



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.stmaryoc.org (office@stmaryoc.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
administrator@stmaryoc.org

Parish Administrator

Rachel Kari
rkari@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our
Office Administrator

December 15, 2013

Sunday of the Holy Forefather (Ancestors of Christ)



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 (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 Eight)

From the heights, thou didst descend, O compassionate one, and
thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou might deliver
us from passion, thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord,
glory to thee.

Troparion of the Forefathers (Tone Two)

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through
them thou hast gone before and betrothed unto thyself the Church
of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for
from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who
gave birth to thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O
Christ God, 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 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. Glo-
rify Him who by His will shall become a new-born Babe and
who is our God before the ages.

Epistle for the Sunday of the Forefathers

O Lord, how Magnificent are you works.

You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel for the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24).

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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

12/15: Nader and Bassam Sweis & Family

12/22: Jamal and Kholoud Swais & Family

12/29: Aida Ziadat & Family



Bulletin Blurb for Sunday Drinking Penalties December 15, 2013

True or False:

Any person under age 21 who receives court supervision for the possession, consumption, purchase, or receipt of alcoholic beverages will receive a minimum 3-month suspension of driving privileges.

TRUE, the suspension can be longer than 3 months depending if it is a first offense or not and if the breathalyzer is refused or administered. Additional punishment may be received as well. It does not matter if the underage person was driving at the time of the incident or not.

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/traffic_safety/DUI/uselose.html



3rd & 9th Day Memorial

Fadwa Sweis

May her memory be eternal!



Engagement

Sameer Nabeel Nejme

&

Muna Ihsan Sweis

Congratulations!



Churching

Daniel

Parents: Romy & Brooke Shaheen

Congratulations!

Epistle Reading

12/15: Khaled Salman & Angela Haddad

12/22: Lily Sweiss & Elaine Riadi

“Bible Verse of the Week”

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5



Advent Fast & Christmas Reminder!



The Nativity Fast (Advent) began Friday, 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.

Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy

Important! Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Liturgy. It will begin at 6pm, Tuesday 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!



Upcoming Events

Thu Dec 12, 2013	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sat Dec 14, 2013	10:00am	Fishers of Men Retreat with Fr. James Ellison
	10:00am	Breakfast with St. Nicholas & Game Fair For Children
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Dec 15, 2013	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy / Sunday School
	3:00pm	Co-Ed Volleyball League Games
Tue Dec 17, 2013	6:30pm	"Gospel in an Hour"
Wed Dec 18, 2013	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Parish Bible Study
Fri Dec 20, 2013	7:00pm	Fellowship Christmas Gathering
Sat Dec 21, 2013	11:00am	Arabic School Christmas Pageant with Refreshments
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Dec 22, 2013	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy / Sunday School (Christmas Pageant)
Mon Dec 23, 2013	6:00pm	PADS Shelter Volunteering
Tue Dec 24, 2013	6:00pm	Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity

**St. Mary's Fishers of Men
and the Fuheis American Association
Proudly Host our Annual**

Breakfast With St. Nicholas

With a Fishers of Men Adult Retreat



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013

10:00AM - 3:00PM

St. Mary's Gymnasium - Complimentary



- 10am - 11am: Breakfast for children and adults
- 11am - 12pm: Arrival of St. Nicholas
- 12pm - 3pm: Christmas Themed Game Fair
- 12pm - 3pm: Adult Retreat in the Fellowship Hall
with guest speaker V. Rev. Fr. James Ellison

Questions: Please see Dena Tadros or Rachel Kari



Arabic School

Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 21, 2013

11am - 1pm

There will be refreshments and gifts after the pageant in the fellowship hall.



Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22, 2013

What to wear for the Christmas Pageant:

- * * **Boys:** Please wear black dress pants a white shirt and a red tie.
- * * **Girls:** Please wear a red dress or black skirt/pants with red top.
- * * **Pre-K/Kind class:** please wear neutral colored pants and tops like white, brown, grey or beige.

The winners of the bicycles based on Sunday School attendance will be announced. We will also announce the winner class from the Food Drive .

Those who donated costume money thank you, it will be used to purchase some costumes for the pageant.



