



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

Very 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

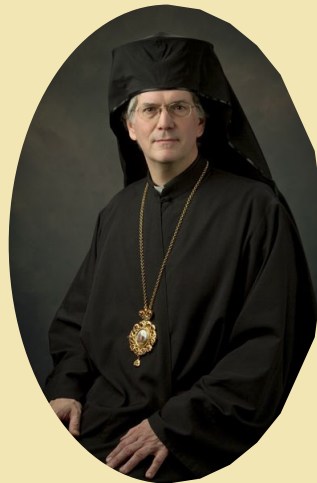
Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our
Office Administrator

September 15, 2013

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

We Welcome His Grace



Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest

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.

Pastoral Letter From Patriarch John X of Antioch

On the Occasion of the Antiochian Day of Solidarity

Scheduled for September 15, 2013

In Support of Humanitarian and Relief Work

الرسالة الرعائية

بمناسبة اليوم التضامني الأنطاكي

المقرر في 15 أيلول 2013

من أجل دعم العمل الإغاثي والإنساني

*** There will be a second collection today in support of those suffering in Syria ***

John X
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

Giving is the Criterion of our Belonging to the Reign of God

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matt. 25: 40)

The Holy Antiochian Synod has set the 15th of September of this year as a day of solidarity for all local and international parishes in order to support the humanitarian and relief work, which the Patriarchate of Antioch and the All the East has undertaken in the collaboration of national, governmental, ecclesiastic, and civil entities. The amount of pain and suffering endured by our sons and brothers in Syria until today is beyond any description. Moreover, the available resources are limited and can only cover a small part of the basic and essential needs of life, such as food, water, clothing, medicine, medical treatment, and shelter.

We believe that God created us, gave us life and asked nothing in return for this precious gift. He was generous with us in a way that is proper to the Creator. He granted us the blessings which allow us to have a royal life in every sense. Yet we drifted away from the truth and willingly chose to go astray from his grace; thus, our lives were filled with pain, sickness, evil, and death. God Himself did not remain distant from this new reality for He sent His only Son to live among us as one of us in order to return us to the right path again, enlighten our darkness, lead us to life, show us the Truth, teach us how to use our freedom, heal our wounds, give life to our souls, forgive our sins, and grant us His heavenly happiness.

He humbly shared human life with us; He accompanied the widow of Nain at the funeral of her only son and brought him to life; he searched for the bleeding woman and healed her soul and body; He taught His disciples to share their bread and fish with the people who marched after Him and how to feed them with their hands; He tested the faith of the Canaanite woman and granted her what she desired after having strengthened her faith; He healed the centurion’s servant; He did not arrive on time to the house of His sick friend Lazarus, but He brought him back to life and for his sisters Mary and Martha; He approached and touched the eyes of the blind man, the possessed, the leper, and the man with the withered hand, and dismissed them all healed both in soul and body.

He gave us the best of all commandments, a solution to all our suffering: to love God through loving our brother and neighbor. Humanity is subject to evil and miseries we bring onto ourselves, knowingly or out of ignorance, because of our egoism and our own interests, whether we are individuals, groups, or countries. The Lord did not request anything for Himself. He did not ask us to honor Him, nor to express gratitude or acknowledgment. On the contrary He accepted suffering from our hands; and, from us, He heard curses, encountered blame and aggression, bore neglect and betrayal, and accepted flagellation, mockery, and crucifixion.

He firmly commanded us, to love our neighbor, for He made this love the criterion of our belonging to the Reign of heaven. He commanded that our worship be associated with serving our neighbor, and He made loving and helping the weak and the needy equal in dignity to serving Him. He placed us between two charges: on one hand the parable of the Samaritan enlightens our minds and stimulates our solidarity with our needy brothers, taking care of them and standing by their side; on the other hand the parable of the last judgment, which confronts us with determining our eternal life starting now, by choosing for instance to be deaf to the voice of the needy, to remain blind to their suffering, to keep our hands tied instead of reaching out to help our neighbors, to shut our hearts to the pains of our brothers, or distract our minds with other than helping others.

