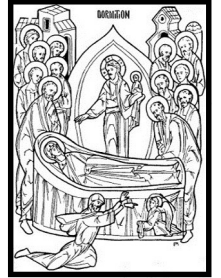




# St. Mary Orthodox Church

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)

## December 9, 2012

**Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna  
and Tenth Sunday of Luke**

عيد حبل القديسة حنة بوالدة الاله والاحد العاشر 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

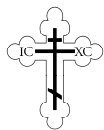
Phone : (708) 239-0004, Fax : (708) 221-6449

[www.virginmaryoc.org](http://www.virginmaryoc.org) ([virginmary@virginmaryoc.org](mailto:virginmary@virginmaryoc.org))

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

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

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



# His Beatitude **IGNATIUS IV** Patriarch of Antioch and all of the East



1920-2012



Today we will have a memorial service for our Father in Christ, **IGNATIUS IV**, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. May the Lord give rest to the soul of his servant, Sayidna IGNATIUS, and grant peace and comfort to all Antiochian Orthodox Christians. May his memory be eternal with all the saints!

## Biography of His Beatitude IGNATIUS IV

His Beatitude, Ignatius IV (Hazim) was the one hundred and seventieth Patriarch after Saint Peter. He was born in 1921 in the village of Mhardey near Hama in Syria. He is the son of a pious Arab Orthodox family and from an early age was attracted to service within the Church. While studying in Beirut, Lebanon, for a literature degree, he entered the service of the local Orthodox diocese, first by becoming an altar server, then a deacon. In 1945 he went to Paris where he graduated from the St. Sergius Theological Institute. From his time in France onwards he has been moved not only by a desire to pass on the deposit of the Faith, but also to take Orthodoxy out of its unhistorical ghetto by discovering in its Holy Tradition living answers to the problems of modern life. On his return to the Middle East, he founded the Orthodox Theological Seminary in Balamand, Lebanon which he then served for many years as Dean. As Dean he sought to provide the Patriarchate with responsible leaders who had received a good spiritual and intellectual training and who were witnesses to an awakened and deeply personal faith.

He became bishop in 1961 and Metropolitan of Lattaquiey in Syria in 1970. The new Metropolitan was a reserved and friendly man, who manifested a deep and courageous straightforwardness; he was simple, direct and down to earth. His style broke with the former tradition of episcopal grandeur and he inaugurated an authentic practice of frequent Communion. On 2 July 1979, under the name of Ignatius IV, he became the Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, the third ranking hierarch of the Orthodox Church after the Patriarchs of Constantinople and Alexandria. After his election as Patriarch he said:

“I know that I will be judged if I do not carry the Church and each one of you in my heart. It is not possible for me to address you as if I were different from you. No difference separates us. I am an integral part of you; I am in you and I ask you to be in me. For the Lord comes, and the Spirit descends on the brothers gathered, united in communion, as they manifest a diversity of charisms in the unity of the Spirit.”

**MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL WITH ALL THE SAINTS!**



## The Self-Ruled

## Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

## The Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

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December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Beloved Clergy of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest,

Christ is in our midst.

You have likely already received notification from His Eminence Metropolitan Philip (through Fr. George Kevorkian) regarding the passing of His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV. We are all saddened by the great loss suffered by the Patriarchate of Antioch, including this Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America.

As I mentioned in a previous e-mail, I had the opportunity to meet with His Beatitude one year ago as Archbishop Joseph, Bishop John, Bishop Nicholas, about 50 men, women and youth from this Archdiocese and I traveled to the "Beautiful Mountain" (Balamand) in Lebanon for the consecration of 3 new Antiochian Bishops and the elevation to Archbishop. Patriarch Ignatius personally greeted each member of the delegation in his home, constructed just steps from the Balamand Monastery and the University of Balamand. He served a beautiful Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning as he laid his hand upon the head of each of our new hierarchs. His love for the flock of Christ was evident in every way throughout our visit.

These are just a few of the memories that I will hold with me. I know that many of you know well or have met His Beatitude and have personal memories of your own. And to remember, in the Orthodox understanding, is to "re"-member" - to make present with us again. As we all have experienced his leadership of the Church of Antioch, with the directing hand of the Holy Spirit, let us all remember our beloved Patriarch Ignatius IV in our prayers and in the Holy Eucharist.

