



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

Humanitarian - Shireen Salman

OCLife - Nancy Cannon

Fishers of Men - John Eannace

Athletics - Melad Qodsi

Choir - Michael Rascia

Chanters - Khaled Salman and

Faris Samawi

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

May 5th, 2013

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!



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 (Tone Two): In the gathering places, bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel. Save us O Son of God, Who art Risen from the dead, who sing unto thee: Alleluia!

Paschal Troparion (Tone Five): Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

Hypakoe of Easter (Tone Four): They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them, Why seek ye him as man with the dead, who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for he is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

Kontakion of Easter (Tone Eight): O deathless One, when thou didst descend into the grave, thou didst destroy the power of hell; and as the Victorious one, thou didst rise again, O Christ our God. Thou didst greet the ointment-bearing women, saying, Rejoice! Thou didst bestow peace upon Thy Disciples, and resurrection upon those that are fallen.

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn we sing: As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Epistle of Pascha

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever!

The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-8).

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel of Pascha

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:1-17).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own, and his own received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John bore witness to him, and cried, "This is he of whom I said, 'he who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'" And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

MOST. REV. METROPOLITAN PHILIP



ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

RT. REV. BISHOP ANTHONY

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST

The Self-Ruled

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

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Pascha 2013

Dear Beloved clergy, brothers and sisters in Christ:

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

May God's blessings and my joy at His Resurrection be given, first, to our beloved Metropolitan Philip and to the local Synod of this God-protected Archdiocese!

"In the flesh Thou didst fall asleep as a mortal man, O King and Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, raising Adam from corruption and destroying death: O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world!" (The hymn of Light)

Salvation is so much more than redemption. It is a reunion given to us by Love Himself in His love of us and all that He made to reflect the love He has with His Father. I have always, somehow, experienced Christ's new morning of Resurrection in the garden as our waking up with the innocent and bright eyes of Adam the first time he was in Eden, the true garden of delight.

Salvation is synaxis; it is the gathering of loved ones with the Loving One in the Spirit of Love from the font of Love, "for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him (1 Jn. 4.8b - 10)."

Christ is the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep," and in Him, "all shall be made alive (1 Cor. 15.20,22)." We celebrate, on Pascha, a family reunion: "And the angel said to me, 'write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19.9).'"

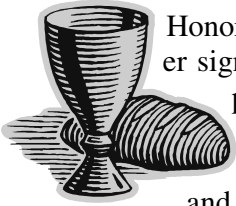
As we are together in Church to receive on Easter, at Pascha, the Holy Communion, celebrating the festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom; and, then, bless the baskets and end the fast and socialize together, we join our loved ones who have entered the heavenly rooms and are already at the banquet table of Our Lord. Our loved ones sit down with the Theotokos and all the saints, because, for us, they are saints. Because as God loved us first, we experienced their love for us first. With them we are always first.

Remember those Sunday meals after Church when everyone came over the house, when love lingered through successive rounds of food and fun? It is good for us to stay here, in Church, "in the never ending day of His Kingdom."

In the Love of the Risen Lord,

+Bishop ANTHONY

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



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

05/05: Antiochian Women

05/12: Bishara Sweis & Family

05/19: Kamal and Nawal Sweis & Family

Graduation



Yousef Nabil Haddad

Criminal Justice Law Enforcement
Associate in Applied Arts

Congratulations !

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 languages as possible. If you can read the Gospel in another language, please let one of our clergy know.

Kaek and Mamoul Sale

**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)

2013 Parish Life Conference

Hosted by

St. Michael Orthodox Church

Louisville, Kentucky

(June 19 – 23, 2013)

For Registration & Schedule

www.stmichaelorthodoxchurch.org/plc

51st Antiochian Archdiocese Convention

Hosted by

St. George Orthodox Church

Houston, Texas

(July 21-28th, 2013)

For Registration & Schedule

<http://www.achouston2013.com/>

"Bible Verse of the Week"

And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. Romans 1:4-5

Lent & Holy Week Services 2013 خدمات الصيام والاسبوع العظيم

أيار 2 May	<p>Thursday: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil الخميس: قداس باسيليوس العظيم</p> <p>Thursday: 12 Passion Gospels الخميس: خدمة 12 انجيل والصلب</p>	<p>10:00am صباحا</p> <p>7:00pm مساء</p>
أيار 3 May	<p>Friday: Royal Hours الجمعة: خدمة الساعات</p> <p>Friday: Taking Down From the Cross الجمعة: خدمة انزال المصلوب</p> <p>Friday: Lamentations جناز المسيح الجمعة: جناز المسيح (GOOD FRIDAY All-Night VIGIL to follow العيد (سهرانية العيد</p>	<p>10:00am صباحا</p> <p>3:00pm مساء</p> <p>7:00pm مساء</p>
أيار 4 May	<p>Saturday: Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil السبت: قداس سبت النور</p> <p>Saturday: Rush Procession & Matins followed by Paschal Liturgy السبت: سحرية العيد، الهجمة وقداس القيامة</p>	<p>10:00am صباحا</p> <p>10:00pm مساء</p>
أيار 5 May	Sunday: AGAPE VESPERS الأحد: صلاة الباعوث	1:00pm ظهرا

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

Knowing God's will and living it one day at a time.

