

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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
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)

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 28, 2014

The Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

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

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.

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:
<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

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 28th	Fatat ElKhaouli	Nicholas ElKhaouli (2 years)
<u>2015</u>		
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 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.

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

THE EPISTLE

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 consoled, 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.

St. Mary Teen SOYO News and Events

Attention All Teens

(12 years and older)

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

Visitations

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

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.

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)



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.



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

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

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

- ♦ **Wednesday, December 31st:** 6:00pm– New Year Liturgy of St. Basil the Great



Epiphany 2015- Blessing of Homes

With the up-coming 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.