Please accept my personal condolences to you for your loss. May his memory be eternal.

*+ Bishop Anthony*

+Bishop ANTHONY

**Auxiliary Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

**cc: Metropolitan Philip  
Antiochian Hierarchs**

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 الحارة. 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](mailto: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 Two)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

عندما انحدرت إلى الموت أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت. حينئذ أمت الجحيم ببرق لاهوتك. وعندما أقمت الأموات من تحت الثرى. صرخ نحوك جميع القوات السماويين. أيها المسيح الإله معطي الحياة المجد لك.

### Troparion for the Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna (Tone Four)

Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened; God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised them openly that they should give birth, beyond hope, to the Maiden of God, from whom He, the infinite One was to be born, becoming man, commanding the angel to shout to her: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

اليوم تتحل قيود العقرة. فإن الله قد استجاب صلاة يواكيم وحنة، فوعدهما جلياً بأنهما يلدان على غير أمل فتاة الله، التي وُلد منها متأنساً وهو غير متحيز ولا محصور، وقد أمر الملاك بأن يهتف نحوها قائلاً السلام عليك يا ممتلئة نعمة، الرب معك.

### 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 وصنيتها وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم وتركته يا والدة الإله. لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

### Kontakion for the Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna (Tone Four)

Today the universe celebrates the conception in Anna which is from God; for she hath given birth to her who gave birth to the Word in an ineffable manner.

اليوم تعيد المسكونة لحبل حنة الذي هو من الله. لأنها قد ولدت التي ولدت الكلمة بما يفوق الوصف.

## Epistle for Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna

### الرسالة لعيد جبل القديسة حنة بوالدة الاله

*God is wondrous in His saints!*

*Bless God in the congregations!*

**The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27).**

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

يَفْرَحُ الصَّدِيقُ بِالرَّبِّ!

استمع يا الله لصوتي!

**\*فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية (4:22-27)\***

يا إخوة إنَّهُ كانَ لإبراهيمَ ابنانِ أحدهما مِنَ الجاريةِ والآخَرُ مِنَ الحرَّةِ \* غيرَ أنَّ الذي من الجاريةِ وُلِدَ بحسبِ الجسدِ أمَّا الذي من الحرَّةِ فَبِالموعِدِ \* وذلكَ إنما هو رمزٌ. لأنَّ هاتينِ هما العهدانِ أحدهما من طورِ سيناءَ بَلَدُ العُبُودِيَّةِ وهو هاجر \* فإنَّ هاجرَ بل طورِ سيناءَ جَبَلٌ في ديارِ العَرَبِ ويُناسبُ أورشليمَ الحاليَّةَ. لأنَّ هذهَ حاصِلَةٌ في العُبُودِيَّةِ مَعَ أولادِها \* أمَّا أورشليمُ العُلَيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ وهيَ أمُّنا كُلُّنا \* لأنَّهُ كُتِبَ افرحِ أيتها العاقِرُ التي لم تَلِدِ. اهتفي واصرُخي أيتها التي لم تَتَمَخَّضِ. لأنَّ أولادَ المهجورةِ أكثرُ من أولادِ ذاتِ الرَّجُلِ.

## Gospel for the Tenth Sunday of Luke

### الإنجيل للأحد العاشر من لوقا

**The Reading is 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.

**\*فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير, التلميذ الطاهر (13:10-17)\***

في ذلك الزمان كان يسوع يعلم في أحد المجامع يوم السبت \* وإذا بامرأة بها روح مرض منذ ثماني عشرة سنة وكانت منحنية لا تستطيع أن تنتصب البتة \* فلما رآها يسوع دعاها وقال لها إنك مُطلقة من مرضك \* ووضع يديه عليها وفي الحال استقامت ومجدت الله \* فأجاب رئيس المجمع وهو مغتاظ لإبراء يسوع في السبت وقال للجمع هي ستة أيام ينبغي العمل فيها. ففيها تأتون وتستشفون لا في يوم السبت \* فأجاب الرب وقال يا مُرائي أليس كل واحد منكم يحل ثوره أو حماره في السبت من المذود وينطلق به فيسقيه \* وهذه وهي ابنة إبراهيم التي ربطها الشيطان منذ ثماني عشرة سنة أما كان ينبغي أن تطلق من هذا الرباط يوم السبت \* ولما قال هذا حزى كل من كان يقاومه وفرح الجمع بجميع الأمور المجيدة التي كانت تصدر منه.