Today the perseverance of most of our children who are affected, in need, homeless, sick, wounded, unemployed, and facing adversity cannot continue without the support of all brothers, whether wealthy or not, and not only financially speaking, but also through the effective love given, and factually expressed in the consideration provided to he who lost a job, a home, a loved one, a provider, or others. God never stops stretching His hand towards us in our misery; He helps us, heals us and saves us instead. Ought we not stretch our hands towards our brothers in return?

Some are doing so daily on the ground. But today those who live geographically afar from this reality, their tangible help is needed, as is their participation through a donation graciously given to their Church, which would be sent to the Patriarchate to support the efforts it is undertaking in this field.

The Church today invites you, with all the love, zeal, and gratitude it has received, to honor your brother so that God honors you. The wounded heart calls your generous, loving and giving heart, wherever you are, it asks you to stretch the hand of brotherhood, support and solidarity. Grant graciously as God graciously granted you the countless generousities and the bounties beyond description. Seek to fulfill the needs of your people, and be their consolation. They are your fathers in the most precious of what you possess: faith. Give what is less in return: your contribution and generosity.

May God bless your deeds and multiply the fruits of your charities in His heavenly Reign. Amen.

Issued from our Patriarchal Residence in Damascus

Dated the 6th of August, 2013

John X

Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

برحمة الله تعالى

يوحنا العاشر

بطريرك أنطاكية وسائر المشرق

العطاء معيارُ انتسابنا إلى ملكوتِ السموات

"إن فعلتم هذا بأحد إخوتي هؤلاء الصغار... فبي فعلتموه" (مت ٢٥ : ٤٠)

لقد حدّد المجمع الأنطاكيّ المقدّس يوم الخامس عشر من أيلول للعام الحالي يوماً تضامنيّاً بين كافّة الرعايا في ربوع الكرسيّ الأنطاكيّ، وطناً وانتشاراً، من أجل دعم العمل الإغاثيّ والإنسانيّ الذي قامت وتقوم به بطريركيّة أنطاكية وسائر المشرق للروم الأرثوذكس بالتعاون مع جهات دوليّة وحكوميّة وكنسيّة ومدنيّة. فإنّ حجم المآسي والآلام التي عصفت، ولا تزال، بأبنائنا وإخوتنا في سوريا يفوق كلّ وصف، والامكانيّات المتوفّرة محدودة، لا تكفي لتغطية إلّا جزءٍ يسيرٍ من الحاجات الفعلية، الضرورية والأساسيّة للحياة، نعني بذلك توفير المأكّل والمشرب والكساء والدواء والطبابة والسكن بحدّها الأدنى. نحن نؤمن أنّ الله حباننا الوجود والحياة ولم يطلب منا بدلاً عن هذه العطية الثمينة. سخي علينا سخاء يليق بالخالق وحده، إذ منحنا الخيرات التي نتمتّع بها حتى تكون حياتنا ملوكيّة بكلّ معنى الكلمة. إلّا أنّنا شردنا عن الحقّ، وإرادتنا اخترنا الابتعاد عن النعمة، فصار واقعنا مجبولاً بالألم والمرض والشرّ والموت.

هو نفسه لم ينأ عن هذا الواقع الجديد، بل أرسل ابنه الوحيد ليعيش معنا كواحد منّا، مقيم بيننا، ليعيدنا عن شرودنا، وينير عتمتنا، ويرشدنا إلى الحياة، ويعرّفنا على الحقّ، ويعلمنا استخدام حرّيتنا، ويضمّد جراحنا، ويحيي نفوسنا، ويغفر خطايانا، ويمنحنا غبطته السماويّة.

