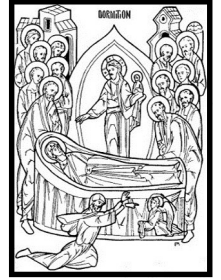




St. Mary Orthodox Church

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 30, 2012

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, the Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

الأحد الذي بعد عيد الميلاد وتكريم القديسين يوسف الخطيب وداوود الملك
ويعقوب أخ الرب

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

First Antiphon

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

الانديفونا الأولى

اعترف لك يارب من كل قلبي، وأحدت بجميع عجائبك في مجلس المستقيمين وفي مجمعهم. عظيمة أعمال الرب.

بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصِ خلصنا.

مدبرةً طبقاً لكلِّ مرادهِ بها. صنعهُ الاعترافِ وعظم الجلال. وعدلهُ يدوم إلى دهرِ الداهرين.

بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصِ خلصنا.

المجد للآبِ والإبنِ والروحِ القدس، الآن وكل أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الداهرين. آمين.

بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصِ خلصنا.

Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, 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

طوبى للرجل الذي يتقي الرب ويهوى وصاياهُ جداً. تكون ذريته في الأرض مقنطرة.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

يكون المجد والغنى في بيته. وبره يدوم إلى دهرِ الداهرين.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

اشرق النور في الظلمة للمستقيمين.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

المجد للآبِ والإبنِ والروحِ القدس، الآن وكل أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الداهرين، آمين.

يا كلمةَ اللهِ الابنِ الوحيد...

Third Antiphon

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

الانديفونا الثالثة

قال الرب لربي اجلس عن يميني حتى اجعل أعدائك موطناً لقدميك. عصا قوتك يرسل لك الرب من صهيون. معك الرئاسة في يوم قوتك في بهاء قديسيك.

ميلادك أيها المسيح إلهنا قد اشرق نور المعرفة في العالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل. وأن يعرفوا أنك من مشارق العلو أتيت. يارب المجدلك!

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 Five)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh to suffer death and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

لنُسبِّح نحن المؤمنين ونسجد للكلمة. المساوي للآب والروح في الازليّة وعدم الابتداء. المولود من العذراء لخلصنا .
لأنه سرّ وارتضى بالجسد أن يعلو على الصليب. ويحتمل الموت وينهض الموتى بقيامته المجيدة.

Troparion of the Nativity (Tone Four)

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

ميلادك أيها المسيح إلهنا قد اشرق نور المعرفة في العالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا
شمس العدل. وأن يعرفوا أنك من مشارق العلو أتيت. يارب المجدلك!

Troparion for the Sunday after the Nativity (Tone Two)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child. With the shepherds thou didst give glory; with the Magi thou didst worship; and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

يا يوسف بشر داود جدّ الإله بالعجائب الباهرة لأنك قد رأيت بتولا حاملا. فمع الرعاة مجدت ومع المجوس سجدت
وبالملاك أوحى إليك. فابتهل إلى المسيح الإله أن يخلص 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 وصنيتها 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 Nativity (Tone Three)

Today, the Virgin giveth birth to the transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes; God before the ages.

اليوم البتول تلد الفائق الجوهري، والأرض تقرب المغارة، لمن هو غير مقرب إليه. الملائكة مع الرعاة يمجدون،
والمجوس مع الكوكب في الطريق يسرون. لأنه قد ولد لنا صبيّ جديد، وهو الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

Epistle for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

الرسالة للأحد الذي بعد عيد الميلاد

God is wonderful among His saints!

Bless God in the congregations!

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19).

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

عجيبٌ هو الله في قديسيه!

في المجامع باركوا الله!

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية (1:11-19)

يا إخوة أعلمكم أنّ الإنجيل الذي بشرتُ به ليس بحسبِ الإنسانِ * لأنني لم أتسلّمهُ أو أتعلّمهُ من إنسانٍ بل بإعلانِ يسوع المسيح * فإنّكم قد سمعتم بسيرتي قديماً في ملة اليهود أنّي كنتُ اضطهدُّ كنيسة الله بإفراطٍ وأدمرها * وأزيدُ تقدماً في ملة اليهود على كثيرين من أتراي في جنسي بكوني أوفرَ منهم غيرَةً على تقليداتِ آبائي * فلما ارتضى الله الذي أفرزني من جوفِ أمي ودعاني بنعمته * أن يُعلنَ ابنه فيّ لأبشرَ به بين الأمم لساعتي لم أصغِ إلى لحمٍ ودمٍ * ولا صعدتُ إلى أورشليم إلى الرسل الذين قبلي بل انطلقتُ إلى ديارِ العربِ وبعدَ ذلك رجعتُ إلى دمشق * ثمّ إنني بعدَ ثلاثِ سنين صعدتُ إلى أورشليم لأزورَ بطرس فأقمتُ عنده خمسة عشرَ يوماً * ولم أرَ غيره من الرسل سوى يعقوبَ أخي الربّ.

Gospel for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

الإنجيل للأحد الذي بعد عيد الميلاد

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23).

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير، التلميذ الطاهر (2:13-23)

لَمَّا انصرفت المجوسُ إذا بملاكِ الربِّ ظهرَ ليوسفَ في الحُلْمِ قائلاً قُمْ فَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَاهْرُبْ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَكُنْ هُنَاكَ حَتَّى أَقُولَ لَكَ * فَإِنَّ هِيرُودَسَ مُزْمِعٌ أَنْ يَطْلُبَ الصَّبِيَّ لِيُهْلِكَهُ * فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ لَيْلاً وَانصرفت إلى مِصْرَ * وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى وَفَاةِ هِيرُودَسَ لِيَتِمَّ الْمَقُولَ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: مِنْ مِصْرَ دَعَوْتُ ابْنِي * حِينَئِذٍ لَمَّا رَأَى هِيرُودَسَ أَنَّ الْمَجُوسَ سَخَرُوا بِهِ غَضِبَ جِداً وَأَرْسَلَ فَقَتَلَ كُلَّ صَبِيانِ بَيْتِ لَحْمَ وَجَمِيعِ ثُخُومِهَا مِنْ ابْنِ سَنَتَيْنِ فَمَا دُونََ عَلَى حَسَبِ الزَّمَانِ الَّذِي تَحَقَّقَهُ مِنَ الْمَجُوسِ * حِينَئِذٍ تَمَّ مَا قَالَهُ إِرْمِيَاءُ النَّبِيُّ الْقَائِلُ: صَوْتُ سَمْعٍ فِي الرَّامَةِ نَوْحٌ وَبُكَاءٌ وَعَوِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ، رَاحِلٌ تَبْكِي عَلَى أَوْلَادِهَا وَقَدْ أَبَتْ أَنْ تَتَعَزَّى لِأَنَّهُمْ لَيْسُوا بِمَوْجُودِينَ * فَلَمَّا مَاتَ هِيرُودَسُ إِذَا بِمَلَائِكَةِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لِيُوسُفَ فِي الحُلْمِ فِي مِصْرَ قائلاً: قُمْ فَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَاهْبُ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فَقَدْ مَاتَ طَالِبُو نَفْسِ الصَّبِيَّ * فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ * وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّ ارشِيلَاوسَ قَدْ مَلَكَ عَلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ مَكَانَ هِيرُودَسَ أَبِيهِ خَافَ أَنْ يَذْهَبَ إِلَى هُنَاكَ وَأُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِ فِي الحُلْمِ فَانصرفت إلى نَوَاحِي الْجَلِيلِ * وَأَتَى وَسَكَنَ فِي مَدِينَةٍ تُدْعَى نَاصِرَةَ لِيَتِمَّ الْمَقُولَ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ إِنَّهُ يُدْعَى نَاصِرِيًّا.



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 |
|---|---|
| 12/30: Luai and Suha Sweiss & Family | 12/30: لوي وسهي صويص والعائلة |
| 01/06: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family | 01/06: غالب وريتا صويص والعائلة |
| 01/06: Shamel and Souna Al Harani & Family | 01/13: شامل وسونة الحراني والعائلة |

Epistle Readers:

Today: English - Lana Ammari , Arabic - Mansoura Khouri
Next Week: English - Delia Haddad , Arabic - Mazen Ammari

“Bible Verse of the Week”

“God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

”الله أمين، الذي لا يدعكم تُجربون فوق ما تستطيعون، بل سيجعل مع التجربة أيضا المنقذ، لتستطيعوا

أن تحتملوا.“ (كورنثوس الأولى 10:13)

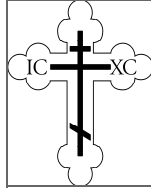
Parish News

3rd & 9th Memorials:

Julia Tadros

Nada Habaibeh

May their memory be eternal!



ذكريات الثالث والتاسع

جوليا تادرس

ندی حبايبه

ليكن ذكرهم مؤبداً!

Churching

Charlotte Hofferica

Parents: Michael & Evelyn Hofferican

Congratulations!



أول زيارة

شارلوت هوفرিকা

الوالدين: مايكل وإيفلين هوفرিকা

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!

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 ... 12/3012

Can you overcome the addiction of NICOTINE?

A: Nicotine acts as both a stimulant and a sedative. Whether smoked or chewed, nicotine is one of the most highly addictive drugs used in today's society. The greatest long-term risk of smoking is cancer and lung disease. Once your body gets a taste for nicotine, it can easily become a life-long addiction, with highly fatal consequences. Although quitting can be difficult at any age, the good news is that by giving up tobacco for life, you can drastically improve your health and reduce your risk of cancer, heart disease and other life-threatening diseases associated with tobacco use.



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

December 2012

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 Hafleh

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
708-239-0004

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.

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)

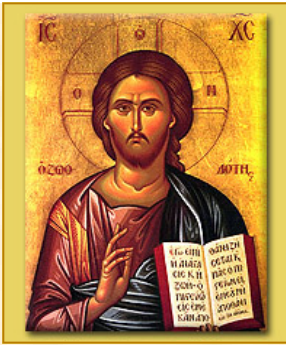


Saturdays at St. Mary will be filled with lots of activities! The day will begin with the Youth League at 1:30 p.m. Followed by Arabic School at 3:30 p.m. Then ending with prayer at Vespers at 5:30 p.m.

Any questions contact Fabiola Sweis at fabiolasweis@gmail.com

All games and open gyms will be held at St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

REGISTER TODAY!!!



Weekly Synaxarion



On December 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Virgin-martyr Anysia of Thessalonika; Martyr Philetairos of Nicomedia; Venerable Leon the Archimandrite; Venerable-martyr Gideon of Karakallou monastery on Athos; and Makarios, Metropolitan of Moscow. On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.