

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, November 27th:** Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost

**Saturday, December 3rd:** 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

**Sunday, December 4th:** Great Martyr Barbara & Tenth Sunday of Luke

Coffee hour honoring parishioners over 90 years old

**Monday, December 5th:** 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Society Christmas Celebration at the  
Old Grist Mill Tavern, Seekonk, MA

**Sunday, December 11th:** Sunday of the Forefathers

Choir Appreciation Sunday

**Tuesday, December 13th:** 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting

**Sunday, December 18th:** Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (Genealogy)

Christmas Pageant

Outreach Committee Project– ‘Soup Kitchen’ (boxed lunches)

**Saturday, December 24th:** 5:00 P.M.-Pre-feast Christmas Liturgy

**Sunday, December 25th:** 10:00 A.M.-The Nativity of Christ (Christmas) Liturgy

**Saturday, December 31st:** New Year’s Eve

8:00pm.-1:00am ~ Hafli at the Parish Center

### Looking Ahead:

**Sunday, January 1st, 2017:** 10:00 A.M. Liturgy

New Year’s Day

**Saturday, January 7th, 2017:** 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

**February 5, 2017:** Souper-Bowl Special Collection

Annual Parish Meeting at the Parish Center following Liturgy



Keep Christ in Christmas



*Sunday, November 27, 2016*

**Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**

## *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](mailto: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, Lorice Hallal, Steven Kilsey Jr., Holly Lazieh, Walid Nakhoul, Matthew Duncan (*Church School*), Linda Dvelis, Hadeel Samaan, Geoff Ayoub

**\*\*Please feel free to contact Salwa Khoury at (401)434-8877 / [stkhoury@cox.net](mailto:stkhoury@cox.net) or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns\*\***



## *Orthodox Vocabulary*

### **Redemption**

Redemption: from a Latin word meaning “ransom.” Through the fall, humanity became enslaved to sin and death. In order to restore human liberty, God himself became incarnate and saved all men by his passion and resurrection. St Paul expresses this: “*You were bought with a price* [the blood of Christ]” (1 Cor 6:20).

When you hear the songs of birds in the trees in springtime, or other sweet singing, raise your mind to the sweetest songs of paradise and think how the heavens echo forever with Alleluia and other angelic praises, and pray God to let you sing His praises forever, in company with those heavenly spirits, of whom Revelation says: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God” .

~St. Theophan the Recluse



## **New Year's Eve ~ Hafli**

St. Mary Parish Center  
Saturday– December 31st  
\$50 pp ~ 8:00pm-1:00am  
American & Arabic Music, Champagne,  
Noisemakers, Buffet & Cash Bar  
For tickets contact: Fr. Elie (240) 205-9079  
or Tony Kabak (401) 769-4915



**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.

**\*\* 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>
November 27, 2016	Fadi & Hadeel Samaan	Health of Family
December 4, 2016	Outreach Committee	Honoring seniors over 90
December 11, 2016	Parish Council	Choir Appreciation Day
December 18, 2016	The Order of St. Ignatius	Christmas Pageant
December 25th, 2016	no coffee hour	
January 1, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
January 8, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
January 15, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
January 22, 2017	Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos	Memory of Elias Morcos
January 29, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
February 5, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
February 12, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
February 19, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
February 26, 2017	Ladies Society	Dinner to Benefit NAB Project
March 5, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
March 12, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
March 19, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
March 26, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
April 2, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
April 9, 2017	no coffee hour	Palm Sunday
April 16, 2017	no coffee hour	Pascha
April 23, 2017	Her Loving Family	Sophie Hallal
April 30, 2017	Open for sponsorship	

*Sunday, November 27, 2016*

**Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**

**Tone: 6      Eothinon: 1**

**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 Entrance of The Theotokos: Tone 4**

*(\*\*Be quick to anticipate\*\*)*

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For, since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. \* O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

**Troparion of the Dormition: Tone 1**

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for living thou wast translated, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

**Kontakion of Entrance of the Theotokos: Tone 3**

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hear-est it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

## THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:4-10)**

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For, we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)**

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”



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

### **Sunday School Christmas Pageant**

The Sunday School has begun to prepare for our annual Christmas Pageant to be held on Sunday December 18th at the end of Divine Liturgy. We are pleased that we have a team of coordinators to work with our students again this year: Linda Dvelis, Mari-Portela-Hallal, Nancy Sterpis and Maureen Gurghigian.