لقد شاركنا الحياة الانسانيّة ببساطة ما بعدها بساطة، دون تكلف: رافق أرملة نائين في تأبين وحيدها، وأقامه حيّاً؛ ففّش عن النازفة الدّم وصرفها مبرؤة النفس والجسد؛ علّم تلاميذه أن يشاركوا بما لديهم من الخبز والسمك الجموع التي سارت وراءه ويطعموها بأيديهم؛ فحص إيمان المرأة الكنعانيّة ووهبها مرادها بعد أن عظّم إيمانها؛ وضع نفسه بتصرّف قائد المفة بشأن شفاء خادمه؛ تأخّر على

صديقه المريض لعازر لكنه أعاده حياً إلى أختيه مريم ومرتا؛ اقترب ولمس عاهات الأعمى والممسوس والأبرص وصاحب اليد اليابسة وصرف الجميع معاني في الروح والجسد معاً.

لكنه ترك لنا وصية هي خيرة الوصايا، حلاً لكل معاناتنا، وهي وصية المحبة: أن نحب الله عن طريق محبة أختينا وقريننا، ذاك الذي الجبل معنا في هذه الانسانية التي تتناول عليها الشرور، وتدمى بالآلام نحن صانعوها، عن معرفة وعن جهل، بسبب من أنانيتنا ومصالحنا، سواء كنا أفراداً أم جماعات أم دولاً.

لم يوص الرب بشيء لذاته؛ لم يطلب أن تقدم له تكريماً أو نعبر عن امتنان أو نقر بفضل. لا بل اقتبل من أيادينا عذاباً، وسمع منا سباباً، ولقي منا عتاباً وتعنيفاً، واحتمل منا النكران والخيانة، واقتبل السياط والهزء والصلب.

لكنه كان صارماً عندما أوصانا بالقرب، فقد وضعه معياراً لانتسابنا إلى ملكوت السموات. أوصانا أن تقترن عبادتنا بخدمة القريب، وجعل محبة الضعيف والمحتاج وخدمتهما مساوية في الكرامة لخدمته هو. لقد وضعنا بين فكّتي كماشة؛ من جهة، مثل السامريّ بينر ضمائرنا ويحفز نوايانا في اتجاه التضامن مع أختينا المحتاج بالاقتراب منه والاعتناء به؛ ومن جهة أخرى، مثل الدينونة الأخيرة يضعنا أمام تحديد حياتنا الأبدية منذ الآن، إذا ما صممتنا آذاننا عن صوت المحتاج، أو أغلقنا عيوننا عن رؤية المعاناة، أو كففنا أيادينا عن مدها إلى القريب، أو أشحننا بقلبنا عن تحسس آلام أختينا، أو ألهيينا عقولنا بغير الخدمة والمساعدة.

إن صمود الشريحة الكبرى من أبنائنا اليوم، من المتضررين والمعوزين والمشردين والمرضى والجرحى والعاطلين عن العمل، لا يمكن أن يستمر من دون دعم كل الإخوة، الميسورين وغير الميسورين، ليس فقط بفلس الأرملة، وإنما بما أوتينا من محبة فاعلة، تترجم على أرض الواقع التفاتاً حسياً وعملياً مع من جار عليه الزمن بخسارة وظيفته، أو مسكن، أو أجرة، أو معيل، إلخ.

لم يفتأ الله عن مده لنا في بؤسنا وأعاننا وشففانا وأنقذنا. أفلا نعدّ يدنا نحن بلورنا لأختينا؟ هناك من يقوم بذلك يومياً على أرض الواقع، لكنهم يحتاجون اليوم من الذين يعيشون جغرافياً بعيداً عن هذا الواقع، أن يعبروا عن مشاركتهم بعباء يجودون به على كنيستهم، ويُرسَل إلى البطريركية لدعم الجهود التي تقوم بها على هذا الصعيد.

الكنيسة اليوم تدعوكم، بما أوتيتُ من محبة وعزم وامتنان، أن تُكرّموا أحكامم لكي تُكرّموا من الله. القلب الجريح ينادي قلبكم الكريم والمحَبّ والمعطاء، أينما وُجدتم، لتمدّوا يد الأخوة والتضامن والمؤازرة. جودوا بما جاد به الخالق عليكم من خيرات لا تُوصف وإحسانات لا تُحصى؛ اسعوا في سدّ حاجات أهاليكم؛ كونوا تعزيتهم. هم آباؤكم في أكرم وأتمن ما عندكم: الإيمان؛ فبادلوهم بما هو أدنى: بمساهماتكم وسخائكم.

