



# SAINT MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." (Acts 11:26)*

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

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

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

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

## St. Mary Parish Clergy

Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad, Pastor

Rev. Fr. Malek Rihani

Subdeacon Matthew Sweis

Subdeacon Ameer Tadros

## Parish Council

Fr. Mousa - Presiding Officer

Fadi Abu Manneh - Chairman

Feras Sweis - Vice Chairman

Abdullah Tadros - Treasurer

Constantin Kari - Financial Sec.

Abeer Khouri - Secretary

Nidal Al-Farah

George Barakat

Bassam Salman

Feras Salman

Faris Samawi

Samer Tadros

## Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Omar Sweis

SOYO - Marram Salman

Fellowship - Khalil Haddad

Antiochian Women - Susan Sweis

Handmaids - Mansoura Khouri

and Lina Haddad

Choir - Michael Rascia

Chanters - Khaled Salman and

Faris Samawi

Humanitarian - Shireen Salman

Fishers of Men - John Eamace

Athletics - Melad Qodsi

Webmaster - Sana Sweis

## Office Administrator

Katia Haddad

katiahaddad@virginmaryoc.org

## Building Engineer

Peter Butera

## Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email  
our Office Administrator

# April 14th, 2013

Today in the Holy Church is:

## The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent and the Commemoration of St. John of the Ladder



**Friendly Reminder:** We are currently in the Lenten fast. Please remember to refrain from Meats and Dairy. If you haven't started yet.....it's not too late!!!

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) A Blessed Fast To You All!

## 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)

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. For more information, please see one of the ushers at the end of the service for a "Welcome Packet." May God bless you and give you many healthy years in His service.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

**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!

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Four):** 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.

**Troparion of St. John (Tone Eight):** The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundred-fold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

**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.

**Kontakion for the Sundays of Lent (Tone Eight):** To thee the champion leader, I thy city ascribe thank-offerings of victory. For thou hast delivered me from terrors O Theotokos. But as thou hast that power which is invincible, from all dangers set me free that I may cry out unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom!

**Megalynarion for the Liturgy of St. Basil (Tone Eight):** In thee all creation rejoices, O Full of Grace; the assembly of angels and the race of Man; O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise; the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child; our God before the ages, He made thy body into throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. In thee all creation rejoices; O Full of Grace, glory to thee.

### Epistle for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

*The Lord will give strength to his people!  
Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the  
Lord honor and glory!*

**The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (6:13-20).**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two changeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.

### Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:16-30).**

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out and they were not able." And Jesus answered him, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him, and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went out from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have any one know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."



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.

## Holy Bread and Coffee Hour

**04/14:** Hana Kavar & Family

**04/21:** Emile and Wajih Haddad & Families

**04/28:** Feras and Jackie Salman & Family



Newly Departed  
**Sami Yousef Salman**  
**Taghreed Ghazi Kavar**  
May their memory be eternal!

New Born

**Madeleine Lillie Barakat**  
Parents - George & Abeer Barakat  
Congratulations!



Today, immediately following Sunday School, there will be brief Teen SOYO meeting Thank you!

## Lenten Luncheon

## Today, After Liturgy

Join us and help support your Antiochian Women by enjoying a Lenten Lunch!

## "Bible Verse of the Week"

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

## PADS Homeless Shelter Volunteering



**Monday**  
**April 15, 2013**  
**6pm - 11pm**

## Palm Sunday Candles

Beginning this Sunday, Palm Sunday Candles will be for sale after Liturgy!



To purchase your candle or if you have any questions please see **Norma Tadros.**

## SOYO Bible Study

Saturday, April 13, 2013  
Fellowship Hall @ 5:00pm  
!!! Lenten Pot Luck!!!

Questions???  
Please contact any SOYO officer.

## Fellowship Bible Study

Sunday, April 14, 2013  
Fellowship Hall @ 6:30pm  
!!! Lenten Pot Luck!!!

Please contact any Fellowship officer  
with questions!

