



# 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  
Rev. Archdeacon Saed 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

*September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

*Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross*



#### 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

My God, My God, look upon me: why hast Thou forsaken me? The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior save us.*

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou hearest not. But Thou, the praise of Israel, dwellest in the sanctuary.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior 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, Savior save us.*

### Second Antiphon

O God, why hast Thou cast us off forever? Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old.

*Save us O Son of God, who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing unto thee: Alleluia.*

This is Mount Zion wherein Thou has dwelt.

*Save us O Son of God, who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing unto thee: Alleluia.*

God is our King before the ages, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

*Save us O Son of God, who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing unto 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...*

### Third Antiphon

The Lord reigns, let the people tremble. The Lord is great in Zion, and He is high above all the people. Let them give thanks to Thy great name, for it is holy.

*O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, and to thy faithful people grant victory over their enemies, and by the power of thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee.*

## **Changes in the Liturgy**

### **Entrance Hymn**

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool, for he is holy.  
Save us, O Son of God, who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing to Thee:  
Alleluia!

### **Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone One)**

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, and to thy faithful people grant victory over their enemies, and by the power of thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee.

### **Kontakion of the Holy Cross (Tone Four)**

Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by thy Name; make glad in thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries. Having in thine aid a weapon of peace and trophy invincible.

### **In place of the Trisagion, the following is sung for the Holy Cross (Tone Two)**

Before thy Cross, we bow down and worship, O Master, and thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

### **Epistle for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

*Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool!*

*The Lord reigns; let the people tremble!*

#### **The Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1:18-24).**

Brethren, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

## Gospel for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John (19:6-11; 13-20; 25-28, 30-35).**

At that time, the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; they led him to Pilate and cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you know that I have power to crucify you, and power to release you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab'batha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him" Pilate said to them "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no King but Caesar." Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away; and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of the skull, which is called in Hebrew Gol'gotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place, where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Greek, and in Latin. Now standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, He said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now fulfilled, said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness-his testimony is true.

**Megalynarion for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross (Tone Eight)**

*Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord.*

Thou art the Mystical paradise, O Theotokos; for that thou, being untilled, didst bud forth Christ, by whom was planted on earth the life-giving tree of the Cross.

Wherefore, as we adore it being elevated, we magnify thee.

**Koinonikon for Feast of the Elevation of the Cross (Tone Eight)**

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, is marked upon us. Alleluia!

**Instead of “We have seen the true light...”, sing:**

**Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone One)**

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, and to thy faithful people grant victory over their enemies, and by the power of thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee!

**After the Liturgy, we will have the procession of the Holy Cross with the following hymns:**

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, and to thy faithful people grant victory over their enemies, and by the power of thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee.

Before thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

**REMINDER:**

In an effort to eliminate distractions, collection baskets will not be passed during the Divine Liturgy. Instead, we kindly ask you to make your donation or pledge before or after service by placing it in the donation box at the entrance of the church. Envelopes are available on both sides of the donation box. Please keep this in mind since we depend on your contributions. Thank you for your generosity!

# 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*

09/13: Jamileh Zedan Sweis & Family

09/20: Rifqa Sweis & Family

09/27: Emad and Issam Haddad & Families

## Epistle Reading

09/13: Ramzi Abudayyeh & Khaled Salman  
09/20: Deanna Sweis & Rima Saigh

## *Annunciation Bookstore*

Open every Sunday after Liturgy  
Monday -Friday  
11:00am - 2:00

Please email Nader Haddad at [naderemile3@yahoo.com](mailto:naderemile3@yahoo.com) with any requests.



## 3rd & 9th Day Memorial

Riad Bajes Sweis

May his memory be eternal!



## Churching

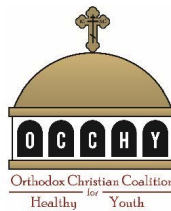
Stephanie

Parents: Romy & Brooke Shaheen

**Congratulations!**

## Fellowship's Upcoming Events

- ◆ TODAY – Spaghetti Sale
- ◆ September 20th– Baked Potato Sale
- ◆ September 26th– First Annual Gala
  - ◆ September 27th– Pizza Sale



## OCCHY QUIZ

TRUE or FALSE: U.S. high school students' use of e-cigarettes and hookahs doubled from 2013 to 2014.



