

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 17th: Sunday of the Blind Man

Church School Graduation & Light Luncheon at the Parish Center

Wednesday, May 20th: 7:00 P.M.-Liturgy– Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Friday, May 22nd: 6:45P.M.- 8:30 P.M Choir Practice

Sunday, May 24th: Holy Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea & After-feast of the Ascension of Christ

Monday, May 25th: Memorial Day

9:00 A.M.– Memorial Day Prayers at Walnut Hill Cemetery

Wednesday, May 27th: 7:00– PLC Meeting in Church Hall

Friday, May 29th: 6:45P.M.- 8:30 P.M Choir Practice

Sunday, May 31st: Sunday of PENTECOST

Sunday, June 7th: All Saints Sunday: First Sunday after Pentecost

Tuesday, June 9th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, June 14th: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Monday, June 15th: 6:30 P.M.– Ladies Society Dinner Meeting at the Grist Mill

June 18th-21st Parish Life Conference

Sunday, June 21st: Third Sunday after Pentecost– Liturgy held at the Marriott Hotel (PLC)

(No Church Services at St. Mary)

Father's Day

Sunday, June 28th: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*17th Parish Life Conference
June 18th-21st*

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, May 17, 2015

Sunday of the Blind Man

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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

<i>Sunday: Orthros (Matins)</i>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Church School</i>	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday: Divine Liturgy</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>

*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

Liturgical Fans

Metal or wooden disc, used as fans and carried in procession. On the round discs there are representations of the six-winged angels, the Cherubim, described in Exodus 25:18, who surround the throne of God. They are carried in procession and are placed near the back of the Holy Table to signify that angels are continually with us, most significantly, at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Forgetting offences is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented, but, you are like someone running in his sleep.

~St. John Climacus



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.

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.

The Feast of The Ascension

This year the Feast of The Ascension falls on Wednesday, May 20th. St Mary Church will celebrate the Feast with an Evening Divine Liturgy at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 20th.

Jesus did not live with his disciples after his resurrection as he had before his death. Filled with the glory of his divinity, he appeared at different times and places to his people, assuring them that it was he, truly alive in his risen and glorified body. **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 (Acts 1:3)** It should be noted that the time span of forty days is used many times in the Bible and signifies a temporal period of completeness and sufficiency. (Genesis 7:17; Exodus 16:35, 24:18; Judges 3:11; 1 Samuel 17:16; 1 Kings 19:8; Jonah 3:4; Matthew 4:2) On the fortieth day after his passover, Jesus **ascended into heaven** to be glorified on the right hand of God. (Acts 1:9-11; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51) The ascension of Christ is his final physical departure from this world after the resurrection. It is the formal completion of his mission in this world as the Messianic Saviour. It is his glorious return to the Father who had sent him into the world to accomplish the work that he had given him to do. (John 17:4-5) **...and lifting his hands he blessed them. While blessing them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. . . (Luke 24:51-52)** The Church's celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy scripture stresses Christ's physical departure and his glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which his disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Luke 24:48-53; Acts 1:8-11; Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:16-19) In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for us, and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the **"heavenly sanctuary... the Holy Place not made by hands."** (See Hebrews 8-10) He goes in order to send the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, to bear witness to him and his gospel in the world, by making him powerfully present in the lives of his disciples. The liturgical hymns of the feast of the Ascension sing of all of these things. The antiphonal verses of the Divine Liturgy are taken from Psalms 47, 48 and 49. The troparion of the feast which is sung at the small entrance is also used as the post-communion hymn. **Thou hast ascended in glory O Christ our God., granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world (Troparion)**

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, and didst unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you! (Kontakion)



CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Sunday of the Blind Man

Tone: 5 Eothinon: 8

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 5

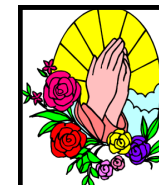
Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the 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 Pascha, 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 Epistle
Acts 16:16-34

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 the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Please help support our fundraising efforts

*******2015 RAFFLE/ 20 WEEK CLUB*******

Raffle tickets are still available for purchase- \$25.00 each.