ألا بارك الربّ أعمالكم وأكثر ثمار إحساناتكم في ملكوته السماوي. آمين.

صدر عن مقامنا البطريركي في دمشق.

بتاريخ السادس من آب ٢٠١٣.

✠ يوحنا العاشر

بطريرك انطاكية وسائر المشرق

A Prayer for the Suffering People of Syria

St. Mary Orthodox Church – Palos Heights, IL.

Antiochian Day of Solidarity - Sunday September 15, 2013

O Lord and Master Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “I leave you peace; My peace I give you.” Look down upon us from your holy dwelling place, and fill the hearts of your people here on earth, with that heavenly peace. We pray that your mighty yet gentle hand, touch the people of Syria. Be with them during this very difficult time of war. Minimize their suffering. Provide for those who hunger and thirst; shelter the homeless; heal the injured; and account those innocently killed, worthy of your heavenly kingdom. Fill the hearts of the Syrian leaders – and the other world leaders who decide the fate of the Syrian people - with compassion, so that they may learn to cherish and to value the priceless life that your precious hands have created. Remind the leaders that their authority and power comes from You, O God; and for the glory of your name alone, must they be allowed to use it. Grant them the courage and the vision to focus on the good that unites them, rather than the evil which divides them. Help them to lead with wisdom, and to seek dialogue rather than vengeance. Having sought forgiveness and reconciliation, they may be rewarded with that heavenly peace, brotherhood and goodwill, that You alone can provide. You O Lord rule over all of creation, and you are the Fountain of all blessings. In you we put our trust and hope, as we humbly ask you this in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages Amen.



أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، يَا مَنْ قُلْتَ لِتِلَامِيذِكَ "أَتْرِكْ لَكُمْ سَلَامًا، أَعْطَيْكُمْ سَلَامِي"، إِطَّلِعْ مِنْ مَسْكَنِكَ الْمُقَدَّسِ وَأَمَلًا قُلُوبَ عِبِيدِكَ بِالسَّلَامِ السَّمَاوِيِّ. نُصَلِّي مِنْ أَجْلِ أَنْ تَلْمَسَ يَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَةَ شَعْبَ سُورِيَا، كُنْ مَعَهُمْ فِي هَذَا الْوَقْتِ الصَّعْبِ، وَقْتِ الْحَرْبِ، حَفَّفْ مِنْ مُعَانَاتِهِمْ، سَاعِدِ الْجِيَاعَ وَالْعِطَاشَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ، يَسِّرْ الْمَأْوَى لِلَّذِينَ لَا مَسْكَنَ لَهُمْ، إِشْفِ الْجَرْحَى وَاحْصِ الْقَتْلَى فِي مَلَكُوتِكَ السَّمَاوِيِّ. إِمْلَأْ بِالْعَطْفِ قُلُوبَ الْقَادَةِ السُّورِيِّينَ وَقَادَةَ الْعَالَمِ الَّذِينَ يَمْلِكُونَ مَصَائِرَ الشَّعْبِ السُّورِيِّ، حَتَّى يَتَعَلَّمُونَ وَيُقَدِّرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الَّتِي لَا تُقَدَّرُ بِثَمَنِ وَالَّتِي مَنَحْتَهَا يَدَاكَ. ذَكَرَ الْقَادَةُ بِأَنَّ سُلْطَاتِهِمْ وَقُوَّتَهُمْ هِيَ مِنْ لَدُنِكَ يَا رَبِّ وَأَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ أَنْ يُمَارِسُوا هَذِهِ السُّلْطَاتِ مِنْ أَجْلِ مَجْدِ اسْمِكَ. إِمْنَحْهُمْ الشَّجَاعَةَ وَالْبَصِيرَةَ كَيْ يُرَكِّزُوا عَلَى الصَّالِحِ الَّذِي يَجْمَعُهُمْ، لَا عَلَى الشَّرِّ الَّذِي يُفَرِّقُهُمْ. سَاعِدْهُمْ عَلَى أَنْ يَفُودُوا بِحِكْمَةٍ وَيَتَحَاوَرُوا لِلتَّفَاهُمْ لَا لِلإِنْتِقَامِ. فَبِالْمَحَبَّةِ وَالنَّسَامِحِ وَالنَّصَالِحِ، يَنَالُونَ جَوَائِزَ السَّلَامِ السَّمَاوِيِّ. يَا اللَّهُ، يَا مَنْ بِسُلْطَانِكَ تُدِيرُ هَذِهِ الْخَلِيقَةَ، أَنْتَ مَصْدَرُ الْبَرَكَاتِ، وَعَلَيْكَ نَعْقِدُ آمَالَنَا بِكُلِّ تَوَاضُعٍ، بِاسْمِ الْآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلِّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