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>	<b>القداس والقهوة</b>
<b>12/09:</b> Huda Haddadin & Family	<b>12/09:</b> هدى حدادين والعائلة
<b>12/16:</b> Eid Swais & Family	<b>12/16:</b> عيد صويص والعائلة
<b>12/23:</b> Jason & Katia Haddad & Family	<b>12/23:</b> جيسن وكاتيا حداد والعائلة

### Epistle Readers:

*Today: English - Grace Riske, Arabic - Norma Tadros*

*Next Week: English - Omar Sweiss, Arabic - Fares Samawi*

## “Bible Verse of the Week”

Then said Jesus unto them again, "Verily, verily I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not but to steal and to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. [John 10:7, 9-10](#)

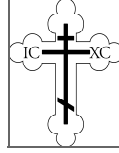
الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: أَنَا بَابُ الْخِرَافِ. أَنَا الْبَابُ. مَنْ دَخَلَ بِي يَخْلُصُ، فَيَدْخُلُ وَيَخْرُجُ وَيَجِدُ «لِذَلِكَ عَادَ فَقَالَ: الْمَرْعَى. السَّارِقُ لَا يَأْتِي إِلَّا لِيَسْرِقَ وَيَذْبَحَ وَيُهْلِكَ. أَمَا أَنَا فَقَدْ أَتَيْتُ لِتَكُونَ لَهُمْ حَيَاةً، بَلْ مِلءُ الْحَيَاةِ!

يوحنا 10:7, 9-10

# Parish News

**May his memory be eternal!**

Labib Jamil Samawi



ليكن ذكره مؤبداً!

لبيب جميل سماوي

**Chrismation**

Nancy Cannon

**Newborn**

Andrew Jalil Salman

Parents: Faisal & Sirena Salman

**Congratulations!**



الميرون المقدّس

نانسي كانون

مولود جديد

أندرو جليل سلمان

الوالدين: فيصل وسيرينا سلمان

مبروك!



We would like to thank all of those who supported the efforts of IOCC last Sunday (International Orthodox Christian Charities). Through your generosity, St. Mary's was able to give a gift of \$5,000 to IOCC!

**Bulletin Blurb for Sunday, December 2, 2012**

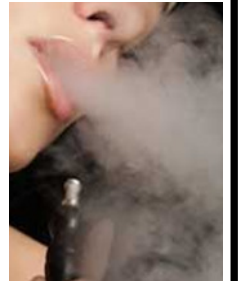
**OCCHY QUIZ ..... FOR TEENS**

**TRUE or FALSE ?**

Smoking hookah does not cause oral diseases like cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

**FALSE !**

Irritation from exposure to tobacco juices of any kind, increases the risk of developing oral cancers. The irritation by tobacco juice products is likely to be greater among hookah smokers than among pipe or cigar smokers because hookah smoking is typically practiced (with or without inhalation) more often and for longer periods of time.



- El-Hakim Ibrahim E., Uthman Mirghani AE. Squamous Cell Carcinoma and Keratoacanthoma of the Lower Lips associated with "Goza" and "Shisha" Smoking. International Journal of Dermatology 1999;38:108-10 [cited 2011 Feb 15].



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

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WEBSITE: WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG • EMAIL: ARCHDIOCESE@ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

December 9, 2012

**Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday  
Print in the Bulletin and Read from the Pulpit**

"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 103:33-34)

Beloved Clergy, Parish Councils and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

We greet you during this holy season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, praying that you are all in good health.

During this joyous season, we take the time out of our busy schedules to honor the choirs and chanters of our parishes. While they are faithful each and every Sunday, feast day, sacrament and other service throughout the year, we too often take them for granted. Today, however, is a day to thank them for their dedication and service to the Church. If we stop for a moment and think how dull our services would be without our choirs, most especially during special seasons such as this one, we realize the importance they play in the life of the parish. Having traveled all over our God-protected Archdiocese, I thank God that wherever I go, I am fortunate to hear beautiful voices singing praises to our Lord.

In appreciation, therefore, for the tremendous contribution which our choirs are making to our parishes, we proclaimed the second Sunday in December as "Choir Sunday" last year. This year, that Sunday falls on December 9, 2012. We thus urge our beloved clergy and parish councils to honor our choirs and chanters on this day by doing something special in their honor.

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

# **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

### **December 2012**

<b>Sat - 12/08</b>	<b>10:00am: Breakfast with St. Nicholas!</b>
<b>Tue - 12/11</b>	<b>6:00pm: Volleyball Open Gym</b>
<b>Fri - 12/14</b>	<b>7:00pm: Fellowship Christmas Gathering</b>
<b>Sat - 12/22</b>	<b>No Youth League &amp; Arabic School</b>
<b>Mon - 12/24</b>	<b>6:00pm: Christmas Services</b>
<b>Wed - 12/26</b>	<b>SOYO Christmas Retreat</b>
<b>Fri - 12/28</b>	<b>6:00pm: Ladies After Christmas Party</b>
<b>Sat - 12/29</b>	<b>No Youth League &amp; Arabic School</b>
<b>Sun - 12/30</b>	<b>No Sunday School (Christmas Break)</b>
<b>Mon - 12/31</b>	<b>7:00pm: Liturgy for the New Year and Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord</b>

### **January 2013**

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

### **February 2013**

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

# 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 القداس الالهي لعيد الميلاد قي 2012-12-24. في هذا الصيام نمتنع عن تناول اللحوم والاجبان. وحتى يكون هذا الصيام كاملاً وفعالاً، يجب أن يفترن 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 ونُعِيد المسيح إلى الصورة الحقيقية ونتذكر الظروف الصحيحة لهذا الموسم. نأمل أن نراكم جميع في قداس عيد الميلاد والله يبارككم!

# "Liturgy after the Liturgy"

*Taking our faith outside the church walls*

## **St. Philothea Project**

### **4th Annual Humanitarian Drive for the Orphans**

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!

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## **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

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

# !!!ATTENTION !!!

*It's that time again of the year for our*

## Parents' Retreat Meeting!



*This is a mandatory meeting for both parents and teens. Please come join us to learn about our annual Christmas Retreat.*

**December 8, 2102**  
**Fellowship Hall @ 7pm**

*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: [katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org](mailto:katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org)**

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

# FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

FELLOWSHIP HALL @ 6:30PM

SECRET SANTA & LENTEN POTLUCK EVENT

SEE YOU THERE!



# SOYO CHRISTMAS GATHERING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2012

FELLOWSHIP HALL @ 6:30PM

SECRET SANTA & LENTEN POTLUCK EVENT

Merry  
Christmas



SEE YOU THERE!



# Ladies Annual After-Christmas Party



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

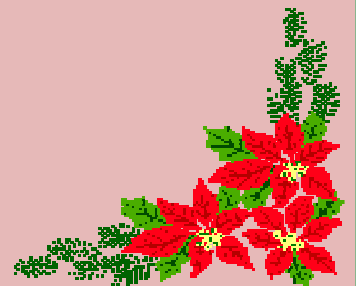
Dancing

Tickets: \$30

DJ

Great Food

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

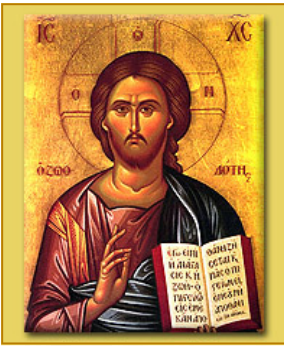


# Annual SOYO Christmas Retreat



December 26 - December 28

See Orieb Sweis or Suhail Rihani to register and make payments



## Weekly Synaxarion



On December 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate Saint Anna's Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos. After many years of childlessness and fervent prayer, an angel of the Lord announced to Joachim and Anna that that they would be the parents of a daughter, the Virgin Mary, who would bring blessings to the whole human race. The Conception took place at Jerusalem. The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt. On this day, we also commemorate the holy and glorious Prophetess Hannah (Anna), Mother of Samuel the Prophet; and Righteous Father Stephen the Newly Appeared. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen