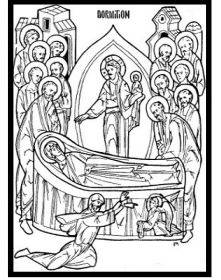




St. Mary Orthodox Church

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 25, 2012

Leave-taking of the Presentation of the Theotokos
Feast of the Great-Martyr Katherine & Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

وداع عيد دخول السيدة إلى الهيكل

عيد القديسة الشهيد كاترينا والأحد الثالث عشر من لوقا

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

First Antiphon

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.
Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.
God is known in her palaces.
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

الانديفونا الأولى

عظيم هو الرب ومسيحٌ جداً.
بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.
فيكِ قيلتِ المفاخرُ يا مدينةَ الله.
بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.
اللهُ معروفٌ في قصورها بأنه نصيرُها.
بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

Second Antiphon

The most High has sanctified His tabernacle...
Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!
Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary...
Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!
This is the gate of the Lord, by which the righteous shall enter...
Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
O only-begotten son and word of God...

الانديفونا الثانية

لقد قدّسَ العليُّ مسكنه، القداسةُ والجلالُ في مقدسيه.
خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الأموات، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!
هذا هو بابُ الربِّ ومنه يدخلُ الصديقونَ.
خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الأموات، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!
قدوسٌ هو هيكلُك وأنتَ عجيبٌ في عدالتك.
خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الأموات، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!
المجدُ للأبِ والإبنِ والروحِ القدس، الآنَ وكلَّ أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ
الداهرين، آمين.
يا كلمةَ الله الابنِ الوحيدِ...

Third Antiphon

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: clothed in a robe of gold, adorned in varied colors. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.
Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

الانديفونا الثالثة

وأغنياء الشعوب يبتهلون إليك. ابنة الملك كلّها بهاءً في خدرها، مكتسيةً باللبسةِ مذهبةٍ حواشيها. بأرديةٍ مطرّزةٍ يوتى بها إلى الملك، في إثرها العذارى صواحبها.
اليوم البتول التي هي مقدمة مسرة الله وابتداء الكرازة بخلص البشر. قد ظهرت في هيكل الله علانية، وسبقت مبشرة الجميع بالمسيح. فلنهنّف نحوها بصوت عظيم قائلين، افرحي يا كمال تدبير الخالق.

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 Eight)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

انحدرت من العلى أيها المتحنن. وقبِلت الدفنَ ذا الثلاثةِ الأيام، لكي تعتقنا من الآلام. فيا حياتنا وقيامتنا ياربُ المجد لك.

Troparion of the Presentation of the Theotokos (Tone Four)

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

اليوم البتول التي هي مقدمة مسرة الله وابتداء الكرازة بخلص البشر. قد ظهرت في هيكل الله علانية، وسبقت بمبشرة الجميع بالمسيح. فلنهنف نحوها بصوت عظيم قائلين، افرحي يا كمال تدبير الخالق.

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 حفِظتِ البتوليةَ وصننتها وفي رقادك ما أهملتِ العالمَ وتركتِهِ يا والدةَ الإله. لأنك انتقلتِ إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموتِ 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 الهيكلَ الكليَّ النقاوةِ هيكلُ المخلص. البتولُ الخدرُ الجزيلُ الثمنِ والكَنزُ الطاهرُ لمجدِ الله. اليومَ تَدْخُلُ إلى بيتِ الربِّ وتَدْخُلُ معها النعمةُ التي بالروحِ الإلهي فلتسبحها ملائكةُ الله لأنها المظلة السماوية.

الرسالة لعيد القديسة كاترينا Epistle for St. Katherine

God is wondrous in His saints!

Bless ye God in the congregations!

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (3:23; 4:1-5).

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

عجيبٌ هو الله في قديسيه!

في المجامع باركوا الله!

