

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sunday, December 20th:** Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ
Church School Pageant & Luncheon at the Parish Center
7:30 P.M.– Young Adult Ministry held at the Diocese Chancery
- Thursday, December 24th:** 9:00A.M.– Royal Hours of the Nativity
4:00 P.M.– Orthros (matins) for the Feast
5:00 P.M.– Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- Friday, December 25th:** Christmas Day (church office closed)
- Sunday, December 27th:** Sunday After the Nativity of Christ
Adult Education at the Parish Center after Liturgy (Speaker:
Matthew Cooper- “Who is Christ”)
- Thursday, December 31st:** 6:00 P.M.– Liturgy
- Friday, January 1st, 2016:** New Year’s Day (church office closed)
- Sunday, January 10th:** Memorial Service for Matilda Josephs (5 years)
12:00PM- Ladies Society Luncheon (more details to follow)
5:00PM Vespers service followed by a talk by Bishop JOHN
about the “Sanctity of Life”.



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, December 20, 2015
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(The Genealogy)

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****



Abiding in God This Nativity Season

By: Bishop JOHN

In a discussion about donuts at coffee hour, a parishioner asked me what he gets from the Church besides donuts! "Opportunities," I replied. "The Church gives you the opportunity to be the Christian you were baptized to be. "You get the opportunity to gather as the Church of Christ; to praise God and take care of the world and those who live in it. The Church gives you an opportunity to be fed by the Word of God with His words and His life. The Church gives you an opportunity to serve, to witness to Christ, to love and to live in Christ. If you take advantage of these opportunities you can begin your eternal life now. But for you to take advantage of these opportunities, you need to give. You need to give your time, energies and resources. It could be said that you need to give yourself. Without giving yourself in cooperating with God, you can't have anything. In order to join with Christ. you need to detach from anything that would separate you from God. You need to be in Christ. you need to open yourself to having God abide in you as you abide In Him. The Theotokos Is the greatest example of one who accepts God abiding in her and abiding In Him. In His Nativity, we see how God abided In Mary. In this Christmas Feast, we come to understand that we give space in our lives to bear Christ and to give flesh to His Word. Like Mary, we make room for God and reveal Him to the world. We do this as we decorate our homes and desks, as we wear pins and little wreaths, as we greet each other with holiday greetings, proclaiming that Christ is born, and by gift-giving. With gifts we show appreciation for each other. We demonstrate how the other has value. We value our family, our friends, our parish, our ministries and Gods people, most particularly those who are without food, shelter or clothes. Current economic conditions have offered us new challenges to be better stewards of what we have and to share the gifts that God has given us. Our Church on both the local and Archdiocesan levels presents many opportunities to give of the time, energy and resources that God has given us. Our Church gives us opportunities to be Christian; to praise God and to serve His people. This opportunity is central to our being, learning and growing, It is central to our process of salvation. Mary is also the great example of abiding in God and God in us. in her Dormition. In the icon of the Feast of the Dormition, we see Mary both reposed on a cot and being lifted up by Christ her son and Savior. Mary, who said Yes to having God abide in her, is taken to abide In God for ever. Mary gave herself to God, to give birth to the Word. She gave her life to nurture and guide the Word. She gave herself to stand by Him, even at the cross. Like Mary, we are to do all of these things in our own homes and in our own ways. Every day God gives us opportunities to give. Giving brings joy and life. This giving is not just for December or Christmas-time, but it is for joy at all times. Still, Christmas is an opportunity to relearn the joy of giving and to rededicate ourselves to Christ our God. Glorify Him in all that you do, even in serving each other donuts at coffee hour!

~SAVE THE DATE~

Bishop JOHN will join us in celebration with a *20th Anniversary Luncheon* for Fr. Elie Estephan in recognition of his 20 years as a priest in the service of the Lord.

Date: February 14th, 2016

Place: Parish Center

Time: Following Liturgy



ALL are welcome!! More information to follow!!

Recently a member of our parish was verbally assaulted by the owner of the 26 Miller Street Garage - the building next to our small garage and empty lot. To avoid any future situations we strongly encourage parishioners not to park within one car length of any of the doors of this building. See the picture below to identify the building we are speaking of. Thank you.



Sunday, December 20, 2015

***Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(The Genealogy)***

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 Forefeast of the Nativity: Tone 4

*(**Joseph was amazed**)*

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Troparion of Sunday before the Nativity: Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, 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 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

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



GIVING BACK

The Ladies Society of St Mary Church is running a campaign to give back to the community. What better gift than to give to supporting the health of babies/our future. Donations will be presented to one of our local community agencies.

You can give back in either of 2 ways - there will be a bassinet in the parish center for your gifts.

