



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

January 5, 2014

Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus 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

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.

Changes in the Liturgy

First Antiphon

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a strange people.
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, 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 Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon

I am well pleased for the Lord has heard my voice and my supplication.
Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

The sorrows of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me. I found trouble and sorrow, and I called upon the Name of the Lord.
Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; and our God is Merciful.
Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, 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...

Third Antiphon

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlighten the world, glory to Thee!

Hymns of the Day

Entrance Hymn

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone One)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

Kontakion of the Theophany of our Lord (Tone Four)

Today thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise thee with knowledge, saying: Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn, the following is sung (Tone One)

“As many as have been Baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!”

Megalyrnarion for the Theotokos (Tone Eight)

In thee all creation rejoices, O Full of Grace; the assembly of angels and the race of men; 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 womb a throne, and thy body He made more spacious than the heavens. In thee all creation rejoices, O Full of Grace, glory to thee.

Koinonikon for the Theophany of our Lord (Tone Eight)

The grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men. Alleluia!

Instead of “We have seen the true light...”, sing:

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone One)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

Epistle for the Theophany of our Lord

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus (2:11-14; 3:4-7).

Titus, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of generation and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel for the Theophany of our Lord

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (3:13-17).

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?": But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

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

01/05: Nahil and Mervitt Tadros & Family

01/12: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family

01/19: Awan Sweis & Family

Epistle Reading

01/05: Norma Tadros & Abeer Khouri
01/12: Fares Samawi & Matthew Sweis

“Bible Verse of the Week”

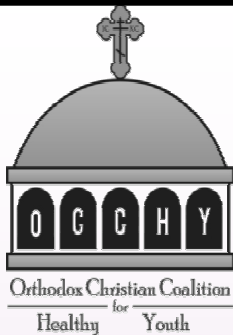
Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12

Antiochian Women Meeting

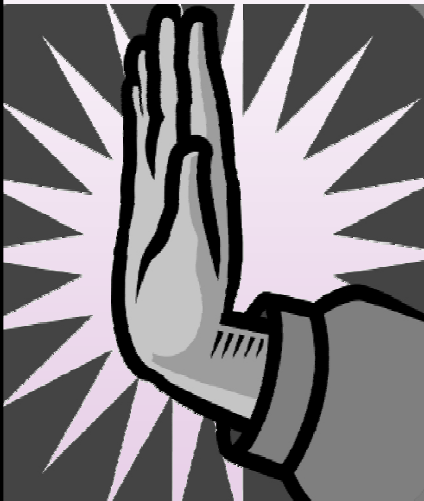


Friday, January 3, 2014

7pm



Peer Pressure



9 out of 10 students do not approve of pressuring friends to drink. Consider these questions before you're tempted to make a poor choice:

- Could this harm me physically?
- Could this harm someone else?
- Is this against the law?
- Could I go to jail?
- What are the long-term effects of my actions - to my health? My education? My family relationships?



STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS

Upcoming Events

Fri Jan 3	7:00pm	Antiochian Women Meeting
	7:00pm	"The Holy Trinity" - Fellowship Bible Study
Sat Jan 4	10:00am	St. Mary's Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Jan 5	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany
	11:30am	Great Sanctification of Water for the Feast of Theophany
Tue Jan 7	6:30pm	"Gospel in an Hour"
Wed Jan 8	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Parish Bible Study
Fri Jan 10	6:00pm	SOYO General Meeting (1st Meeting of the Year)
Sat Jan 11	11:00am	Arabic School
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Jan 12		Annual General Assembly
	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy / Sunday School
	2:00pm	Volleyball 3 on 3 Tournament
Tue Jan 14	6:30pm	"Gospel in an Hour"
Wed Jan 15	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Parish Bible Study
	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat Jan 18	11:00am	Arabic School
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	5:30pm	Great Vespers

**St. Mary's Fishers of Men
Monthly Breakfast**

Saturday

January 4, 2014

10am

St. Mary Fellowship Hall

**SOYO General Meeting
(1st Meeting of the Year)**

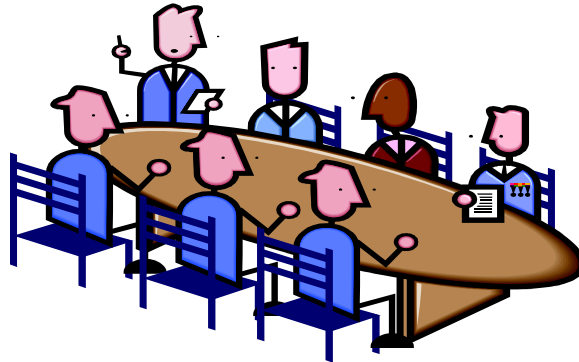
Friday

January 10, 2014

6pm

St. Mary Nadi

Annual General Assembly Meeting and Parish Council Nominations

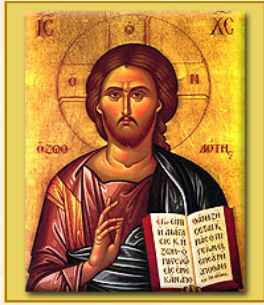


If you are interested in nominating yourself or another person for St. Mary's Parish Council, please let Fr. Mousa or Fadi Abu Manneh know by Friday, December 27th. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

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 January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this “beginning of the beginning” by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, “The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan.” At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.” When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit. Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.