

CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday, December 24th: 5:00 P.M.-Matins for the Feast of the Nativity &
Liturgy of St. Basil

Sunday, December 25th: ~No Liturgy~

Saturday, December 31st: 5:00 P.M.– Vespers

New Year's Eve

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

Sunday, January 1st, 2017: 10:00 A.M. Liturgy of St. Basil

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 5th, 2017: 5:00 P.M.– Theophany Matins & Liturgy at St. John of
Damascus Church, Dedham, MA

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

Sunday, January 8th, 2017: Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

The great blessing of the Waters of Epiphany

Parents meeting at Sunday School about Camp

Ladies Society Meeting during coffee hour

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

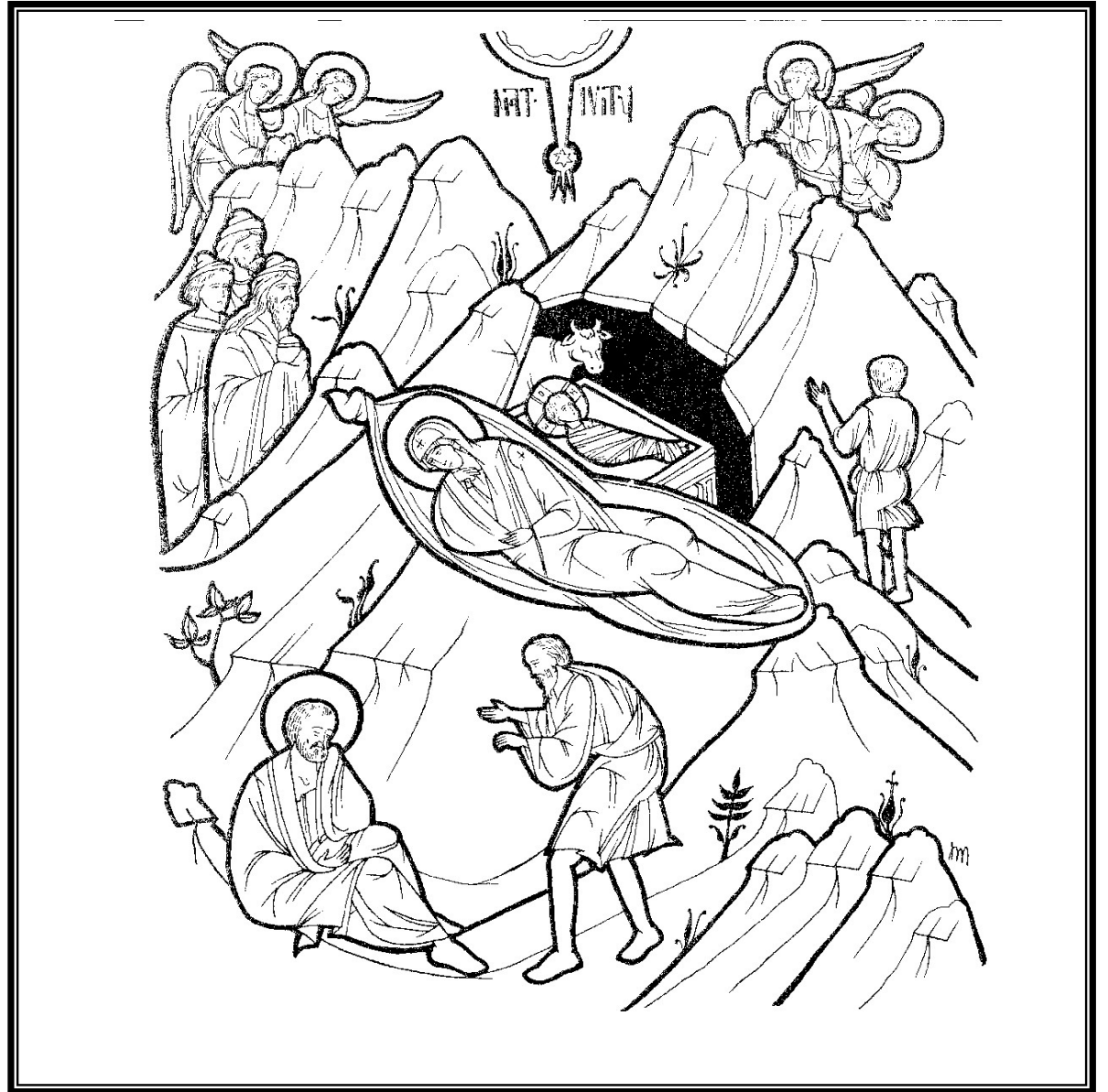
Sunday, February 5, 2017: Souper-Bowl Special Collection

Saturday, February 11th, 2017: 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy



Keep Christ in Christmas

SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Nativity of Christ
Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

