou & Bill Catelli
    - Cynthia, George & Michael Antypas
    - Lila Bargoot
    - Elias & Samar Bahlbaki
    - Charles & Elaine Agaty
    - Nora Abdelahad
    - Nancy Penta & Family
    - Ron & Janice Hallal
    - Julia Vale
    - Ray & Leila Trabulsi

All the Members of my Family, offered by: Julia Vale

- Ray & Leila Trabulsi, offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos
- Elias & Samar Bahlbaki
- Nabil & Salwa Khoury
- Nancy Penta & Family
- Philip & Bette Ayoub, offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos
- Father Timothy Ferguson (on his 35th Anniversary in priesthood), offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos
- Elaine Wilbur & Family, offered by: Elaine Gauthier

**Diocese of N.E. upcoming events**

- **January 25th at 5:00 P.M.** – St. Mary Church, Pawtucket: Hosting Vespers and talk given by Bishop JOHN on the “Sanctity of Life” at the Parish Center
- **Sunday, March 1st at 5:00 P.M.** – St. Mary Church, Pawtucket: Hosting Sunday of Orthodoxy - Vespers and refreshments following Liturgy at the Parish Center
- **April 22nd at 10:30 A.M.** – St. Mary Church, Pawtucket: Hosting RI Clergy Meeting/Luncheon
PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Al & Vicki Hallal, offered by: Leo Saidnaway
Zafer & Maureen Farah
Ron & Janice Hallal

Lorice Hallal, offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Julia Vale, offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
Dana Leigh Ayoub, offered by: Paul & Michele Astphan
Kennedy Grace Astphan-Bridge, offered by: Paul & Michele Astphan
Edie & Lynn Karneeb, offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal
The Karneeb Family, offered by: Nora Matook & Family
Julia Vale

Maria Matook, offered by: Nora Matook & Family
Gene & Mary Galli, offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub
Peter & Joyce Rudge, offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub
Marc & Lisa Parent, offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub
Georgette Hallal & Family, offered by: Georgette Hallal
Connie Matook & Family, offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Nora Matook & Family
The Briggs & Wehbe Families
Elias & Samar Baalbaki
Charles & Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad
George & Sandra Matook
Julia Vale

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Janet Swistak, offered by: Elaine Swistak
Louis Josephs, offered by Mary Lou & Bill Catelli
Matilda Josephs, offered by Mary Lou & Bill Catelli
Joanne Abdelahad, offered by Mary Lou & Bill Catelli
Robert Vale, offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
Julia Vale
Kamel & Ethel Salhany, offered by: John Salhany
Robert Salhany, offered by: John Salhany
Virginia Salhany
Fred Salhany, offered by: John Salhany
Virginia Salhany
Richard Salhany, offered by: Virginia Salhany
Abraham Astphan offered by: Paul & Michele Astphan
Annie Astphan, offered by: Paul & Michele Astphan
George Hallal (12 years), offered by: Georgette Hallal
Hallal, Sackell, Kandalaft & Mouro Families, offered by: Georgette Hallal
George Matook, offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal
Mrs. Dorothy R. Nahas
Mary Jane Wehbe & Family
Ron & Janice Hallal
Nora Matook & Family
The Briggs & Wehbe Families
John Salhany
Elias & Samar Baalbaki

Please remember that in our Orthodox Christian Tradition, the Great Feast of the Nativity is a 12 day observance that is linked directly to the Great Feast of Theophany, The Baptism of Christ, held on January 6th.

During the 12 days of Christmas there is no fasting, not even on Wednesday and Fridays. This is the true “Time of the Feast”, when visitations and family celebrations should occur.

The season of the Feast ends on January 6th.

The great blessing of the Waters of Epiphany will be January 11th after Liturgy.