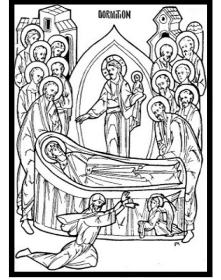




St. Mary Orthodox Church

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية



“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26)

November 11, 2012

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

الأحد الثالث والعشرون بعد العنصرة

Weekly Schedule of Services

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. -- Great Vespers

Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Matins -- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

*Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. Matins -- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study
(Confessions by Appointment)*

6330 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone : (708) 239-0004, Fax : (708) 221-6449

www.virginmaryoc.org (virginmary@virginmaryoc.org)

Fr. Mousa Haddad - cell phone: (708) 979-3222, email: fr.mousa@gmail.com

Fr. Malek Rihani - cell phone: (708) 516-6417, email: myrihani@hotmail.com

Church Office Hours : Monday - Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

Welcome to St. Mary Orthodox Church! We extend our warmest and heartfelt greetings to you and your family. If this is your first time with us, we pray that you feel at home. After all, we are gathered together in our Father's house. Please see one of the ushers at the end of the service for a "Welcome Packet" for more information. May God bless you and give you many healthy years in His service.

أهلاً بكم في كنيسة العذراء مريم الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية! يُسعدنا أن نُقدّم لكم ولعائلاتكم تحياتنا القلبية الحارّة. إذا كانت هذه زيارتكم الأولى لكنيستنا، نرجو أن تشعروا بأنكم في بيتكم الذي هو بيت أبينا جميعاً. ألرجاء أن تسألوا أحد المساعدين في الكنيسة في نهاية الخدمة الالهية عن "رزمة معلومات الترحيب" التي تحتوي على المعلومات المطلوبة. الله يبارككم وينعم عليكم بالصحة لسنين عديدة في خدمة الرب.

Clergy, Parish Council, Committees, and Ministries

Parish Clergy:

Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Malek Rihani
Subdeacon Matthew Sweis
Subdeacon Ameer Tadros

Parish Council:

Presiding Officer

Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad

Chairman

Fadi Abu Manneh

Vice Chairman

Rashid Sweis

Treasurer

Abdullah Tadros

Financial Secretary

Samer Tadros

Secretary

Abeer Khouri

Council Members:

George Barakat

Maher Ibrahim

CJ Kari

Bassam Salman

Faris Samawi

Ramzi Sweis

Committees:

Altar / Liturgies

Mazen Ammari & Steve Rihani

Expansion & Maintenance

Luai Sweis

Fundraising & Stewardship

Rashid Sweis & Bassam Salman

Financial

Abdullah Tadros

Communication

Abeer Khouri

Constitution

Ramzi Sweis

Humanitarian

Shireen Salman

Ushering

Fadi Abu Manneh

Web Master

Sana Sweis

Office Administrator

Katia Haddad

Organizations and Ministries:

Sunday School Director

Omar Sweis

Sunday School Spiritual Director

Fr. Mousa Haddad

Ladies Guild President

Kholoud Swais

Ladies Guild Spiritual Director

Fr. Mousa Haddad

Fellowship President

Khalil Haddad

Fellowship Spiritual Director

Fr. Mousa Haddad

SOYO President

Marram Salman

SOYO Advisor

Orieb Sweis & Steve Rihani

SOYO Spiritual Director

Fr. Malek Rihani

Handmaids of the Lord

Mansoura Khouri & Lina Haddad

Handmaids Spiritual Director

Fr. Malek Rihani

Choir Director

Michael Rascia

Chanter

Khaled Salman & Faris Samawi

Church Hall Rental - Call the church office or email: katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org

Changes in the Liturgy

تغييرات في القداس

Entrance Hymn

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

هلم لنسجد ونركع للمسيح ملكنا والهنا، خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الاموات، لنرتل لك هلوليا!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Six)

When Mary stood at Thy grave looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led hades captive and wast not tempted thereby, Thou didst meet the virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

إن القوات الملائكية ظهروا على قبرك الموقر. والحراس صاروا كالأموات. ومريم وقفت عند القبر طالبةً جسدك الطاهر. فسبيت الجحيم ولم تجرب منها وصادفت البتول يا مانحاً الحياة. فيامن قمت من بين الأموات يارب المجدلك.

