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
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 or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns**

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

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
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~

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

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 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, Maria-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

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!
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
**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!

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**Parish Christmas Poinsettia Fund**

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

Please accept my donation of $______

[Table 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