Sunday, December 17th: Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ
   Second Tray—Choir
   Church School Pageant at the Parish Center & Luncheon hosted by The Order of St. Ignatius
   12:00pm-12:30pm Outreach Committee ‘Soup Kitchen’
Friday, December 22nd: 10am—Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord
Sunday, December 24th: Sunday before the Nativity (Genealogy)
   10am: Divine Liturgy
   6pm: Nativity Liturgy
Monday, December 25th: The Nativity of Christ (Christmas) ~No Liturgy~
Saturday, December 30th: Movie Night at the Parish Center has been POSTPONED
Sunday, December 31st: Sunday Before Theophany
   6pm: Great Vespers for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord
   8pm-1am—New Year’s Eve Hafli at the Parish Center

Upcoming events:
Sunday, January 28th, 2018: Annual Meeting at the Parish Center following Liturgy
   **Annual Meeting- Please note date change from prior year**
Sunday, February 4th, 2018: “Souper” Bowl Special Collection
   “Souper” Bowl Sunday Luncheon (soups, salad, bread)
   hosted by the Outreach Committee

Keep Christ in Christmas

Sunday, December 17, 2017
Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ
## Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Phone (401) 726-1202  Fax: (401) 729-1203  
Parish Center Phone (401) 725-5150  
Website: 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

### 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 $200 to the church so that a Parish Council member will handle the coffee hour on your behalf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
<th>Sponsored for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 17, 2017</td>
<td>The Order of St. Ignatius</td>
<td>Sunday School Pageant Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24, 2017</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31, 2017</td>
<td>not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 7, 2018</td>
<td>Ghassan &amp; Fifi Alarmani</td>
<td>Health of Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14, 2018</td>
<td>Fred Kilsey</td>
<td>Memory of Michelle Kilsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28, 2018</td>
<td>St. Mary Church</td>
<td>Annual Parish Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 4, 2018</td>
<td>Outreach Committee</td>
<td>“Souper” Bowl Sunday Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>March 4, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18, 2018</td>
<td>The Karam Family</td>
<td>Georges Karam (1 Year Memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25, 2018</td>
<td>Nora Matook &amp; Family</td>
<td>Leon T. Matook (10 Year Memorial)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Memory of the Deceased Members</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>of Toofik &amp; Elizabeth Matook Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1, 2018</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8, 2018</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>PASCHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, 2018</td>
<td>Sam Matook &amp; Family</td>
<td>Kay Matook (1 Year Memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22, 2018</td>
<td>John &amp; Anita Chamoun</td>
<td>Wajeha Chamoun (1 Year Memorial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29, 2018</td>
<td>William Salhany &amp; Family</td>
<td>Memory of Ruth Salhany</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>May 13, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27, 2018</td>
<td>Their Loving Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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<td>June 10, 2018</td>
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<td>June 17, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24, 2018</td>
<td>Open for sponsorship</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are still many open dates to sponsor a coffee hour. Either call the church office, or see Mirna or Walid Nakhoul on Sunday after Liturgy.

**Enter in Quietness, Rest in Prayer, Worship in Reverence, Depart in Peace to Serve**

We welcome our Visitors & Guests: Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card. We invite you to join us for coffee hour at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

Receiving Communion: Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

**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**

**Prayer Line**
St. Mary – Internet Prayer Line  
Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at  
office@stmarypawtucket.org

All requests must be received by Wednesday noon to be included in that week’s bulletin. Any requests received after that time will be included in the following week’s bulletin.
Sock & Blanket Donations

The Outreach Committee is looking for donations of new socks & gently used blankets through the month of December to be distributed to families from our “Soup Kitchen” outreach project. Mens winter boots (sizes 8-10) & Womens (sizes 7-9) are also needed. Please bring them to the Parish Center during Coffee Hour. Thank you!!

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

Come and celebrate your New Year with us!!!

Featuring the dynamic singer Koko and his band.

Dinner & cash bar
Bring in the New Year with a Champagne Toast

Sunday, December 31st 2017 @ 8:00 pm

- St. Mary Parish Center at:
  1 St. Mary Way, Pawtucket, RI
- Tickets: Adults: $75.00
  Children: $25.00 (under 17)

For Tickets and Reservations, please contact:
Fr. Elie Estephan: (240) 205-9079, elieruba@gmail.com.
Tony Kabak: (401) 744-6317, fadiakabak@verizon.net.
**Tickets still available!

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)
Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)
The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ So the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”
**St. Mary Church School News**

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant today—with a complimentary Luncheon hosted by St. Ignatius following the Pageant.**

Menu: Fish, rice, corn, salad, pasta, dessert & coffee.

A “Visitor from the North Pole” will be joining us.

Attention Students and Parents- Registration for Summer Camp at Antiochian Village begins on December 11th. Please go to avcamp.org to reserve your spot. The sessions fill up quickly. Our campers usually attend Session 2 and travel with a group from Worcester and Boston. Please see Maureen or Matt if you have any questions.

**Last year most sessions filled up in January so don’t delay!**

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**St. Mary Teen SOYO News and Events**

**Thanksgiving Thank You from Teen SOYO**

Thanks to your generosity, Teen SOYO was able to assemble 34 food baskets for Thanksgiving including Turkey or a gift card, fresh potatoes, carrots and apples, vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pasta and sauce, soup, dessert and a variety of miscellaneous items totaling more than 1700 pounds of food. Thank you for your part in this important community activity. About half of the baskets are delivered by the Teens to families living near the Church.

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**Teen SOYO Christmas Project**

Teen SOYO’s Christmas Project is to buy gifts for 10 teens that live in a Rhode Island group home. The teens’ wish list includes hats, gloves, socks, movie tickets and sleds or toboggans. Teen SOYO is taking care of the shopping and wrapping. If you would like to support this project, please give your donation to Matt Duncan or Maureen Gurghigian. Thank you!
Twelve Days of Christmas

A concert of Orthodox Sacred Chant in English from Christmas to Epiphany

The Boston Byzantine Choir
under the direction of Charles R. Marge

Saturday, January 6, 2018
Vespers: 5:00pm ~ Concert 6:00pm
followed by a potluck supper in the parish hall
Sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry

St. Mary Orthodox Church ~ 8 Inman Street ~ Cambridge, MA

The Antiochian Village Summer Camp Program

Serves young people ages 9–17 who come to attend one of four two-week sessions. A primary goal of the Village camp program is to present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in a natural environment.

Registrations are now open for the 2018 summer camp season. The sessions run June 17 through August 10; two special sessions are Byzantine Chant Camp held from June 17 – June 29, and Iconography Camp, which runs from July 15 – July 23. **Slots fill up very quickly** for this incredibly popular program, so act now! Additionally, it's not too early to think about sending your child to your local diocesan camp; visit www.antiochian.org for more information.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

John Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

George Matook
Alma & George Matook
John A. Massiwer Sr.
Offered by: Mary Massiwer

George Matook
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

George Matook
Offered by: Ron & Janice Hallal

George Matook
Robert Vale
Offered by: Nora Matook & Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

George Hallal
George T. Matook
Dorothy Haddad
Fred & Sophie Hallal
Moses Lazieh
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

George Matook
Ruth Salhany
Wadia Taireh
Zaki & Mary Mossalli
Kamil & Ethel Salhany
Damtry & Victoria Ganim
Offered by: George & Barbara Moussalli

St. Mary Parish Bookstore

Many beautiful Orthodox religious items are available from the St. Mary Parish bookstore and display case. These include Icons, Christmas and greeting cards, Liturgical music CD’s, prayer books, coloring books, Crosses and Orthodox Bibles. These make wonderful gifts and reflect the Tradition of our Orthodox Faith. All proceeds benefit the general fund of the Church. Please see Fr. Elie if you wish to purchase these gifts.

Bulletin Submissions

Please help us provide a quality weekly bulletin by submitting all prayer requests and announcements to the church office by Noon on Wednesdays. Any requests received after this time will be in the following week’s bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Arabic Liturgy

Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
**Visitations**

Please contact Fr. Elie or Salwa Khoury with any names of parishioners that are in need of visitation either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

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**Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Liturgical Schedule 2017**

**Sunday, December 17th:** Church School Nativity Pageant following Liturgy & Luncheon hosted by The Order of St. Ignatius

**Friday, December 22nd:** 10:00 A.M. - Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord

**Sunday, December 24th:** 10:00 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

6:00 P.M. - Nativity Liturgy

**Sunday, December 31st:** 10:00 A.M. - Divine Liturgy

6:00 P.M. - Great Vespers for the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

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

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**Upcoming events:**

- **December 17th: (TODAY)** Christmas Pageant and Luncheon at the Parish Center
- **December 30th:** Movie Night at the Parish Center has been **POSTPONED.**
- **December 31st:** New Year’s Hafli at the Parish Center
- **January 28th, 2018:** Annual Meeting at the Parish Center
- **February 4th, 2018:** “Souper Bowl Sunday” Luncheon (soups, salad, bread)

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**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. 17th