Troparion of Saint Menas and the Martyrs (Tone Four)

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, by their struggles have received from thee, our God, the imperishable crown; because, acquiring thy strength, they demolished usurpers and crushed the powerless might of Satan. Therefore, through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

شهداءك يا رب بجهادهم نالوا منك الإكليل غير البالي يا إلهنا. لأنهم أحرزوا قوتك فحطموا المغتصبين. وسحقوا بأس الشياطين التي لا قوة لها. فبشفاعاتهم أيها المسيح الإله خلص نفوسنا.

Troparion of the Dormition (Tone One)

In thy birth giving O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life.

Wherefore by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

في ميلادك حفظت البتولية وصنتها وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم وتركته يا والدة الإله. لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone Four)

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the Divine Spirit, whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle

إن الهيكل الكلي النقاوة هيكل المخلص. البتول الخدر الجزيل الثمن والكنز الطاهر لمجد الله. اليوم تدخل إلى بيت الرب وتدخل معها النعمة التي بالروح الإلهي فلتسبحها ملائكة الله لأنها المظلة السماوية.

Epistle for St. Menas the Martyr

الرسالة للشهيد القديس ميناس

The Lord will give strength to His people!

Ascribe to the Lord, O children of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (4:6-15).

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people, it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لَشَعْبِهِ!

قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ، قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ مَجْدًا وَعِزًّا!

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى أهل كورنثوس (4:6-15)

يا إخوة إنَّ الله الذي أمر أن يُشْرِقَ مِنْ ظُلْمَةٍ نَوْرٌ هو الذي أشرَقَ في قُلُوبِنَا لِإِنَارَةِ مَعْرِفَةِ مَجْدِ اللَّهِ فِي وَجهِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ * ولنا هذا الكَنْزُ في آنيةٍ خَرَفِيَّةٍ ليكونَ فَضْلُ القُوَّةِ لله لا مِنَّا * مُتَضَائِقِينَ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ مُنْحَصِرِينَ. وَمُتَحَيِّرِينَ وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ يائِسِينَ * وَمُضْطَهَدِينَ وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ مَخْذُولِينَ. وَمَطْرُوحِينَ وَلَكِنْ غَيْرَ هَالِكِينَ * حَامِلِينَ فِي الجَسَدِ كُلَّ حِينٍ إِمَانَةَ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ لِتَظَهَرَ حَيَاةُ يَسُوعَ أَيْضاً فِي أَجْسَادِنَا * لِأَنَّ نَحْنُ الأَحْيَاءُ نُسَلِّمُ دَائِماً إِلَى المَوْتِ مِنْ أَجْلِ يَسُوعَ لِتَظَهَرَ حَيَاةُ الْمَسِيحِ أَيْضاً فِي أَجْسَادِنَا المَائِتَةِ * فَالمَوْتُ إِذَنْ يُجْرِي فِيْنَا وَالحَيَاةُ فِيكُمْ * فَإِذْ فِيْنَا رُوحُ الإِيمَانِ بِعَيْنِهِ عَلَى حَسَبِ مَا كُتِبَ إِنِّي آمَنْتُ وَلِذَلِكَ تَكَلَّمْتُ فَنَحْنُ أَيْضاً نَوْمُونَ وَلِذَلِكَ نَتَكَلَّمُ * عَالَمِينَ أَنَّ الَّذِي أَقَامَ الرَّبَّ يَسُوعَ سَيُقِيمُنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضاً بِيَسُوعَ فَنَنْتَصِبَ مَعَكُمْ * لِأَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ هُوَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ لِكِي تَتَكَاثَرَ النِّعْمَةُ بِشُكْرِ الأَكْثَرِينَ فَتَزْدَادَ لِمَجْدِ اللَّهِ.

Gospel for the Eighth Sunday of St. Luke

الإنجيل للأحد الثامن من لوقا

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke (10:25-37).

