



# 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

V. Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad, Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Malek Rihani

Subdeacon Matthew Sweis

Subdeacon Ameer Tadros

## Parish Council

Luai Sweiss - Chairman

Abdullah Tadros - Vice Chairman

Jason Haddad - Treasurer

Ramiz Sweiss - Financial Secretary

Fabiola Sweis - Secretary

Nidal Al-Farah

Constantin Kari

Abeer Khouri

Faris Samawi

Bassam Shaheen

Feras Sweis

## Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Philip Riske

SOYO - Murad Salman

Fellowship - Fabiola Sweis

Antiochian Women -

Magida Abudayyeh

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

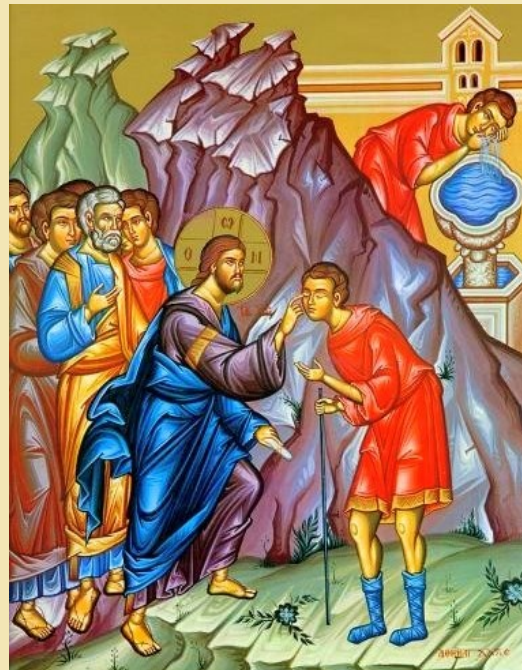
May Sweis

administrator@stmaryoc.org

## Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our  
Office Administrator

## May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Sunday of the Blind Man



*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: 5:00p.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.

## 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. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High.

***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 people give thanks to Thee, O God; let all the people 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 sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

***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.***

**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 to thee: Alleluia!

**Paschal Troparion (Tone Five)**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in  
the tombs, bestowing life! (3x)

**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 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)**

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the  
power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to  
the ointment bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples,  
O Bestower of Resurrection to those who had fallen.

## Epistle of the Sunday of the Blind Man

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.*

*Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)**

In those days, as we Apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in 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)**

# 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*

05/17: Laith and Nour Swaiss & Family

05/24: Amjad and Dima Sweiss & Family

05/31: Wajih and Suhad Haddad & Family

## Epistle Reading

05/17: Faris Samawi & Lana Sweis

05/24: Rima Sleiman & Elaine Riadi



## Graduation

Lara Sweis

Bachelors: Liberal Studies w/focus on English

Minor: Middle Eastern Studies

Saint Xavier University

**Congratulations!**



## Graduation

Asimt Ghaleb Sweis

Bachelors: Political Science & Government

Saint Xavier University

**Congratulations!**

## “Bible Verse of the Week”

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,  
But a woman who fears the Lord, she  
shall be praised.

*Proverbs 31:30*



## OCCHY BLURB

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is kicking off **National Prevention Week**

**2015** on May 18th from 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. EDT with a live Kick-Off Event at the [National Press Club](#) in Washington, DC, and a simultaneous digital activity – **#ChoosePrevention**.



National Prevention Week is an annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. Join individuals, organizations, and coalitions in your community to promote prevention strategies, educate others about behavioral health issues, and build community partnerships. **Join OCCHY as a prevention volunteer today!** [gordana@healthyyouth.com](mailto:gordana@healthyyouth.com)



Sources: <http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week/about>

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



## Graduation

Jawad Salman

Bachelors: Biology / Pre-Med

Minor: Business Admin. & Computer Science

Saint Xavier University

**Congratulations!**



## Graduation

Lana Haddad-Karnauas

Masters: Education w/honors

Saint Xavier University

**Congratulations!**

*The Fellowship of St. John the Divine  
is hosting a*

# **BLOOD DRIVE**

**WHEN: Sunday, May 17th, 2015**

**WHERE: St. Mary Orthodox Church – Gym**

**TIME: 8:00am-2:00pm**

**\*Please make sure to eat a proper breakfast before giving blood; Holy Communion will still be allowed.\***

**Please bring a form of ID in order to give blood.**

**Did you know?**

**One pint of blood,  
saves three lives!**

**Contact any officer with questions!**

# Teen SOYO Pizza Sale

Today  
After Liturgy



*Come help support our teens.*

**Aloha Ladies!**

We're having a  
**Hawaiian Party**  
and you're invited!

Date: July 10, 2015  
Place: Fellowship Hall  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$25 per person

Come join us for a fun night out.  
Sponsored by the Antiochian Women



# St. Mary's Men's Basketball League



The time has finally come for family, friends, and lots of fun! We are pleased to present the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Basketball League. The games will be held in the gymnasium of St. Mary's Orthodox Church. This league will be open to members of the community and to our sister churches. The timing of this league couldn't be better as we try to come together as a community to enjoy companionship and some friendly competition. We ask that you all spread the word as much as possible, as we get things started to have another successful season! There will be sign-ups held during coffee hour and open gyms.

