

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Sunday, December 20th: Church School Pageant & Luncheon at the Parish Center
7:30 P.M.– Young Adult Ministry held at the Diocese Chancery

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)



Keep Christ in Christmas
Keep Christ in Christmas

Christmas Liturgy

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



SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, November 29, 2015

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost &
Thirteenth Sunday of Luke*

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.

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

Sign of the Cross

Christian writers from the time of Tertullian have testified to the practice of Christians making the 'sign of the Lord', that is, 'crossing' themselves. They were doing that partly for the purpose of sanctifying every action in daily life from rising in the morning to retiring at night, and partly for encouraging themselves in times of temptation and trial. At first, they used the sign of the cross as a means of mutual recognition, especially in times of persecution. The sign of the cross was also used from the very beginning in Baptism and Confirmation, and later its use was extended to liturgical blessings of persons and even of things. In the early centuries, one would cross himself by drawing the sign upon his forehead with the thumb or finger of the right hand. In later times, the cross drawn on the body of the worshipper was extended from forehead to breast and then from shoulder to shoulder returning finally to the center. It is the custom in the Eastern Church to do the cross-stroke from the right shoulder to the left, while in the Western Church the cross-stroke is drawn from left to right. Also it is a requirement in the Orthodox Church that the thumb index and middle fingers are kept together in drawing the cross on one's self. The three fingers together signify the Holy Trinity. Actually, the Orthodox way of crossing one's self is considered to be by some an important sign of distinction from members of the Roman Church. The two differing ways of crossing one's self express different traditions but are not of dogmatical significance.

St. Mary's Ladies Society Annual Christmas Party

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



*Menu: Choice of Baked Stuffed Chicken, Baked Scrod or 10oz Sirloin Steak
Salad bar included. Choice of potato, vegetable of the day, Home baked breads, soft drinks, coffee, tea, homemade desserts.*

Cost: \$40 per person (20% gratuity included)~ Bring a \$10 gift for Santa's Swap
Make Check Payable to St. Mary's Ladies Society
Call (401) 231-6411 ~ Nora Matook for reservations.
Join the Ladies for an evening of FUN!!!

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~

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
November 29th	Dr. Bassam & Pauline Khabbaz	Health of their Family
December 6th	Steve & Patty Kilsey	Health of their Family
December 13th	Dr. Tawfik & Olga Hawwa	Health of Hawwa, Khoury & Chamoun Families
December 20th	St. Mary Church	Church School Pageant
December 27th	Walid & Mirna Nakhoul	Memory of: Hanne, Salim, Dakhil & William
January 3, 2016	Fatat El-Khaouli	Nicholas El-Khaouli
January 10, 2016	Family of Matilda Josephs	Matilda Josephs (5 year memorial)
January 17, 2016	Fred Kilsey	Michelle Kilsey (5 year memorial)
January 24, 2016	Dr. Zeyad &Norma Morcos	Elias Morcos (Memory)
January 31, 2016	The Ayoub Family	Naseem Ayoub (2 year memorial)
February 7, 2016	St. Mary Church	Annual Meeting
February 14, 2016	Huda Al-Amir	Al-Amir (memorial)
February 21, 2016	The Salhany Family	Ida Lavin (1 year memorial)
February 28, 2016	Elaine Agaty	Charles Agaty (1 year memorial)
March 6, 2016	Massiwer, Gurghigian, Hayes, Franklin & Arrighi Families	John Massiwer (memory)

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Tone: 1 Eothinon: 4

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 intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

Kontakion of 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. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

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 saltydog6@cox.net or Khouria Ruba @ 1 240 595-2668 or email rubaelie@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.

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



CHARITABLE GIFT PROGRAM

MORE GOOD NEWS:

It is with appreciation and gratitude that we announce the participation of Fadia Kabak in our Charitable Gift Program.

Also we are pleased to inform you that Jim and Paula Hallal are now participating in the Charitable Gift Program.

This is yet another example of Fadia's, Jim's and Paula's love and commitment to the future of our Church.

May God grant them and their families many years of continued good health and happiness.



PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

April Gentes Robert
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

Edward & Lillian Betor
Paul & Kerrie Betor
Thomas & Lynn Marcotte
Matthew & Adrienne Dykstra
Peter Marcotte
Laurice Zambie
William & LaVerne Ameen
Great-Granddaughters Joelle & Rose Dykstra
Newborn Great-Grandson, Daniel Thomas
Dykstra (Born 11-11-15)
Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Elaine Wilbur
Lorice Hallal
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub

George, Lois, Mary & Christopher Kilsey
Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurchigian
Fred & Adele Shwaery & Family
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Ameen & Nayfey Sabath
Petros & Afife Betor
Helen Betor
Fred Sabath
Fred "Fritzie" & Jimmy Sabath
Offered by: Ed & Lillian Betor

Anthony Agaty
Josephine Yaghoobian
Offered by: Elaine Swistak



Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is being sponsored by Dr. Bassam & Pauline Khabbaz for the Health of their Family.



