

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, January 1st, 2017:** 10:00 A.M. Feasts of the Circumcision of Christ and  
Basil the Great

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:** Sunday of the Pharisee & Publican

Souper-Bowl Special Collection

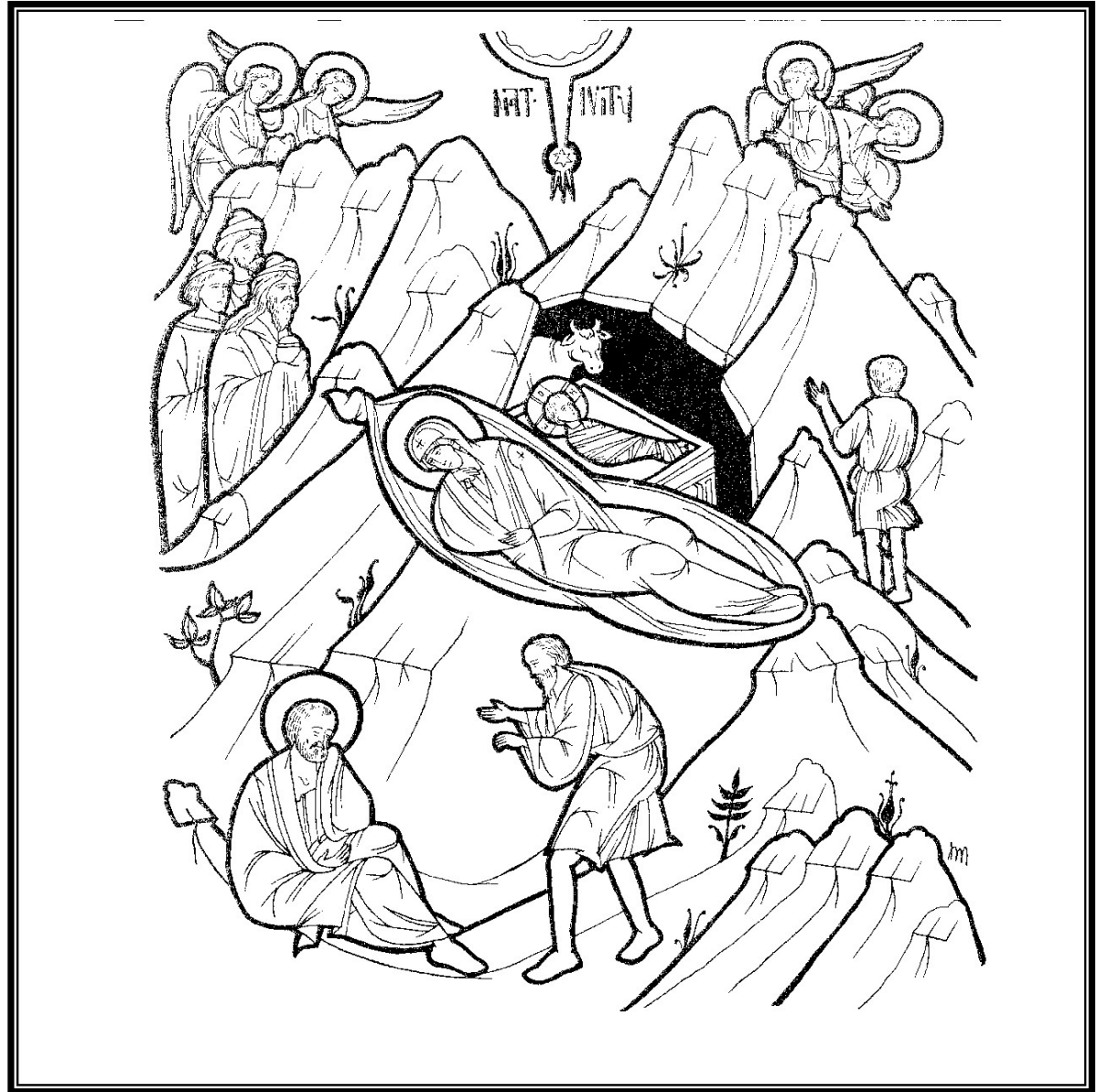
**Saturday, February 11th, 2017:** 6:00 P.M.– Arabic Liturgy

