



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 - Philip Riské
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

Jehan Haddad
Katia Haddad
administrator@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our
Office Administrator

December 28th, 2014

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

The Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,
David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Weekly Schedule of Services

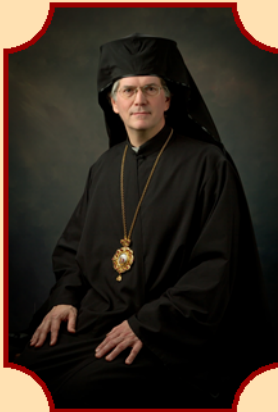
Saturday: 5:00p.m. -- Great Vespers

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.

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights
JOIN US AS WE WELCOME



His Grace Bishop
ANTHONY

Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest



His Grace Bishop
NICHOLAS

Bishop of Brooklyn

Our Newly Elected Father and Chief-Shepherd
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

Saturday, January 17th, 2015

- ♦ 11:00 a.m. – Metropolitan Joseph meets with the Youth
- ♦ 4:30 p.m. – Great Vespers
- ♦ 6:00 p.m. – Banquet and Hafle



Chateau Del Mar



8301 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills

Tickets: \$65 per person, \$40 for 9 years and younger

Sunday, January 18th, 2015

- ♦ 8:45 a.m. – Matins
- ♦ 10:00 a.m. – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ hath come from the heavens, receive Him!
Christ is on earth, elevate Him! Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; and ye nations,
praise Him with joy; for He hath been glorified!

Changes in the Liturgy

First Antiphon

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great.

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

They are sought out according to all His purposes. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

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

Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, 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

The Lord said unto my Lord: "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With thee is dominion in the day of thy power, in the beauties of thy saints.

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

Changes in the Liturgy

Entrance Hymn

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 Four)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying death hath been spoiled, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Nativity (Tone Four)

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

Troparion for the Sunday after the Nativity (Tone Two)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child. With the shepherds thou didst give glory; with the Magi thou didst worship; and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to 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 Nativity (Tone Three)

Today, the Virgin giveth birth to the transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes; God before the ages.

Epistle for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

God is wonderful among His saints!

Bless God in the congregations!

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19).

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Gospel for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23).

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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

12/28: Hasan and Saeda Sweis & Family

01/04: Nahil Tadros & Family

Epistle Reading

12/28: Lana Sweis & Nour Swaiss

01/04: Delia Haddad & Lily Sweiss

“Bible Verse of the Week”

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” **Luke 2:11-14**



The 2015 Holy Bread & Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is available in the Church hall. Please take time to sign up for a Sunday. God bless!

Upcoming Events

Sunday December 28th

- 8:45am - Matins
- 10:00am - Divine Liturgy
- 2:00pm - Open Gym-Basketball

Wednesday December 31st

- 7:00pm - New Year's Party

Saturday January 3rd

- 11:00am - Arabic School Teacher's Workshop

Sunday January 4th

- 8:45am - Matins
- 10:00am - Divine Liturgy
- 2:00pm - Open Gym-Basketball

Annunciation Bookstore

Open every Sunday after Liturgy and

Monday - Friday from

11:00am - 2:00pm

Please email Nader Haddad at naderemile3@yahoo.com with any requests.

The 2015 St Mary Creative Arts Festival February 16-March 8

- For Ages 2 - 18
- Artwork
- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Photography



TOPIC:
Bringing God's
lost sheep back

100TH ANNIVERSARY of the
FALLING ASLEEP of SAINT RAPHAEL

All entries must be received by February 15th, 2015 with completed entry forms. Rules posted in Sunday School Wing. Entries by 1st thru 12th grade students will be entered in the 2015 Midwest PLC Creative Arts Festival.