We only have two Sundays this year (12/4 and 12/11) for rounding out the cast, fitting costumes, rehearsing lines and practicing music. We have also preliminarily scheduled two Saturday rehearsals for December 10 and December 17. We talked with those students who were in Sunday School this past week and began to develop the cast. Please let us know if your child/children will be able to participate this year as we are currently putting together our 2016 cast. Please RSVP to Maria Portela-Hallal at [hallalporte-la@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hallalporte-la@sbcglobal.net)

***Maureen Gurghigian, Nancy Sterpis, Linda Dvelis and Maria Hallal  
Pageant 2016 Coordinators***



### **Pledge 2017**

As you prayerfully consider your 2017 Pledge, please remember we will not be sending out statements for the \$125 Archdiocese Assessment this year. Please consider this as part of your pledge. Each year we are obligated to pay the Archdiocese over \$25,000 based on our annual income. Please help us meet this commitment. Thank you!





## St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Office: (401) 726-1202 Fax: (401) 729-1203  
V. Rev. Fr. Elie Estephan, Pastor  
Mobile: (240) 205-9079  
Website: <http://stmarypawtucket.org>

November 20, 2016

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

### Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

Once again the holiday season is upon us, and, once again, it is time to start thinking about sending Christmas cards to those with whom we worship and love. Every year the choir sponsors a card which is sent to every family in our parish—sending **your** best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

This letter is to ensure that **all** parish members are approached and have an opportunity to participate in the Christmas card being prepared—we do not wish to overlook anyone!

Below is a form, which you may complete and submit—either in person or by mail—containing your family name and your holiday greetings. Your holiday wishes will be sent to all parishioners. This is a wonderful way to be remembered by our community during this busy season—it is also an inexpensive and easy way to have your card sent to all your friends and relatives. All proceeds go into the choir fund, which is our only source of revenue to continue to upgrade our supplies and continue to provide you with meaningful liturgical music.



In order to be listed in this year's card, your response must be received no later than Sunday, December 4th. If there are any questions, or if you wish to give your response and donation in person, please contact the church office.

Thank you for helping us in this endeavor. All of us in the choir sincerely appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

The St. Mary Liturgical Choir

FAMILY NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Remember

— **LAST DATE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND DONATION IS DECEMBER 4th!**

By mail, send to: St. Mary Orthodox Church, Choir Christmas Card Fund,  
249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

"Let us not, O Lord, be strangers outside your house" (Early Syrian Liturgy)

### 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  
Great-Grandson, Daniel Thomas Dykstra  
Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor

Caroline Lawrence  
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Elaine Wilbur & Family  
Offered by: Elaine Swistak



### 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

Nellie Hallal  
Frederick & Sophie Hallal  
Offered by: Holly Lazieh and Sons &  
Bob Dessaint

Anthony Agaty  
Charles Agaty  
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Mitchell & Nellie Hallal  
Edward Hallal, Sr.  
Fred Hashway  
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Anthony Agaty  
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

### Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is sponsored by Fadi & Hadeel Samaan for the Health of their Family. Coffee hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



### Christmas Liturgy

**Saturday, December 24th: 5:00 P.M.-Pre-feast Christmas Liturgy**

**Sunday, December 25th: 10:00 A.M.-The Nativity of Christ (Christmas)  
Liturgy**



# 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) is asked to contact the choir director Dawn Boukari @ (401) 465-8909 or email her: daboukari@gmail.com



## CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

On December 11th, the second Sunday of the month, our Antiochian Archdiocese is celebrating Choir/Chanter Appreciation Sunday. We appreciate our choir and chanters many other times throughout the year, for all the liturgical services they beautify and make possible with their singing and chanting That Sunday we will especially acknowledge them particularly throughout the Archdiocese, and thank them for their ministry in the parish.

## St. Mary's Ladies Society Annual Christmas Party

Monday, December 5th at The Old Grist Mill Tavern  
Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA  
**Dinner served at 7:00PM**



**Menu:** *(Because of Advent) Choice of Baked Boston Scrod, Jumbo Baked Stuffed Shrimp or Grilled Norwegian Salmon (Vegetarian meals available upon request). Salad bar included. Potato, vegetable of the day, Home baked breads, soft drinks, coffee, tea, dessert.*

Cost: \$40 per person (20% gratuity included)~

Bring a \$10 gift for the Trader Joe Game.

Make Check Payable to St. Mary's Ladies Society

Call (401) 231-6411 ~ Nora Matook for reservations A.S.A.P.!

*Join the Ladies for an evening of FUN...ALL ladies from the parish are invited!*

2016

## Parish Christmas Poinsettia Fund

*In anticipation of Christmas, we present our very important  
"Poinsettia Fund" Project*



Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to be used in decorating the Church for Christmas.  
This donation is made with the following intentions.

For the Good Health and Blessing of:

In Loving Memory of:


From: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please remember to return the form to the Parish Office by Sunday, Dec. 18th*