

CHURCH CALENDAR

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



Keep Christ in Christmas

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, December 11, 2016
**Sunday of the Forefathers
(Ancestors) of Christ**

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, 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~

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
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	Fatat ElKhouli	Memory of Nicholas ElKhaouli
January 15, 2017	Fred Kilsey & Family	Memory of Michelle Kilsey
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	William Salhany & Family	Memory of Ruth Salhany
April 9, 2017	no coffee hour	Palm Sunday
April 16, 2017	no coffee hour	Pascha
April 23, 2017	Her Loving Family	Memory of Sophie Hallal
April 30, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
May 7, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
May14, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
May 21, 2017	Open for sponsorship	

Sunday, December 11, 2016

**Sunday of the Forefathers
(Ancestors) of Christ**

Tone: 8 Eothinon: 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."



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–** Sunday, December 18th with Dinner hosted by St. Ignatius following the Pageant.

Menu: Fish, rice, corn, salad, pizza, dessert & coffee.

Adults: \$15 / Church School Teachers & Students: Free

A "Visitor from the North Pole" will be joining us.



Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday during the month of December!

Nicole Baalbaki
Maria Amirhom
Noelle Arrighi
Barbara Moussalli
Patricia Kilsey

Elie Karam
Francis Fitzpatrick
Claudine Wehbe
Mary Jane Wehbe
Joanne Jeha

Naji Karam
Alexandra Ganim
Nabil Khoury
Mike Jeha

****if you have a December birthday and do not see your name– we do not have it in our database – please email or call the church office to have you and your family members added.****

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

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
Petros and Afife 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
Nazeera 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



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.



Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2016

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

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

Sunday, January 1st 2017: 10:00 A.M.- Liturgy for Feast of the Circumcision
of the Lord

****Note: From Christmas Day until January 4th inclusive,
there is a general dispensation from all fasting****



St. Mary Parish Bookstore

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 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.

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.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

December 11, 2016

Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday

*"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live:
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being" Psalm 104:33*

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings to you and your families as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

As is the custom in our Archdiocese, the second Sunday of December is dedicated to our choirs and chanters who work so hard to make our divine services beautiful throughout the year. Our choirs in the Archdiocese resemble our families and parishes. Some are large and strong; some are small and need help. Some have many polished and professional singers; others depend on the goodwill of volunteers with little or no musical training. Some have weekly practices and others less often. The common thread is that they all do what they do out of a love for the divine services and a desire to praise the All-Holy Trinity.

Under the direction of our full-time chairman of the Department of Sacred Music, Mr. Paul Jabara of Montreal, Quebec, the Archdiocese continues to expand and upgrade the music our choirs use and make it more accessible. The latest manifestation of their work is a joint effort with the Department of Liturgics to add links to the music each week to the *Online Liturgical Guide* so that when choir directors look ahead to plan, they will have instant access to the music by clicking on the link. The faithful should start seeing these links in the very near future.

The Department also continues to train and teach our choir directors and chanters through the annual Sacred Music Institutes held each year at the Antiochian Village and elsewhere. In order that each parish, including small parishes and missions, might be able to send a representative to this important Institute, I have asked all of our parishes to take a special collection on this day to help give scholarships to those parishes that cannot afford to pay for their choir directors to attend this important learning experience. Please give generously so that all of our parishes, from large to small, might be able to have a good choir.

Wishing you all a blessed remainder of the Nativity Fast and, in advance, a joyous feast of our Lord's Nativity, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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