Sunday, March 8th: Second Sunday of Lent and the Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, Bishop of Thessalonica
   40 Day Memorial Service for Abraham Tahmoush
   PLC Committee Meeting

Monday, March 9th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting (*please note date change)

Tuesday, March 10th: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline

Wednesday, March 11th: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Friday, March 13th: 7:00 P.M.– 3rd Akathyst Hymn (Al-Madeeh)

Sunday, March 15th: Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross
   One Year Memorial Service for Metropolitan PHILIP

Tuesday, March 17th: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline

Wednesday, March 18th: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Friday, March 20th: 7:00 P.M.– 4th Akathyst Hymn (Al-Madeeh)

Sunday, March 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Lent: The Commemoration of our Righteous
   Father John of the Ladder
   5 Year Memorial Service for Ruth Salhany

Tuesday, March 24th: 7:00 P.M.– Vespers & Liturgy: Feast of the Annunciation

Wednesday, March 25th: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Friday, March 27th: 7:00 P.M.– 5th Akathyst Hymn (Al-Madeeh)

Sunday, March 29th: Fifth Sunday of Lent: The Commemoration of our Righteous Mother
   Mary of Egypt

Tuesday, March 31st: 7:00 P.M.– Service of the Great Compline at St. Mary Church

Wednesday, April 1st: 7:00 P.M.– Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 11th: 11:00P.M.– Rush Service

Sunday, April 12th: Great and Holy Pascha
   12:00A.M.– Divine Liturgy followed by Agape
   Breakfast
   3:00 P.M.– Agape Vespers

Sunday, April 19th: Sunday of St. Thomas (New Sunday)
   40 Day Memorial Service for Charles Agaty
   One Year Memorial Service for Charles Abdelahad

Sunday, April 26th: Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women & Sts. Joseph of Arimathea
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

Ascesis
Ascesis: from the Greek askysis, “exercise.” It consists of a fight against the Evil One: thus, in fact, it is a battle against our passions in order to gain the freedom to accomplish God’s will and share in our salvation. Man is composed of soul and body. The body must, through fasting, giving alms, vigils, prostrations, etc.-i.e., through ascesis—support the soul in its struggle.

It is necessary for a Christian to fast, in order to clear his mind, to rouse and develop his feelings, and to stimulate his will to useful activity. These three human capabilities we darken and stifle above all by ‘surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life’ (Lk. 21:34).
~ St. John of Kronstadt

Arabic Educational Foundation Scholarship
The Arabic Educational Foundation is now taking applications for the 2015 school year. Applicants of Arabic descent that are enrolled full-time as an undergraduate student are eligible to apply. Applications and Scholarship Eligibility Requirements may be picked up at the Church Office or see Fr. Elie for an application.
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.

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

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td>Fatat ElKhaouli</td>
<td>Nicholas ElKhaouli</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td>Antiochian Women</td>
<td>Metropolitan PHILIP (1 year)</td>
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<td>March 22nd*</td>
<td>William Salhany &amp; Family</td>
<td>Ruth Salhany (5 years)</td>
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<td>March 29th*</td>
<td>Fadi &amp; Hadeed Samaan</td>
<td>Health of Family</td>
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<td>April 5th</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>April 12th</td>
<td>No Coffee Hour</td>
<td>Pascha</td>
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<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Nora Abdelahad &amp; Family</td>
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<td>Elaine Agaty</td>
<td>Charles Agaty (40 day)</td>
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<td>April 26th</td>
<td>Fred Hallal &amp; Family</td>
<td>Sophie Hallal (5 years)</td>
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<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>NAB Project Luncheon</td>
<td>Ladies Society</td>
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<td>June 7th</td>
<td>The Samra Family</td>
<td>Joseph Samra Sr. (50 years)</td>
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<td>June 14th</td>
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<td>July 19th</td>
<td>Elias Marcos (son)</td>
<td>Dr. Zeyad &amp; Norma Morcos</td>
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<td>July 26th</td>
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<td>August 2nd</td>
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<td>August 9th</td>
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Sunday, March 8, 2015

Second Sunday of Great Lent

Tone: 6    Eothenon: 6

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 6
When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion for St. Gregory Palamas: Tone 8
O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of 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 intercessions from death Thou dost redeem our souls.”