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الى اهل غلاطية (3:23; 4:1-5)

يا إخوة قبل ان يأتي الإيمان كُنَّا محفوظين تحت الناموس مُغْلَقًا علينا الى الإيمان الذي كان مزماً
اعلانه * فالناموس اذن كان مؤدباً لنا يُرشدنا الى المسيح لكي نُبرَّرَ بالإيمان * فبعد أن جاء الإيمان لسنا
بعدُ تحت مؤدبٍ * لان جميعكم أبناء الله بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع * لأنكم انتم كلكم الذين اعتمدتم في
المسيح قد لبستمُ المسيح * ليس يهودي ولا يوناني. ليس عبد ولا حر. ليس ذكراً ولا أنثى. لأنكم جميعكم
واحد في المسيح يسوع * فاذا كنتم للمسيح فأنتم اذن نسل إبراهيم وورثته بحسب الموعد * واقول ان الوارث
ما دام طفلاً فلا فرق بينه وبين العبد مع كونه مالك الجميع * لكنه تحت ايدي الاوصياء والوكلاء الى
الوقت الذي اجله الأب * هكذا نحن ايضاً حين كُنَّا اطفالاً كُنَّا متعبدين تحت اركان العالم * فلما حان
ملء الزمان ارسل الله ابنه مولوداً من امرأة مولوداً تحت الناموس * ليفتدي الذين تحت الناموس لننال
التبني.

Gospel for the Thirteenth Sunday of St. Luke

الإنجيل للأحد الثالث عشر من لوقا

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:18-27).

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير, التلميذ الطاهر (18:18-27)

في ذلك الزمان دنا إلى يسوع إنسان مجرباً له وقائلاً أيها المعلم الصالح ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية * فقال له يسوع لماذا تدعوني صالحاً وما صالح إلا واحد وهو الله * إنك تعرف الوصايا: لا تزني، لا تقتل، لا تسرق، لا تشهد بالزور، أكرم أباك وأمك * فقال كل هذا قد حفظته منذ صباي * فلما سمع يسوع ذلك قال له واحدة تعوزك بعد. بع كل شيء لك ووزعه على المساكين فيكون لك كنز في السماء وتعال اتبعني * فلما سمع ذلك حزن لأنه كان غنياً جداً * فلما رآه يسوع قد حزن قال ما أعسر على ذوي الأموال أن يدخلوا ملكوت الله * إنه لأسهل أن يدخل الجمل في ثقب الإبرة من أن يدخل غني ملكوت الله * فقال السامعون فمن يستطيع إذن أن يخلص * فقال ما لا يستطيع عند الناس يستطيع عند الله.

Advent Fast & Christmas Reminder!

The Nativity Fast (Advent) began Thursday, November 15th and will end December 24th (after Christmas Eve Liturgy). We are to fast from meat and dairy. In order for fasting to be effective, it must be accompanied with prayer and acts of mercy and love. St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "What good is it to fast from meat and dairy, if we devour and eat one another." Please remember to love and forgive in this special time in which we prepare for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

صيام الميلاد إبتدأ، 2012-11-15، وينتهي بعد القديس الالهى لعيد الميلاد قي 2012-12-24. في هذا الصيام نمتنع عن تناول اللحوم والاجبان. وحتى يكون هذا الصيام كاملاً وفعالاً، يجب أن يفتقرن بالصلاة وإعمال الرحمة والمحبة. يُذكرنا القديس يوحنا الذهبي الفم بما يلي: "ماذا ينفع الصيام عن اللحوم والاجبان إذا كنا ننهش لحم بعضنا البعض." الرجاء أن تتذكروا المحبة والتسامح في هذا الوقت الذي نتهياً فيه لميلاد مخلصنا يسوع المسيح.

Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy

Important! Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Liturgy. It will begin at 6pm, Monday December 24th. How can we truly celebrate Christmas if we skip out on Christmas Liturgy? The Christmas season is a very busy time, & we have plans to be with friends & family. But, we must learn to set our priorities straight, so schedule your gatherings around the Christmas Liturgy. Can you imagine having a birthday party without the birthday boy?! That's exactly what we do when we don't attend Christmas Liturgy. Let us begin to change the secularization of Christmas & bring Christ back into the picture by remembering the reason for the season. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Christmas Liturgy. God bless!