September 15, 2013

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Chairs and Members of Parish Councils, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Members of Philanthropic Organizations, the Youth and Youth Workers, and the entire Orthodox Christian Family in North and Central America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America will convene for its fourth meeting on September 17 – 19, 2013. On this day, marked as “Assembly Sunday,” we ask all clergy and faithful throughout the lands of which the Assembly is composed to offer prayers for safe travel, fraternal dialogue, and furtherance of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church. The Assembly represents the hopes, aspirations and vision for the future of Orthodoxy for all Orthodox Christian faithful in North and Central America.

Our Assembly of Bishops is one of twelve bishops’ assemblies that have been established in different geographical regions throughout the world. It was established in accordance with the decision of the Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, convened in Chambésy, Switzerland, in June of 2009, attended by representatives from all the universally-recognized autocephalous Orthodox Churches.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we are asking that the following prayer be offered in all of our holy temples:

O Lord of Heaven and Earth and of all who dwell therein, we beseech thee on behalf of all the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America who are gathering this week in solemn convocation. Make their travel to and from their meeting safe and sound; direct their deliberations to the glory of thy Holy Name and the benefit of thy Holy Church; grant them a fraternal spirit founded in thy love and thy grace, that in all they do and say, they may bring all honor, praise and glory to thy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

With paternal love in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

Chairman Assembly of Canonical Orthodox
Bishops of North and Central America

Hymns of the Day

Entrance Hymn (Tone Two)

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 Three)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath
done a mighty act with His own arm; He hath trampled down
death by death and became the first-born from the dead; He
hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world
the great mercy.

Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone One)

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, and to thy
faithful people grant victory over their enemies, and by the
power of thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee.

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 of the Holy Cross (Tone Four)

Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted up upon the
Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new
Nation which is called by thy Name; make glad in thy might
those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to
victory over our adversaries. Having in thine aid a weapon of
peace and trophy invincible.

Epistle of the Sunday after the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

*O Lord, how magnificent are thy works. Thou hast made all things in wisdom!
Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians (2:16-20).

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gospel of the Sunday after the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-38; 9:1).

The Lord said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."



St. Mary Fishers of Men
Proudly Present:



A Family Retreat with our Bishop!

September 14th & 15th - Celebrating the Elevation of the Holy Cross

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest



Saturday, September 14th

- 10:00 am -Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross
With Sunday School Procession of the Holy Cross
- 11:30 am -Fasting Pot Luck Lunch hosted by our Antiochian Women
- 12:30 pm -Bishop ANTHONY will give a Presentation to our Adults entitled:
“The Role of the Husband/Father in a Christian Home.”
(During the adult workshop, children will play sports in the gym or watch a movie in the Nadi. Chaperones will be available.)
- 2:30 pm -Bishop ANTHONY will give a Presentation to our Sunday School
-Adult Backgammon and Chess tournament with Arabic Coffee
- 5:00 pm -Great Vespers

Sunday, September 15th

- 8:45 am -Matins and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Bishop ANTHONY
With the swearing-in of new Fishers of Men members
- 12:00 pm -Fellowship hour after the Liturgy

Following Fellowship Hour members of the Fishers of Men are hosting a luncheon for Bishop ANTHONY at Franchesca's
(Luncheon open only to members of the Fishers of Men)

PARISH NEWS



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

9/15: Refqa Sweis & Family
Jamileh Zedan & Family

9/22: Faysal and Suhair Sweis & Family

9/29: Wajih Tadros & Family

Epistle Reading

9/15 - Nour Swaiss & Abeer Khouri
9/22 - Lily Sweiss & Lana Sweis

“Bible Verse of the Week”

“I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.”