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "what is written in the law? How do you read?" And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

فصلٌ شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الانجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر (10:25-37)

في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع ناموسي وقال مجرباً له يا معلم ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية* فقال له ماذا كتب في الناموس. كيف تقرأ* فأجاب وقال أحب الرب الهك من كل قلبك ومن كل نفسك ومن كل قدرتك ومن كل ذهنك وقريبك كنفسك* فقال له بالصواب أجبت. إعمل ذلك فتحيا* فأراد أن يركي نفسه فقال ليسوع ومن قريبي* فعاد يسوع وقال كان إنسانٌ منحدرًا من اورشليم إلى أريحا فوق بين لصوصٍ فعروه وجرحوه وتركوه بين حيٍّ وميتٍ* فاتفق أن كاهناً كان منحدرًا في ذلك الطريق فأبصره وجاز من أمامه* وكذلك لاوي وأتى إلى المكان فأبصره وجاز من أمامه* ثم إن سامرياً مسافراً مرَّ به فلما رآه تحنن* فدنا إليه وضمد جراحاته وصب عليها زيتاً وحملاً على دابته وأتى به إلى فندقٍ واعتنى بأمره* وفي الغد فيما هو خارج أخرج دينارين وأعطاهما لصاحب الفندق وقال له اعتن بأمره. ومهما تُنفق فوق هذا فأنا أدفعه لك عند عودتي* فأى هؤلاء الثلاثة تحسب صار قريباً للذي وقع بين اللصوص* قال الذي صنع إليه الرحمة. فقال له يسوع امض فاصنع أنت أيضاً كذلك.



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA**

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
Telephone (201) 871-1355 * Fax (201) 871-7954
Website: www.antiochian.org * Email: archdiocese@antiochian.org

November 6, 2012

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings to you and your families in the name of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

I write to you today with a heavy heart as we continue to endure the effects of the massive storm "Sandy" that engulfed the Northeast last week. In fact, I had hoped to communicate with all of you earlier, but we just received our electricity back at the archdiocese and until now we have no Internet access. Nevertheless, the inconvenience we endured pales in comparison to what hundreds of thousands experienced, and continue to experience in the Northeast, most especially in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island. No doubt, all of you have seen on television from the comfort of your warm homes, the death and destruction this rare and massive storm brought to the coastal areas and beyond. Until now, people are without the basic necessities of life, countless families have lost their homes, and even more have suffered extensive damage to their homes- if they can be saved at all. People continue to have to sleep in near freezing temperatures without heat; many are without food, electricity, transportation and other basic needs.

With that in mind, we appeal to you, the faithful of our God-protected archdiocese, to respond to this disaster with your monetary offerings so that we can help those desperate people who are in the geographical "backyard" of our archdiocese headquarters and our Mother Cathedral. As St. John Chrysostom said in his commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew, "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." Just a week or so from now, we will begin our Christmas or Advent Fast in preparation for our Lord's Nativity. Just as our Lord had no place to lay his head, so too, many of the men, women and children of the Northeast find themselves in a similar situation. Let us do our part and help alleviate their hunger, pain and homelessness by helping them to rebuild their lives. Please take collections in your parishes and send one check made out to the "Antiochian Archdiocese" marked "Hurricane Sandy Relief" as soon as possible.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent season, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Metropolitan Philip".

+Metropolitan PHILIP
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

** There will be a second collection today to support those affected by the massive storm Sandy **



Honoring your loved ones: Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays to provide Holy Bread and Coffee hour. It's this gift of Holy Bread that we use to prepare communion and to share with our parishioners at the end of the service.

What better way to honor your loved ones on their birthday, anniversary, graduation or memorial. It takes minimal effort, and it encourages fellowship among our community.

Hospitality Teams

“Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the Trinity one in essence and undivided.” - From the Divine Liturgy

<i>Holy Bread and Coffee Hour</i>	القداس والقهوة
11/11: Bishara Sweis & Family	11/11: بشارة صويص والعائلة
11/18: Luai and Suha Sweiss & Family	11/18: لوي وسهى صويص والعائلة
11/25: Hasan and Saeda Sweis & Family	11/25: حسن وسائدة صويص والعائلة

Epistle Readers:

Today: English - Scott Abdo, Arabic - Khaled Salman

Next Week: English - Futien Johnson, Arabic - Lily Sweiss

“Bible Verse of the Week”

“I thank my God always on your behalf for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in every thing ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance and in all knowledge.”

