Sunday, January 3rd:
  Sunday before Theophany
  Adult Education- ‘Christ the High Priest’ presented by Cory Dupont

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

Tuesday, January 5th:
  Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters at St. George, West Roxbury. Matins-5pm & Liturgy at 6pm, followed by the Blessing of the Waters.

Sunday, January 10th:
  Sunday after Theophany
  Memorial Service for Matilda Josephs (5 years)
  Memorial Service for Christos Theodoridis (8 years)
  Adult Education- ‘Christ the King’ presented by Matthew Cooper
  12:00PM- Ladies Society Luncheon
  5:00PM Vespers service followed by a talk by Bishop JOHN about the “Sanctity of Life”.

Tuesday, January 12th:
  7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 17th:
  Anthony the Great; 12th Sunday of Luke
  Adult Education- ‘Christ the Prophet’ presented by Elmer Stanley

Wednesday, January 20th:
  6:45 P.M.–8:30 P.M.– CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sunday, January 24th:
  31st Sunday after Pentecost; 14th Sunday of Luke
  Adult Education- ‘Faith and Reason’ presented by Fr. Matt Duncan

Sunday, January 31st:
  32nd Sunday after Pentecost; 15th Sunday of Luke

Sunday, February 3rd:
  6:45 P.M.–8:30 P.M.– CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sunday, February 7th:
  16th Sunday after Pentecost; 16th Sunday of Matthew
  Souper-Bowl Special Collection
  Annual Parish Meeting at the Parish Center following Liturgy
  3:00 P.M.- Super Bowl Party at Parish Center

Sunday, February 14th:
  17th Sunday after Pentecost; 17th Sunday of Matthew
  12:30 P.M.- 20th Anniversary Celebration for Fr. Elie in honor of his 20 years serving the Lord– Bishop JOHN presiding

Sunday January 3, 2016
Forefeast of &
Sunday before Theophany of Christ
Christ is Born, Glorify Him!
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.

**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**
Holy Theophany

“Epiphany” means appearance. “Theophany” means the appearance of God. After Pascha and Pentecost, Theophany is considered the third greatest feast of the Orthodox Church, greater than Christmas. It commemorates Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. St. Cyril states that the beginning of the world was water; the beginning of the Gospel was the Jordan, when the Holy Trinity was revealed to the senses. The Father spoke, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” The Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a dove hovering over the waters, and St. John the Baptist bore witness, saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Jesus took on the sin of the world and symbolically died by being immersed in the Jordan, then rose again out of the Jordan.

Blessed is the person who has consented to become the close friend of faith and of prayer; he lives in single-mindedness and makes prayer and faith stop by with him. Prayer that rises up in someone’s heart serves to open up for us the door of heaven. that person stands in converse with the Divinity and gives pleasure to the Son of God. Prayer makes peace with the Lord’s anger and with the vehemence of His wrath. In this way too, tears that well up in the eyes can open the door of compassion.

~St. Ephraim the Syrian

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Forefeast of & Sunday before Theophany of Christ

Tone: 6   Eothinon: 9

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 of the Forefeast of Theophany: Tone 4
(***Joseph was amazed**)
Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. * River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive * the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. * O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; * hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. * Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now * to clothe you in the first robe again. * Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 Forefeast of Theophany: Tone 4
(***On this day Thou hast appeared**)
Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan, crying to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my Baptism; for I have verily come to save Adam, the first to be created.

Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

***Vespers & Sanctity of Life Lecture with Bishop JOHN presiding: Sunday, January 10th at 5pm at St. Mary Church, Pawtucket. Refreshments to follow at the Parish Center.

***Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters at St. George, West Roxbury: Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Matins will be held at 5pm & Liturgy at 6pm, followed by the Blessing of the Waters. A light dinner will be served following the Blessing of the Waters. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)
Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)
The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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
Theophany

The Orthodox Church commemorates only one event in the life of Christ on January 6: the baptism of the Lord is the only manifestation proclaimed on this day. The four evangelists consider this event to be as significant as the cross and the resurrection. Each of them describes it in detail. Mark makes baptism the “beginning” of his gospel; John begins his account (the narrative, after the prologue) with the witness of John the Baptist and his meeting with Jesus in the desert. Jesus is thirty at the time of his baptism. Up to this, he has lived with his family in Galilee, living as an ordinary man, working with his hands, sharing the daily life of his peers. Nothing of his divine nature is evident in the Nazarene. On the banks of the Jordan, God reveals himself in the person of Jesus. He is the Word of God, on him rests the Holy Spirit from all eternity, the Father witnesses to the divinity of Jesus and proclaims him to be his Only Son: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (Mt 3:17) It is after the baptism that the world can know the three persons of the Trinity. This is the mystery which allows us to call on the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God. After the manifestation in the Jordan, we too can baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19). For the first time in history, God reveals himself in three persons. The visit Abraham received at the oak of Mamre was the prophecy; the announcement of this revelation. Only the incarnate Son made man could initiate us, make us enter into this mystery. The Orthodox Church has decided to separate this manifestation of Christ from all the others (birth, magi, and wedding at Cana), because on this day God reveals himself fully: he is one in three persons. Nothing can be added to this vision. This is why the word Epiphany was replaced in the East by Theophany. The first term means manifestation, “the second specifies and develops the meaning of the feast as the manifestation of God. The manifestation of the Trinity the thrice-holy God, defies all logic, overturns all the categories of knowledge. The voice of the Father heard by John the Baptist at the Jordan had been foretold by the prophet David in a psalm. This verse is used at the office of Theophany: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of Glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters! The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness...(Ps 28[29]:3 and 8) In another song, the psalmist shows us the extent to which the manifestation of God in the Jordan defies not only human logic, but also causes the disarray of nature, frightened by the presence of the all-powerful Creator in the created world: The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back. The mountain skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?...(Ps 113[114]:3-5)