TRUE! According to data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, the percentage of U.S. high school student reporting last month, e-cigarette use increased from 4.5% to 13.4% and hookah use increased from 5.2% to 9.4%.

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

## *Understanding the TEN COMMANDMENTS*

### *Ninth Commandment*

“Thou shall not bear false witness ”



Have I told lies, or added to or subtracted from the truth? Have I made careless statements or spoken evil of anyone? Have I told any secrets entrusted to me, or betrayed anyone? Have I gossiped about anyone or harmed their reputation? Have I concealed the truth, assisted in carrying out a lie, or pretended to commit a sin of which I was not guilty? Have I tried to see the good in others rather than their shortcomings?

# St. Mary's Arabic School

*Dear families and friends, we are glad to announce that Arabic school will be starting September 12<sup>th</sup> and it will be held on Saturdays from 10:45am to 1:00pm.*

العربية

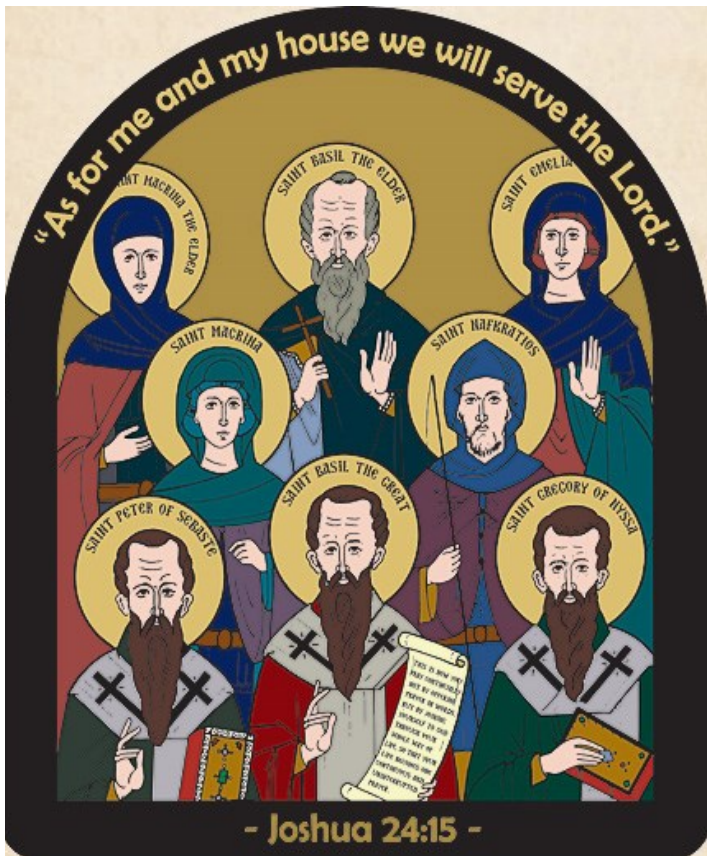


## !!!Register Today!!!

*Please see Lamees Ammari after Liturgy to Register your child or if you have any questions please call the Arabic School Director Elia Sweiss at 708-707-1395.*

# Sunday School Registration

Online registration is at [www.StMaryOC.org/sunday\\_school.html](http://www.StMaryOC.org/sunday_school.html)  
OR  
Register on a computer outside of the Church Gym.



## September

- 13th: Elevation of the Cross - students leave after communion to prepare for procession at end of Liturgy.
- 20th: First Day of Sunday School. Classes meet in Christian Education wing. PreK-2nd Grades on 1st Floor 3rd - 12th on 2nd Floor.