[1 Corinthians 1:4-5](#)

إِنِّي أَشْكُرُ اللَّهَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ دَائِمًا، وَعَلَى نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الْمُؤَهَّبَةِ لَكُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. فِيهِ قَدْ صِرْتُمْ أَغْنِيَاءَ فِي

كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، فِي كُلِّ كَلَامٍ، وَكُلِّ مَعْرِفَةٍ. [كورنثوس الاول 4:1-5](#)

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights
Calendar of Events

Every Week (unless otherwise noted)

Sun - 8:45am Matins, 10:00am Divine Liturgy/Sunday School

Wed - 10:00am Morning Prayers, 10:30am Parish Bible Study

Sat - 1:30pm, Youth Sports League (Ages 5-12)

3:30pm, Arabic School

5:30pm, Great Vespers

November 2012

Fri - 11/09/12

6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

Sat - 11/10/12

6:30pm: Annual Thanksgiving Hafleh

Sun - 11/11/12

Blood Drive

Mon - 11/12/12

6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

Thu - 11/15/12

Nativity Fast Begins

Fri - 11/16/12

6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

Tue - 11/20/12

6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

Wed - 11/21/12

10:00am: Liturgy for the Presentation of
the Theotokos into the Temple

Thu - 11/22/12

10:00am: St. Mary Annual Turkey Bowl

Sat - 11/24/12

2:00pm: Bible Bowl Study Session

Sat - 11/24/12

No Youth League & No Arabic School

Mon - 11/26/12

6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

Fri - 11/30/12

7:00pm: Ladies Guild Meeting

Fri - 11/30/12

6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

December 2012

Sat - 12/01/12	2:00pm: Bible Bowl Study Session
Mon - 12/03/12	6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym
Wed - 12/05/12	7:00pm: Liturgy (Feast of St. Nicholas)
Fri - 12/07/12	7:00pm: SOYO Bible Study
Sat - 12/08/12	10:00am: Breakfast with St. Nicholas!
Sun - 12/09/12	1:00pm: Visit to Hope Children's Hospital
Tue - 12/11/12	6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym
Fri - 12/14/12	7:00pm: Fellowship Bible Study
Sat - 12/15/12	2:00pm: Bible Bowl Study Session
Sat - 12/22/12	No Youth League & No Arabic School
Mon - 12/24/12	6:00pm: Christmas Services
Wed - 12/26-28	SOYO Christmas Retreat
Fri - 12/28/12	6:00pm: Ladies After Christmas Party
Sat - 12/29/12	No Youth League & No Arabic School
Sun - 12/30/12	No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
Mon - 12/31/12	7:00pm: Liturgy for the New Year and Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

January 2013

Sat - 01/05/13	No Youth League & No Arabic School
Sun - 01/06/13	No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
Fri - 01/11/13	7:00pm: Fellowship NADI Game Night
Sat - 01/12/13	Youth League 1 st day of Winter '13 Season

February 2013

Sun - 02/03/13	5:30pm: Fellowship Super Bowl Party
Sat - 02/09/13	7:00pm: Annual St. Valentine's Day
Hafleh	

Parish News

Baptism

Karam Farahat

Parents: Maher & Laura Farahat

Congratulations!



عماد

كرم فرحات

الولدين: ماهر ولورا فرحات

مبروك!

Sunday – November 11, 2012

OCCHY QUIZ FOR TEENS

Some teens use ADDERALL, even if it is not prescribed to them, to focus for exams and other stressful situations. They believe it won't cause any harmful effects.

TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE!

Abuse of prescription stimulants like Adderall can cause serious health problems, including panic attacks, seizures, hallucinations, and heart attacks.

St. Philothea Project

4th Annual Humanitarian Drive for the Orphans

How would you feel if you had no socks???

Items needed:

SOCKS and **UNDERWEAR** For Boys and Girls Ages 3 – 14 years old Collection boxes will be available in the Fellowship hall. Please see Kh. Delia with any questions!

St. Mary's

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

(Hosted by Our Ladies Guild)

Saturday, November 10th, 2012

SS. Constantine & Helen Church

11025 S. Roberts Road

Palos Hills, IL 60466

Doors Open at 6:30p.m.

