

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**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

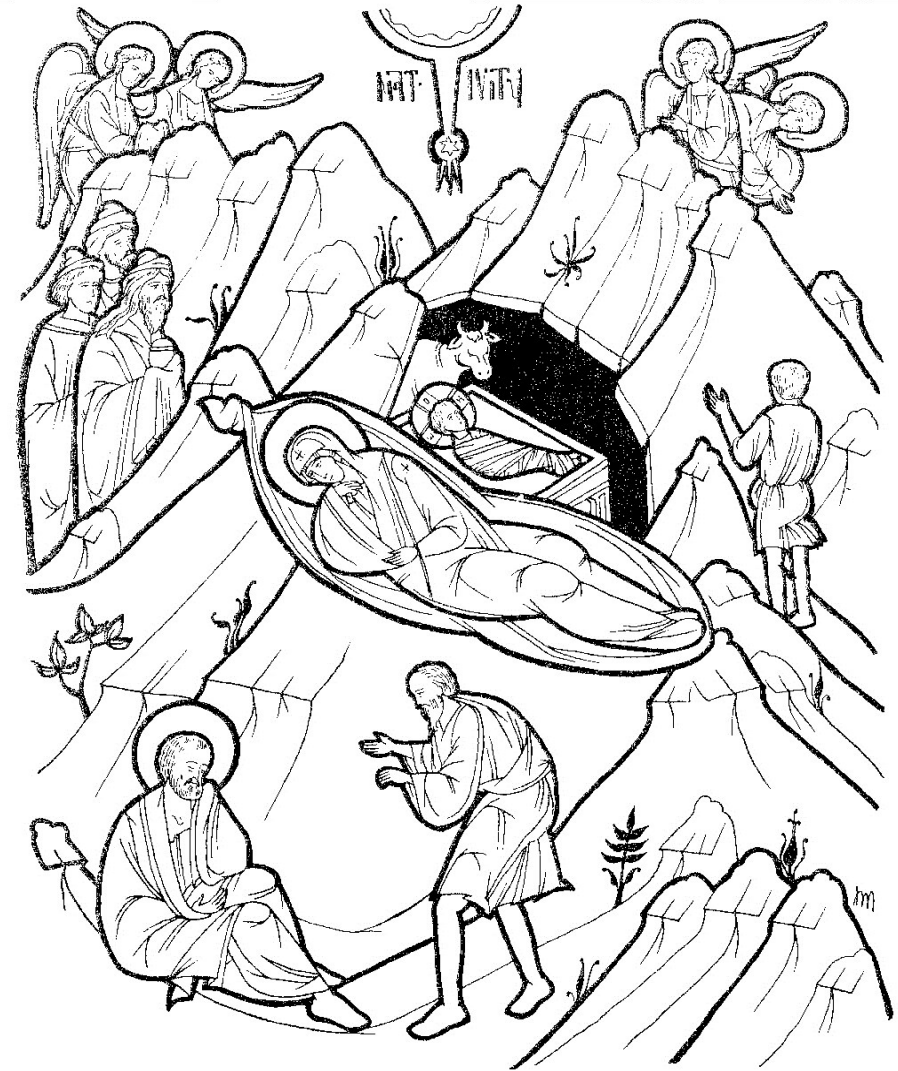
**Sunday, January 25, 2015:** Commemoration of St. Gregory the Theologian &

Fifteenth Sunday of Luke



Keep Christ in Christmas

## SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



*Sunday, December 21, 2014*

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

## *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**

*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*

### **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 Nicea (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.

*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”.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
December 21st December 28th	No Coffee Hour Fatat ElKhaouli	Church School Pageant Nicholas ElKhaouli (2 years)
2015		
January 4th	Ron & Janice Hallal Elaine Gauthier	Memory of Linda Bowab (5years) Memory of Chris Gauthier (5years)
January 11th	William Small	Memory of Rev. Deacon Small
January 18th	The Kilsey Children Fred Kilsey & Family	Fred Kilsey (20 years) 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 21, 2014

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

Tone: 3 Eothinon: 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 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**

Prokeimenon: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Father.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

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

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 Aram 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'az by Rahab, and Bo'az 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 Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'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 Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of Sheal'ti-el, and Sheal'ti-el 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 Matthan, and Matthan 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



## 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**

## 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



## 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 Baalbaki

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 Warzycha & Family

Elaine Swistak

Samy & Helen Morcos

Mary Lou & Bill Catelli

Cynthia, George & Michael Antypas

Lila Bargoot

Elias & Samar Baalbaki

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 Baalbaki

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



**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 Abdalah, 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

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

George Matook, offered by: Virginia Salhany  
Charles & Elaine Agaty  
Nora Abdelahad  
Julia Vale  
Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery  
James Karneeb: offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal  
Nora Matook & Family  
Charlie & Elaine Agaty  
Nora Abdelahad  
George & Sandra Matook  
John Salhany  
Julia Vale  
Ron & Janice Hallal  
Ron Gauthier, offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal  
John Swistak, offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal  
Leon T. Matook, offered by: Nora Matook & Family  
Charles Slemon, offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra  
All the Deceased members of my Family, offered by: Julia Vale  
Fred Hashway, offered by: Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery  
Christopher Gauthier, offered by: Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery  
Charles Slemon, offered by: Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery



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.**

