

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 8th: Sunday of St. Thomas

Special Coffee Hour honoring Bishop Nicholas & Bishop John
Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 10th: 6:30P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 11th: 9:00 A.M.- Cooking Sfeeha at the Parish Center– *ALL WELCOME!*

Saturday, May 14th: 6:00 P.M.-Arabic Liturgy

Sunday, May 15th: Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women
Church School Graduation & Luncheon

Sunday, May 22nd: Sunday of the Paralytic

Outreach Committee Meeting during Coffee Hour

Sunday, May 29th: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Sunday, June 5th: Sunday of the Blindman

Monday, June 6th: 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Meeting

Wednesday, June 8th: 7:00 P.M.- Liturgy for the Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday, June 12th: Holy Fathers of the First Council of Nicea

Tuesday, June 14th: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, June 18th: 8pm-1am- Haflee at the Parish Center

Sunday, June 19th: Sunday of Holy PENTECOST



CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!



Prayer Line

St. Mary ~ Internet Prayer Line

Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at

office@stmarypawtucket.org

All requests must be received by Wednesday noon to be included in that week's bulletin.
Any requests received after that time will be included in the following week's bulletin.

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, May 8th, 2016

Sunday of St. Thomas (New Sunday)

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 2016:

President: Salwa Khoury
Vice-President: Cindy Hayes
Secretary: Jamie Mitri
Treasurer: Fadia Kabak

Council Members: Joseph Samra III, Emad Amirhom, Scott Barnes,
Cory Dupont, Lorice Hallal, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazieh, Walid Nakhoul, Elmer Stanley
(Church School), Linda Dvelis, Hadeel Samaan

****Please feel free to contact Salwa Khoury at stkhoury@cox.net or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns****



Orthodox Vocabulary

Parousia

Parousia: from a Greek word meaning "presence." This is the term used to refer to the second coming of the Lord. On that day, all persons will arise, their bodies transfigured, and all creation will be transformed: new earth and new heavens. This will also be the day of judgment, when the Lord "*will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead*" .
(Creed: Mt 25:31; Rom 2:5-11)

“If you cannot be merciful, at least speak as though you are a sinner. If you are not a peacemaker, at least do not be a troublemaker. If you cannot be assiduous, at least in your thought be like a sluggard. If you are not victorious, do not exalt yourself over the vanquished. If you cannot close the mouth of a man who disparages his companion, at least refrain from joining him in this.”

~St. Isaac the Syrian



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.

Parking Lot

The parking lot across the street is to be used for elderly and handicapped parking only. Please use our other parking lot to park during church services.

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 \$100 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>
May 8, 2016	St. Mary Church	Honoring Bishop Nicholas & Bishop John
May 15, 2016	St. Mary Church	Church School Graduation
May 22, 2016	Kamal, George, Gladys, Therese Haddad & Their Families	Emile Haddad (1 year memorial)
May 29, 2016	Michel Raad & Family	Health of Family
June 5, 2016	Steve & Patricia Kilsey Joe & Marlene Samra	John & Esma Gorab
June 12, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
June 19, 2016*	Elie & Julia Karam	Health of Naji upon his graduation
June 26, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
July 3, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
July 10, 2016	Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos	Health of Elias Morcos
July 17, 2016	His Daughters & Their Families	Fred Hallal (1 year)
July 24, 2016	Audrey & Wayne Kilsey	Elthel Kilsey (1 year)
July 31, 2016	St. Mary Church	Family Day
August 7, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
August 14, 2016	no coffee hour	St. Mary Church Feast
August 21, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
August 28th, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
September 4, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
September 11, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
September 18, 2016	Open for sponsorship	
September 25, 2016	Open for sponsorship	

Sunday of St. Thomas

Sunday, May 8th, 2016

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

المسيح قام، حقا قام.

Troparion for Thomas Sunday: Tone 7

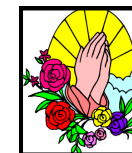
While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

Troparion of St. John the Evangelist: Tone 2

O Apostle John, speaker of divinity, the beloved of Christ God, hasten and deliver thy people powerless in argument; for He on Whose bosom thou didst lean accepteth thee as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the cloud of the stubborn nations, asking for us safety and the Great Mercy.

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

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (1:1-7)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

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).