مُهم جداً: تذكروا في جدول أعمالكم اليومي قداس عيد الميلاد والذي سيبدأ في تمام الساعة 6 مساء يوم 2012-12-24. كيف يجوز أن نحتفل بعيد الميلاد إذا أغفلنا قداس العيد؟ إن موسم العيد حافل بالواجبات والمناسبات الخاصة مع إصدقائنا وعائلاتهم، ولكن علينا أن نتعلم كيف نُحدِّد الاولويات. ولهذا إعملوا كل الترتيبات حتى تكونوا حاضرين في خدمة قداس عيد الميلاد. هل بإمكانكم أن تتخيلوا أية حفلة عيد ميلاد بدون وجود الطفل؟! هذا ما نفعله عندما نحتفل بعيد الميلاد دون حضور قداس العيد. فلنبدأ بتغيير المفهوم الدنيوي لعيد الميلاد ونُعيد المسيح إلى الصورة الحقيقية ونتذكر الظروف الصحيحة لهذا الموسم. نأمل أن نراكم جميع في قداس عيد الميلاد والله يبارككم!



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
11/25: Hasan and Saeda Sweis & Family	11/25: حسن وسائدة صويص والعائلة
12/02: Faysal and Suhair & Family	12/02: فيصل وسهير صويص والعائلة
12/09: Huda Haddadin & Family	12/09: هدى حدادين والعائلة

Epistle Readers:

Today: English - Futien Johnson, Arabic - Sami Akkawi
Next Week: English - Elaine Riadi, Arabic - Ameer Tadros

“Bible Verse of the Week”

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. [Psalm 1:1-2](#)

هَنِيئاً لِلْإِنْسَانِ الَّذِي لَمْ يَمْشِ حَسَبَ نَصِيحَةِ الْأَشْرَارِ، وَعَلَى طَرِيقِ الْخُطَاةِ لَمْ يَقِفْ، وَلَمْ يُخَالِطِ
الْمُسْتَهْزِئِينَ. لَكِنَّهُ يُحِبُّ شَرِيعَةَ اللَّهِ. وَيَتَأَمَّلُ تَعَالِيمَهُ لَيْلَ نَهَارٍ. [المزامير 1:1-2](#)

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
3:30pm, Arabic School
5:30pm, Great Vespers

November 2012

- Sat - 11/24 7:00pm: SOYO Bible Study
Sat - 11/24 No Arabic School
Mon - 11/26 6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym
Fri - 11/30 7:00pm: Ladies Guild Meeting
Fri - 11/30 6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym

January 2013

- Sat - 01/05 No Youth League & Arabic School
Sun - 01/06 No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
Sat - 01/12 Youth League 1st day of Season '13

February 2013

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

December 2012

- Sat - 12/01 2:00pm: Bible Bowl Study Session
Sun - 12/02 11:30am: SOYO Falafel Sale
Mon - 12/03 6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym
Wed - 12/05 7:00pm: Liturgy (Feast of St. Nicholas)
Sat - 12/08 10:00am: Breakfast with St. Nicholas!
Sun - 12/09 1:00pm: Visit (Children's Hospital)
Tue - 12/11 6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym
Fri - 12/14 7:00pm: Fellowship Bible Study
Sat - 12/15 2:00pm: Bible Bowl Study Session
Sat - 12/22 No Youth League & Arabic School
Mon - 12/24 6:00pm: Christmas Services
Wed - 12/26 SOYO Christmas Retreat
Fri - 12/28 6:00pm: Ladies After Christmas Party
Sat - 12/29 No Youth League & Arabic School
Sun - 12/30 No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
Mon - 12/31 7:00pm: Liturgy for the New Year and
Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord

Parish News

Congratulations!

Newborn

Charlotte Hofferica



مبروك!

مولودة جديدة

شارلوت هوفرিকা

Parents: Michael & Evelyn Hofferica

الوالدين: مايكل وايفلين هوفرিকা

Sunday, November 25 OCCHY Quiz

Q: What's the big deal about ENERGY DRINKS? They help me stay awake when I study.

A: READ THE LABEL! Were you out w/friends before you began to study? Did you sneak a drink? A stimulant like Red Bull for instance, mixed with alcohol, like vodka (a depressant), is a lethal mix and freaks out your heart.