Sunday School students **ONLY** may join us
12:15PM to 1PM for workshops on the following dates:

- January 11 - Poetry & Creative Writing
- January 25 - Photography Mounting *come with developed photos*

See Grace Preyma Riske for details (630) 532-8640

*The Fuheis American Association
and St. Mary Church
Proudly Host*



New Year's Hafleh

*December 31st, 2014 at 7:00pm
St. Mary's Gymnasium (North Entrance)
6330 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, IL*

Tickets:

Adults - \$65

12yrs & younger - \$30

Appetizers - Dinner - Sweets - Live Band - Open Bar



Music by:

Nabil Nemeh & Ensemble

Nick Miller - Elvis Impersonator



*HAPPY NEW YEAR
2015*

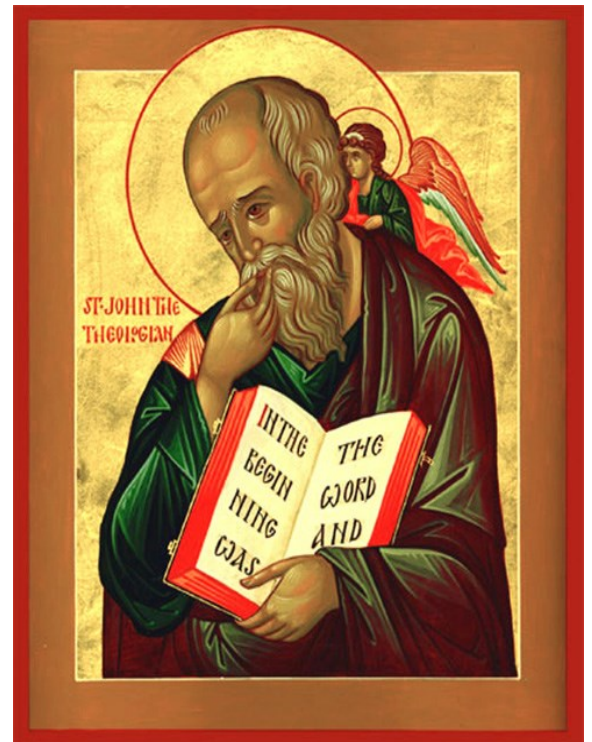




SAINT MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

Adult Bible Study

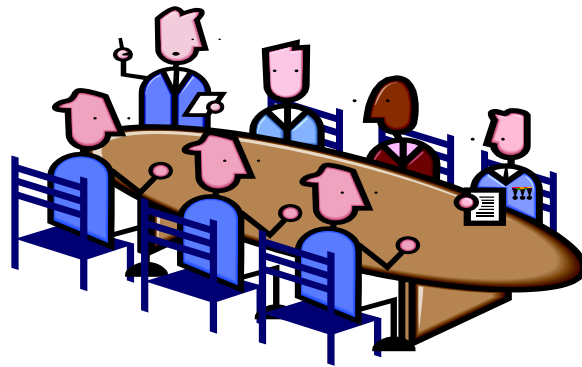
All adults are welcome to attend our weekly Adult Bible Study, where we will be studying the Gospel of John. The class will be given in Arabic and English by Fr. Danial Doss.



English Bible Study
Every Tuesday at
6:30pm

Arabic Bible Study
Every Wednesday at
10:00am

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 Luai Sweiss know by Sunday, December 21st. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 11th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2014 pledge is paid in full by Sunday, December 28th, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and God bless!

St. Mary's Men's Basketball League

Open Gym Schedule

Thursdays at 7:00pm

Sundays at 2:00pm

Games will be held every Tuesday night

Ages 16 and up

questions contact: Melad Qodsi 708.692.0561

or any member of Athletics athletics@stmaryoc.org



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 3rd 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!

- Start date is January 11, 2015*
 - End date is March of 2015*
 - Must be 14 years or older
 - Deadline: December 14, 2014
 - Teams will be Co-ed
 - Games will be Sunday afternoons (Times TBD)
- ⇒ ⇒ Schedule is subject to change

Kati Khouri
Volleyball Coordinator
708.257.7579
Melad Qodsi
Athletic Director
708.692.0561
athletics@stmaryoc.org



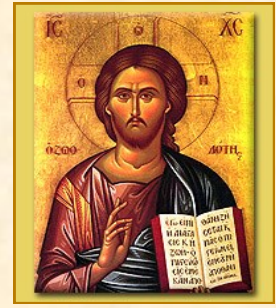
Location:

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





Weekly Synaxarion



On December 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the twenty thousand martyrs burned in Nicomedia; and Venerable Simon the myrrh-streaming, founder of Simonopetra monastery on Athos. On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.