

CHURCH CALENDAR

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

Outreach Program- 'Soup Kitchen'

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



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.



SAINT MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday, January 8, 2017

The Sunday After Theophany

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****



From the writings of Patriarch IGNATIUS IV

We Were Not Created to Die

Beloved, today we celebrate the glorious Resurrection. Of course, we mean the Resurrection from death. When we remember the Resurrection, we are also reminded of death. Death is present with the Resurrection. But people are afraid to speak about death, for it is a frightening thing. Death is really something dreadful. Whenever each one of us thinks about death for a little while, there is no doubt that he trembles.

Why Is There Death?

But the question arises: why is there death? Did God create death as he created life? God creates life as he creates good. But he does not create death, just as he does not create evil. So, why is there death? Come, beloved, let us go back to the Holy Bible. We remember that God created the first family, the family of Adam and Eve, and he did not tell them about death. A time passed and then came their disobedience against God. Death is not mentioned until after the act of disobedience, after some time.

Death and Sin

Adam and Eve were not created in order to die. Like Adam and Eve, our first father and mother, we too were not created in order to die. How much time did Adam and Eve spend in Paradise before they sinned? We do not know, but a period of time must have passed. Before sin, death did not take place. Sin took place because of the disobedience against God, which was a distancing away from God, who is life, towards death. When sin was released, God said, 'You shall die.' Beloved, death did not exist in the first stage of man's creation. It came in the second stage, the stage of sin. We still live in the stage of sin, and so we still have death and we die. God did not originally intend us to die. We did not exist to be in the grave. Quite the opposite, God made us ready to be children of life, that is, his children because he is life. Death became a problem, and it is still a problem today. Is death an everlasting thing? Looking at the history of man, we do not find it said that he would not die. Death reigns over every man. But do we expect anything now other than death? In, our faith, we do: 'I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come'. Without this doctrine, there would be no need for the Gospel or the Last Judgment. Religion tells us above all that we are called to live because God wants us to be alive. We are certain of one thing - that death and the grave are not the end. Our Lord Jesus Christ was certain of this. The Lord had a nature like our own; besides his divine nature, he was a man like we are, and he accepted us as men. In this world, he was weary, he ate, drank, walked, suffered, and he died too. He died in reality, just as we die. He remained dead for three days just as we lie dead when we are removed from this life. But he rose again. We consider that he rose in his human nature, for human nature will not remain in the grave but will rise again too. Everything will happen in its time. We celebrate the Resurrection because we shall rise from the dead. We shall not rise as ghosts, shades, or images. We shall have faces and bodies of a different kind, a new kind. Beloved, at that time we shall be able to say that life is worth living. But are we really going to live again? Today there is agony in our hearts. Look at our history, the history of this region in which Christ became incarnate, lived, died, and rose from the dead, God be praised! This region is not free from the envier, the aggressor, and the corrupter. Yes, this world is a world of death, but we do not stop at the limit of death. The justice of God will take care of matters in the end. Through his own measures and through our faith, God is teaching us that death and enmity will not prevail unto the end. We shall all triumph over the darkness of the grave, for 'In the eyes of God, a thousand years are like but yesterday that passed away.' Some ask when this will happen. It will happen when God reveals to us his mystery in its entirety. Since God is much greater than we are, we must say that this matter is God's secret. He will not let know when we are to die and rise again. This is unknown, and praise be to God that it is so. Otherwise, we would be living the few years that we have on this earth under the nightmare of death.



Orthodox Vocabulary

Paraskeve

Paraskeve: the eve of the sabbath, or Friday. The day of the sabbath, according to the Mosaic Law, is a day of rest consecrated to God. The eve, or *paraskeve*, is a time of preparation for this holy day. This name is particularly used to designate Holy Friday (Jn 19:14). The week always has a strong significance in the customs and practices of humanity; as well as in both the Old and New Testaments. Its prototype is the creative activity of God, who created the world in six days and rested on the seventh (Gen 1:1-31; 2:3). A woman martyr, who is venerated particularly in Russia and in Greece, is called Paraskeve (or Praskovia), in other words, "preparation." The troparion sung on her feast day (July 26) indicates that she well deserved her name, as she was always "ready" to fight for the faith.