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****



Abiding in God This Nativity Season

By: Bishop JOHN

In a discussion about donuts at coffee hour, a parishioner asked me what he gets from the Church besides donuts! "Opportunities," I replied. "The Church gives you the opportunity to be the Christian you were baptized to be. "You get the opportunity to gather as the Church of Christ; to praise God and take care of the world and those who live in it. The Church gives you an opportunity to be fed by the Word of God with His words and His life. The Church gives you an opportunity to serve, to witness to Christ, to love and to live in Christ. If you take advantage of these opportunities you can begin your eternal life now. But for you to take advantage of these opportunities, you need to give. You need to give your time, energies and resources. It could be said that you need to give yourself. Without giving yourself in cooperating with God, you can't have anything. In order to join with Christ, you need to detach from anything that would separate you from God. You need to be in Christ. you need to open yourself to having God abide in you as you abide In Him. The Theotokos Is the greatest example of one who accepts God abiding in her and abiding In Him. In His Nativity, we see how God abided In Mary. In this Christmas Feast, we come to understand that we give space in our lives to bear Christ and to give flesh to His Word. Like Mary, we make room for God and reveal Him to the world. We do this as we decorate our homes and desks, as we wear pins and little wreaths, as we greet each other with holiday greetings, proclaiming that Christ is born, and by gift-giving. With gifts we show appreciation for each other. We demonstrate how the other has value. We value our family, our friends, our parish, our ministries and Gods people, most particularly those who are without food, shelter or clothes. Current economic conditions have offered us new challenges to be better stewards of what we have and to share the gifts that God has given us. Our Church on both the local and Archdiocesan levels presents many opportunities to give of the time, energy and resources that God has given us. Our Church gives us opportunities to be Christian; to praise God and to serve His people. This opportunity is central to our being, learning and growing. It is central to our process of salvation. Mary is also the great example of abiding in God and God in us. in her Dormition. In the icon of the Feast of the Dormition, we see Mary both reposed on a cot and being lifted up by Christ her son and Savior. Mary, who said Yes to having God abide in her, is taken to abide In God for ever. Mary gave herself to God, to give birth to the Word. She gave her life to nurture and guide the Word. She gave herself to stand by Him, even at the cross. Like Mary, we are to do all of these things in our own homes and in our own ways. Every day God gives us opportunities to give. Giving brings joy and life. This giving is not just for December or Christmas-time, but it is for joy at all times. Still, Christmas is an opportunity to relearn the joy of giving and to rededicate ourselves to Christ our God. Glorify Him in all that you do, even in serving each other donuts at coffee hour!



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 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	Massiwer/Gurghigian/Hayes Families	Memory of John Massiwer
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	Cindy Hayes	Memory of Don Hayes (10 years)
May 14, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
May 21, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
May 28th, 2017	Open for sponsorship	
June 4th, 2017	Nabil & Salwa Khoury	Health of Family

The Nativity of Christ

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

APOLYTIKION FOR THE PARAMON OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE: 4

(***Joseph was amazed***—soft chromatic)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old * with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, * when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. * Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, * but no place was found within the inn for them; * yet the cave proved a delightful palace * for the pure Lady and Queen of all. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforeside.

TROPARION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE: 1

In giving birth, Thou didst keep Thy virginity and in thy repose, Thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos, for Thou art the mother of life, and Thou didst pass over into life; and through thy intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN 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

*Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O ye righteous.
Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:8-12)

Brethren, the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are men of faith are blessed with Abraham who had faith. For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them." Now it is evident that no man is justified before God by the law; for "He who through faith is righteous shall live"; but the law does not rest on faith, for "He who does them shall live by them."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:18-29)

The Lord said: "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again He said, "To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God? It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened." He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to Him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying: 'Lord, open to us.' He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Thy presence, and Thou didst teach in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!' There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the Kingdom of God."

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !



**We are grateful for the following members who have completed their 2017 Commitment Cards.
Thank you!**

Fr. Elie & Kh. Rouba Estephan
Philip & Bette Ayoub
Edward & Sue Ayoub
Philip G. Ayoub
Geoff Ayoub
Elias & Samar Baalbaki
Matthew & Megan Duncan
Linda Dvelis
Dimitri & Susan Ganim
Jonathan & Tanya Gaudioso
Roula & Ricky Greigre
Paul & Maureen Gurghigian
Lorice Hallal
Keith & Maria Hallal
Jim & Susan Harvey
Dianna Hashway
Tawfik & Olga Hawwa
Cindy Hayes
Tony & Fadia Kabak
Eli Kandalajt
Elie & Julia Karam
Nabil & Salwa Khoury
George & Lois Kilsey
Steven & Pat Kilsey

