

CHURCH CALENDAR

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)

Memorial Service for Christos Theodoridis (8 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".

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

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.

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.

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 27, 2015

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.

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****

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:
Ed Ayoub (401) 263-3666
Scott Barnes (401) 573-2670



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

Baptism: Member- \$100 *(Plus offering to clergy & cost of choir)*
Non-Member- \$200

Wedding: Member- \$300
Non-Member- \$600



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.

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 27, 2015

Sunday After The Nativity of Christ

Tone: 5 Eothinon: 8

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection

Troparion of the Nativity: 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 therefrom 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 St. Stephen: Tone 4

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would 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 the Nativity of Christ: 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.

THE EPISTLE

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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. (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."



Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

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

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Mark Hashway
Hallal Family
Samra Family
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

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

Mirna Nakhoul
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Fred Hashway
Edward Halal Sr.
Hallal Family
Samra Family
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

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



Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is being sponsored by Walid & Mirna Nakhoul in memory of *Henne, Salim, Dakhil & William.*



St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

Invites you to share in a celebration luncheon honoring

Very Rev. Fr. Elie Estephan

*On the occasion of his 20th Anniversary
in the Holy Priesthood*

His Grace Bishop JOHN Presiding

Sunday, February 14, 2016 - 12:30pm

St. Mary Church Parish Center

60 St. Mary Way, Pawtucket, RI

\$40 for adults - \$20 for children 16 and under

To purchase your tickets by February 1st, please contact:

*Salwa Khoury stkhoury@cox.net or the
Church Office (401) 726-1202 / office@stmarypawtucket.org*

20th
ANNIVERSARY

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 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, Gurghigian, Hayes, Franklin & Arrighi Families	John Massiwer (memory)
March 20, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
March 27, 2016	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	

**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:

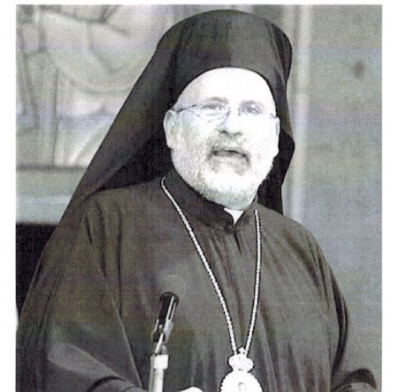
**ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
249 HIGH STREET
PAWTUCKET, RI**

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

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.

Liturgical Schedule 2015

- * 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**



St. Mary Teen SOYO News and Events

Attention All Teens

(12 years and older)

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

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.

Adult Education

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



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).