St. Mary Orthodox Church

&

Fuheis American Association



Invite you to celebrate a community

New Year's Party

Orland Chateau

14500 S La Grange Rd.

Orland Park, IL 60462

Music by: Faisal Al-Wazani & Nabil Nemeh

Tickets:

Adults - \$75

12yrs & younger - \$30



St. Mary Orthodox Church

9th Annual Christmas High School Retreat

December 27 - December 29

This annual retreat is an opportunity for you to build upon your Orthodox Christian faith and learn how to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ to your own life.

**\$175 per teen; payment plans available.
Please see Orieb Sweis to register or make
your deposit. God bless!**



Winter Food Drive

Sunday School is hosting a Food Drive! Each class will compete to raise the most food.



Winning class will have a Pizza Party!!!

October - December



Food Drive Grocery List:

Beans, Chili, Cereal, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Rice, Shelf Stable Milk, Soup, Tuna, Stew, Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit, Mac & Cheese.

Sunday School Student should drop their food items in the cart in their classroom.

Any questions please see Hanada Sweis.

"Liturgy  after the Liturgy"
Taking our faith outside the church walls

St. Philothea Project

This Christmas we will send 50 packages to Romanian orphans.

Items needed:

- ◆ Hats
- ◆ Gloves/Mittens
- ◆ Scarves

A cart will be located by the Sunday school entrance. We will be collecting items until Christmas.. Questions: Please see Kh. Delia or email her at kh.delia@gmail.com.

God bless you for your generosity!

Sale Going on NOW!!! **Teen SOYO**

Cold Stone Ice-Cream PIE Sale

Please see any of the **Teen SOYO** members to put in you order for your **Holiday PIE!!!**

\$15 each

- S'more Some More Pie
- There's Chocolate on my Peanut Butter Pie
- Butter Pie
- Cookie Dough Pie
- Caramel Turtle Treat
- Mintastic Chip Pie
- Caramel Apple Pie



\$10 PIZZA Coupon

Includes 16 buy one get one free coupons.

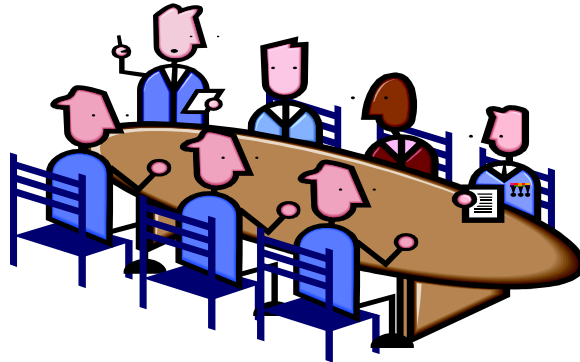
In total you will get 16 free pizzas.

You can use it at any of the Domino's locations.

Please see any of the **Teen SOYO** members to purchase your coupon!



Annual General Assembly Meeting and Parish Council Nominations

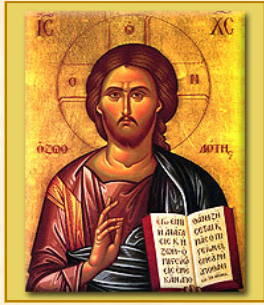


If you are interested in nominating yourself or another person for St. Mary's Parish Council, please let Fr. Mousa or Fadi Abu Manneh know by Friday, December 27th. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 12th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2013 pledge is paid in full by Sunday, December 29th, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and God bless!



Weekly Synaxarion



On December 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; and Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga. On this day, we also commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Saint Anthia. Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul himself, and was baptized by him. Being early left a widow, she entrusted her only son to the education and service of the Bishop of Rome, Anacietus. Seeing how greatly Eleutherios was gifted and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him as bishop of Illyria at age 20. This Godly man kept his flock like a good shepherd, adding to their number from day to day. In the year 120, Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent a commander, Felix, with soldiers, to seize Eleutherios. Instead, Felix became a Christian, as did the Governor Choribus. They went back to the capitol where all three men were tortured and beheaded. As Anthia held the dead body of her son, she was also beheaded. Their bodies were taken to Valona in Albania, where Eleutherios glorifies the name of Christ to this day by many wonders. On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.