



# 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](http://www.stmaryoc.org) ([office@stmaryoc.org](mailto: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

Luai Sweiss - Chairman

Constantin Kari - Vice Chairman

Louis Sweiss - Treasurer

Jason Haddad - Financial Secretary

Lana Sweis - Secretary

Nidal Al-Farah

Feras Salman

Faris Samawi

Bassam Shaheen

Feras Sweis

## Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Hanada Sweis

SOYO - Jasmine Sweis

Fellowship - Rachel Kari

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](mailto:administrator@stmaryoc.org)

## Parish Administrator

Rachel Kari

[rkari@stmaryoc.org](mailto:rkari@stmaryoc.org)

## Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our  
Office Administrator

## February 2nd, 2014 Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the Temple



## 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.

## Changes in the Liturgy

### *First Antiphon*

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.*

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.*

### *Second Antiphon*

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king.

*Save us, O Son of God, Who wast carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee.

*Save us, O Son of God, Who wast carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom.

*Save us, O Son of God, Who wast carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, 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*

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.*

### **Megalynarion for the Presentation of the Lord (Tone Three)**

*O Theotokos, thou hope of all Christians; keep and shelter and preserve them that set their hope in thee.*

Let us magnify, O believers, the first-born Son, the eternal Word of the Father, first-born of a Mother who knew no man; for we have beheld in the shadow of the law and the Scriptures a sign, that every first-born male that openeth the womb is called holy to God.

### **Koinonikon (Communion Hymn)**

I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia!

# Hymns of the Day

## Entrance Hymn

The Lord hath made known His salvation; He hath revealed His justice in the sight of the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

## Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Seven)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

## Troparion of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple (Tone One)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

## Kontakion of the Presentation of our Lord to the Temple (Tone One)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in peace, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

## **Epistle for the Presentation of Christ into the Temple**

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior!  
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden!*

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (7:7-17).**

BRETHREN, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## **Gospel for the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple**

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:22-40).**

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

# 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*

02/02: Laith and Nour Swaiss & Family

02/09: Fr. Malek and Kh. Dina Rihani & Family

02/16: Bishara Sweis & Family

## **Antiochian Women Meeting**

Friday, January 31, 2014

7:00pm

St. Mary's Fellowship Hall

## **Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast**

Topic: "Is Gambling Okay?"

Saturday, February 1st

St. Mary's Nadi

## **Epistle Reading**

02/02: Norma Tadros & Abeer Khouri

02/09: Khaled Salman & Rana Nino

## **OCCHY Quiz**



### **True or False**

Abusing prescription drugs is safer than abusing illicit drugs.

False!

Prescription drugs can have dangerous short and long term health consequences when used incorrectly or by someone other than whom they were intended.

## **"Bible Verse of the Week"**

And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 9:35

# Upcoming Events

Fri Jan 31	7:00pm	Antiochian Women Meeting
Sat Feb 1	10:00am	Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast - Topic: "Is Gambling Okay?"
	11:00am	Arabic School
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	4:30pm	SOYO Officer meeting
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
	5:30pm	SOYO Bible Study
Sun Feb 2	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy / Sunday School
	4:30pm	Fellowship Super Bowl Bash
Wed Feb 5	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Parish Bible Study
Fri Feb 7	7:00pm	"What is Love?" - Fellowship Bible Study
Sat Feb 8	11:00am	Arabic School
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
	6:30pm	St. Valentine's Hafleh
Sun Feb 9	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy / Sunday School
	11:30am	Nacho Sale - SOYO
	12:30pm	St. Mary's Dabkeh Troupe Practice
Tue Feb 11	6:30pm	Bible Bowl Practice
Wed Feb 12	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Parish Bible Study
	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting

# HOUSE BLESSINGS

Traditionally, at the feast of our Lord's Theophany on January 6th, we bless water which is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to our homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our house of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time. Please contact Fr. Mousa at 708-979-3222 or Fr. Malek at 708-516-6417 if you would like your home blessed this year.



