Sunday, December 7th: Twenty Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
  40 Day Memorial Service for George Matook
Saturday, December 13th: 5:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy
Sunday, December 14th: Twenty Ninth Sunday After Pentecost & Sunday of the
  Forefathers
  40 Day Memorial Service for James Karneeb
Tuesday, December 16th: 6:00 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: 6:00 P.M.– Christmas Liturgy
Thursday, December 25th: Christmas (Church office Closed)
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
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sponsored by:</th>
<th>Sponsored for:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 7th</td>
<td>Connie Matook &amp; Family</td>
<td>George Matook (40 Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14th</td>
<td>The Karneeb Family</td>
<td>James Karneeb (40 Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21st</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Church School Pageant</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 28th</td>
<td>Fatat ELKhaouli</td>
<td>Nicholas ELKhaouli (2 years)</td>
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2015

- January 4th: Ron & Janice Hallal, Memory of Linda Bowab (5 years)
- January 11th: Elaine Gauthier, Memory of Chris Gauthier (5 years)
- January 18th: William Small, Memory of Rev. Deacon Small
- January 25th: The Kilsey Children, Fred Kilsey (20 years), Michele Kilsey (4 years)
- February 1st: Dr. Zeyad Morcos & Family, Memory of Elias Morcos (24 years)
- 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: Open for sponsorship
- April 26th: Open for sponsorship

Sunday, December 7, 2014

Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.
The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.
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

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.

Diocesan Christmas Choir – If you are a singer, please join us for our Diocesan Christmas Concert which will be a Western Rite Lessons & Carols service with the Hallelujah Chorus on Sunday, December 14, 5pm @ St. Mary’s in Cambridge. Here is the rehearsal schedule:

• Sunday, Dec 7, 4pm – 6pm @ St. Mary’s in Cambridge DRESS REHEARSAL
  with brass quintet @ St. Mary’s

If you would like to sing or have questions, please e-mail Charlie Marge: marge@alum.mit.edu

40 Day Memorial Service
A Forty Day Memorial Service is being offered for the servant of God George Matook by his Loving wife Connie Matook & Family. Coffee hour will be offered in his memory in the Church Hall after Liturgy.

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

Christmas Liturgy
Christmas Liturgy this year will be on December 24th at 6:00 P.M.

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.

Arabic Liturgy
**Note Date Change for the Month of December.**
Arabic Liturgy will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 5:00 P.M.
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 Sunday, Dec. 14th

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

Once again the holiday season is upon us, and, once again, it is time to start thinking about sending Christmas cards to those with whom we worship and love. Every year the choir sponsors a card which is sent to every family in our parish—sending your best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

This letter is to ensure that all parish members are approached and have an opportunity to participate in the Christmas card being prepared—we do not wish to overlook anyone!

Below is a form, which you may complete and submit—either in person or by mail—containing your family name and your holiday greetings. Your holiday wishes will be sent to all parishioners. This is a wonderful way to be remembered by our community during this busy season—it is also an inexpensive and easy way to have your card sent to all your friends and relatives. All proceeds go into the choir fund, which is our only source of revenue to continue to upgrade our supplies and continue to provide you with meaningful liturgical music.

In order to be listed in this year’s card, your response must be received no later than Sunday, December 7th. If there are any questions, or if you wish to give your response and donation in person, please contact the church office.

Thank you for helping us in this endeavor. All of us in the choir sincerely appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Sincerely,
The St. Mary Liturgical Choir

FAMILY NAME(S)
____________________________________

AMOUNT OF DONATION: __________________________________

Please Remember
— LAST DATE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND DONATION IS TODAY!!!

By mail, send to: St. Mary Orthodox Church, Choir Christmas Card Fund, 249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.