1. Please place a new baby item in the bassinet

OR

2. Please take a baby bottle and replace our message with a generous donation back in the baby bottle and return to the bassinet.

***Please make checks out to St Mary's Ladies—
please put on memo line: Our Future***

*THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PRAYERS, SUPPORT, AND FOR YOUR
INCREDIBLE GIFT. WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT IN THE
NEAR FUTURE THESE BABIES LIVES AND FAMILIES WILL
TAKE A TURN FOR THE BETTER.*



Co-Chairwomen

Nora Matook and Patricia Kilsey

Change of Address

All the faithful who have a recent or future change of address, phone number or email address please remember to inform the church office at (401) 726-1202.

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:

<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

Antiochian Village Summer Camp

Registration for 2016 Summer Camp at the Antiochian Village has already started. Tuition for a two-week session is \$750 per camper. If paid in full by March 1st, the early-bird discount is \$700.

- ♦ One-week tuition (June 19-26) is \$450. (Early-bird discount is \$425)
- ♦ Iconography Camp tuition is \$525. (Early-bird discount is \$500)
- ♦ T-shirt & water bottle combos may be purchased for your camper, which they will receive upon arrival at camp next summer. Last summer, the shirts were very popular and the water bottles helped keep us all well hydrated during the sessions.
- ♦ Photos will no longer be sold in advance. All photos (including your camper's cabin photos) will be sold online during the summer.
- ♦ If you have any questions or want more info, please visit www.avcamp.org or email marek@antiochianvillage.org



CrossRoad ~ 2016

*Before you decide what to do with your life...
Decide what to do with your summer!*

Apply now for CrossRoad 2016. Apply online at www.crossroadinstitute.org

Open to any Orthodox Christian juniors or seniors in high school who may be interested in applying to this 10-day summer program at Hellenic College Holy Cross!

CrossRoad offers two sessions:

June Session: June 18th-June 28th **July Session:** July 5th-July 15th

Application priority deadline is February 1st, 2016.

Call (617) 850-1310 for more information.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:**

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

Leon Josephs
Mirna Nakoul
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Houry

Ray & Leila Trabulsi
Samy & Helen Morcos
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub

Ray & Leila Trabulsi
Offered by: Susan Warzycha & Family

Julia Vale
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

Azmy & Soheir Morcos
Ray & Leila Trabulsi
Phil & Bette Ayoub
Ed & Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Mary Massiwer & Family
William & Louise Osborne & Family
Nora Matook & Family
All my Nephews, Nieces & their Family
Offered by: Julia Vale

Lily Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons &
Bob Dessaint

Joseph Karneeb
Offered by: The Barnes Family

Joseph Karneeb
Offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub

**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

Kamel & Ethel Salhany
Robert Salhany
Offered by: John Salhany

Robert Vale
Toofik & Elizabeth Matook
John & Helen Matook
Offered by: Julia H. Vale



Sunday School
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Plan to join the Sunday School in
celebrating Christmas directly following
the Pageant on

December 20th

Lunch will include:

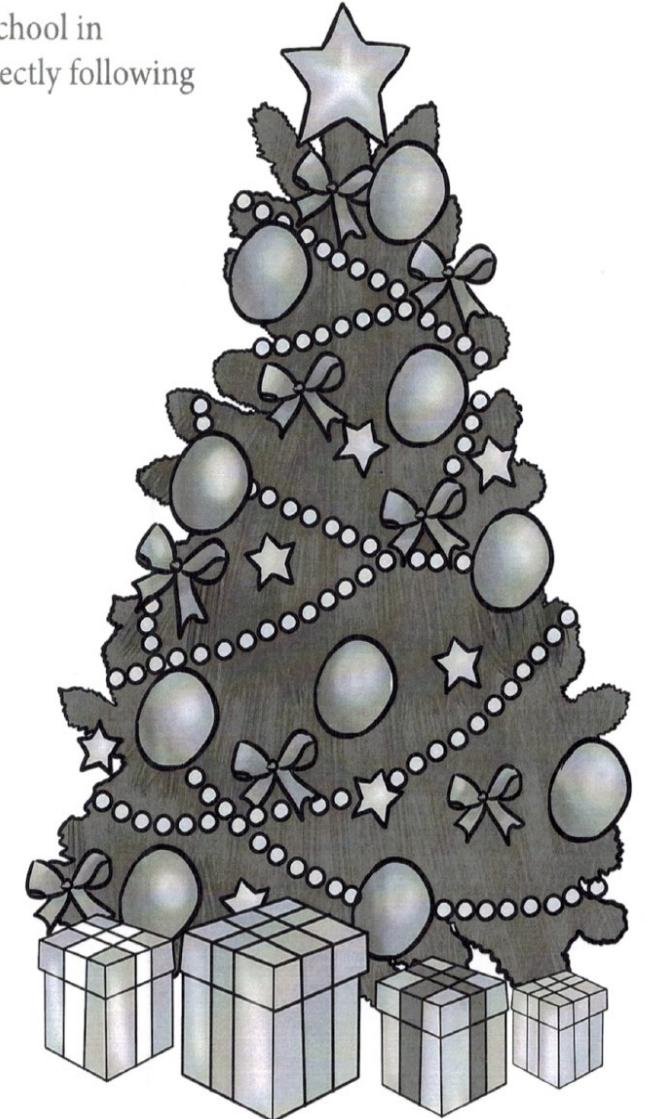
- + Eggplant Parmesan
- + Pasta
- + Roasted Vegetables
- + Garlic Bread
- + Salad
- + Dessert