## “Prayer and Purity” Teen SOYO Retreat

**By Dr. Albert Rossi**

Professor of Pastoral Theology

**Saturday April 20, 2013**

**3:00pm - 6:00pm**

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

### **2013 Parish Life Conference**

Hosted by St. Michael Orthodox Church  
Louisville, Kentucky (June 19 – 23, 2013)  
For Registration & Schedule  
[www.stmichaelorthodoxchurch.org/plc](http://www.stmichaelorthodoxchurch.org/plc)

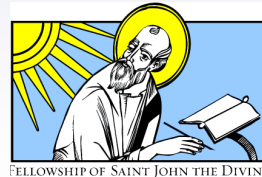
### **51<sup>st</sup> Antiochian Archdiocese Convention**

Hosted by St. George Orthodox Church  
Houston, Texas (July 21-28th, 2013)  
For Registration & Schedule  
<http://www.achouston2013.com/>

## **Pan-Orthodox Akathist Hymn Tuesday, April 23rd @ 7pm**

Southside service will be hosted by Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church,  
8410 West 131st Street in Palos Park, IL.

## ST. MARY'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT 2013



**May 17-19th, 2013**

Join the Fellowship of St. John the Divine on a  
fun filled, uplifting weekend!

**Retreat Master:**

**Dn. Saed Rihani**

Maranatha Conference Center,  
Muskegon, MI

Please see Fr. Mousa, Asimt, or any Fellowship  
officer with questions.

## **Agape Service**

Mark your calendars!

Sunday, **May 5th (Easter Day) at 1pm** we  
will have the Agape Vespers service at St.  
Mary Orthodox Church. This is the service  
in which the Gospel is read in as many lan-  
guages as possible. If you can read the Gos-  
pel in another language, please let one of  
our clergy know.

## خدمات الصيام والاسبوع العظيم 2013 Lent & Holy Week Services

نيسان 12 April	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 17 April	الأربعاء: القداس السابق تقديسه Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 19 April	الجمعة: خدمة مديح والدة الإله Friday: Akathist w/ Potluck Dinner	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 27 April	السبت: القداس لسبت اليعازر Saturday: Lazarus Saturday Liturgy	صباحا 10:00am
نيسان 28 April	الاحد: خدمة القداس لعيد الشعانين Sunday: Palm Sunday Liturgy	صباحا 10:00am
	الاحد: الختن الأولى Sunday: 1st Bridegroom Service	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 29 April	الإثنين: الختن الثانية Monday: 2nd Bridegroom Service	مساء 7:00pm
نيسان 30 April	الثلاثاء: الختن الثالثة Tuesday: 3rd Bridegroom Service	مساء 7:00pm
أيار 1 May	الأربعاء: صلاة الزيت المقدس Wednesday: Holy Unction Service	مساء 7:00pm
أيار 2 May	الخميس: قداس باسيليوس العظيم Thursday: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	صباحا 10:00am
	الخميس: خدمة 12 انجيل والصلب Thursday: 12 Passion Gospels	مساء 7:00pm
أيار 3 May	الجمعة: خدمة الساعات Friday: Royal Hours	صباحا 10:00am
	الجمعة: خدمة انزال المصلوب Friday: Taking Down From the Cross	مساء 3:00pm
	الجمعة: جناز المسيح Friday: Lamentations (سهرانية العيد (GOOD FRIDAY All-Night VIGIL to follow	مساء 7:00pm
أيار 4 May	السبت: قداس سبت النور Saturday: Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	صباحا 10:00am
	السبت: سحرية العيد، الهجمة وقداس القيامة Saturday: Rush Procession & Matins followed by Paschal Liturgy	مساء 10:00pm
أيار 5 May	الاحد: صلاة الباعوث Sunday: AGAPE VESPERS	ظهرا 1:00pm