A possession ought to belong to the possessor, not the possessor to the possession. Whosoever, therefore, does not use his patrimony as a possession, who does not know how to give and distribute to the poor, he is the servant of his wealth, not its master; because like a servant he watches over the wealth of another and not like a master does he use it of his own. Hence, in a disposition of this kind, we say that the man belongs to his riches, not the riches to the man.

~St. Ambrose of Milan



Outreach Program Blanket Donations

Please donate gently USED (clean) blankets to be distributed to homeless Veterans and to the Pawtucket Food Shelter. They can be brought to the Parish Center. The last day for donations is January 22nd. Please see Linda Dvelis or any other Outreach Committee Member if you have any questions.

Sunday After Theophany

Tone 4 / Eothinon 7

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: Tone 4

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST: Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

TROPARION OF THE DORMITION: 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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST: Tone 4

(**The original melody**)

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.



Epistle
Ephesians 4:7-13

Prokeimenon: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

The reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Gospel
Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

~Thank you~

**Father Elie, Family, Friends and Parishioners of St. Mary's,
It is with gratitude for all the prayers, telephone calls and support for
my son Mark. He is coming home today (Wednesday) and thank God
he is getting stronger everyday.**

**Thank you,
Elaine**


Thanks

***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 today 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

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour today is sponsored by Fatat ElKhouli in Memory of Nicholas ElKhaouli. Coffee hour will be held at the Parish Center following Liturgy.



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

Fatat El-Khaouli & Family
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

Fatat El-Khaouli & Family
Elaine Gauthier
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad

Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

Bishop John & Family
Lois & George Kilsey & Family
Leon & Judy Josephs & Family
Elaine Gauthier & Family
Offered by: Bill & Mary Lou Catelli

Robert Shwaery
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Mark Hashway
Offered by: Steven & Patricia Kilsey & Family

Mark Hashway
Offered by: Pat Nazarian

Mark Hashway
Elaine Wilbur
Elaine Gauthier
Fatat El-Khaouli & Family
Caroline Lawrence
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Bryan, Stephanie, Nicholas, Leila & Emily
Chowning
Robert Laffey
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**
Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Nicholas ElKhaouli
Offered by: Fatat ElKhaouli

Nicholas ElKhaouli
Offered by: Fouad & Houida ElKhaouli

John Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Matilda Josephs
Offered by: Bill & Mary Lou Catelli

Nicholas El-Khaouli
Houda Gammal
Bishop Athanasius Saliba
Offered by: Elaine Agaty
Nora Abdelahad

John Swistak
Christopher Gauthier
Offered by: Elaine Swistak & Family

Nicholas El-Khaouli
Houda Gammal
Bishop Athanasius Saliba
Offered by: George & Sandra Matook

Bishop A. Saliba
Offered by: Steven & Patricia Kilsey & Family

Christopher Gauthier
Matilda Josephs
Offered by: George, Lois, Mary & Christopher
Kilsey

Christopher Gauthier
Matilda Josephs
Offered by: Leon & Judy Josephs & Family

Christopher Gautier
Matilda Josephs
Ronald Gauthier
Sophie Laffey
John Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier & Family

Bishop A. Saliba
Nicholas El-Khaouli
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury



**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
Ron & Janice 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
Donna Slemon
Jim & Beth Schillawski
Fred & Adele Shwaery
Bobby Shwaery
Bob & Kristen Silva
Dimitrios & Nancy Sterpis
Elaine Swistak
Raymond & Leila Trabulsi
Julia Vale

***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~

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Sponsored by:</u>	<u>Sponsored for:</u>
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	St. Mary Church	General Annual Meeting
February 19, 2017	Sam & Kay Matook & Family	40 Day Memorial for Rita Sayegh
February 26, 2017	Ladies Society	Dinner to Benefit NAB Project
March 5, 2017	Massiwer/Gurghigian/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	Charitable Gift Program	Memory / Health of all Participants
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)