Sunday, April 12th: Great and Holy Pascha
12:00 A.M.– Divine Liturgy followed by Agape Breakfast
12:00 P.M. (Noon)– Agape Vespers **Please note time change**

Sunday, April 19th: Sunday of St. Thomas (New Sunday)
Walk-A-Thon
Church School Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 20th: 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Meeting

Tuesday, April 21st: 7:00-10:00 P.M.- Parish Council Meeting at the Parish Center

Sunday, April 26th: Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women & Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus
40 Day Memorial Service for Ida Lavin
5 Year Memorial Service for Sophie Hallal

Saturday, May 2nd: 8:00 P.M.-1:00 A.M.- Spring Haffle (see Fr. Elie for tickets)

Sunday, May 3rd: Sunday of the Paralytic
The Antiochian Women NAB Project Luncheon at the Parish Center following Liturgy

Monday, May 4th: 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Meeting

Sunday, May 10th: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Tuesday, May 12th: 7:00-10:00 P.M.- Parish Council Meeting at the Parish Center

Sunday, May 17th: Sunday of the Blind Man


Sunday, May 31st: Sunday of PENTECOST

Sunday, April 12, 2015
Great and Holy PASCHA
المسيح قام، حقاً قام.
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 Nakhlou, 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**
Troparion of Easter, Tone 5
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Hypakoe of Easter, Tone 4
They who were with Mary came before dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them, why seek ye him as man with the dead, who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the son of God, the Savior of mankind.

Kontakion of Easter, Tone 8
O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

The Anti-Trisagion Hymn
As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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The Epistle
Acts 1:1-8
Prokeimenon: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.
The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

The Gospel
John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came not of the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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”.

Date: Sponsored by: Sponsored for:
April 12th Teen SOYO Breakfast Pascha
April 19th* Fadi & Hadeel Samaan Health of Family
April 26th Fred Hallal & Family Sophie Hallal (5 years)
May 3rd NAB Project Luncheon Ladies Society
May 10th Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos Marie Haddad (80th Birthday)
May 17th Open for sponsorship
May 24th The Hallal Family John Hallal (40 day)
May 31st Open for sponsorship
June 7th The Samra Family Joseph Samra Sr. (50 years)
June 14th Open for sponsorship
June 21st No Coffee Hour Parish Life Conference
June 28th Open for sponsorship
July 5th Open for sponsorship
July 12th Open for sponsorship
July 19th Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos Elias Morcos (son)
July 26th Open for sponsorship
August 2nd Open for sponsorship
August 9th Open for sponsorship
August 16th Open for sponsorship
August 23rd Open for sponsorship
August 30th Open for sponsorship
September 6th Open for sponsorship
September 13th Open for sponsorship
September 20th Open for sponsorship
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

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.

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.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:
- April Gentes Robert
  Offered by: George & Sandra Matook
- Mark Hashway
  Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
- Jacob Khoury
  Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury
- Fred Hallal
- Albert & Vicki Hallal & Family
- Ronald & Janice Hallal & Family
- James Hallal
  Offered by: Elaine Swistak
- Albert & Vickie Hallal
- Ron & Janice Hallal
- James Hallal
- Fred, Adele & Robert Shwaery
  Offered by: Mary Lou & Bill Catelli

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
- Fred Hashway Jr.
  Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
- John Hallal
  Offered by: Elaine Swistak
- Charles & Victoria Daghir
- George Matook
  Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family
- John Hallal
  Offered by: Mary Lou & Bill Catelli
Holy Pascha 2015

This year Pascha (Easter) falls on April 12th

Please note that on Saturday, April 11th, (Great and Holy Saturday) the Easter Service begins at 10:00pm followed by the complete Orthros of Pascha (the paschal Cannon). Which is itself followed by the Divine Liturgy of the Feast. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the Easter eggs will be blessed. It is the custom in many Orthodox cultures for many families to prepare a Paschal basket of Easter foods such as eggs, meats, cheeses, sausages, sweet breads, etc. If you would like to bring your own Pascha basket to church, please do so, place it next to the Easter eggs at the front of the Church, to be blessed at the end of Liturgy. Following the service, the traditional Agape (love) breakfast will be served at the Parish Center sponsored by St. Mary Teen SOYO.

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 Pascha (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.

Offer of Gratitude

Fr. Elie and the St. Mary Parish Council would like to offer thanks and gratitude to all the faithful who participated, assisted and supported the Church during the Lenten Season, Holy Week and Pascha. May God bless those who gave of their time, energy, resources and love, to celebrate and to offer sacrifices during this special time and make possible our witness to the Resurrection- The Feast of Feasts.

Easter Egg Donation

The Paschal Easter Eggs are being donated this year by Scott & Nora Barnes in loving memory of George Ganim. May God keep him in The Resurrection and may his memory be eternal.

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!
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GREAT LENT 2015
February 23rd ~ April 12th (Holy Pascha)

HOLY PASCHA 2015

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Come to our kind of town...come to Providence!
Come to the 77th Annual Parish Life Conference!
June 18-21, 2015
His Grace Bishop JOHN, Presiding

Save the Date!
Go to www.stmarypawtucket.org for registration & more information!

Join us for family fun, heart-warming fellowship and wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth in the “Creative Capital”!

Highlights include:
- Bible bowl • Oratorical Contest • Game Night • Grand Huli
- Home of Multiethnic Majesty of WaterFire • Low Ticket Rates & much more!

Registration Giveaway!
Register for the conference before May 1st, 2015 to be entered into a drawing to win two Huli tickets at the 2015 National Convention in Boston!

Book your room:
- There are a limited number of rooms, so book early!
  - The Providence Marriott
  - 1 Orms Street, Providence, RI
  - Special Conference Rate of $159 a night
  - For reservations call: 866-807-2171 & Reference "Parish Life Conference"

Holy Thursday Wreath
Donated by Sam & Kay Matook & Family

For the Health & Safety of:
- Sam & Kay Matook
- Mark A. Matook
- Bob & Sherry Matook
- Our Grandchildren:
  - Mackenzie and Mason Matook
- The Matook Family
- The Bicki Family
- Maureen Allen
- The Bellas Family
- Fred, Adele & Bobby Shwaery
- Fr. Elie & Family
- Abdelahad Family
- Agaty Family

In Loving Memory Of:
- Wadi & Esma Matook
- James & Helen Bellas
- Rose Afissa
- George Matook
- Fred Matook
- Emily Albert
- Departed Matook Family
- Departed Bellas Family
- Olga Bicki
- Christy Bicki
- Departed Allen Family
- Charles Abdelahad
- Charles Agaty

May they rest in peace and may their memory be eternal.

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
Teen SOYO Invites You ~ to join all of us for

PASchal BReAkAST

After Easter Liturgy - Sunday, APRIL 12th
In the early morning hours at the Parish Center

Breakfast is complimentary, your donation is welcome.
Menu will include: breakfast pastry, scrambled eggs, bacon, French toast, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, juice.

Hope you will join us as we proclaim, “Christ is Risen!”

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).

Sunday, April 12th (PASCHA)- NO CLASS
Sunday, April 19th- Easter Egg Hunt
Walk-A-Thon