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

Sunday, December 4, 2016
Great-Martyr Barbara of Syria &
Tenth Sunday of Luke
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 haikial screen dividing the sanctuary or haikial from the nave of a Coptic church may he 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 Athlonite 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 haikial remove their shoes before doing so. The word iconostasis has a second use to describe the domestic icon stand used in many private houses.

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Enter in Quietness, Rest in prayer,
Worship in Reverence, Depart in Peace to Serve

New Year’s Eve ~ Haflı
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~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>December 25th, 2016</td>
<td>no coffee hour</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>January 8, 2017</td>
<td>Fatat ElKhouri</td>
<td>Memory of Nicholas ElKhaouli</td>
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<td>January 15, 2017</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</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>
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<td>March 26, 2017</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>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>April 16, 2017</td>
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<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>May 7, 2017</td>
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<td>May 14, 2017</td>
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<td>May 21, 2017</td>
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Sunday, December 4, 2016

Great-Martyr Barbara of Syria & Tenth Sunday of Luke

Tone: 7   Eothenon: 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 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

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.
PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:
Kevin Hashway  
Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur  
Peter Marcotte  
Laurice Zambie  
William & LaVerne Ameen  
Great-Granddaughters Joelle & Rose Dykstra  
Great-Grandson, Daniel Thomas Dykstra  
Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Fred Hashway Jr.  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur  
Ameen and Nayfey Sabath  
Petros and Affife Betor  
Fred Sabath  
Fred "Fritzie and Jimmy Sabath  
Offered by: Edward & Lillian Betor

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

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.

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!

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**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.

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**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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**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