



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

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

Parish Administrator

Rachel Kari
rkari@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our Office Administrator

May 25, 2014

Sunday of the Blind Man

Third Discovery of the Forerunner's Honorable Head

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!



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

Shout with joy to God, all the earth. Sing to His name; give glory to His praises.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour save us!

Say to God: "How awesome are thy works." Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee.

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. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour save us!

Second Antiphon

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee, Alleluia!

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy salvation among all nations. Let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God; let all the peoples give thanks to Thee.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee, Alleluia!

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, 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. Amen.

O only-begotten Son, etc.

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from his face.

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

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

Christ is risen, etc.

So let the sinners perish before God, but let the righteous rejoice.

Christ is risen, etc.

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

Christ is risen, etc.

Changes in the Liturgy

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) 3x

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

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Five)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of St. John the Baptist (Tone Four)

Christ God hath revealed to us thy truly venerable head as a divine treasure that had been concealed in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner John. Wherefore, as we gather on the feast of its discovery, with our hymns inspired of God, we praise Christ the Savior, who by thy mighty prayers saveth us from every kind of harm.

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 Pascha (Tone Eight)

Though thou, O deathless One, didst descend into the grave, thou didst destroy the power of hell and, as Victor, 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.

Epistle for the Third Discovery of the Forerunner's Honorable Head

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord!

Hear my prayer o Lord!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (4:6-15).

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people, it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Gospel of the Sunday of the Blind Man

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (9:1-38).

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "he put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshipped him.

Megalynarion (Tone One)

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, O pure Virgin, rejoice. And I say also, Rejoice. For thy son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. Rejoice and exult now, O Zion, and thou, O pure one; Theotokos, rejoice at the Resurrection of thy Son.

Koinonikon (Communion Hymn)

Receive ye the Body of Christ, and taste ye Him who is the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia.

Instead of “We have seen the true light”, we sing
“Christ is Risen” (Once)

Upcoming Events

Thu May 22	7:00pm	Open Gym - Basketball
Fri May 23	7:00pm	Antiochian Women Meeting
Sat May 24	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun May 25		Sunday of the Blindman
	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	3:00pm	Open Gym - Basketball
Wed May 28	7:00pm	Liturgy for the Ascension
Thu May 29		Ascension of our Lord
	7:00pm	Open Gym - Basketball
Sat May 31	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Jun 1		Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	3:00pm	Open Gym - Basketball
Thu Jun 5	7:00pm	Open Gym - Basketball
Sat Jun 7		Saturday of Souls
	10:00am	Liturgy for Saturday of Souls
	10:00am	Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Jun 8		Pentecost
	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	3:00pm	Open Gym - Basketball

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

05/25: Kamal and Nawal Sweis & Family

06/01: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family

06/08: Eid Swais & Family

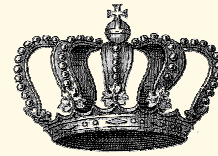
Epistle Reading

05/25: Lily Sweiss & Scott Abdo

06/01: Norma Tadros & Angela Haddad



Antiochian Women Meeting
Friday, May 23, 2014 @ 7pm



Removal of Crowns
Nader & Haneen Tadros
Congratulations!

Join us Sunday, May 25th
for a Hend (Arabic card game)
tournament
after liturgy.



\$10 per person
14 and older



Lunch and refreshments provided.
There will be a prize for the
winner!

Please see any fellowship officer
to sign up!

“Bible Verse of the Week”

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10



Food
for
Hungry
People



**All Boxes are due
Thank You!**

Be a voice for the babies...



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



Baby Bottle Drive 2014

May 11 - June 15

to benefit the

Martha and Mary Maternity House

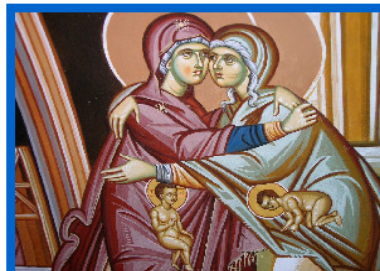
Your spare change makes a big difference!



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



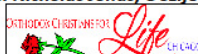
"[Mary] entered the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this 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 Maternity House and will be modeled after the Martha and Mary House that was located in Escondido, CA.