## October

- 4th: God Parent's Sunday - Bring your Godparents with you to Liturgy!
- 24th: Middle School Confession Workshop 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Church

## November

- 15th: 1st Practice for Christmas Pageant at 12noon in Christian Education wing
- 21st: 3rd-5th Confession Workshop 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Church

## December

- 6th: Breakfast with Saint Nicholas After Liturgy at Church
- 13th: Sunday School Christmas Presentation at the end of Liturgy
- 21st-23rd: Creative Projects Camp 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 27th - Jan 3rd, Christmas Break



# Upcoming Dates



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL  
ORTHODOX BISHOPS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# PAN-ORTHODOX YOUTH GATHERING

## TUESDAY SEP. 15

### DIALOGUE WITH THE BISHOPS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All Orthodox high school and college students from the Greater Chicago area are invited to participate.

**6:00-6:30**

Welcome and Orientation

**6:30-7:00**

Service of Thanksgiving

**7:00-8:30**

Dialogue with the Bishops  
of the Assembly

**8:30-10:00**

Refreshments

Holy Resurrection  
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral  
5701 North Redwood Drive  
Chicago, IL 60631



*St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights*

**The Fellowship of St. John the Divine cordially invites you to  
their First Annual**

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*Gala*  
*A black tie event*

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**Saturday, September 26th 2015**

**Doors open at 6:00 pm**

**St. Mary Orthodox Church**

**6330 W. 127th St.**

**Palos Heights, IL**

**\$50 per person**

*This event is for anyone ages 18 and over*

**Dinner | Dancing | Open bar | Comedian | Live DJ | Raffle**

*Comedic performance by Omid Singh*

**To purchase your tickets contact**

**Chuck Samawi 952.457.0057 | Danny Sweis 708.638.6796**

*All proceeds go to the Annual Fellowship retreat sponsored by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine.*



# WALK THE WALK FOR IOCC

**JOIN US FOR OUR 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
5K WALK/RUN TO SUPPORT IOCC GLOBAL  
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROGRAMS!**

*Saturday, October 3, 2015*

**St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church**  
5649 N. Sheridan Rd. • Chicago, IL 60660

REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM • WALK/RUN BEGINS: 9:00 AM  
BREAKFAST: FOLLOWING THE RACE

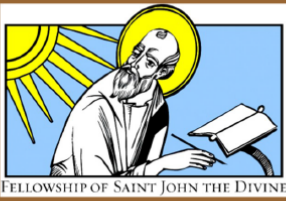
For more information, email [ioccchicago5k@gmail.com](mailto:ioccchicago5k@gmail.com) or visit

**[ioccc.org/chicago](http://ioccc.org/chicago)**



**IOCC<sup>®</sup>**

*IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.*



# St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights



*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45*

This Fall you do not want to miss the...

## Fellowship Retreat

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

October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

St. Iakovos Retreat Center

Kansasville, WI

The Fellowship at St. Mary invites everyone ages 19-99 to experience the weekend of a lifetime! The keynote speaker for the weekend will be our beloved Archdeacon Saed Rihani. During the Fellowship Retreat we will partake in church services, interactive sessions, indoor/outdoor leisure activities, and much more. We will be surrounded by nothing but Orthodoxy and beauty in the newly built retreat center opened by the Greek Archdiocese.

\$200 (per person) will cover the cost of the entire weekend including meals, lodging, and transportation.

### EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

\$175 if you sign up and pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit by July 26th!

*As with all events at St. Mary, if you would like to participate but need financial assistance, please see Fr. Mousa.*

To sign up or address any questions, contact  
Fabiola Sweis at [fabiolasweis@gmail.com](mailto:fabiolasweis@gmail.com)

6330 W. 127th St. Palos Heights, IL | StMaryFSJD



CLERGY AND LAITY  
FALL GATHERING  
DIOCESE OF TOLEDO  
AND THE MIDWEST

**INDIANAPOLIS**

OCTOBER 16-18

St George Orthodox Church  
10748 E 116th St.  
Fishers, IN 46037



Village @ Home theme featuring  
Fr. Anthony Yazge and staff from  
the Antiochian Village

- ◆ Color Wars!
- ◆ Camp-style Services
- ◆ Evening Programs
- ◆ Afternoon Program
- ◆ Hierarchal Liturgy
- ◆ Great Fellowship
- ◆ Much More!