Kontakion for the Annunciation (And Great Lent): Tone 8
To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.
The Epistle
Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Prokeimenon: You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.
The reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

"Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

The Gospel
Mark 2:1-12

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--he said to the paralytic--"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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

2015 Church Calendars
We have beautiful Church Calendars now available for sale for the 2015 year. Please participate in this worthwhile fundraiser for our Church, give as a gift— or for your own use. The calendars are $10. If you wish to purchase a calendar, please see Fr. Elie.

Antiochian Village Summer Camp
Camp Registration is open! Come make friendships that will last a lifetime and make memories you will never forget!! Most New England campers attend the 2nd session, which is from June 28th to July 10th. Our campers will travel with a contingent from Boston and Worcester with at least one chaperone from St. Mary. The local chapter of the Order of St. Ignatius helps defray transportation costs. Camp Scholarships are available, please see Father Elie if you would like to apply. Visit www.avcamp.org to register today! Volunteers that are interested may also apply through the website. Last year most spots were filled before the end of February so don't delay. Following is a list of all the camp sessions for 2015:

Session 1 (2 weeks) - June 14 - 26
Session 1 (1 week) - June 14 - 21
Session 2 (2 weeks) - June 28 - July 10
Session 3 (2 weeks) - July 12 - 24
Session 4 (2 weeks) - July 26 - Aug 7

Visit www.avcamp.org to register today!
Great Lent and Holy Pascha 2015
Easter Flowers (Holy Friday and Pascha)

Please make a donation to help decorate the Church for Holy Week and Easter.

For Good Health and Blessing of:

In Loving Memory of:

Your name: ___________________________

Donation: ___________________________

To all those who would like to contribute for the Easter Flowers; checks should be made out to St. Mary Orthodox Church and earmarked “Easter Flowers”.

All donations should be received by April 5th.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

April Gentes Robert
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Swistak & Family
The Shwaery Family

Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
Elaine Agaty
Offered by: Elaine Swistak
Jacob Khoury
Elaine Agaty
Fred Shwaery
Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Jacob Khoury
Offered by: Mr. & Mrs. Faraj Freij
Ed & Suzanne Ayoub
Sandra & George Matook & Family
Nora Abdelahad
Fr. Michael & Selma Abdelahad & Family
Elaine Swistak & Family
Shwaery Family
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Elaine Agaty
John & Lorna Hallal
Al & Vicki Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Jacob Khoury
Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

40 Day Memorial Service

Today, a forty-day Memorial Service is offered for the repose of the soul of the Servant of God Abraham Tahmoush by his Nieces and Nephews.

May God grant him peace and repose and may his memory be eternal.

Offered by: Lorice Hallal
Elaine Gentes
Elaine Swistak & Family
The Shwaery Family
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad

Bishop JOHN Abdelahad
Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery & Family
Elaine Wilbur
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Swistak
Elaine Wilbur
Maria Matook
Carmen Naar
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Nylah Trabulsi (on the occasion of her Birthday)
Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Leila & Ray Trabulsi
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Swistak & Family
Bishop JOHN
The Tahmoush Family
David Franciosi
Jacob Khoury
Offered by: MaryLou & Bill Catelli

Marc & Lisa Parent
Elaine Swistak & Family
Elaine Agaty & Family
John Salhany & Family
Elaine Wilbur & Family
Offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub
PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub

Anthony Nassaney
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

Mary Rebecca Kilsey
Ethel Kilsey
Offered by: George, Lois, Mary & Christopher Kilsey

Mary Massiwer & Family
The Kilsey Family
Elaine Agaty
Elaine Swistak & Family
Offered by: The Charles Slemon Family

