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 & Dinner following Liturgy
   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 ~ Haflı at the Parish Center
Sunday, January 1st, 2017: 10:00 A.M. Liturgy
   New Year’s Day
Monday, January 2nd, 2017: 7:00 P.M.– Ladies Society Meeting
Saturday, January 7th, 2017: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy
Sunday, January 8th, 2017: Sunday after the Theophany of Christ
Tuesday, January 10th, 2017: 7:00 P.M.– Parish Council Meeting
Sunday, January 15th, 2017: Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, January, 22, 2017: Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, January 29th, 2017: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Saturday, February 4th, 2017: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy
Sunday, February 5, 2017: Souper-Bowl Special Collection
   Annual Parish Meeting at the Parish Center following Liturgy
Saturday, February 11th, 2017: Haflı 8pm-1am at the Parish Center
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 Amrithom, 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**

Orthodox Vocabulary

Eden
Eternity that which is outside time. In fact, any notion of time is linked to that of creation. Time is something created. Eternity belongs to God alone, it is uncreated.

Arabic Liturgy
Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visitations
Please contact Fr. Elie or Salwa Khoury with any names of parishioners that are in need of visitation either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

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.

New Year’s Eve ~ Hafli
St. Mary Parish Center
Saturday– December 31st
$50 adult/ $25 children ~ 8:00pm-1:00am~ American & Arabic Music, Midnight Champagne, Noisemakers, Buffet Dinner & 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~

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
<th>Sponsored for</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2016</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
<td>Choir Appreciation Day</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2017</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>January 8, 2017</td>
<td>Fatat ElKhouli</td>
<td>Memory of Nicholas ElKhaouli</td>
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<td>January 15, 2017</td>
<td>Fred Kilsey &amp; Family</td>
<td>Memory of Michelle Kilsey</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>February 5, 2017</td>
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<td>February 19, 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>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>March 26, 2017</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>April 2, 2017</td>
<td>William Salhany &amp; Family</td>
<td>Memory of Ruth Salhany</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>Memory of Sophie Hallal</td>
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<td>April 30, 2017</td>
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<td>May 7, 2017</td>
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<td>May 21, 2017</td>
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Sunday, December 11, 2016

Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Tone: 8    Eothenion: 3

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 8
From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of The Forefathers: Tone 2
Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 Preparation of Christ’s Nativity: 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 hearest 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

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)
Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)
The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”
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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Good Health and Blessing of:</th>
<th>In Loving Memory of:</th>
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From: __________________________________________________________________________

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

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**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
- Tony Kabak
- Linda Dvelis
- Elaine Gauthier
- Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury
- Michelle Morcos Smith
- Danielle Morcos Nasr
- Elaine Gauthier
- Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos
- Dimitrios Sterpis
- Anthony Nassaney
- Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint
- Tony & Fadia Kabak
- The Ladies of St. Mary Church
- Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

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

- Fred Hashway Jr.
- Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
- Ameen and Nayfey Sabath
- Petro & Alfie Betor
- Helen Betor
- Fred Sabath
- Fred "Fritzie and Jimmy Sabath
- Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor
- John Bargoot (25 years)
- Lila Bargoot (6 months)
- Abdo Bargoot
- Nazera Bargoot
- Michael Haddad
- Sarah Haddad
- Offered by: Beverly & Fred Bargoot
- Fred & Sophie Hallal
- George Hallal
- Moses Lazieh
- Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint
- Joseph & Mary Samra
- John & Esma Gorab
- Jacqueline Gorab
- Russell Wilbur
- Edward Hallal
- Fred Hashway
- Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

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**Coffee Hour**

Coffee hour today is sponsored by St. Mary Church in honor of Choir Appreciation Sunday. May God Bless our Choir members and Choir Director. Coffee hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy in their honor.
Many beautiful Orthodox religious items are available from the St. Mary Parish bookstore and display case. These include Icons, Christmas and greeting cards, Liturgical music CDs, 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.

**St. Mary Parish Bookstore**

**Soup Kitchen Donations**

Kindly place your donation in the ‘breadbox’ (at the rear of the Church on the candle stand) to help defray the costs of the ‘Soup Kitchen’ Outreach project.

**Thank you for your support!**

The Soup Kitchen provides boxed lunches to people from the community every 3rd Sunday of the month.