Psalm 138:2



5 Year Memorial
Aziz Ibrahim Sweis

May his memory be eternal!



10 Year Memorial
Fikry Zedan Sweis

May his memory be eternal!



September 27, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Antiochian Women Meeting



Bulletin Blurb for
Sunday September 15, 2013
OCCHY Quiz

Question: “Is ‘idle hands are the devils workshop’ a biblical statement?”

Answer: Though the statement is not found verbatim in the Bible, “Idle hands are the devils workshop” has its roots in Scripture. Idleness is not the same as rest. By “idle” we mean “lazy” or “doing nothing when you should be doing something.” Idleness often stems from not having a specific goal or purpose in mind. The book of Proverbs warns us that sloppy or careless work is akin to malicious destruction:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/idle-hands-devils-workshop.html#ixzz2eVqVd6Nl>

In the words of Orthodox Saint Bishop NIKOLAJ (Velimirovic) of Zhicha, Serbia. “Laziness is one of the Deadly sins, because it deadens the soul of a man. A lazy body is the next of vice/wickedness, and a lazy soul is the colony of the devil.”

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 14, 2013 - 10:00am	Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross
11:30am	Fasting Pot Luck Lunch (Antiochian Women)
12:30pm	Bishop ANTHONY's Presentation to our Adults
12:30pm	Bishop ANTHONY's Presentation to our Children
5:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, September 15, 2013 - 10:00am	Sunday School
2:30pm	Co-Ed Volleyball League Open Gym
3:00pm	Pan-Eastern Churches Picnic
Wednesday, September 18, 2013 - 10am	Morning Prayers & Parish Bible Study
Saturday, September 21, 2013 - 11:00am	Arabic School
1:30pm	Youth Sports League
5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, September 22, 2013 - 10:00am	Sunday School
2:30pm	Co-Ed Volleyball League Open Gym
10:00am	Morning Prayers & Parish Bible Study
Friday, September 27, 2013 - 7:00pm	Antiochian Women Meeting
Saturday, September 28, 2013 - 8:00am	Annual IOCC Walk
11:00am	Arabic School
1:30pm	Youth Sports League
5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, September 29, 2013 - 10:00am	Sunday School

The Fishers of Men Pledge



Whereas...

...Jesus chose 12 men to lead His Church and He commanded them to go into the world to preach the message of salvation.

...He has likewise empowered me to carry on His teachings with all my heart, mind and soul.

... *I hereby pledge...*

- 1) To joyfully and humbly accept this calling as I recognize the tremendous impact it has on my life, on my family and my community.
- 2) To strengthen my own relationship with Jesus Christ as a pre-requisite to effectively minister to others. I will not be ashamed of my love for God. *“Real men are spiritual men”*
- 3) To begin this ministry at home. Recognizing my God-appointed role as the leader of the household, I will insist on leading a loving family, and a Christ-centered relationship with my wife and children, leading always by example.
- 4) To exercise purity in my thoughts, words, and deeds, and to always view the female gender as an equal partner and an image of God to be treated with the utmost dignity.
- 5) To rely on fellow members of the Fishers of Men ministry to hold me accountable in my moment of weakness, and that I will do likewise to support my fellow members.
- 6) To always be thankful and joyful. And to be a source of inspiration to all whom God puts in my life.

+ + +

We congratulate all the men who have taken this pledge and have become one of Christ's Fishers of Men. Nearly 20 of the men of our community have now taken this pledge. Membership is only through sponsorship. It's free, but requires the courage and determination to lead your family in a Christ-centered way. If you would like to be sponsored, please see the clergy or any member of the Fishers of Men ministry.