## Teen SOYO



# Officer Meeting & Bible Study

## Saturday, February 1st, 2014

## Fellowship Hall

## Meeting at 4:30pm

## Bible Study at 5:30pm





# SUPERBOWL XLVIII PARTY

PRESENTED BY:

The Fellowship of St. John the Divine

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

Pre-game is at 4:30PM/ Kickoff is at 5:25PM

### General Information

We are pleased to present Superbowl XLVIII, which will take place in our newly blessed Nadi! This event will consist of family, friends, food, drinks, and fun! Come join us and enjoy the fellowship of your community members.

Admission: \$10 per person

Ages: 18 and older

For more information, please email us your questions or concerns.

| [athletics@stmaryoc.org](mailto:athletics@stmaryoc.org)

*You are cordially invited to the Annual*  
***St. Valentine's Day Hafleh***

*Hosted by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine*

*Saturday, February 8th 2014 at 6:30 p.m.*



*St. Mary Orthodox Church  
6330 West 127th Street  
Palos Heights, IL 60643*



***Live Entertainment by Saed Khoury & Band***

*\$40 per person*

*\$20 per child 12 & under*

*To purchase tickets please contact:*

*Jawad Salman 708.945.2276 or Rachel Kari 630.391.3009*

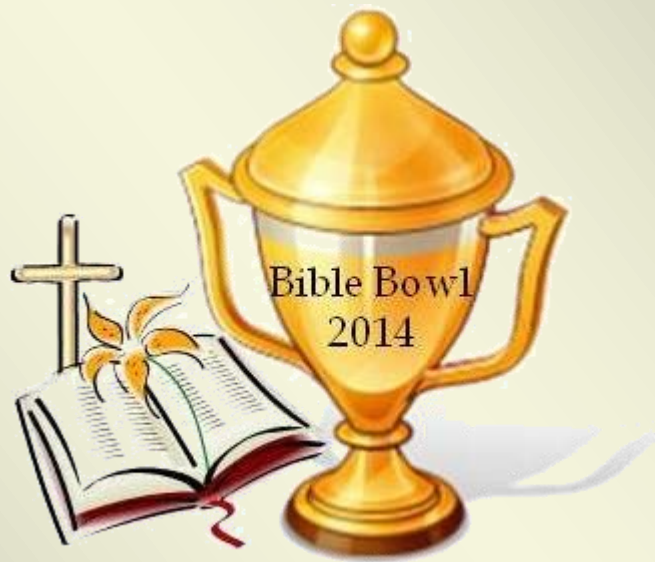
*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

# Do you want to be part of St. Mary's Bible Bowl team???

We need 4 teens (13-19 years old) and 3 adults (over 19) to represent our church at the Parish Life Conference in Fort Wayne, IN on June 26, 2014! All are welcome!

This year's Bible Bowl theme is the Gospel of St. Luke (from the Orthodox Study Bible).

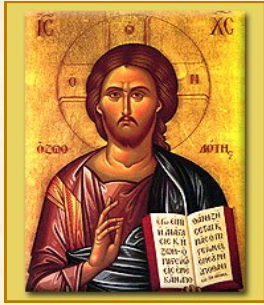


**The deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 9th.**

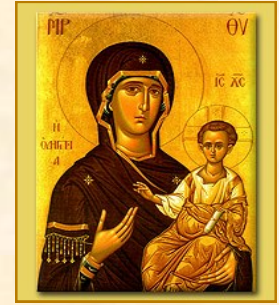
Please let Khourieh Delia know ASAP by emailing her at [kh.delia@gmail.com](mailto:kh.delia@gmail.com)

Beginning Tuesday, February 11th, Bible Bowl meetings will take place every Tuesday at 6:30pm.

**\*PLEASE NOTE: A final test in June will determine who will represent our church at the Bible Bowl\***



## Weekly Synaxarion



On February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms. The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus’ first official encounter and manifestation with His people in the person of Simeon. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” His endearing prayer endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her connection in the work of her Son. The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to His sacrifice for humanity. Unto the very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.