**Sunday, February 12th, 2017:** Sunday of the Prodigal Son

General Assembly Meeting following Liturgy



## SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**Feasts of Circumcision of Christ &  
Basil the Great**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stkhoury@cox.net) or any member of the Parish Council with any questions or concerns\*\***



## **Epiphany**

(continued from previous page)

The prophecies of Epiphany repeat the God is with Us from Isaiah and stress the foretelling of the Messiah as well as the coming of his forerunner, John the Baptist: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6) Once more special psalms are sung to begin the Divine Liturgy of the feast, and the baptismal line of Galatians 3:27 replaces the song of the Thrice-Holy. The gospel readings of all the Epiphany services tell of the Lord's baptism by John in the Jordan River. The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy tells of the consequences of the Lord's appearing which is the divine epiphany. For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14) The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. It is prescribed to follow both the Divine Liturgy of the eve of the feast and the Divine Liturgy of the day itself. Usually it is done just once in parish churches at the time when most people can be present. It begins with the singing of special hymns and the censing of the water which has been placed in the center of the church building. Surrounded by candles and flowers, this water stands for the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification by Christ in the Kingdom of God. Sometimes this service of blessing is done out of doors at a place where the water is flowing naturally. The voice of the Lord cries over the waters, saying: Come all ye, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, even Christ who is made manifest. Today the nature of water is sanctified. Jordan is divided in two, and turns back the stream of its waters, beholding the Master being baptized. As a man Thou didst come to that river, O Christ our King. and dost hasten O Good One, to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner (John), because of our sins, O Lover of Man. (Hymns of the Great Blessing of Waters) Following are three readings from the Prophecy of Isaiah concerning the messianic age: Let the thirsty wilderness be glad, let the desert rejoice, let it blossom as a rose, let it blossom abundantly, let everything rejoice.. . (Isaiah 35:1-10) Go to that water, O you who thirst, and as many as have no money, let them eat and drink without price, both wine and fat . . . (Isaiah 55:1-13) With joy draw the water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall you say: Confess ye unto the Lord and call upon his Name; declare his glorious deeds. . . his Name is exalted Hymn the Name of the Lord .. Rejoice and exult . . . (Isaiah 12:3-6) After the epistle (I Corinthians 1:10-14) and the gospel reading (Mark 1:9-11) the special great litany is chanted invoking the grace of the Holy Spirit upon the water and upon those who will partake of it. It ends with the great prayer of the cosmic glorification of God in which Christ is called upon to sanctify the water, and all men and all creation, by the manifestation of his saving and sanctifying divine presence by the indwelling of the Holy and Good and Life-creating Spirit. As the troparion of the feast is sung, the celebrant immerses the Cross into the water three times and then proceeds to sprinkle the water in the four directions of the world. He then blesses the people and their homes with the sanctified water which stands for the salvation of all men and all creation which Christ has effected by his "epiphany" in the flesh for the life of the world. Sometimes people think that the blessing of water and the practice of drinking it and sprinkling it over everyone and everything is a "paganism" which has falsely entered the Christian Church. We know, however, that this ritual was practiced by the People of God in the Old Testament, and that in the Christian Church it has a very special and important significance. It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has been immersed in the streams of the Jordan, all matter is sanctified.



## *Orthodox Vocabulary*

### **Gospel**

Gospel signifies the main content of the Christian revelation, the good news concerning man's redemption. It is in this sense that St. Mark begins his Gospel as the evangelion of Jesus Christ'. The verb for 'evangelion' means 'I bring good tidings', and it is found in the Septuagint (see word). Somewhat later the word Gospel was ascribed to the written books containing the Good News about Christ. And though there was but only one single 'Good News', the separate writings relating to it were distinguished from one another as 'the Gospel according to St. Matthew', and so for the other three Gospels according to Mark, Luke, and John. This kind of title on the books of these four writers was fully accepted and established by the middle of the 2nd century. Other writings about Christ and His message and work written by other people and sometimes bearing the names of Apostles are called Apocryphal Gospels (the term meaning clandestine, secretive.) These were in circulation among heretical circles but are inferior works and of later date.