1ST ANNUAL PAN-CHRISTIAN CHURCH PICNIC

When: Sunday, September 15, 2013

Location: Bemis Woods Groves 6 and 7.

**Corner of Ogden Ave and Wolf Road
in Western Springs, IL.**

Time: 1:00 PM.

**Grilled food , soft drinks, and appetizers will be served. A DJ with music will also perform
Please bring your own dessert, small tent,
lawn chair and other picnic needs.**

There will be some sporting activities.

Suggested donation: \$5.00 per person.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Join us at
Sunday School!

- ◆ Provide your children with an outstanding Orthodox Christian education.
- ◆ Let your children become more well rounded with their Faith , community, and culture.
- ◆ Set your kids on the right path to success!

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTED SEPTEMBER 8

Please see Hanada Sweis or any Sunday School Staff in the Fellowship Hall to register your children today!

“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven” “ - Matthew 19:14

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

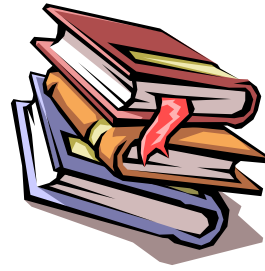
St. Mary Arabic School

Dear families and friends, we are glad to announce that Arabic school will started September 7th, 2013 and it will be held Saturdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

*Exception Adult Class (see details below).

- ◆ **First Semester** - September 7th - December 21st, 2013
- ◆ **Second Semester** - January 11th - May 17th, 2014

العربية



!!!Register Today!!!

Fees will include books plus religion book:

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| ◆ 1st Student | \$275 |
| ◆ 2nd Student | \$225 |
| ◆ 3rd Student | \$175 |
| ◆ 4th Student | Free |

***Adult Class available as well!**

Taught by professor Maha Sweis-Dababneh, PhD.

Adult classes schedule:

- ◆ Level 102 10:00am - 11:30am
- ◆ Level 101 11:30am - 1:00pm

For more information, please contact Arabic school representative after church, or contact Mariana Sweis at nabmar3@yahoo.com

ST. MARY YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUE

LEAGUE Began SATURDAY, SEP 7th



- League will be every Saturday Until May 17, 2014
- Ages 5-7 \$60 for the year/\$40 per half
- Ages 8-12 \$80 for the year/\$50 per half.
- All games and open gyms will be held at St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

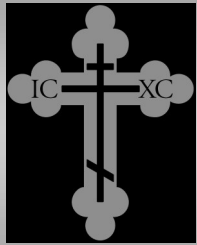
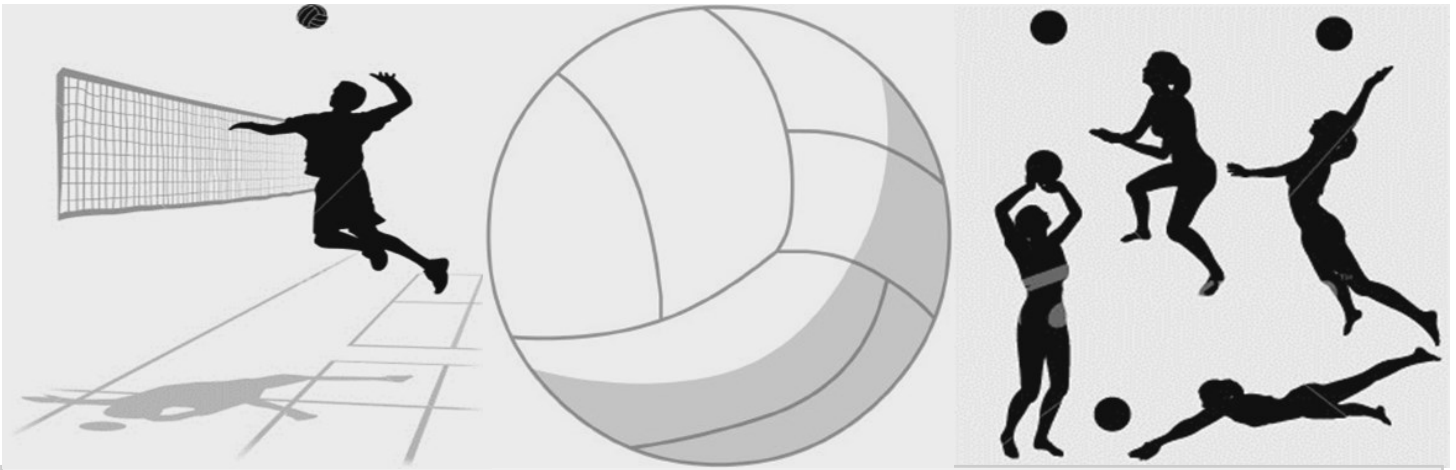
!!!Register!!!

