

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Saturday, December 10th: 5:00 P.M.- “A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols” at St. Mary Church, 8 Inman St., Cambridge, MA with Festive Lenten Pot Luck Supper to follow.

Sunday, December 11th: Sunday of the Forefathers

Choir Appreciation Sunday

Outreach Committee Meeting during Coffee Hour

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, December 4, 2016

**Great-Martyr Barbara of Syria &
Tenth Sunday of Luke**

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

Iconostasis

Screen of ICONS separating the ALTAR from the NAOS in Byzantine rite churches. The haikal screen dividing the sanctuary or haikal from the nave of a Coptic church may be of carved wood or may take the form of an iconostasis. In Byzantine churches, larger screens usually have three doors: a northern leading to the PROTHESIS, a southern to the DIAKONIKON, and the central holy doors, the gates leading into the sanctuary. Small chapels, as in Athonite monasteries, often have only a central and a north door. Small, low screens may have just the central doors, or a hanging curtain. (ROYAL DOORS). Icons were being hung on the sanctuary barrier by the sixth century and on the VLADIMIR Dormition cathedral of 1408 Andrei RUBLEV and Daniil Cherny added a tier of prophets. In the seventeenth century another two rows were added. Only ordained clergy may use the holy doors. In the case of a Byzantine rite priest he must be wearing at least EPITRACHELION and PHELONION, a deacon the STICHARION and ORARION. Coptic Orthodox clergy entering the haikal remove their shoes before doing so. The word iconostasis has a second use to describe the domestic icon stand used in many private houses.

Those things we don't have the strength to perform on our own, we can accomplish easily through persevering prayer. For we have the duty to pray without ceasing. Those in pain and those spared from pain must pray. So must those in danger and those in prosperity. For those who have ease and wealth must pray that these things may never change. Those in pain and in danger must pray that some favorable change will come to them, so that they may move into a comfortable, calm state.

~ Saint John Chrysostom



New Year's Eve ~ Hafli

St. Mary Parish Center
Saturday– December 31st
\$50 pp ~ 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 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	Fatat ElKhouli	Memory of Nicholas ElKhaouli
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	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 4, 2016

**Great-Martyr Barbara of Syria &
Tenth Sunday of Luke**

Tone: 7 Eothinon: 2

Troparion of the Resurrection: Tone 7

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Barbara: Tone 4

Let us honor the all-revered Saint Barbara; for she demolished the gins of the adversary, and escaped from them like a sparrow by the help and weapon of the Cross.

Troparion of St. John of Damascus: Tone 3 *(**Awed by the beauty**)*

Ye faithful, come let us honor with songs of praise * the comely sounding and sweet-spoken nightingale, * who doth adorn and captivate the Church of Christ with his sweet songs: * John, the all-wise Damascene, * let us honor resplendently, * the divine and eloquent, * and the chief of hymnographers; * who verily was filled to the utmost * with every divine and earthly wisdom

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 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

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.



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. 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 hallalportela@sbcglobal.net



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

Diocese of N.E. upcoming events

St. Mary's Church, 8 Inman St., Cambridge, MA invites you to:

'A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols'
Featuring Guest Choir "Belle Voci" of Orlando, Florida

A Western rite service of prayers, scripture readings & Christmas Carols on:

Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 5:00pm

For information, contact Kailen Hodge— kailen.hodge@gmail.com



St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

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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
Tony Kabak
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

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



Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is sponsored by St. Mary Church honoring our Parishioners over 90 years old. May God Bless them! 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



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!

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