Last week, a 16 yr. old Serbian girl named Sara Milosevic died after drinking the lethal mix of a stimulant and depressant. May her memory be eternal!

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!

Teen SOYO

Saturday, November 24, 2012

Fellowship Hall @ 7:00pm

!!! Lenten Potluck Event !!!



FALAFEL SALE

Sunday, December 2, 2012

HELP SUPPORT YOUR SOYO

BY ENJOYING

A FALAFEL SANDWICH



\$5/Plate

Breakfast with
St. Nicholas



Complimentary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012

10:00am–1:00pm

Please RSVP the number of children (and adults)

by Sunday, December 02, 2012

Email: katihaddad@virginmaryoc.org

**St. Mary Orthodox Church
of Palos Heights**



Ladies Annual After-Christmas Party



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

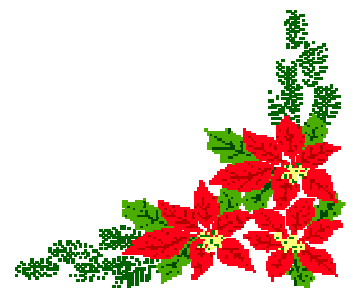
Dancing

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

It is that time of the year again to begin preparing for our Annual Christmas Drive. The wish lists for 50 children given to us by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services have all been distributed. Thank you to all who took one! For most of these children, these will be the only Christmas gifts they receive.

!!!All gifts must be dropped off by Sunday 11/25/2012!!!

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

Food Drive Sponsored by Sunday School

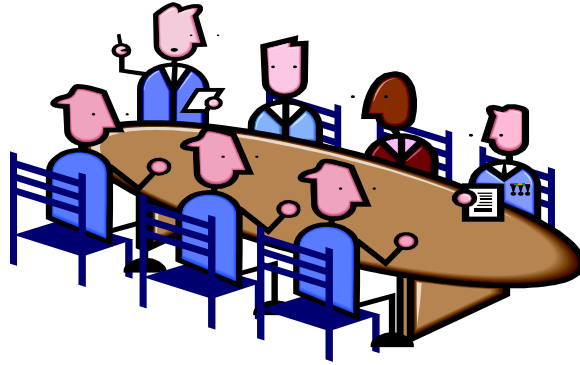
St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights will be collecting non-perishable food items to help feed the hungry!

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

Food drive Ends January 6, 2012

"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

Annual General Assembly Meeting and Parish Council Nominations

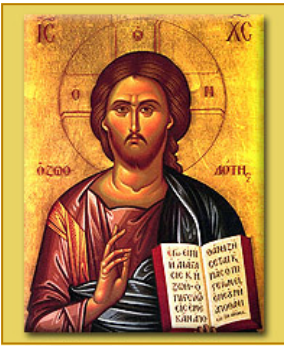


If you are interested in nominating yourself or another person for St. Mary's Parish Council, please let Fr. Mousa, Fadi Abu Manneh, or Rashid Sweis know by Sunday, December 23rd. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

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 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we give up the Feast of the Entrance of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple, and we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr Katherine the All-wise of Alexandria. Her mother was secretly a Christian who, through her spiritual father, brought Katherine to the Christian Faith. In a vision, Katherine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. Katherine was greatly gifted by God, well educated and very beautiful. When the iniquitous Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifices to the idols and ordered others to do the same, Katherine boldly confronted the emperor and denounced his idolatrous errors. The emperor, seeing that she was greater than he in wisdom and knowledge, summoned fifty of his wisest men to debate with her on matters of faith and to put her to shame. Katherine outwitted them. In a rage, the emperor ordered all fifty men be burned. By Katherine's prayers, all fifty confessed the Name of Christ and declared themselves Christians before their executions. During the torture of Katherine, an angel of God came to her and destroyed the wheel on which the holy virgin was being tortured. Afterward, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared to her and comforted her. After many tortures, Katherine was beheaded at the age of eighteen, on November 25, 310. Her miracle-working relics repose on Mount Sinai in Egypt. On this day, we also commemorate the Great-Martyrs Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Mercurios of Smolensk. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.