**Saturdays at St. Mary will be filled with lots of activities!
The day will begin with the Arabic School at 11:00 a.m.
Followed by Youth Sports League at 1:30 p.m.
All families are encouraged to participate!**

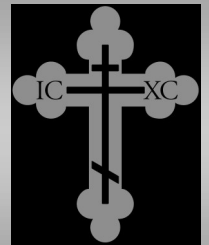
If there is anyone interested in volunteering please see Fr. Mousa or Fabiola Sweis.
Thank you for your ongoing support!

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

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



St. Mary's Co-Ed Volleyball League



The time has finally come! Our volleyball season is near and the excitement is building. St. Mary's Orthodox Church is proud to present our 2nd annual Co-Ed Volleyball League. What better way to enjoy yourself then with family, friends, and fun! This season will be a great one and you will not want to miss out.

So spread the word and come join us!

General Information:

- ♦ Start date is September 22, 2013
- ♦ End date is December 15, 2013
- ♦ Must be 14 years or older
- ♦ \$100.00 per player (Cash or Check)
- ♦ **Deadline: September 15, 2013**
- ♦ Teams must be Co-ed
- ♦ Games will be Sunday afternoons (Times TBD)

* Schedule is subject to change

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

Kati Khouri- Volleyball Coordinator
Melad Qodsi- Athletic Director

708.257.7579
708.692.0561
athletics@stmaryoc.org

Shawarma Sandwich Sale

Sunday, September 22, 2013



**JOIN US & HELP SUPPORT YOUR
ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN
BY ENJOYING SOME SHAWARMA!**



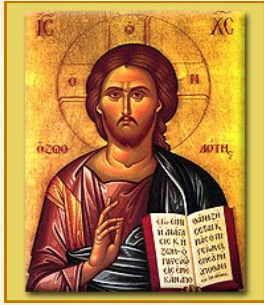
WALK THE WALK FOR IOCC

Join us for our annual 5K Walk/Run to support
IOCC global humanitarian aid programs!

Saturday, September 28, 2013

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
5649 N. Sheridan Rd. • Chicago, IL 60660

Registration: 8:00 AM • Walk/Run Begins: 9:00 AM • Breakfast: following the race
Adult: \$20 • Children 12 and under: \$10 • Day of Race: \$25



Weekly Synaxarion



On September 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the contest of the Holy Great-Martyr Nikitas the Goth. Nikitas was a disciple of Theophilus, Bishop of the Goths, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. When the Gothic prince Athenarik began to torture Christians, Nikitas stood before the prince and denounced him for his paganism and inhumanity. Subsequently harshly tortured, Nikitas confessed his faith in Christ even more strongly, and prayed to God with thanksgiving. On his breast under his robe Nikitas bore an icon of the Most-holy Theotokos with the Pre-eternal Christ Child standing and holding the Cross in His hands. The Holy Theotokos had appeared to him and comforted him. Finally, the torturer threw the soldier of Christ into the fire, where the holy martyr breathed his last, but his body remained untouched by the fire. His companion Marianus took his body from the land of the Goths to the town of Mopsuestia in Cilicia. There, he built a church dedicated to Nikitas, and placed the miracle-working relics of the martyr in it. Nikitas suffered and was glorified in the year 372. On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Porphyrios the mime; Vissarion, bishop of Larisa; New-martyr John of Crete; and venerable Joseph the New of Partosh in Romania. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.