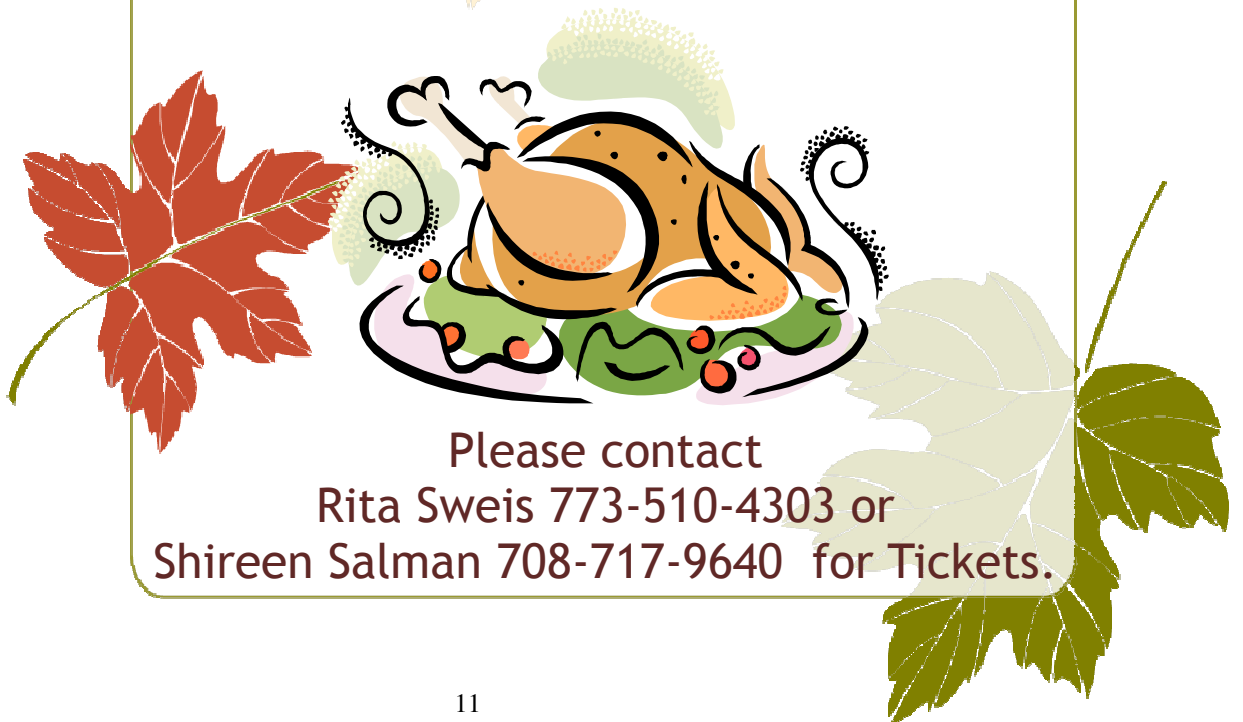
Live Entertainment (singer TBA)

Tickets

Adults: \$30

Children: \$15

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.”



Please contact
Rita Sweis 773-510-4303 or
Shireen Salman 708-717-9640 for Tickets.

Fellowship of St. John the Divine

BLOOD DRIVE

**GIVE BACK
GIVE BLOOD
GIVE THANKS**

WHEN— Today, Sunday, November 11, 2012

LOCATION— St. Mary Orthodox Church— Gym

**Please make sure to eat a proper breakfast before giving blood; Holy Communion will still be allowed.*

Questions? Contact any Fellowship officer.



