

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, December 8th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

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 13th: Sunday of the Forefathers

Choir Appreciation Sunday

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)

Sunday, December 10th: 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



Christmas Liturgy

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



SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 6, 2015

*Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of
Myra in Lycia & Tenth 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

Ainoi

Greek, 'praises': the Byzantine service equivalent to Western Lauds, the ainoi form a distinct part of the morning office, the Orthros. The title ainoi derives from the repeated praise verses of Psalms 148, 149 and 150 which form the body of the service. On weekdays the psalms are read without stichera. On Sundays and major feasts the concluding verses are interleaved with stichera, but in parish use only the opening verses 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord...' and the final verses with their interleaved stichera are actually sung. The ainoi follow the exapostelaria and end with the doxology.



If you do something because that is the way your heart is inclined, where is the obedience? You are merely following your own will and your own tastes. If you recognize your motives, you make such self-willed action slightly better. But in true obedience, you obey without seeing the reason for what you are told to do, and in spite of your own reluctance. A special blessing is promised for such an obedience - the blessing of being preserved free from all harm when the duty imposed on you is fulfilled. When this obedience is performed for the sake of the Lord, then the Lord takes His obedient servant under His own care and looks after him.

~Theophan the Recluse

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 6th	Dr. Tawfik & Olga Hawwa	Health of Hawwa, Khoury & Chamoun Families
December 13th	Steve & Patty Kilsey	Health of their Family
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	Massiwer, Gurghigian, Hayes, Franklin & Arrighi Families	John Massiwer (memory)

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia & Tenth Sunday of Luke

Tone: 2 Eothinon: 5

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the St. Nicholas: Tone 4

Thy work of justice did reveal thee to thy community as a canon of faith, the likeness of humility and the teacher of abstinence, O thou Father and great Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by thy meekness wealth. Intercede, therefore, intercede with Christ that He will 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

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:17-21)

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

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

CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

On December 13th, the second Sunday of the month, our Antiochian Archdiocese is celebrating Choir/Chanter Appreciation Sunday. We appreciate our choir and chanters many other times throughout the year, for all the liturgical services they beautify and make possible with their singing and chanting. This Sunday we especially acknowledge them particularly throughout the Archdiocese, and thank them for their ministry in the parish.

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

Virginia Salhany
Offered by: The Ladies Society

Gabe Saback
Offered by: St, Mary Church

Kamal, Zana, Nadine & Emilio
Gladys, Nicholas, Annarita & Fabio
George, Juliette & Valentina
Offered by: Therese Haddad

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Herbert Trabulsi
Samy Morcos
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

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



Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is being sponsored by Dr. Tawfik & Olga Hawwa for the Health of the Hawwa, Khoury & Chamoun Families.



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.

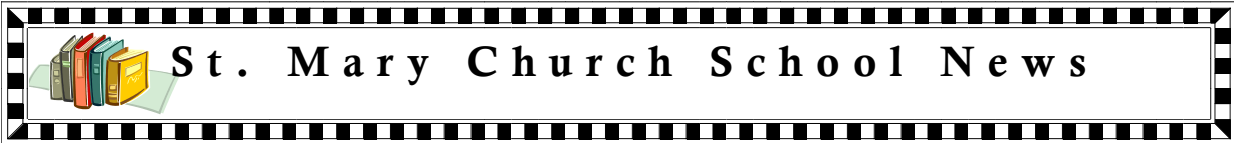
For more information, please contact Fr. Nicholas Belcher (nbelcher@hchc.edu), Brendan Ferguson (Diocese Fellowship President - brendanferguson76@gmail.com) or Khalil Samara (NAC Fellowship Presi-

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.

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.



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:

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



Super Bowl Party

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

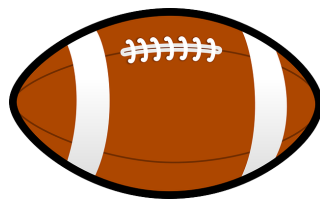
Parishioners & Friends
Let's have fun!!!

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



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!!!

St. Mary Teen SOYO News and Events

Attention All Teens

(12 years and older)

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

We are now asking for your help again. The Teens are looking for monetary donations so that the teens can go out and purchase items and gift cards to be delivered to less fortunate families this holiday season. We are also asking for food donations to prepare food baskets for Christmas. Please help the Teens with this very important outreach project. Please give your donations to Cory Dupont or Fr. Elie. **Please make your donation by December 13th!!**



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.