**Season begins on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015**

**\*Forms, Teams, and Fees due by May 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Requirements:**

- Signed waiver
- Team registration sheet
- Fees
- \$75/ person- No Purchase of Jersey
- \$100/ person- With Purchase of Jersey

**Information:**

- Ages 16 and up
- Make your own team
- Min members per team -- 7
- Max members per team – 9

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

Nidal Haddad 708-691-8849 or Melad Qodsi 708-692-0561

# DodgeBall

- What:** Dodge Ball Tournament Presented by St. Mary's Orthodox Athletic Ministry
- Who:** Ages 14 and up, 5 players per team; *1 must be female*
- Fee:** \$20 per person/\$100 per team
- When:** Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 3:00 PM
- Where:** The Gymnasium of St. Mary Orthodox Church at 6330 W, 127<sup>th</sup> St., Palos Heights, IL, 60463



FOR  
REGISTRATION  
FORMS AND MORE  
INFORMATION,  
CONTACT US AT  
[athletics@stmaryoc.org](mailto:athletics@stmaryoc.org)



# Midwest Parish Life Conference 2015

Host: St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

June 24-28 Amway Grand Plaza: \$118/night

Buy a ticket book by April 1st for a chance to win a Free Night Stay  
[www.midwestplc2015.com](http://www.midwestplc2015.com)



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BIBLE BOWL

CELEBRATION ON THE GRAND

GAME SHOW

TEEN ORATORICAL

SERVICE PROJECT

REUNION ON THE GRAND

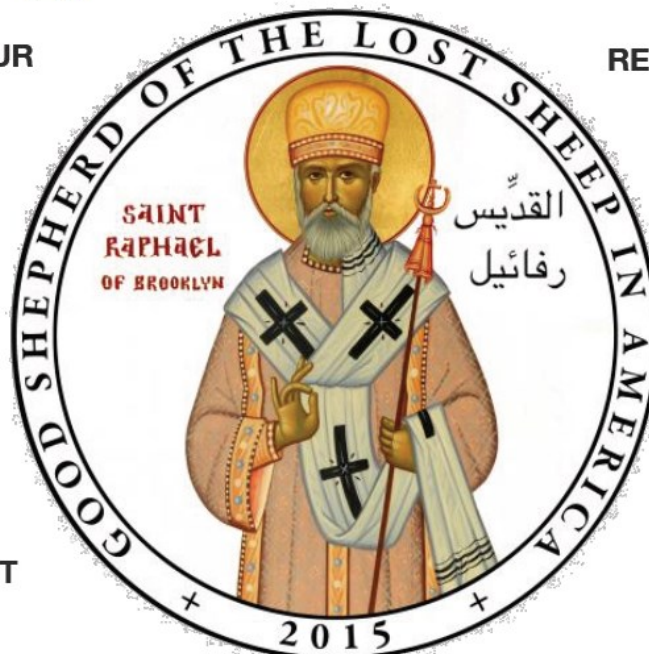
GOLF OUTING

PARISH SPORTS COMPETITION

URBAN MARKET

PICNIC AT THE ZOO

LITURGICAL SERVICES



100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the FALLING ASLEEP of SAINT RAPHAEL

# Something for Everyone!

St. Mary, Cambridge MA invites you  
to join us for the

## *Boston* 52<sup>ND</sup> ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION

2015

July 20-26  
Sheraton Boston Hotel

Kids Club/Tween Club

Bible Bowl

Oratorical Festival

Enliven to Christ

Daily Bible Study

Department Meetings

An Enchanting Evening over Boston

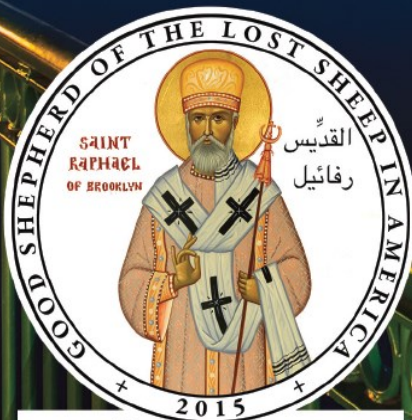
A Night to Celebrate our Archdiocese

Cabaret & Hufi

Grand Banquet

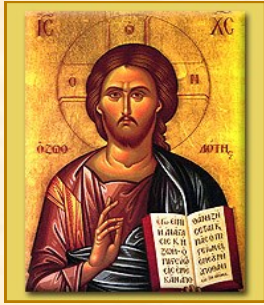
Teen Banquet/Pool Party

21/40 Event



100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the  
FALLING ASLEEP of SAINT RAPHAEL

Go to [www.acboston2015.com](http://www.acboston2015.com) for more information and to register



## Weekly Synaxarion



On May 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Apostles Andronikos and Junia of the Seventy; Athanasios the New, bishop of Christianopolis; Venerable Nektarios and Theophanes, founders of the Barlaam Monastery on Meteora; and Eudoxia, princess of Moscow. 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.