At the Martha and Mary Maternity 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 Maternity 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 Maternity 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 Maternity 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 "Omoforion" 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



Move Forward Dinner (Ela Alamam)

(In Honor of Father Frans Van Der Lugt)

At Our Lady Of Lebanon Church
950 N. Grace St ♦ Lombard, IL 60148
May 24th at 8:00 PM

Donation: \$50/ Person

* Checks payable to St. Sharbel Moronite Church
For those who can not attend and would like to help, please mail
donations to the care of Rinati Abboud at
10765 Clocktower Dr #504, La Grange Highland, IL, 60525

*Father van der Lugt had lived in Syria since 1966, after a brief period spent in Lebanon. He was also a psychotherapist and very involved in interreligious dialogue. He established the AL-Ard Center aimed to foster dialog between people of different faiths. After the siege of the city of Homs, Father Frans Van Der Lugt cared for the sick and the hungry. He refused to leave, despite the dangerous situation. He was assassinated around 9:30 AM on Monday, April 7, 2014, at the age of 75, by an unknown gunman.
He is a true martyr for Christ and humanity!*

RSVP by May 21st.
Rinati Abboud (773) 895-9202
Pierre Azar (224) 402-2000
Kinda Azar (224) 402-1000

Sponsored by



1ST FAMILY DENTAL

* All expenses are donated and all proceeds will be sent to help the desperate people in Homs, Syria

2014 Diocese of Toledo Parish Life Conference
Hosted by St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 25 – 29, 2014



YOU shall love the
LORD your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your strength,
with all your mind; and your
NEIGHBOR
as yourself.
— Luke 10:27

Dear Fellow Orthodox Christians,

It is our pleasure to welcome His Grace Bishop ANTHONY and all of you to the 2014 Parish Life Conference, which will be hosted at the newly renovated Fort Wayne Hilton and Grand Wayne Convention Center. Here we will enjoy the fellowship of our fellow Orthodox Christians from around the Midwest and beyond. It is also an opportunity to do the work of the Diocese with meetings of the Antiochian Women, Teen SOYO, Order of St. Ignatius, and the Fellowship of St. John the Divine.

Additional activities will include:

- Bible Bowl
- Music and Iconography Workshops
- “Minute to Win It” game night
- Banquet and Hafli
- Young Adult socials, wine tasting
- Bowling, laser tag, bumper cars, mini golf for young adults & teens
- Teen Oratorical
- Kidz Zone
- Workshops by F.O.C.U.S. and IOCC
- “New Years Eve” Gala
- Youth Leadership Workshop

PLC registration is now OPEN! To register online or place an ad in our Souvenir Journal, please visit www.antiochianevents.org/100. Additional information regarding hotel reservations (deadline June 4), Bible Bowl and Oratorical Festival and more are available on our conference website www.midwestplc2014.com.

Follow us on social media at: www.facebook.com/midwestplc2014 and www.twitter.com/midwestplc2014 and request to be added to our e-mail list by sending the word “join” to info@midwestplc2014.com.

Fort Wayne has much to offer, and many things are within walking distance of the hotel. Some places to visit include:

- Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo (kidszoo.org)
- Science Central (sciencecentral.org)
- River Greenway Trails (www.fortwaynepark.org)
- Vera Bradley Factory (www.verabradley.com)

We look forward to seeing you!

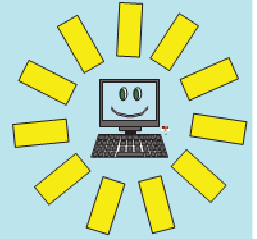
Rev. Fr. Jason Blais, Pastor

Dr. G. David Bojrab, Co-Chair

Kris Howard, Co-Chair



**St. Mary's
Fishers of Men Ministry
Introduces the 2014**



IT Summer Camp

AGE: 13-18 years old

Come and learn from the best

July 21- August 1

Monday through Friday
9AM- 3PM

Robert Morris University
Orland Park Campus
43 Orland Square
Orland Park, IL 60462

Sign up for:	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
Week 1: 7/21- 7/25	\$300	\$400
Week 2: 7/28- 8/1	\$300	\$400
2 Weeks: 7/21- 8/1	\$500	\$750

** A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due at the time of registration.

** Make Checks Payable to: St. Mary Orthodox Church

Take the IT challenge and make the most out of this summer!

Seats are limited to 24

first come, first serve

ST. MARY

FOOD PANTRY

FEEDING THE HUNGRY, HELPING THE HOPELESS



COMING SOON!!!

If you are interested in being a part of the Food Pantry staff and you are available to volunteer a few hours every week or every month, please send an email to

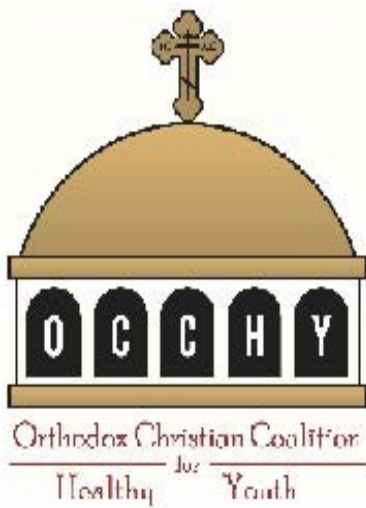
foodpantry@stmaryoc.org or contact:

Kholoud Swais 708-431-0084

Kh.Delia Haddad 914-573-1577

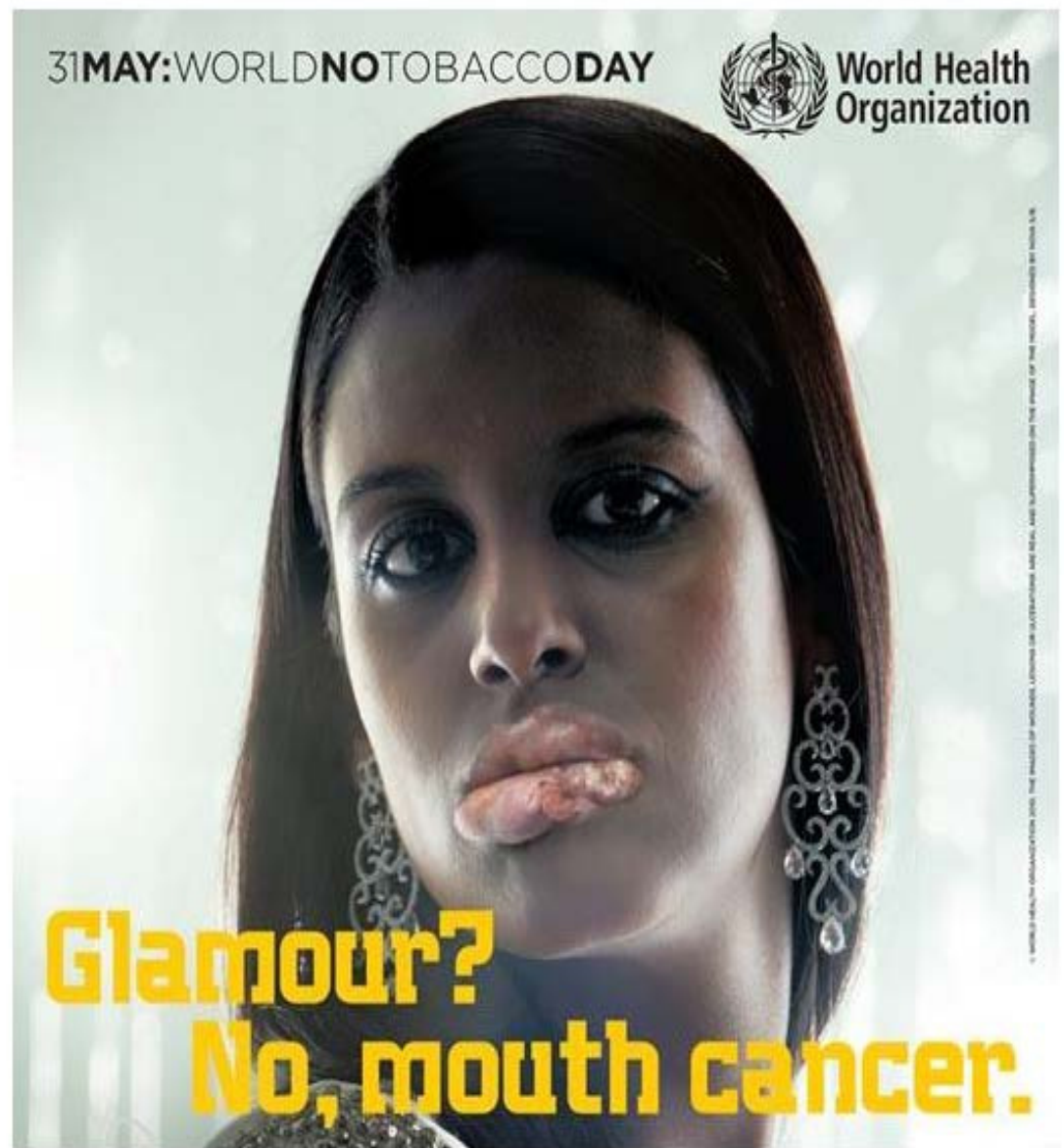
or contact the church office at 708-239-0004

There will be many volunteering positions available, including food pickup, registration, loading and unloading, distribution, packing, sorting, etc.



OCCHYBLURB

May 31, 2014 is
WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY!
Reduce Tobacco Consumption, Save Lives!

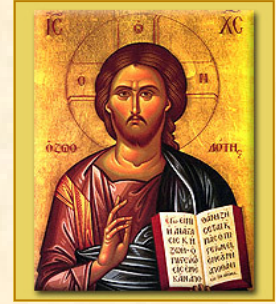


<http://www.who.int/campaigns/no-tobacco-day/2014/event/en/#.Uyi3-wCwurs.email>

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OCCHYChicago>



Weekly Synaxarion



On May 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Celestine of Rome; and the Hieromartyr Therapon, Bishop of Cyprus. On this day, we commemorate the third discovery of the honorable head of the Forerunner and Baptist John.

In the year 820, the honorable head was once again found in the city of Emesa during a time of unrest at Constantinople. It was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids and hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857) saw in a vision the place where the head of St. John was hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the emperor, who sent a delegation to Komana to recover the head. Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and on May 25, 850 it was placed in a church at the court.

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyes. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were covered in clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.

By Thy boundless mercy, O Christ our God, Giver of light, have mercy on us. Amen.