May 17th-19th 2013

Marantha Bible and Mission: Muskegon, MI

Retreat Master- Dn. Saed Rihani

Sign up today with any Fellowship Officer!

See Asimt Sweis or Fr. Mousa with any questions

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will."
Romans 12:2

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

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.

You are invited to our Annual Teen SOYO Holy Friday Vigil

Friday May 3, 2013 @ 10:00pm

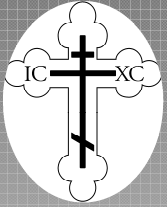
Everyone is invited

**Age: 13 and older with parents signed permission slips
(Children under the age of 13 parents must stay with them.)**

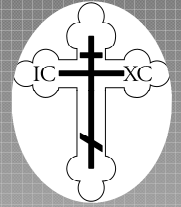
We will be watching the passion of the Christ Movie

Hope to see you all there!

***This is a potluck event so please remember only
Lenten food***



St. Mary Men's Basketball League



Season begins May 12, 2013

The time has finally come for family, friends, and lots of fun! We are pleased to present the 2nd Annual Men's Basketball League. The games will be held in the gymnasium of St. Mary Orthodox Church. This league will be open to members of the community and to our sister churches. The timing of this league couldn't be better as we try to come together as a community to enjoy companionship and some friendly competition. Please spread the word as much as possible, as we get things started to have another successful season! Sign-ups will be held during coffee hour and open gyms.

Forms, Fees, and Teams due on May 10, 2013

Requirements:

- Signed waiver
- Team registration sheet
- Fees
- \$100- No Purchase of Jersey
- \$125- With Purchase of Jersey

Information:

- Ages 16 and up
- Make your own team
- Min members per team - 6
- Max members per team - 8

Contact: Melad Qodsi @ 708-692-0561 or athletics@stmaryoc.org

Be a voice for the babies...



Behold,
children are a
gift
of the Lord...



Baby Bottle Drive 2013

May 12 - June 16

to benefit the

Martha and Mary House

Your spare change makes a big difference!



Giving is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Pick up baby bottles after Divine Liturgy on your parish's bottle distribution dates.
2. Take the bottles home and drop in your spare change.
3. Return filled bottles at the drop-off location designated by your parish by the specified end date of your parish's baby bottle drive.

*...the fruit of the womb
is His reward.
Psalm 127:3*



"[Mary] entered the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."
Luke 1:40-44

"With the loving guidance and leadership of His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, along with the enthusiastic support of fellow Orthodox Bishops across several jurisdictions of the Midwest, Orthodox Christians for Life-Chicago is drawing closer to realizing their long-time dream of opening the first Orthodox Christian maternity home for pregnant women in crisis to be located in the Midwest. The maternity home will be called the Martha and Mary House and will be modeled after the Martha and Mary House location in Escondido, CA.

At the Martha and Mary House, we plan to offer practical, emotional and spiritual support during that crucial period of the mother's life, while providing residential housing, with privacy and confidentiality. As a Martha and Mary House 'Daughter' she will experience Orthodox family-style living with resident House Mothers or House Parents, and a daily schedule that includes work, study and morning and evening prayer.

We will welcome pregnant women in crisis of all ethnic, cultural, religious and social backgrounds. While at Martha and Mary House, we plan for them to pursue a program of study or vocational training, be actively seeking employment or be employed. They will share responsibility for housekeeping duties, live by the House Rules and participate in Martha and Mary House programs which include Bible study and Church attendance, pre-natal and birthing classes, and career and open adoption counseling.

OCLife-Chicago has obtained a 501c3 status as a "Pan-Orthodox Ministry" under the "Omoforian" of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, is our guiding shepherd in this ministry. For more information contact Fr. Nicholas Jonas, OCLife-Chicago Spiritual Director at frnwj@aol.com or Mr. Nicholas Cavaligos, OCLife-Chicago president at cavaligos@comcast.net



You Are Cordially Invited To Celebrate
St. Mary's 10th 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

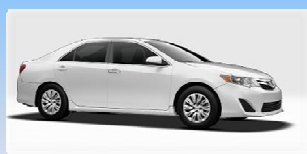
Followed by Groundbreaking Ceremony
and a Luncheon at St. Mary's Gymnasium



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**