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
5:00 p.m.– Vespers & Talk by Bishop JOHN on the “Sanctity of Life” at the Parish Center
Tuesday, January 27th, 2015: 7:30 P.M.-Fellowship Bible Study (held at 9 Eagle Way, Seekonk, MA)
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
Myrrh
Myrrh: a fragrant resin obtained from a tree in Arabia, it is used to make a perfume commonly used to anoint the dead. The magi brought gold, incense, and myrrh when they came to worship the Messiah in Bethlehem. The liturgical texts interprets this gift as a symbol of the passion of the Lord.

Love of the Good
“We place our hopes upon the things which are beyond, and in preparation for life eternal we do all things that we do. Accordingly, whatever helps us towards this we say that we must love and follow after with all our might, but those things which have no bearing upon it, they should be held as naught.”
~St. Basil The Great

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.
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”.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 28th</td>
<td>Fatat ElKhaouli</td>
<td>Nicholas ElKhaouli (2 years)</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>Fred Kilsey &amp; Family</td>
<td>Michele Kilsey (4 years)</td>
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<td>January 25th</td>
<td>Dr. Zeyad Morcos &amp; Family</td>
<td>Memory of Elias Morcos (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>
<td>Open for sponsorship</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>March 29th</td>
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<td>April 5th</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>April 12th</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Pascha</td>
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<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Nora Abelahad &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>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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Sunday, December 28, 2014

The Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Tone: 4  Eothinon: 7

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 the Nativity of Christ: Tone 4
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of Sunday After the Nativity: Tone 2
Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to 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 Nativity: Tone 3
(**The Original Melody**) Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.
God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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.
The Parish Council has adopted a Fee schedule for the use of the Sanctuary for the following services:

**Baptism**
- Member - $100
- Non-Member - $200

**Wedding**
- Member - $300
- Non-Member - $600

(Plus offering to clergy & cost of choir)

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**Attention All Teens**
(12 years and older)

***Come and join The St. Mary Teen SOYO Youth Group***

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**Visitations**
Please contact Fr. Elie with any names of parishioners that are in need of visitation either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

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**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.

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**2 Year Memorial Service**
A Two-Year Memorial Service is being offered today for the repose of the soul of Nicholas Elkhaouli by his loving wife Fatat Elkhaouli.

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

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**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:**
- Joe & Marlene Samra
- Mark Hashway
- Penny Panagakos
- Jacob Khoury
- Samy Morcos
  - Offered by: Lorice Hallal
- April Gentes Robert
- Sam & Kay Matook
- Huda Zin Al-Amir & Family
- Fatat Elkhaouli & Family
- Nora Abdelahad
  - Offered by: George & Sandra Matook
- Nabil Khoury
  - Offered by: Salwa Khoury
- Jacob Khoury
  - Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury
- Sam Matook
  - Offered by: Charles & Elaine Agaty
  - Nora Abdelahad

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**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**
- George & Alma Matook
- Thomas Matook
- Charles Abdelahad
- George Zin
- Sub-deacon Nicholas Elkhaouli
  - Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
- Louis Josephs
  - Offered by: George, Louis, Mary & Christopher Kilsey
- Nicholas Elkhouli (2 Years)
  - Offered by:
    - Fatat Elkhaouli
    - Fouad and Houida Elkhaouli
    - Nicholas, Marie, Fouad & Madeline Elkhaouli
    - Offered by: Yasmine Elkhaouli
    - George Zin
      - Offered by: Marwan Al-Amir & Huda Zin
Epiphany 2015 - Blessing of Homes
With the upcoming celebration of The Feast of Epiphany and the Great Sanctification of the Water, house blessings are starting for the new year. If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact Fr. Elie and schedule an appropriate time. While it is traditional to begin house blessings following Epiphany, homes may be blessed throughout the year. May the Blessing of the Jordan River sanctify and protect each and every home and family in our community.

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

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

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.

Fellowship Bible Study
Our next Bible Study is scheduled for Tuesday January 27th at 7:30 PM hosted by Phil Ayoub at his parents house (9 Eagle Way, Seekonk MA 02771). I hope many of you can attend. Please let me know if you can attend so we have a count going into the meeting.
~ Joe Samra

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.