**ONLY \$35!\***  
(\$25 for children 8-11  
Children 7 and under  
free. Daycare provided)

\*if registered by Oct. 1, then  
add \$5

**Plus** special sessions with Fr. Anthony Yazge, the  
Antiochian Village Staff, and Bishop ANTHONY

Hotel reservations at the Hampton INN  
6817 82nd St. Indianapolis, IN 46250  
\$94/night—2 Double or King rooms.  
Breakfast included - Reserve by October 1 by  
visiting <http://tinyurl.com/mwfall2015>



PROGRAMS FOR THE  
WHOLE FAMILY

- ◆ Children 8-12
- ◆ Teens 13-19
- ◆ Young Adults 20+
- ◆ Antiochian Women
- ◆ Men
- ◆ Clergy

Special Clergy meetings Oct.  
15-16 with Bishop ANTHONY  
and seminars on Youth and Young  
Adult ministries by Fr. Anthony  
Yazge.

Families, and Diocesan  
Organizations, and clergy meet  
Oct. 16-18



**St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**  
**Humanitarian Walk**

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**8:00am - 12:00pm**

**Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens**

**7402 Lake Katherine Dr.**

**Palos Heights, IL 60463**

**Registration Fees**

Adults: \$20

Children: \$10 (10 & under)

**Sponsors**

If you are interested in sponsoring this event please contact  
Shireen Salman.

**Benefiting**

St. Mary's Orthodox Church Humanitarian Fund

**Contact**

Shireen Salman at 708-717-9640

*Have Faith. Give generously. Spread hope. Laugh frequently.  
Love unconditionally. Live fully.*

# **St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Humanitarian Walk**

**Saturday, October 17, 2015  
8:00am – 12:00am**

**Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens  
7402 Lake Katherine Dr., Palos Heights, IL 60463**

## **Gold Sponsors - \$1,000**

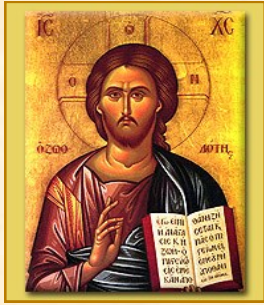
- ◆ Recognition at event as Gold Sponsor.
- ◆ Opportunity for 5 company team members to participate in walk. Each team member will receive a T-shirt.
- ◆ Recognition as Sponsor with company logo on t-shirt.
- ◆ Listing in all media releases as a Gold Sponsor.
- ◆ Company logo on St. Mary's web page.
- ◆ Opportunity to distribute promotional items in gift bag provided to all walkers.
- ◆ Recognition in the church weekly bulletin.

## **Silver Sponsors - \$500**

- ◆ Recognition at the event as Silver Sponsor.
- ◆ Opportunity for 3 company team members to participate in walk. Each team member will receive a T-shirt.
- ◆ Recognition as Sponsor with company logo on t-shirt.
- ◆ Listing in all media releases as a Silver Sponsor.
- ◆ Company logo on St. Mary's web page.
- ◆ Opportunity to distribute promotional items in gift bag provided to all walkers.
- ◆ Recognition in the church weekly bulletin.

## **Bronze Sponsors - \$250**

- ◆ Recognition at the event as Bronze Sponsor.
- ◆ Opportunity for 2 company team members to participate in walk. Each team member will receive a T-shirt.
- ◆ Recognition as Sponsor with company logo on t-shirt.
- ◆ Listing in all media releases as a Bronze Sponsor.
- ◆ Company logo on St. Mary's web page.
- ◆ Opportunity to distribute promotional items in gift bag provided to all walkers.
- ◆ Recognition in the church weekly bulletin.



## Weekly Synaxarion



On September 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and commemorate the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection of Christ our God. Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem is honored above all others. Constantine the Great constructed it at the place of Golgotha, where our Savior was crucified and buried, then arose. For a long time this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen; furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honor of Christ God's Resurrection was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. Macarius exalted the venerable Cross and consecrated this temple in the year 336. On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Cornelius the centurion; Venerable Hierotheos the Younger of Iviron monastery on Athos; Great-martyr Ketevan, queen of Georgia; and the Six Martyrs at Tomi in Romania. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.