All are welcome!

Adults: \$12
Children under 18: FREE

***Christ is born!
Glorify Him!***

Merry Christmas!



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>
December 20th	St. Mary Church	Church School Pageant
December 27th	Walid & Mirna Nakhoul	<i>Memory of:</i> Hanne, Salim, Dakhil & William
January 3, 2016	Fatat El-Khaouli	Nicholas El-Khaouli
January 10, 2016	<i>not available</i>	Ladies Society Luncheon
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	Marwan & Huda Al-Amir	Health of their Family
February 21, 2016	The Salhany Family	Ida Lavin (1 year memorial)
February 28, 2016	Elaine Agaty	Charles Agaty (1 year memorial)
March 6, 2016	Ladies Society	Ladies Project Luncheon
March 13, 2016	Massiwer, Gurchigian, Hayes, Franklin & Arrighi Families	John Massiwer (memory)
March 20, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
March 27, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Moses Lazieh
 Frederick & Sophie Hallal
 George Hallal
 Edward Hallal
 Mary Kandalaft
 Leo Hallal
 Sarah & George Massiwer
 John Massiwer
 Louis Hashway
 Tom Andrew
 Donald Hayes
 Lori Hindy
 Kim Nassaney Culpan
 Olga Sapag
 Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

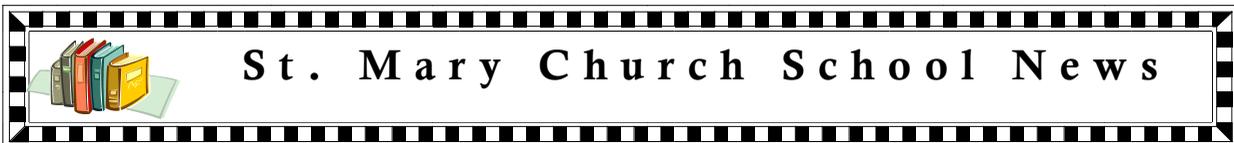
Gabe Saback
 Offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal

 Robert Vale
 Offered by: George & Sandra Matook



Adult Education

Starting next Sunday (December 27th) the parish is going to start having adult education on Sundays after Divine Liturgy at the parish center. Next Sunday, Matthew Cooper will be presenting. The lecture is "Who is Christ?".



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 TODAY with a luncheon following Liturgy.

RHODE ISLAND ORTHODOX CLERGY FELLOWSHIP &
ST MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PAWTUCKET
INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT.

Sanctity of
LIFE

A LECTURE PRESENTED BY

HIS GRACE BISHOP JOHN

OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER & NEW ENGLAND
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

DATE:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH

PLACE:

ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
249 HIGH STREET
PAWTUCKET, RI

SCHEDULE:

5:00 PM. LITTLE COMPLINE,
PRESIDED BY HIS GRACE BISHOP JOHN (AT THE CHURCH)
5:30 PM. LECTURE BY BISHOP JOHN,
"WHAT IS NORMAL IN ABNORMAL TIMES?"
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS (AT THE PARISH CENTER)

QUESTIONS:

FR. ELIE ESTEPHEN,
PASTOR, ST. MARY
(240) 205-9079
FRELIE@STMARYPAWTUCKET.ORG



HIS GRACE BISHOP JOHN

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 President khalilsamara@yahoo.com).

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2015

- * Sunday, December 20th: The Sunday before The Nativity {Church School Nativity Pageant following Liturgy} & Church School Luncheon at the Parish Center
- * Thursday, December 24th:
 - 9:00 am: Royal Hours of the Nativity
 - 4:00 pm: Orthros (matins) for the Feast
 - 5:00 pm: Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- * Friday, December 25th: Christmas Day
- * Thursday, December 31st: 6:00pm-Liturgy for Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord
- * **Note: From Christmas Day until January 4th inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting**