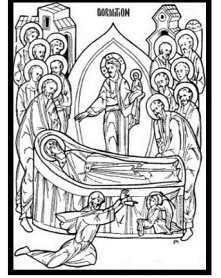




St. Mary Orthodox Church

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 23, 2012

**The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(Genealogy Sunday)**

الأحد الذي قبل عيد الميلاد (أحد النسبة)

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 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

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!

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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك بشرى القيامة البهجة. وطرحن القضاء الجدي. وخاطبن الرسل مفتخرات وقائلات. قد سبي الموت وقام المسيح الإله. مانحاً العالم الرحمة العظمى.

Troparion of the Fore-feast (Tone Four)

Be thou ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a noetic paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

استعدي يا بيت لحم فقد فُتحت عدن للجميع. تهيأي يا إفراتا لأن عود الحياة قد أزهَرَ في المغارة من البتول. لأن بطنها قد ظهر فزدوساً عقلياً فيه الغرس الإلهي. الذي إذ نأكل منه نحيا ولا نموت مثل آدم. المسيح يولد مُنهضاً الصورة التي سقطت منذ القديم.

Troparion of the Sunday before the Nativity (Tone Two)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

عظيمة هي تقويمات الإيمان، لأن الثلاثة الفتيّة القديسين قد ابتهجوا في ينبوع اللهب كأنهم على ماء الراحة. والنبى دانيال ظهر راعياً للسباع كأنها غنم. فبتوسلاتهم أيها المسيح الإله ارحمنا.

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 of the Forefeast of the Nativity (Tone Three)

Today the Virgin cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe if thou shouldst hear and glorify with the Angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by His will shall become a new-born Babe and who is our God before all ages.

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة، لتلد الكلمة، الذي قبل الدهور، ولادة لا تُفسر ولا يُنطق بها، فافرحي أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، الذي سيظهر بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

Epistle for the Sunday before the Nativity

الرسالة للأحد الذي قبل الميلاد

*Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers!
For you are just in all you have done!*

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40).

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city, which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

مبارك أنت يا ربُّ إلهَ آبائنا!

لأنك عدلٌ في كلِّ ما صنَّعت بنا!

فصلٌ من رسالةِ القديسِ بولسِ الرسولِ إلى العبرانيين (11:9-10, 32-40)

يا اخوةً بالإيمانِ نَزَلَ إبراهيمُ في أرضِ الميعادِ نزولُهُ في أرضٍ غريبةٍ وسكَنَ في خيامٍ مع اسحقَ ويعقوبَ الوارثينِ معه للموعِدِ بعينه * لأنه انتظرَ المدينةَ ذاتَ الأسسِ التي اللهُ صانعُها وبارئُها * وماذا أقولُ أيضاً. إنه يضيقُ بي الوقتُ إن أُخبرتُ عن جَدعونَ وباراقَ وشمشونَ وبيفتاحَ وداودَ وصموئيلَ والأنبياءِ * الذين بالإيمانِ قهزوا الممالكَ وعَمَلُوا البرَّ ونالوا المواعِدَ وسدُّوا أفواهَ الأسودِ * وأطفأوا حِدَّةَ النارِ ونَجَّوا من حدِّ السيفِ وتقوَّوا من ضَعْفِ وصاروا أشداءً في الحربِ وكسروا معسكراتِ الأجانبِ * وأخذتُ نساءً أمواتهنَّ بالقيامةِ. وعُدَّبَ آخرونَ بتوتيرِ الأعضاءِ والضربِ ولم يقبلوا بالنجاةِ ليحصلوا على قيامةٍ أفضلِ * وآخرونَ ذاقوا الهُزءَ والجلْدَ والقيودَ أيضاً والسَّجْنَ * ورجموا ونُسِروا وامْتَحِنُوا وماتوا بِحَدِّ السيفِ وساحوا في جُلودِ غنمٍ ومَعَزٍ * وهم مُعوزونَ مُضايقونَ مجهودونَ * (ولم يكنِ العالمُ مُستحقاً لهم *). وكانوا تائبينَ في البراري والجبالِ والمغاورِ وكهوفِ الأرضِ * فهؤلاءِ كلُّهم مشهوداً لهم بالإيمانِ لم ينالوا المواعِدَ * لأنَّ اللهَ سبقَ فنظرَ لنا شيئاً أفضلَ أن لا يكملوا بدوننا.

Gospel for the Sunday before the Nativity

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25).

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Issac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Jerubbabel, and Jerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary you wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

الإنجيل للأحد الذي قبل الميلاد

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير، التلميذ الطاهر (1:1-25) *

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن إبراهيم * فإبراهيم ولد إسحق وإسحق ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته * ويهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تمار وفارص ولد حصرون وحصرون ولد أرام * وأرام ولد عميناداب وعميناداب ولد نحشون ونحشون ولد سلمون * وسلمون ولد بوعر من راحاب وبوعر ولد عوبيد من راعوث وعوبيد ولد يسي ويسي ولد داود الملك * وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لأربيا * وسليمان ولد رحبعام ورحبعام ولد أبيا وأبيا ولد آسا * وآسا ولد يوشافاط و يوشافاط ولد يورام ويورام ولد عزيا * وعزيا ولد يوتام ويوتام ولد آحاز وآحاز ولد حزقيا * وحزقيا ولد منسى ومنسى ولد آمون وآمون ولد يوشيا * ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل * ومن بعد جلاء بابل يكنيا ولد شالتئيل وشالتئيل ولد زربابل * وزربابل ولد أبيهود وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم وألياقيم ولد عازور * وعازور ولد صادق وصادوق ولد آخيم وآخيم ولد أليهود * وأليهود ولد العازار والعازار ولد متان ومتان ولد يعقوب * ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم التي ولد منها يسوع الذي يدعى المسيح * فكل الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً * أمّا مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا. لما خطبت مريم أمه ليوسف وجدت من قبل أن يجتمعا حبلى من الروح القدس * وإذ كان يوسف رجلاً صديقاً ولم يرد أن يشهرها هم بتخليتها سراً * وفيما هو متفكر في ذلك إذا بملاك الرب ظهر له في الحلم قائلاً يا يوسف ابن داود لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم. فإن المولود فيها إنما هو من الروح القدس * وستلد ابناً فتسميه يسوع فإنه هو يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم * (وكان هذا كله ليتم ما قيل من الرب بالنبي القائل. ها إن العذراء تحبل وتلد ابناً ويدعى عمائوئيل الذي تفسيره الله معنا) * فلما نهض يوسف من النوم صنع كما أمره ملاك الرب. فأخذ امرأته * ولم يعرفها حتى ولدت ابنها البكر وسماه يسوع.



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
12/23: Jason and Katia Haddad & Family	12/23: جيسن وكاتيا حداد والعائلة
12/24: Ladies Guild	12/24: سيدات الكنيسة
12/30: Luai and Suha Sweiss & Family	12/30: لوي وسهى صويص والعائلة

Epistle Readers:

Today: English - Omar Sweiss , Arabic - Asmahan Fakhouri

Next Week: English - Abeer Khouri , Arabic - Nour Swais

“Bible Verse of the Week”

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven” [Luke 1:76-78](#)

أما أنت، يا ابني، فسأدعى نبياً للعليّ. فأنت ستقدم الربّ لتعدّ له الطريق. ستقدمه لتخبر شعبه بأنهم سيخلصون، وستغفر خطاياهم. هذا بفضل رحمة إلهنا المحبّة، فسيشرق نور علينا من السماء. [لوقا 1:76-78](#)

Parish News

Churching

Helen Assaf

Parents: Laith & Heba Assaf

Congratulations!



أول زيارة

هيلين عساف

الوالدين ليث وهبة عساف

مبروك!



Pledge Envelopes are here!!!! Please pick up your 2013 pledge envelopes today. You will find them laid out on a table in our Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

نرجو ان تأخذوا اليوم المغلفات الخاصة بالاشتراك السنوي للكنيسة. الله يبارككم على دعمكم!

The 2013 Holy Bread & Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is available in the Church hall. Please take time to sign up for a Sunday. God bless!

يُرجى ممن يرغب بتقديم القدّاس والقهوة لأيّ من أيام الأحد لعام 2013، أن يقوم بتسجيل إسمه في السجل المخصص لذلك في قاعة الكنيسة. الله يبارككم!



2013

January	February	March	April
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31

Please make sure you pick up your 2013 St. Mary's Calendar after Liturgy. God bless!

تذكروا أن تأخذوا رزنامة 2013 بعد القداس الالهي اليوم. الله يبارككم!

Sunday School Food drive Ends January 6, 2012

St. Mary Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food items to help feed the hungry!

4th Annual St. Philothea Humanitarian Drive for Orphans

Items needed: SOCKS and UNDERWEAR for Boys and Girls Ages 3 – 14 years old.

Collection boxes are at the south entrance doors. Please see Kh. Delia with any questions!

OCCHY BULLETIN QUIZ ... 12/23/12

Teenage Drinking

TRUE or FALSE?

The greatest increase in alcohol usage occurs between grades 6 and 10.

TRUE. By the time they graduate from high school, half of all teenagers report drinking alcohol on a regular basis. One-third report BINGE DRINKING!

<http://www.parentfurther.com/high-risk-behaviors/alcohol>



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

Sun - 12/23	11:30am: Arabic School Christmas Pageant 7:00pm: Sunday School Teachers' Christmas Gathering
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 Arabic School
Sun - 12/30	No Sunday School (Christmas Break)

January 2013

Sat - 01/05	No Arabic School
Sun - 01/06	No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
Sat - 01/19	Youth League 1st day of Season Winter '13
Sun - 01/27	6:00pm: St. Mary Appreciation Dinner

February 2013

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

St. Mary Orthodox Church
Palos Heights, IL

You are cordially invited to an

APPRECIATION DINNER

Sunday, January 27th, 2013 at 6:00pm
St. Mary's Gymnasium

**A CELEBRATION
OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY !**

This event is Free of Charge

Due to limited seating, please
Please RSVP with total number attending
to the Church office no later than Friday, January 18th
Phone: 708-239-0004 or Email: katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org

6330 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights, Illinois

St. Mary's Monthly Men's Breakfast Club

The first Saturday of every Month at 10:00am

Starting Saturday, January 5th, 2013

Location: Royalberry Restaurant
6417 W. 127th St. in Palos Heights

Join the clergy of St. Mary as we discuss current and relevant issues affecting our families and communities, and how we, as fathers, brothers, and role models, can make a difference.

Arabic School Christmas Pageant

Sunday

December 23, 2012

Following Liturgy



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.

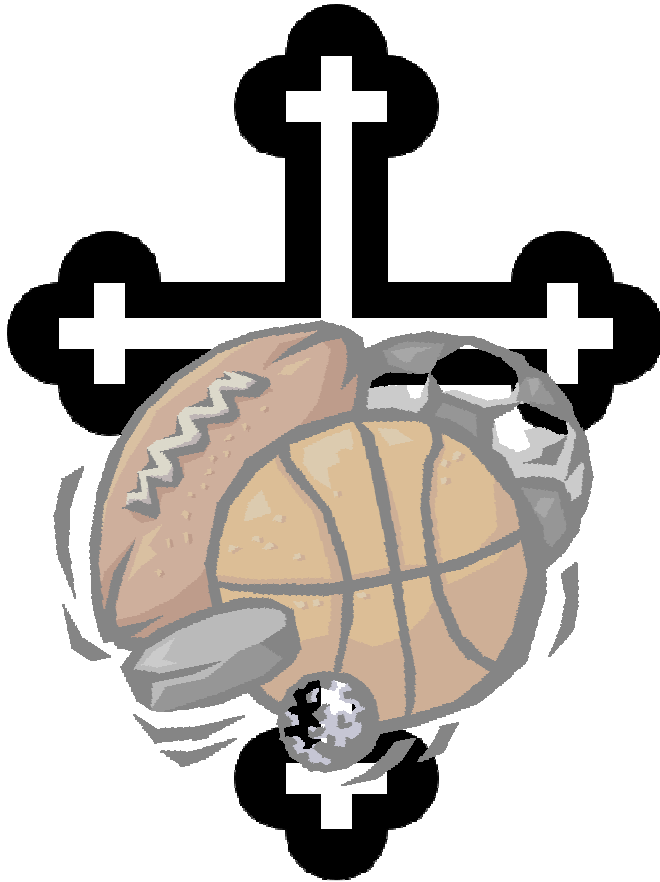
Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy

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!

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

YOUTH LEAGUE



Youth League is back for the Winter Season!

- League will be every Saturday from Jan. 19th to March 9th
- Ages 5-12
- Cost: \$25 (ages 5-7)
\$40 (ages 8-12)
- All games and open gyms will be held at St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

REGISTER TODAY!!!

Saturdays at St. Mary will be filled with lots of activities!

The day will begin with the Youth League at 1:30 p.m. Followed by Arabic School at 3:30 p.m. Then ending with prayer at Vespers at 5:30 p.m.

If there is anyone interested in volunteering please see Fr. Mousa or Fabiola Sweis.

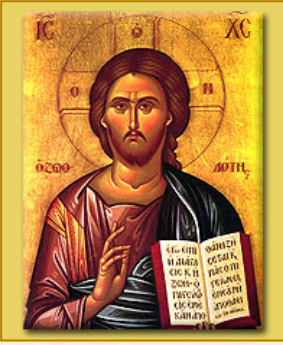
Thank you for your ongoing support!

Contact
Fabiola Sweis
fabiolasweis@gmail.com
with any questions.

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

Where to Turn in the New Testament...

- For the Sermon on the Mount: **Matthew 5—7**
- When you are under pressure: **Matthew 11:25-30**
- For Jesus' teaching on the Second Coming: **Matthew 24:3-44**
- For the distribution of the Holy Eucharist: **Matthew 26:26-30**
- For the Great Commission: **Matthew 28:18-20**
- For Jesus' teaching on servanthood: **Mark 10:42-45**
- For the Annunciation to Mary: **Luke 1:26-56**
- For the earthly birth of Jesus Christ: **Luke 2:1-20**
- For Jesus' teaching on eternal punishment: **Luke 13:24-30**
- For the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ: **Luke 23:33-24:49**
- For how one is born again: **John 3:1-8**
- For Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist: **John 6:30-59**
- When you feel estranged from Christ: **John 10:7-30**
- When you need comfort: **John 14:1-6**
- To learn about union with Christ: **John 15:1-17**
- For Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit: **John 15:26-16:15**
- For the coming of the Holy Spirit: **Acts 2:1-21**
- For the first Church Council: **Acts 15:1-35**
- For the scriptural teaching on sexual immorality and homosexuality:
Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:15-20
- For St. Paul's teaching on justification: **Romans 5:1-21**
- For St. Paul's teaching on holy baptism: **Romans 6:1-11**
- When the unexpected happens: **Romans 8:28-39**
- When you are tempted to break the law: **Romans 13:1-10**
- To learn of true Christian love: **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**
- To learn of sin and righteousness: **Galatians 5:19-26**
- To learn of faith and works: **Ephesians 2:8-10**
- To learn of Christian marriage: **Ephesians 5:22-33**
- To understand the unseen warfare: **Ephesians 6:10-18**
- To learn of the communion of the saints: **Hebrews 12:1-3, 22-24**
- To learn of Christian healing: **James 5:13-16**
- For St. Peter's teaching on marriage: **1 Peter 3:1-9**
- For St. Peter's teaching on false prophets: **2 Peter 2:1-22**
- To learn about confession of sin: **1 John 1:5-2:1**
- To learn about eternal life: **1 John 5:11-13**
- To learn of the eternal kingdom: **Revelation 21—22**



Weekly Synaxarion



On December 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Ten Martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; and Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians. On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths. It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.