THE EPISTLE

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:17-21)

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.
Nicholas Myra
& Tenth Sunday of Luke

Tone: 1 Eothinon: 4

RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION: Tone 1
While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS: Tone 4
Thy works of justice did reveal thee to thy community as a canon of faith, the likeness of humility and the teacher of abstinence, O thou Father and great Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by thy meekness wealth. Intercede, therefore, intercede with Christ that He will save our souls.

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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST’S NATIVITY: Tone 3
On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)
On December 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

Verses

Nicholas, who while on earth, was a great intercessor,
Though he hath left the earth, still fervently intercedeth.
On the sixth his life’s end appeared to Nicholas.

His eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, returned their gift of an only child to God by dedicating Nicholas to Him. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth (Matthew 6:3). When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, a voice from on high came to him: “Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desirest to be crowned by Me.” By God’s wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast in and out of prison, he defended the true nature of Christ in the First Ecumenical Council, and he even saved men from unjust death sentences. Nicholas entered into eternal rest on December 6, 343.

On this day, we also commemorate our father among the saints Nicholas, bishop of Patara, the uncle of the Wonderworker; and New-martyr Nicholas of Karmania in Asia Minor.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ONLINE BULLETIN
The Bulletin is available online on our website at: http://stmarypawtucket.org
Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday during the month of December.

- Elias Alarmani
- Maria Amirhom
- Haylie Andrews
- Noelle Arrighi
- Leia Decristoforo
- Michael Decristoforo
- Claudine Webbe
- Mila Freij
- Alexandra Ganim
- Mike Jeha
- Naji Karam
- Nabil Khoury
- Barbara Moussalli
- Mary Jane Wehbe
- Nila Freij
- Joanne Jeha
- Elie Karam
- Eloise Khoury
- Patricia Kilsey
- George Salibi
- Christopher Ziud

**if you have a December birthday and do not see your name— we do not have it in our database— please email or call the church office to have you and your family members added.**

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.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

- Kevin Hashway
- Mark Hashway
- Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
- Victoria & Albert Hallal
- Offered by: Ron Hallal
- Josephine Karam
- Mother Xenia Minihan
- Ed Betor
- Elaine Swistak
- Bette & Philip Ayoub
- Sue Ayoub
- Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam
- Ron Hallal
- Offered by: Rhonda Hallal, Bob Lienert, Hanna & Emma, Sharyn Hallal, Keith & Maria Hallal, Isabel & Matthew
- Sue Ayoub
- All Parishioners— stay safe
- Offered by: Linda Dvelis
- Elaine Swistak
- Offered by: Anita, John, Reyna & Anthony Chamoun
- All Parishioners
- Elaine Swistak
- Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

- Janice Hallal
- Offered by: Fred Hashway Jr.
- Fred Hashway Jr.
- Offered by: Elaine Wilbur
- Raif & Mary Saati
- Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Annual Sunday School Toy Drive

Hello St. Mary Parishioners!

Sunday School is holding its annual toy drive for the holidays. Children's Wishes grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses in Rhode Island. In years past, our parish has purchased toys for these children, but this year Amazon gift cards are desired. Please read the attached letter from their director.

If you are able, please send an Amazon gift card or monetary donation by December 12 to Rebecca Samra at 2 Armas Court, Cumberland, RI 02864. She has graciously offered to collect the cards and money and get it to Children's Wishes for their Holiday Drive-Thru.

We appreciate all you can do to make the holidays special for these children!
2020

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.

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<th>For the Good Health and Blessing of:</th>
<th>In Loving Memory of:</th>
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Family Name______________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
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_______________________________________________________________________

Amount of Donation:_______________________________________

Please remember to return the form to the Parish Office by Thursday, December 10th.

Christmas Greetings
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 Thursday, December 10th. 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.

Family Name_______________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Amount of Donation:_______________________

Please remember
~LAST DATE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND DONATION IS DECEMBER 10th
By mail, send to St. Mary Orthodox Church, Choir Christmas Card
249 High Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860