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Charles Agaty
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Nora Abdelahad
Abraham Tahmoush
Offered by: His Grace Bishop JOHN & Family

Nabil & Salwa Khoury
Susan Warzycha & Family
Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Charles Agaty
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

Mary Lou Catelli
William & Mary Lou Catelli

Sophie Hallal
Sarah Massiwer
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Charles Agaty
Leon Matook
Ida Lavin
Sophie Hallal
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Abraham Tahmoush
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Mary Lou & Bill Catelli

Ida Lavin
Nicole Arruda
Paul Maloof
Offered by: Ed & Sue Ayoub

Charles Agaty
Islaish
Sophie Hallal
Sarah Massiwer
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

Islaish
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Pawtucket
Schedule of Services: Great Lent 2015

Great Lent begins on Monday, February 23rd

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Pawtucket
Schedule of Services: Great Lent 2015

Great Lent begins on Monday, February 23rd

The Service of Great Compline for the N.E. Region, with Bishop JOHN
presiding, will be held on Monday evenings (see schedule below):

- March 2nd: 7:00pm - St. Michael Church, Cotuit, MA
- March 9th: 7:00pm - St. John of Damascus Church, Dedham, MA
- March 16th: 7:00pm - St. George Church, Lowell, MA
- March 23rd: 7:00pm - St. George Church, West Roxbury, MA
- March 30th: 6:30pm - St. George Cathedral, Worcester, MA

St. Mary’s Great Lent Prayer Schedule

The Service of Great Compline at St. Mary Church will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

The Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Those wishing to partake of Holy Communion ought to be fasting from 12:00 noon on.

The service of the Akathyst Hymn or Madeeh (The Salutations to the Virgin Mary) will be held on the first five Friday evenings of Great Lent at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, March 1st: Special Vespers for Orthodoxy Sunday - 5:00pm at
St. Mary Church, Pawtucket, RI

*May the Living God, the Fountain of Wisdom, enlighten our minds, strengthen our bodies, and nourish our souls in the blessing of this holy season, the Lenten Spring.*
**GREAT LENT 2015**

February 23rd ~ April 12th (Holy Pascha)

What is Lent?

Prayer ✦ Fasting ✦ Acts of Mercy

Sacrament of Confessions

Great lent is the season to “Open the Gates of Repentance”. The faithful are encouraged to enter into the sacrament of confession during the Forty-Day Fast. Confessions can be made before or after Divine Services, or by special appointment with the Priest.

**Liturgical Supplies and Offerings for Lent**

During Great Lent the Church offers an intensified schedule of Divine Services and Prayers. Donations are being sought from the faithful for the many extra Liturgical Supplies needed for the Holy Season. These offerings include candles, wine, oil, incense, bread, service books, music and printed materials. Please earmark your donations and offerings “Liturgical Supplies.” Along with these offerings, bring also yourselves to pray the beautiful Lenten Services.

Food For Hungry People Collection (F.F.H.P.)

“When you see a poor person, remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ by which He declared that it is He Himself who is fed. For through that which appears to be not Christ, yet in that person’s form, it is Christ Himself who receives and begs.”

—St. John Chrysostom

During the Holy Season of Lent, we collect alms to feed the hungry, as an act of Christian Mercy. Food for Hungry People collection boxes are available in the Vestibule & Church Hall. Take one home, fill it with coins during Lent and return it at Holy Pasha (Easter). Donations will also be accepted to St. Mary Orthodox Church earmarked “F.F.H.P.”

May we be generous to reach out to those who hunger and who are in need. This “reaching out” and caring will help us to witness the resurrection.

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

Abraham Tadmoush
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Ida Lavin
Offered by: Mary Ahto

Ida Lavin
Charles Agaty
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

John Massiwer
George Kisey
Charles Agaty
Offered by: The Charles Slemon Family

**SAVE THE DATE**

**note date change**

The Antiochian Women are hosting a luncheon following Liturgy on May 3rd to benefit their NAB Project.

More information to follow.