Reminder:

Please be sure to fill your “Food for Hungry” box that was distributed at the beginning of Lent. The children discussed in Sunday School the importance of almsgiving during the Lenten season.

*Sunday, May 8th– Easter Egg Hunt during Church School

*Sunday, May 15th– End of Church School Luncheon



Diocese of New England: 2016 Parish Life Conference

Please reserve the dates:

June 11th & 25th for the 2016 Parish Life Conference.
This year it will be hosted by St. George Church, Lawrence, MA.

June 11th: Pre-Conference

Location: St. George Orthodox Church, Lowell, MA

June 25th: Conference

Location: Sts. Constantine & Helen Church
71 Chandler Road, Andover, MA

~More info to follow~

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

****Please remember to return your Food For Hungry People boxes****

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.

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

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.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

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 Reed
Omer & Marci Reed
Offered by Joe & Marlene Samra

Philip & Bette Ayoub
Arnold, Maria, Roslynn & Justina DeSenna
Offered by Samy & Helen Morcos

Lily Massiwer
Diana Hashway
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

All the Mothers of the Parish
Adele Shwaery & Family
Kristen Silva & Family
Stephanie Dvelis & Bobby
Charlotte Mitri & Family
Paula & Family
Offered by: Linda Dvelis

Special prayers of Good Health & Blessing are being offered to Reyna Chamoun in observance of her 18th Birthday.

Love, Mom, Dad & Anthony
Love, Jiddo & Tayta



Good Health & Safe Return of:
His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph Zehlaoui
Offered by: Kenneth & Rania Salhany

His Grace Bishop Ozone
His Grace Bishop John Abdalah
Offered by: Kenneth & Rania Salhany

Very Reverend Father Thomas Zain & Family
Very Reverend Father George Baalbaki & Family
Very Reverend Father Elie Estephan & Family
Offered by: Kenneth & Rania Salhany

Dr. Firas & Renna Haddad
Kenneth Salhany Jr.
Joseph Salhany
The Salhany Family
The Baalbaki Family
The Haddad Family
Offered by: Kenneth & Rania Salhany

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Ameen and Nayfey Sabath
Petros and Afife Betor
Helen Betor
Fred Sabath
Fred "Fritzie and Jimmy Sabath
Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor

Mary Agaty
Jeannette Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family

Tom Doeppner
Offered by Joe & Marlene Samra

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

Departed Members of the Salhany Family
Departed Members of the Baalbaki Family
Departed Members of the Haddad Family
Offered by: Kenneth & Rania Salhany

Why Do Mothers Cry?

"Why are you crying?" he asked his Mom.
"Because I am a mother" she told him.

"I don't understand" he said
His Mom hugged him and said, "You never will"

Later, the little boy asked his father
why mother cried for no reason.
"All mothers cry for no reason"
was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man
still wondering why mothers cry.

So he finally asked God,
"God, why do mothers cry so easily?"

God said," you see son,
when i made mothers, they had to be special.

I made their shoulders strong enough
to carry the weight of the world,
yet gentle enough to give comfort.

I gave them a hardiness that allows
them to keep going on when everyone else gives up,
and to take care of their families through sickness
and fatigue without complaining.

I gave them the sensitivity to love their
children under all circumstances,
even when their child has hurt them very badly.

This same sensitivity helps them to
make a child's Boo-boo feel better,
and helps them share a teenager's anxieties and fears.

I gave them a tear to shed,
It's theirs exclusively to use whenever it is needed.

It is their only weakness.

It is a tear for mankind"

Poem written by
An Unknown Author



May God bless our Mothers

Today, May 8th is Mother's Day on our secular calendar. May God bless each and every Mother and Grandmother to whom he has given the great Grace of childbearing and the nurturement of children in the Christian Family. The vocation of the Mother is a Holy, Sacred and Sacrificial one and it is foundational to the Christian Life. May God bless and strengthen our Holy Mothers and may their children learn to say "Thank You" to them on this day.



CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

المسيح قام، حقا قام.

~Thank you~

Thank you to everyone who cooked, co-ordinated, helped, participated and enjoyed fellowship at the Agape Breakfast following Pascha Liturgy.

"Christ is Risen!"



Fr. Elie, The Parish Council & St. Mary Church welcome His Grace Bishop Nicholas & His Grace Bishop John. God grant them many years. There will be a special Coffee Hour held in their honor at the Parish Center following Liturgy. All are welcome.