### Weekly Synaxarion

On April 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy; Martyr Thomais of Alexandria; and New-martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos. On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus). The Church also commemorates him on March 30 when he reposed. The celebration of his feast on this day probably arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting the Great Lent with the reading of his book of sermons, in which John describes the method of elevating the soul to God, as ascending a ladder. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai as a 16-year-old and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, and afterwards as a recluse, and finally as abbot of Sinai until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later on, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died around the year 563 A.D. Through his intercessions, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## ***Fishers of Men***

A ministry of St. Mary Orthodox Church  
invite you to their very first interactive workshop:  
**“The Roles and Responsibilities of a  
Christian Man”**



**Presented by Dr. Albert Rossi**  
Professor of Pastoral Theology

**Saturday April 20, 2013  
11:00am - 2:00pm**

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

**Please RSVP to [stmaryfom@virginmaryoc.org](mailto:stmaryfom@virginmaryoc.org).**  
There is no cost. It's open to everyone, and Lunch  
will be served. We especially encourage the men to  
participate and to learn what it is that God expects of  
them.

## **Kaek and Mamoul Sale**

**Starting Palm Sunday**

**April 28, 2013**

**Our Antiochian Women  
will begin selling  
Kaek & Mamoul for Easter.**

1. \$40 Big Tray (Mixed: dates, pistachios & walnuts )
2. \$25 Small Tray (Mixed: dates, pistachios & walnuts )
3. \$20 Small Tray (Only Dates)

**St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights presents  
“The Gospel in an Hour”  
an adult Bible class ministry**

### **CALLING ALL ADULTS!**

We invite adults to strengthen their knowledge of the Holy Bible through regular weekly sessions.  
Classes will start on May 7th and will be held every Tuesday at 6:00pm.

#### **To ensure you are able to attend:**

- ◆ **Bring the entire family!**
- ◆ We will provide complimentary dinner at 6pm sharp.
- ◆ As adults go to their class at 6:30pm, children will go to study hall or babysitting.
- ◆ Study hall is available for students kindergarten through 12th grade; baby sitting for children ages 3-5. A certified teacher will be available for tutoring as well.
- ◆ Two separate 1-hour classes will be taught simultaneously, one in Arabic (taught by Fr. Danial Doss) and one in English (taught by Fr. Malek and Fr. Mousa).
- ◆ There is no cost for this ministry, but donations and sponsorships are appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer as a tutor or babysitter or for more information please email  
Hanada Sweis at [hzedan1@yahoo.com](mailto:hzedan1@yahoo.com).

You Are Cordially Invited To Celebrate  
St. Mary's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary  
Weekend Celebration

June 15-16, 2013

**Schedule of Events:**

Saturday, June 15th

6:30pm - Banquet & Hafleh

St. Mary's Gymnasium

Tickets - \$40/person

Children ages 5 & younger free

Sunday, June 16th

8:45am - Matins

10:00am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with  
**His Eminence METROPOLITAN PHILIP**

Followed by Groundbreaking Ceremony  
and a Luncheon at St. Mary's Gymnasium



With His Eminence  
**METROPOLITAN PHILIP**  
Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of All North America

**St. Mary Orthodox Church  
\$100 Raffle**

**Grand Prize:**



**2013 Toyota Camry LE.**

**Second Prize: 5 Night Stay in a  
private pent house suite in Puerto  
Vallarta.**



**Third Prize: \$1,000 Cash**

**Fourth Prize: iPad Mini**



**Drawing will take place at St. Mary's  
10th Year Anniversary Celebration on  
Saturday June 15th, 2013**

**St. Mary's Antiochian Women Annual  
Mother's Day Luncheon**



**Saturday, May 11, 2013**

**12:00pm - 5:00pm**

**St. Mary Fellowship Hall**

**Celebrating our mothers with an  
Arabic Folklore Fashion Show**

**Tickets: Adults - \$25**

**Children ages 12 & younger - \$10**

The drawing of the \$10 Raffle will also take place.

**For tickets contact:  
Saeda Sweis or Shireen Salman**