Steven & Missy Kilsey Jr.
Keith & Marlene Marshall
Lily Massiwer
Mary Massiwer
Nora Matook
Anthony & Etienne Mechrefe
Adib & Mary Mechrefe
George & Barbara Moussalli
Walid & Mirna Nakhoul
Sbdn. Chadi Saad
Bill & Susan Salhany
Saliba Michel & Robin Saliba
Joseph & Rebecca Samra
Joseph & Marlene Samra
Jim & Beth Schillawski
Fred & Adele Shwaery
Bobby Shwaery
Bob & Kristen Silva
Dimitrios & Nancy Sterpis
Elaine Swistak
Raymond & Leila Trabulsi
Julia Vale
Susan Warzycha

***If you have not completed a card yet, please ask a member
of the Vestry or download one from our website.***



Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

The Diocese Young Adults will be holding their annual Christmas Potluck Party on Saturday January 7, 2017. The evening will begin with Great Vespers at St. George Cathedral (Worcester) at 5:00 pm, followed by the Potluck Christmas Party at the Diocese Chancery (2 Lydias Path, Westboro, MA) immediately following around 6:30 pm. All Young Adults (ages 19-35ish) are invited to attend to meet other young adults from throughout the Diocese and to enjoy a night of Christian fellowship together. This annual event is a great opportunity not only for young adults to network with others from the Diocese, but also to speak with and to get to know better our Bishop JOHN.

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

Newborn Natalia Rose Ferrari
Offered by: GG (Salwa) & GG1 (Nabil)

Renda & John Ferrari
Caroline Lawrence
Tony Kabak
Elaine Gauthier
Mark Hashway
Elaine Wilbur
Fr. Timothy Ferguson, Kh. Louise & Family
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Nabil Khoury for his Birthday
Offered by: Salwa Khoury

Newborn Natalia Rose Ferrari
Offered by: Tayta Olga, Jiddo Tawfik, &
Uncle Fareed

Renda, John, and Natalia Rose
Offered by: Tawfik, Olga, and Fareed Hawwa

Elaine Gauthier
Vicki Hallal
Loving daughter Rhonda on her 50th Birthday
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

Members of The Order of St. Ignatius
Elaine Gauthier
Mark Hashway
Elaine Wilbur
George Tager
Vicki Hallal
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Agnes Ferguson & Family
Fr. Timothy Ferguson, Kh. Louise & Family
The Matook Family
Offered by: Cindy Hayes
Elaine Gauthier
Mary David
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Elaine Wilbur
Mark Hashway & Family
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad
Fr. Michael & Selma Abdelahad & Family
Elaine Agaty
George & Sandra Matook & Family

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

Ibrahim, AlKhouli
Offered by: Fouad & Houda ElKhaouli

Robert Vale
Rita Sayegh
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook & Family

Valentine & Baseem Trabulsi
Rita Sayegh
Offered by: Ray & Leila Trabulsi

John Swistak
Rita Sayegh
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Rita Sayegh
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Joseph Ferguson
Rita Sayegh
Tom Andrew
Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Summer Camp 2017 Registration is NOW OPEN!!!

Make sure you register your child for camp! Spots fill up fast!

Summer 2017 Dates:

Session 1 (2-weeks) - June 18-30
Session 1 (1-week) - June 18-25
Session 2 - July 2-14
Session 3 - July 16-28
Session 3 (Iconography Camp) - July 16-24
Session 4 - July 30-August 11



For any questions and information,
call 724-238-9565 or e-mail office@avcamp.org

Please note:

- * Our campers usually attend Session 2.
- * We are also planning a parents meeting for January 8th in Sunday School.



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

Epiphany 2017- Blessing of Homes

With the up-coming celebration of The Feast of Epiphany and the Great Sanctification of the Water, house blessings are starting for the new year. If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact Fr. Elie and schedule an appropriate time. While it is traditional to begin house blessings following Epiphany, homes may be blessed throughout the year. May the Blessing of the Jordan River sanctify and protect each and every home and family in our community.



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



Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2016

Saturday, December 24th: 5:00 P.M.-Matins for the Feast of the Nativity
& Liturgy of St. Basil

Sunday, December 25th: ~No Liturgy~

Saturday, December, 31st: 5:00 P.M.– Vespers

Sunday, January 1st 2017: 10:00 A.M.- Liturgy of St. Basil

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



ST. MARY CHARITABLE GIFT PROGRAM

It is with appreciation and gratitude that we welcome the participation of :

Lisa Andrews ~ Mirna Nakhoul ~ Walid Nakhoul

In our Charitable Gift Program. This gesture on their part is most meaningful during this Advent Season.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES MANY YEARS!!

Please remember that in our Orthodox Christian Tradition, the Great Feast of the Nativity is a 12 day observance that is linked directly to the Great Feast of Theophany, The Baptism of Christ, held on January 6th.

During the 12 days of Christmas there is no fasting, not even on Wednesday and Fridays. This is the true “Time of the Feast”, when visitations and family celebrations should occur.

The season of the Feast ends on January 6th.

The great blessing of the Waters of Epiphany will be January 8th after Liturgy.