ONLINE BULLETIN

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

Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

Announcing the newly established Young Adult Ministry (for ages 19-35) in our Archdiocese. The mission of the Young Adult Ministry is to aid in the spiritual growth of the young adults between the ages of 19-35 within the Archdiocese bringing them to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To accomplish this mission, we will foster a balance between the following areas of living the Orthodox faith in Christ through:

- **Worship through the full life-cycle of the Church including attending weekday services together, gathering at a local parish for its Feast Day, and the combined services at Diocese and Archdiocese gatherings.**
- **Spiritual Renewal and Education through retreats, conferences, speaker series, pilgrimages, and bible studies which are aimed at the needs of our Young Adults.**
- **Service** through short-term mission trips and volunteer activities on a local level.

Fellowship through social outings, conferences, and gatherings.


We are looking for dedicated and energetic Young Adults to take on leadership and coordinating roles with our Diocese Young Adults. All interested Young Adults are encouraged to attend a planning meeting to be held at the Diocese Chancery (2 Lydias Path, Westborough, MA) on Sunday December 20 at 7:30 pm. At this meeting, we will hear a vision for the Young Adult Ministry in our Diocese from His Grace Bishop JOHN and from Fr. Nicholas Belcher (new Diocese Spiritual Advisor for the Young Adults). Please join us for our this opportunity to gather together with Young Adults from throughout our Diocese as we begin to develop this new ministry in our Diocese.

For more information, please contact Fr. Nicholas Belcher (nbelcher@hchc.edu), Brendan Ferguson (Diocese Fellowship President - brendanferguson76@gmail.com) or Khalil Samara (NAC Fellowship Presi-

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



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).

*The Church School Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 20th with a luncheon following Liturgy.

Arabic Pastry Sale

Arabic Pastry (will be sold at the Coffee Hours).



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.

Fee schedule for the use of the Sanctuary for the following services:

<u>Baptism:</u>	Member- \$100 Non-Member- \$200	(Plus offering to clergy & cost of choir)
<u>Wedding:</u>	Member- \$300 Non-Member- \$600	



Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 7th
3:00PM ~ Parish Center
(game starts @ 6:30pm)

Parishioners & Friends
Let's have fun!!!

Games: Darts, Ping Pong, Card Games, Backgammon,
Super Bowl Pool

\$25 per person ~ Beer/wine/soda
Wings ~ Meatballs & Peppers ~ Snacks
All included in price!

**Come watch the game on an 80”
Screen High Definition cable television**

Please RSVP by December 15th
Ed Ayoub (401) 263-3666
Scott Barnes (401) 573-2670



WELL DONE ST. MARY CHURCH

Fr. Elie and the Parish Council wish to offer sincere thanks to all the faithful of St. Mary Church who worked so hard to make our Annual Bazaar this year such a wonderful and vibrant event. Special thanks are offered to the 2015 Bazaar Chair, Charlotte Mitri and the booth chairs for their dedication and commitment. Many thanks are offered to the Ladies for their many hours spent making the wonderful food items, Teen SOYO for their help and to Steve Kilsey for manning the Kitchen. Also, much thanks is given to Scott Barnes for the MANY hours he donates each year doing the “behind the scenes” work– it is very much appreciated. St. Mary Church is grateful for the success of the event which brings us together in the *Spirit of Unity, and Service*.

✧ **Thank you to all our Bazaar Sponsors!**

- ✧ We would also like to thank The Briggs & Wehbe Family for donating all the bread for the Bazaar in Memory of Florence David– Memory Eternal!
- ✧ Many thanks to The Silva Family for donating towards the iPad Bazaar raffle prize.
- ✧ Thank you to Hannoush Jewelers for their generous donations for our Bazaar.

Thank you!



Bazaar Raffle Winners:

50/50 Winner– Will Gilbert

\$2500 Angel Raffle-Chadi Saad

\$1500 Angel Raffle-Charlie Abosamra

\$1000 Angel Raffle-John Jeha



2015

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



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 6th. 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 DECEMBER 6th.**
By mail, send to: St. Mary Orthodox Church, Choir Christmas Card Fund,
249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.