Nothing comes without effort. The help of God is always ready and always near, but is given only to those who seek and work, and only to those seekers who, after putting all their powers to the test, then cry out with their whole heart, "Lord, help us."

~St. Theophan the Recluse



### **Epiphany**

The sixth of January is the feast of the Epiphany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the "shining forth" of God to the world in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of Christ's birth, the adoration of the Wisemen, and all of the childhood events of Christ such as his circumcision and presentation to the temple as well as his baptism by John in the Jordan. There seems to be little doubt that this feast, like Easter and Pentecost, was understood as the fulfillment of a previous Jewish festival, in this case the Feast of Lights. Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, Theophany, which means the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), the "Beloved" of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins. (Luke 3:21, Mark 1: 35). And he is revealed as well as One of the Divine Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father, and by the Spirit in the form of a dove. This is the central epiphany glorified in the main hymns of the feast: When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee his Beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his Word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee. (Troparion). Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy Light, O Lord, has shone on us. Who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable! (Kontakion) The services of Epiphany are set up exactly as those of Christmas, although historically it was most certainly Christmas which was made to imitate Epiphany since it was established later. Once again the Royal Hours and the Liturgy of Saint Basil are celebrated together with Vespers on the eve of the feast; and the Vigil is made up of Great Compline and Matins. **(continued next page)**

## **Feasts of Circumcision of Christ & Basil the Great**

### **Christ is Born, Glorify Him !**

#### **TONE 3 / EOTHINON 6**

#### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

#### **APOLYTIKION OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE**

*(\*\*While Gabriel was saying\*\*)*

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, \* O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; \* fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly \* receivest circumcision in the flesh,\* that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away \* the veil of our sinful passions. \* Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. \* Glory be to Thy compassion. \* Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

#### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT IN TONE ONE**

In all the earth that received thy sayings, thy melody did resound, O righteous father, through which thou didst go about and proclaim, as worthy of God, the nature of creatures, cultivating the character of mankind, O thou of kingly Priesthood, Basil. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

#### **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 CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE**

*(\*\*On this day the Virgin\*\*)*

Now the Lord of all that is \* doth undergo circumcision, \* in His goodness cutting off \* the sins and failings of mortals. \* He this day doth give salvation \* unto the whole world; \* and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator \* now rejoiceth in the highest, \* Basil the wise and \* divine initiate of Christ.



## THE EPISTLE

*My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. Hear this, all ye people.*

### **The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul Epistle to the Colossians. (2:8-12)**

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:20-21, 40-52)**

And it came to pass that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou treated us so? Behold, Thy father and I have been looking for Thee anxiously." And Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

# Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

# 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.

## ***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](mailto: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.



## Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

### 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!!

### PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway  
Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Mark Hashway  
Elaine Gauthier  
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub

Elaine, Lorice, Joe & Marlene  
Offered by: Barbara

Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Aunt Barbara

Robert Shwaery  
Ronald & Janice Hallal  
Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal

Elaine Gauthier  
Vicki Hallal  
Mark Hashway  
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

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

Fred Hashway Jr.  
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Ann Sabby  
Offered by: Rosemary, Jihad & Shadia Sabby

Bill Rommel  
Offered by: Leila & Ray Trabulsi

Bishop Athanasius Saliba  
Offered by: Albert & Victoria Hallal

John Hallal  
James & Mary Hallal  
Linda Bowab  
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal



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.

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





**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 Gurchigian  
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.***



## **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.

## **~Please consider sponsoring a Coffee Hour~**

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsored by:</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsored for:</u></b>
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	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
February 5, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
February 12, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
February 19, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
February 26, 2017	Ladies Society	Dinner to Benefit NAB Project
March 5, 2017	Massiwer/Gurchigian/Hayes Families	Memory of John Massiwer
March 12, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
March 19, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
March 26, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
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	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
May 7, 2017	Cindy Hayes	Memory of Don Hayes (10 years)
May 14, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
May 21, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
May 28th, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
June 4th, 2017	Nabil & Salwa Khoury	Health of Family
June 11th, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
June 18th, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
June 25th, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
July 2nd, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
July 9th, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
July 16th, 2017	<i>Open for sponsorship</i>	
July 23rd, 2017	Dr. Zeyad & Norma Morcos	Memory of Elias Morcos (dad)