- (1) \$50.00 Prize each week
- (1) Grand Prize of \$1,000 to be drawn on September 13th during Coffee Hour.

If you haven't already bought a ticket, please see Ed Ayoub or a Parish Council member.

WINNERS:

Week 1- Scott Barnes \$50

Week 2- Steven Kilsey \$50



Parish Life Conference Meeting

The next PLC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27th at 7pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!

S t . M a r y T e e n S O Y O N e w s a n d E v e n t s

Teen SOYO will be having a BOWLING outing soon...more info to follow.

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.****

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
May 17th*	Samy & Helen Morcos	Their Continued Health
May 24th*	Amirhom Family	Atllah Amirhom(5 years)
May 31st	The Hallal Family	John Hallal (40 day)
June 7th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
June 14th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
June 21st	<i>No Coffee Hour</i>	
June 28th	The Samra Family	Parish Life Conference
July 5th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	Joseph Samra Sr. (50 years)
July 12th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
July 19th	Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos	Elias Morcos (son)
July 26th	Walid & Mirna Nakhoul	Salim Audi (3 years)
August 2nd	The David Family	George “Sippi” David (5 years)
August 9th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
August 16th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
August 23rd	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
August 30th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 6th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 13th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 20th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
September 27th	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	

The Gospel

John 9:1-38

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of God." He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshipped him.

**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

Ed & Lillian Betor Family
Paul Betor
Offered by: Ed & Lillian Betor

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

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Dorica
Teresa
Genivaldo
Laercio
Offered by: Emad & Sue Amirhom



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

Please make sure to bring your Food for Hungry People collection boxes to the Church Office if you have not done so already.

Memorial Day Prayers

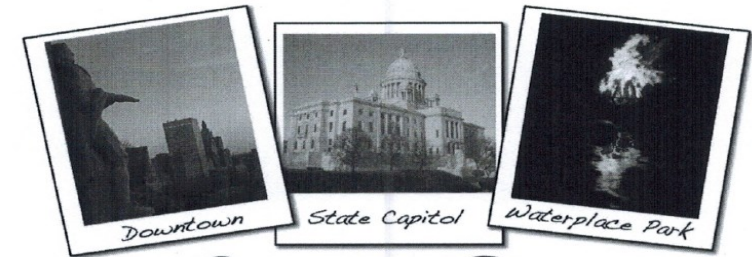
This year Memorial Day falls on May 25th. Prayers for the deceased will be held at Walnut Hill Cemetery starting at 9am on Monday, May 25th.

Please bring a list of the names of your beloved deceased and give them to Fr. Elie at the central cross for the offering of the Trisagion Prayers.(9am).

May God grant peace and repose to the beloved deceased and may their memories be eternal!



*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 Hufli
Home of Multisensory Majesty of WaterFire • Low Ticket Rates & much more!

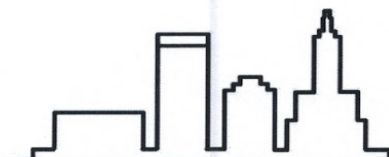
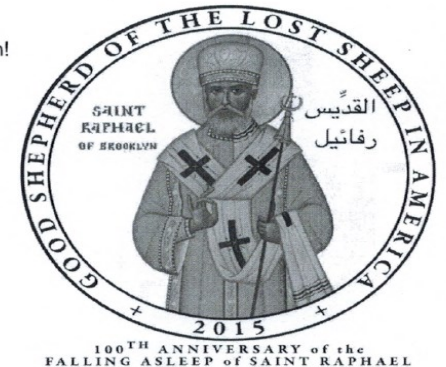
Registration Giveaway!

Register for the conference before May 1st, 2015 to be entered into a
drawing to win two Hufli 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"



Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

- ♦ **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

Parish Life Conference - 2015

Sponsorship forms are available in the Church Hall. The deadline for participation is May 25, 2015. For further information, please contact Dr. Nabil Khoury at (401) 434-8877 or Dr. Joseph J. Samra at (401) 334-2465 or Fr. Elie.

- ♦ The next PLC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th at 7pm in the Church Hall....hope to see you there!

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.

