



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

January 4th, 2015

Sunday before the Theophany of Christ

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Weekly Schedule of Services

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

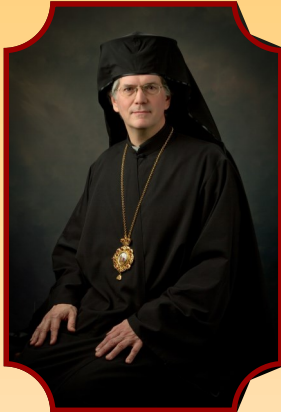
Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Matins -- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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 community
- ♦ 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

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 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 the Forefeast of Theophany of Christ (Tone Four)

Make ready, O Zebulum; prepare yourself, O Naphthali; cease to
flow, O River Jordan; receive in joy the Master who comes to be
baptized. Adam rejoice with the first mother. Do not hide in para-
dise, as before, for He came to see us, even naked, that He might
clothe us as we were before. Christ has appeared to renew all
creation.

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 Theophany of Christ (Tone Four)

Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan crying
to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my baptism; for I have
verily come to save Adam the first to be created.

Epistle for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance!

To you, O Lord, have I cried, O my God!

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (4:5-8).

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:1-8).

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

01/04: Nahil Tadros & Family

01/11: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family

01/18: Antiochian Women

Epistle Reading

01/04: Sub dn. Matthew & Lily Sweiss

01/11: Rana Nino & Awwan Sweis

“Bible Verse of the Week”

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33



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!

General Assembly Meeting & 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.

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 today, so that you can participate in the General Assembly. Thanks and God bless!

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 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*





*Please join us
Monday, January 5th at 7pm
to celebrate the
Liturgy of the Theophany of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.*

*This is the service in which we celebrate the
Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist in
the Jordan River. We will also have the Great
Sanctification of Water, which will be given
out in bottles at the end of Liturgy to everyone
in attendance. May God bless you all!*

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.

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

Sign Up for the 1st EVER Creative Arts Camp
On February 16, 2015 (President's Day) 10AM-3PM

1st through 8th grade students are invited to join us at church for a day focusing on Creative Arts entries.

- Lots of surprises & prizes in store!
- Work on photography, artwork, writing & more!
 - Lunch & Snack PROVIDED!!!!
- Prizes will be given every 30 minutes to attendees!
- All work complete this day will be eligible to win awards in the St. Mary Creative Arts Festival
 - NO REGISTRATION FEES!!!!

Register in Fellowship Hall or with
Preyma Grace at CraftieGracie@gmail.com

Registration is required and closes Feb. 8th.

You are invited to view the gallery of our student work

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

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St. Mary's Fishers of Men

Monthly Breakfast

Saturday

January 10th, 2015

10am

St. Mary Fellowship Hall



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

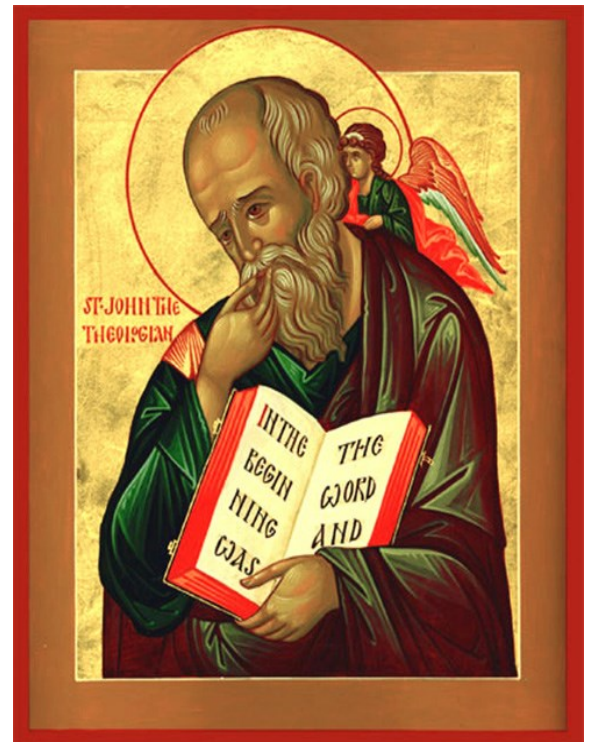




SAINT MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

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.

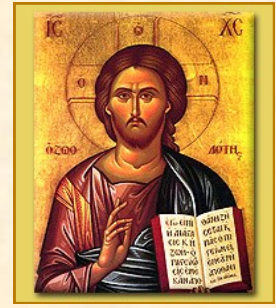


English Bible Study
Every Tuesday at
6:30pm

Arabic Bible Study
Every Wednesday at
10:00am



Weekly Synaxarion



On January 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church we prepare to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the holy Seventy Apostles. In addition to the twelve Great Apostles, the Lord chose seventy other, lesser apostles and sent them to preach to the Jews. He sent them out two by two before His face, to each town and place, saying: “Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves” (Luke 10:1-5). But as Judas, one of the Twelve, fell away from the Lord, so some among these Seventy withdrew from Him, not with the intention of betraying Him but from human weakness and lack of faith (John 6:66). The apostles elected new ones to take the fallen apostles’ places. These Seventy labored in the same way as the twelve Great Apostles; they were the assistants of the Twelve in the spreading and strengthening of the Church of God in the world. They suffered much torture and malice, from men and from demons, but their firm faith and burning love for the risen Lord made them conquerors of the world and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily; and Venerable Martyrs Euthymios and his twelve companions of Vapopedi Monastery on Mount Athos. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.