Sunday, November 22nd: Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Thursday, November 26th: Thanksgiving Day (church office closed)
Sunday, November 29th: Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Saturday, December 5th: 6:00 P.M. – Diocesan Christmas Concert (St. George, Worcester)
Sunday, December 6th: Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Monday, December 7th: 6:00 P.M. Ladies Society Christmas Party at the Old Grist Mill
Saturday, December 12th: 6:00 P.M. – Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers held at Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Greek Orthodox Church, Pawtucket with Dinner to follow at 7pm

Upcoming events:
Wednesday, December 24th: 5:00 P.M. – Christmas Liturgy
Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day (church office closed)
Wednesday, December 31st: 6:00 P.M. – Liturgy
Thursday, January 1st, 2016: New Year’s Day (church office closed)

Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Liturgy this year will be on December 24th at 5:00 P.M.
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.

Parish Council 2015:
President: Joe Samra III (Fellowship)
Vice-President: Salwa Khoury (Ladies Society)
Secretary: Cindy Hayes
Treasurer: Fadia Kabak
Council Members: Charles Abosamra, Emad Amirhom, Edward Ayoub, Scott Barnes, Cory Dupont, Janice Hallal (Choir), Lorice Hallal, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazieh, Jamie Mitri, Walid Nakhoul, Elmer Stanley (Church School)

**Please feel free to contact Joe Samra III (401) 334-0310 / joesamra@gmail.com or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns**

Orthodox Vocabulary

Redemption

Redemption: from a Latin word meaning “ransom.” Through the fall, humanity became enslaved to sin and death. In order to restore human liberty, God himself became incarnate and saved all men by his passion and resurrection. St Paul expresses this: “You were bought with a price [the blood of Christ]” (1 Cor 6:20).

When you hear the songs of birds in the trees in springtime, or other sweet singing, raise your mind to the sweetest songs of paradise and think how the heavens echo forever with Alleluia and other angelic praises, and pray God to let you sing His praises forever, in company with those heavenly spirits, of whom Revelation says: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God”.

~St. Theophan the Recluse

St. Mary’s Ladies Society Annual Christmas Party

Monday, December 7th at the Old Grist Mill
Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA
6:00PM, Dinner served at 7:00PM

Menu: Choice of Roasted Chicken, Baked Scrod or Broil Steak
Cost: $40 per person ~ Bring a $10 gift for Santa’s Swap
Make Check Payable to St. Mary’s Ladies Society
Call (401) 231-6411 ~ Nora Matook for more information.
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.

Please make check to St. Mary Church for coffee sponsorship and earmark “Coffee Hour”.

If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, please call the church office and speak with Sheryl.

**ALL Coffee hour’s will now be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.**

Please consider sponsoring a Coffee Hour~

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<th>Date:</th>
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<td>Dr. Tawfik &amp; Olga Hawwa</td>
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<td>Family of Matilda Josephs</td>
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<td>Fred Kilsy</td>
<td>Michelle Kilsy (5 year memorial)</td>
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<td>Dr. Zeyad &amp; Norma Morcos</td>
<td>Elias Morcos (Memory)</td>
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<td>The Ayoub Family</td>
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<td>Elaine Agaty</td>
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<td>March 13, 2016</td>
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Sunday, November 22, 2015

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Tone: 8  Eothison: 3

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 8
From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Entrance of the Theotokos: Tone 4
Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.

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 intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

Kontakion of the Entrance of The Theotokos: Tone 4
(Thou Who wast raised up)
The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.
THE EPISTLE

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-7)
Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the
calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness,
with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity
of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as
you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one
faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and
through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the
measure of Christ’s gift.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)
The Lord spoke this parable: “The land of a rich man brought forth plenti-
fully; and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to
store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns,
and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many
years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool!
This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared,
whose will they be?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not
rich toward God.” As He said this, Jesus called out, “He who has ears to
hear, let him hear.”

ARABIC CLASSES

Our idea is to offer Arabic Classes to perpetuate our wonderful heritage before it is lost!

There are great opportunities developing in the world today for people who can speak,
write and read Arabic. Arabic classes will be offered to anyone 8 years of age or older.
We strongly encourage children and teens to attend!

This questionnaire is to determine whether or not there is any interest in pursuing these
classes.

1. Do you have an interest? ______ Yes ______ No
2. Do you know of anyone else who may have an interest? ______ Yes ______ N
3. Which day(s) of the week would be most convenient for you __________________________
4. Which hour do you prefer? __________________________

Name(s) and Age(s): _____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Phone number: __________________________ Email address: ____________________________

If you have any questions please call Barbara Samra @ 401 465-7493 or email at
sallydog@cox.net or Khouria Ruba @ 1 240 595-2668 or email rubaelaie@hotmail.com.

Please fill out this short questionnaire and give it to Barbara Samra or Khouria Ruba or
place it in the back of the church with either of our names.
The Teens would like to thank everyone for their generosity with the Thanksgiving Food Drive. With the help of the Sunday School can drive and the money received we were able to distribute 27 Thanksgiving Baskets to help people in our community have a nice Thanksgiving. Each basket contained fresh fruits, vegetables and a turkey.

Prayers of Thanksgiving - Before and After every meal.

Before the meal: “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil one.”

“Bless O Lord, this the food & drink of thy servants for thou art holy, unto ages of ages, Amen.

Or ~ “The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Those who seek the Lord shall find Him. Their hearts shall live forever.”

After the meal: “We thank You, O Christ our God, that You have satisfied us with Your earthly blessings; Do not deprive us of Your heavenly kingdom; But, as You came in the midst of Your disciples, O Saviour, and gave them peace, So come and save us.” Amen.
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

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.

Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

Christmas Concert

A Diocesan Christmas Concert, sung by the combined choirs and chanters of Worcester and New England, will be held on Saturday, December 5th at 6PM at St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester immediately following Vespers, and on Sunday, December 6th at 3PM at Church of St. John of Damascus in Dedham. Mark Haddad, choir director at St. John’s, will be conducting the Diocesan Choir with Charles Marge of St. Mary’s conducting the Diocesan Chanters. This will be a beautiful event open to parishioners, families, and friends as well as the public. Please plan on joining us!

For more information or questions, please contact:
Mark Haddad at mhh42@me.com or Charlie Marge at marge@alum.mit.edu

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. 13th