*St Mary Orthodox Church
6330 W. 127th St
Palos Heights, IL 60463*

Breakfast with
St. Nicholas



Complimentary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012

10:00am - 1:00pm

St. Mary Orthodox Church

6330 W. 127th St.

Palos Heights, IL 60463



Ladies Annual After-Christmas Party



Friday, December 28, 2012 @ 6:00pm
St. Mary's Fellowship Hall

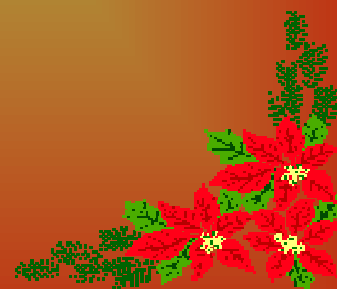
Dancing

Tickets: \$30

DJ

Great Food

For more information contact
Yasmin Sweis (708) 712-9502 or Georgette Sweis (708) 606-7573





"Liturgy after the Liturgy"

Taking our faith outside the church walls

Annual Christmas Toy Drive

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

It is that time of the year again to begin preparing for our Annual Christmas Drive. We have 50 wish lists for 50 children given to us by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. For most of these children, these will be the only Christmas gifts they receive. Please, if you find it in your heart to do so, take one of these wish lists and buy Christmas gifts for a child. This way, you are bringing God into someone's life and strengthening your own Christian faith. Thanks for your support!

Please see Kh. Delia today after Liturgy to get a list.

All gifts must be dropped off at the church office

during regular business hours

(Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm)

By Sunday, November 24.

Sunday School is
sponsoring a ...

Food Drive

Until January 6th
2013

**St. Mary Orthodox
Church
of Palos Heights
will be collecting
non-perishable food
items to help
feed the hungry!**

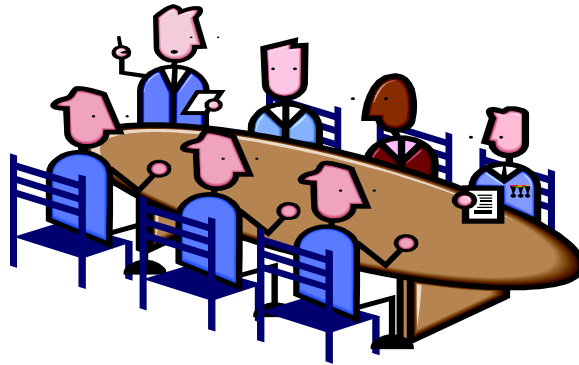
There will be
collections set up
near the North
Entrance and near
the Sunday School
wing.

*“Come, you blessed of My
Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the
world: for I was hungry
and you gave me food...”*

-Matthew 25: 34-35

*St Mary Orthodox Church
6330 W. 127th St
Palos Heights, IL 60463*

Annual General Assembly Meeting and Parish Council Nominations

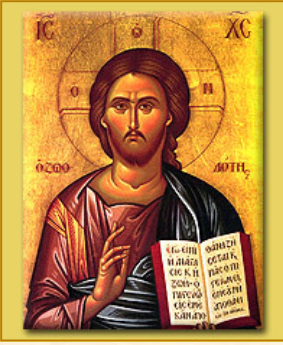


If you are interested in nominating yourself or another person for St. Mary's Parish Council, please let Fr. Mousa, Fadi Abu Manneh, or Rashid Sweis know by Sunday, December 23rd. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 13th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2012 pledge is paid in full by Sunday, December 30th, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and God bless!



Weekly Synaxarion



On November 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Menas of Egypt, who was martyred at Cotyaeion of Phrygia in Asia Minor. Menas was a soldier and, as a true Christian, he was not able to witness the abominable sacrificial offerings to the idols. He left the army, the town, the people and everything else, and went to a deserted mountain, for it was easier for him to live among the wild beasts than with pagans. One day, Menas clairvoyantly discerned a pagan celebration in the town of Cotyaeus. He went into town and openly declared his faith in Christ the Living God. He denounced idolatry and paganism as falsehood and darkness. Hearing this, the town eparch, Pyrrhus, subjected Menas to severe tortures. Persecutors threw his beheaded body into a fire so that Christians would not be able to retrieve it, but they still recovered several parts of his body nevertheless and reverently buried those remains. Menas suffered in the year 304 and went to the Kingdom of Christ. He was and remains a great miracle-worker, both on earth and in heaven. The saint has often appeared as a warrior on horseback, arriving to help the faithful or punish the unfaithful. On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Victor of Damascus, Vincent and Stephanie of Spain; Venerable Theodore the Studite; Blessed Maximos the fool-for-Christ; Martyr Stephen of Dechani, king of Serbia, Stephen Urosh and Princess Milica; and Martin the merciful, bishop of Tours. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.