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:
<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

Charitable Gift Program Annual Memorial Service ~ Sunday, May 24th

This is the twentieth-first year that Memorial Trisagion services are offered for those deceased parishioners in our Charitable Gift Program who have made their contribution to the fund.

The Trisagion service will be offered this year in memory of: Assad Ayoub, Mary Ayoub, Naseem Ayoub, Joseph Bowab, Linda Salhany Bowab, Alice David, Florence David, George David, Mary Elizabeth David, Nora David, Christopher Gauthier, Ronald Gauthier, Esma Gorab, Jacqueline Gorab, John Gorab, Edward J. Hallal, Sr., Sophie Hallal, Donald Hayes, Matilda Josephs, Theodore Juczyk, Michelle Kilsey, Ida Lavin, Theodore Lavin, John Massiwer, Sarah Massiwer, Esma Matook, Wadi Matook, Kamal Nassif, Ruth Ganim Salhany, Joseph Samra, Mary Samra, Jameela Tahmoush and Nora Walker. May their Memory Be Eternal!

We would also like to offer prayers for the health and safety of the following individuals who have committed to the Charitable Gift Program.

Fr. Leonard Faris	Maria Hallal	Steven W. Kilsey
Fr. Timothy Ferguson	Ronald Hallal	Robert Laffey
Anonymous--Four	Dianna Hashway	Holly Lazieh
Cindy Antypas	Fareed Hawwa	Lily Massiwer
Bette Ayoub	Olga Hawwa	Mary Massiwer
Edward Ayoub	Renda Hawwa	Keith Marshall
Philip Ayoub	Tawfik Hawwa	Marlene Marshall
Philip G. Ayoub	Cindy Hayes	Donna Maurice
Suzanne Ayoub	Daniel Hayes	Glen Maurice
Janet Bowab	Donald Hayes, Jr.	Mary Mechrefe
Christine Briggs	Sarah Hayes	Louise Megalli
Liam Burke	Hilda Jarjoura Juczyk	William Salhany
Mary Lou Catelli	Eli Karam	Barbara M. Samra
William Catelli	Julia Karam	Joseph J. Samra
Bryan Chowning	Naji Karam	Joseph J. Samra III
Stephanie Chowning	Nabil Khoury	Marlene Samra
Linda Dvelis	Salwa Khoury	Rebecca Samra
Fred Elliott	Audrey Kilsey	Rita Sayegh
Elaine Gauthier	Fred Kilsey	Florence Spenard
Maureen Gurghigian	George Kilsey	Phil Spenard
Paul Gurghigian	Lois Kilsey	Carol Wartenburg
Fred Hallal	Melanie Ann Kilsey	Susan Warzycha
Janice Bowab Hallal	Melissa Ann Kilsey	Mary Jane Wehbe
Keith Hallal	Patricia A. Kilsey	Elaine Wilbur
Lorice Hallal	Steven G. Kilsey	Our Teens

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

Upcoming Choir Practices:

Friday, May 22nd & Friday, May 29th: 6:45-8:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join!



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).

- ♦ Today- Sunday, May 17th– Church School Graduation

Church School Graduation

St. Mary Church would like to offer its thanks to Samy & Helen Morcos for their contribution in helping sponsor a luncheon being offered today for our Church School Graduation to be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy. A very special “Thank You” is offered to Stephanie Chowning for heading our Church School and also many thanks to all our teachers who have taught our children the Orthodox Faith throughout the Church School year. Lastly, the Parish Council will offer a brief and exciting presentation on the future of St. Mary at the luncheon. Please come down and join us!



Ladies Society News

- ♦ The Ladies Society Dinner meeting will be held June 15th at the Grist Mill in Seekonk, MA at 6:30pm. Please call Nora Matook for more information.

Congratulations

St. Mary Church offers its congratulations to all of our young men and women who are or will be graduating from both High School and College in the next few weeks. May God bless them as they continue their education and pursue new work and careers. And may God bless their parents and families for nurturing and supporting them.



Parish Directory Updates

We are updating our church directory. This will be a bound copy for all parishioners. Please take a few moments to check that your information is correct before it goes to print. See Samy Morcos to update your address, email address, telephone numbers, childrens names...etc. Thank you !

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.