St Mary Ladies Society

Is hosting a
Happy New Year Dinner

Sunday January 10, 2016

Immediately following
Divine Liturgy

Menu

Grilled Lamb Kabob
Sfeeha
Roasted Vegetables
Rice Pilaf
Salad
Dessert & Assorted Beverages

Donation $12.00 per Person
$6.00 Children under 10

Please join us for a Delicious Luncheon
**Three Year Memorial Service**

Today, a Three Year Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of **Sub-Deacon Nicholas El-Khaouli** and is being offered by his loving wife Fatat El-Khaouli & Family. A Memorial Coffee Hour is being offered in his memory at the Parish Center. All are welcome.

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

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**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

Leon Josephs  
Mirna Nakhoul  
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Andrea Swistak  
Stephanie & Jeff Caplan  
Elie, Julia & Naji Karam  
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

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**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

Sub Deacon Nicholas El-Khaouli  
Fouda & Houida El-Khaouli  
Offered by: Fatat El-Khaouli

Ann Sabby  
Offered by: Marwan, Rosemary, Jihad & Shadia

Gabriel Saback  
Offered by: Tom & Helen O’Brien

Gabriel “Gabe” Saback  
Offered by: Mindy Peloquin  
Linda Beauregard

John Swistak  
Offered by: His Loving Family

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**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. Are you interested in Classical (written) Arabic or Conversational (spoken) Arabic?

Name(s) and Age(s): _____________________________________________

Phone number: __________________________ Email address: ____________

**CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM.**

Cost of each six-week semester as follows:

- Conversational Arabic: $10 per class
- Classical Arabic: $15 (includes reading, writing)

Both Conversational and Classical Arabic: $25

Tuition fees are non-refundable and are payable in full prior to the first class.

If you have any questions please call Barbara Samra @ 401 465-7493 or email at sallydog6@cox.net or Khouria Ruba @ 1 240 595-2668 or email rubaelle@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.
Attention All Teens
(12 years and older)
*** Come and join The St. Mary Teen SOYO Youth Group ***

ATTN: Teen SOYO

First, I want to express both my gratitude and happiness for the hard work of our teens this holiday season. With the indispensable assistance of Maureen Gurghigian, Cindy Hayes, and Michael and Nancy Muller, our teens were able to reach out to our local community with the love and mercy of the Gospel this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Truly, great work everyone! I hope and pray that God will continue to bless our efforts well into the New Year.

Also, on Saturday, January 9th, I think our labor could stand to be awarded with some fellowship and respite with an afternoon at the movies! For both our SOYO group and anyone else who might be interested, we’ll be going to see Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Actual showing time will be shared via email, as will ticket price. It might be prudent to also make sure that everyone has money for lunch.

More info to come by the week’s end. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Cory Dupont: (401) 749-9406 or cory_dupont78@yahoo.com
Fee schedule for the use of the Sanctuary for the following services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptism</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Plus offering to clergy &amp; cost of choir)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedding</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

Epiphany 2016- Blessing of Homes
With the celebration of The Feast of Epiphany and the Great Sanctification of the Water, house blessings are starting for the new year. If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact Fr. Elie and schedule an appropriate time. While it is traditional to begin house blessings following Epiphany, homes may be blessed throughout the year. May the Blessing of the Jordan River sanctify and protect each and every home and family in our community.

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

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.
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.

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

Wednesday, January 20th: 6:45 P.M.-8:30 P.M.– CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sunday, February 3rd: 6:45 P.M.-8:30 P.M.– CHOIR REHEARSAL

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.

2016 Church Calendars

The Church Calendars for the new year have arrived. Please see Fr. Elie to purchase one. Suggested donation: $10

Attention All Parents:

Please bring your children to the Liturgy before Church School. Church School starts every Sunday following communion (Approx. 11:15am).
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~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sponsored by:</th>
<th>Sponsored for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 3, 2016</td>
<td>Fatat El-Khaouli</td>
<td>Nicholas El-Khaouli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 10, 2016</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>Ladies Society Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17, 2016</td>
<td>Fred Kilsey</td>
<td>Michelle Kilsey (5 year memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24, 2016</td>
<td>Dr. Zeyad &amp; Norma Morcos</td>
<td>Ellas Morcos (Memory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31, 2016</td>
<td>The Ayoub Family</td>
<td>Naseem Ayoub (2 year memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7, 2016</td>
<td>St. Mary Church</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14, 2016</td>
<td>Marwan &amp; Huda Al-Amir</td>
<td>Health of their Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 21, 2016</td>
<td>The Salhany Family</td>
<td>Ida Lavin (1 year memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28, 2016</td>
<td>Elaine Agaty</td>
<td>Charles Agaty (1 year memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6, 2016</td>
<td>Ladies Society</td>
<td>Ladies Project Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13, 2016</td>
<td>Massiwer, Gurghigian, Haynes, Franklin &amp; Arrighi Families</td>
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<td>March 20, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2016</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2016</td>
<td>no coffee hour</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2016</td>
<td>no coffee hour</td>
<td>Great &amp; Holy PASCHA</td>
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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, skhoury@cox.net or the Church Office (401)726-1202 / office@stmarypawtucket.org