March is Antiochian Women’s Month

During the month of March, in all the Churches of our Archdiocese, we highlight and remember the Ministry of Women in our Church. Being founded on the model of Mary the Mother of God herself and the Service of the Myrrh-bearer ministry is foundational for without it the Church would not exist.

During March, the Women will be reading the Epistle, taking the collection, and ushering as they do all year long. This year the Antiochian Women will also be sponsoring activities to raise funds for their NAB Project.

May God bless all of the Women of the Holy Church and bless their ministry.

**Readers**

Sunday, March 1st: Cindy Hayes
Sunday, March 8th: Mirna Nakhoul
Arabic—Salwa Khoury

**Ushers**

Sunday, March 15th: Florence Spenard
Sunday, March 22nd: Maureen Gurghigian
Sunday, March 29th: Holly Lazieh

Mary Massiwer & Sue Ayoub
Sue Ayoub & Charlotte Mitri
Lorice Hallal & Julia Vale
Mary Jane Webbe & Christine Briggs
Nancy Sterpis & Cheryl Nassaney
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
March 1, 2015

TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND PUBLISHED IN THE CHURCH BULLETIN

Brother Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of the Archdiocese,

It is with a humble and grateful heart that I greet you as both the Metropolitan of this Archdiocese and as the Hierarchical Overseer of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America.

This time last year, you were receiving the annual greeting from our beloved Metropolitan Philip of Thrice-Blessed Memory. In 1973, he had a vision — among many — for the women of our Archdiocese. Forty-one years later, the Antiochian Women have followed that vision and have grown and thrived with every woman in our beloved Antiochian Archdiocese having participated in this blessed ministry.

Since 1973, it is my honor to report that the women have raised over three million dollars towards the funding and support of many of our Archdiocesan projects. These include the Balamand Seminary, the Missions and Endowment Fund, the Married Seminarians Fund, Project Orphanages/the Katherine Ajar Endowment Fund, the Retired Clergy Housing Fund, Al-Kafasat, the Convent of St. Thekla, and the Antiochian Village Tornado Relief Fund.

Last summer at the Antiochian Village, the Antiochian Women presented me with a check in the amount of $283,005.35 towards their 2014 project to "Help the Orphans of War in Syria". This was the largest amount ever collected by the women in the course of one year, and these monies have been delivered to the Patriarchate for distribution in the most-needed areas throughout these war-torn lands. God bless each of you for your support.

Several years ago, the Antiochian Women raised over $1 million for the Orphanages/Katherine Ajar Endowment Fund, and these monies are used to this day to help orphans around the world. Thus, we continue to designate the first Sunday in March as "Orphans’ Sunday." The month of March is also designated as Antiochian Women’s Month where the women are actively involved in the church in an even greater degree. You will see them reading the Epistle, ushering, taking the collections, and addressing those at the Divine Liturgy about the role of the Antiochian Women in their parish, diocese and Archdiocese.

The Antiochian Women never tire of doing good works. And so for 2015, I have given them two new projects — two new visions for the Antiochian Archdiocese: Monastic Communities and Regional Camp and Learning Centers.

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioi" (Acts 11: 26)
358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Eggelwood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 P

Coffee Hour

Today, Coffee Hour is offered in memory of Sub-deacon Nicholas ElKhaouli by his loving wife Fatat. Coffee hour will be held in the Church Hall following Liturgy.

The Proof of Fasting

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works.

If you see a poor man, take pity on him.

If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye, and the feet, and the hands and all the members of our bodies —

Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice.

Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin.

Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.

Let hear ears, by not listening to evil talk and gossip.

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.

For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?

— St. John Chrysostom

Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

- April 22nd at 10:30 A.M. — St. Mary Church, Pawtucket: Hosting RI Clergy Meeting/Luncheon
- June 18th-21st — St. Mary Church, Pawtucket: Hosting 2015 Parish Life Conference
- July 20th-26th — St. Mary Church, Cambridge, MA: Hosting 52nd Archdiocesan Convention, Boston, MA