



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
Ushers - Jamal Swais, Louis Sweiss

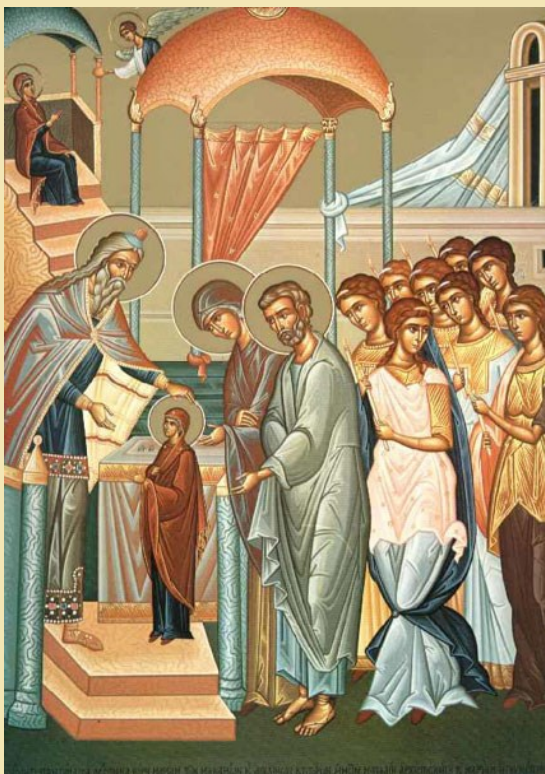
Office

May Sweis
administrator@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our
Office Administrator

November 22nd, 2015
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and
Ninth Sunday of Luke
After-feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple



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

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

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

God is known in her palaces for a refuge. As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God.

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

The most High has sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

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

This is the gate of the Lord, by which the righteous shall enter.

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

Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness.

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. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

O only-begotten son and word of God...

Third Antiphon

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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 Eight)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone Four)

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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 Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone Four)

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the Divine Spirit, whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

Epistle for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:1-7).

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Gospel for the Ninth Sunday of St. Luke

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (12:16-21).

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Advent Fast & Christmas Reminder!

The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins Sunday, November 15th and will end December 24th (after Christmas Eve Liturgy). We are to fast from meat and dairy. In order for fasting to be effective, it must be accompanied with prayer and acts of mercy and love. St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "What good is it to fast from meat and dairy, if we devour and eat one another." Please remember to love and forgive in this special time in which we prepare for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy

Important! Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Liturgy. Matins will begin at 5pm followed by Liturgy at 6pm, Thursday December 24th. How can we truly celebrate Christmas if we skip out on Christmas Liturgy? The Christmas season is a very busy time, & we have plans to be with friends & family. But, we must learn to set our priorities straight, so schedule your gatherings around the Christmas Liturgy. Can you imagine having a birthday party without the birthday boy?! That's exactly what we do when we don't attend Christmas Liturgy. Let us begin to change the secularization of Christmas & bring Christ back into the picture by remembering the reason for the season. We look forward to seeing you all at Christmas Liturgy. God bless!

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

11/22: Sakher and Faryel Sweis & Family

11/29: Samih and Maysoon Sweis
& Family

12/06: Nabeel Sweis and Luay Madain
& Families



3rd and 9th Day Memorial

Julie Sakher Sweiss

May her memory eternal!



6 Month Memorial

Hayel Mikhael Sweiss

May his memory eternal!



Churching

Michael

Parents: Khalil & Eleni Sweis

Congratulations!



Newborn

Jacob

Parents: Gerese & Razan Tadros

Congratulations!

Epistle Reading

11/22: Salena Ibrahim & Awan Sweis

11/29: Abeer Khouri & Norma Tadros

Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos

Please join us for Liturgy on
Saturday, November 21st at 10:00 am.

Bible Study verse of the week (from the Orthodox Study Bible).

Mark 10:25 *“And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”*



The Orthodox Study Bible explains that various interpretations have been suggested for the impossible image of a camel going through the eye of a needle: e.g., that the word was not camel, but “rope”; or that the eye of a needle was a city gate through which a camel might barely squeeze if it were first unloaded of all its baggage, symbolizing wealth. Even the Talmud [Jewish teachings] uses the expression “for an elephant to go through the eye of a needle.” Whatever the phrase refers to, it displays the impossibility of salvation for those who are attached to riches. This is clearly evidenced by the disciples’ response, “who then can be saved?” Yet by God’s grace, even what is impossible to man can come to pass.



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Office of the Secretariat

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics and
Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the Americas:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year on Thanksgiving Day, we come together as a family and as a nation. It is a day on which we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His blessings on us in a world full of need, for being free to declare our faith, and for living in peace, far from a world at war. It is an invitation to gather loved ones from near and far around the dinner table to rejoice and say, "We are truly blessed."

It is also a day to remember. Although we are Orthodox Christians living in the United States, a country relatively untouched by troubling worldwide upheaval, we must not forget that many of us are connected to "Mother Churches" in some of the most unstable regions of the world. Each day, we are reminded of the millions of Syrian people displaced or forced to flee from the Middle East—their native land—and the tremendous hardship bearing down on our Patriarchate of Antioch. Our thoughts are also drawn to the besieged people of Ukraine in search of peace and reconciliation, and to the families, orphans, and elderly in Greece driven into poverty by an unrelenting economic crisis.

As we give gratitude for our blessings, we must also be mindful of our vulnerable brothers and sisters. St. John wrote, "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (*1 John 3:17*) Our Orthodox faith teaches us that to help the poor is to honor God. International Orthodox Christian Charities, or IOCC, puts Orthodoxy into practice daily, responding to Christ's call to help our neighbors without discrimination.

IOCC, which serves as the humanitarian agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States America, has been sharing the compassion of the Orthodox faithful in close cooperation with the Orthodox Church. Through these efforts, IOCC has delivered relief to help ease the suffering of 3.2 million Syrian people either displaced or living as refugees; improved access to fresh food and medical care for impoverished families and the elderly in Greece; and has provided emergency food parcels and hygiene supplies to displaced Ukrainian babies and toddlers.

To share our blessings with others lifts us closer to God. We hold the power, through our generosity, to serve as a source of hope to so many people suffering in the face of poverty or conflict. And so we designate this Sunday before Thanksgiving as IOCC Sunday. By extending a helping hand in the name of Christ, your compassion provides a reason for our suffering brothers and sisters to believe that better days are ahead. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (*Philippians 4:13*)

We wish all of you a holiday season filled with the Holy Spirit and with love and harmony as you celebrate the blessings of our merciful God during Thanksgiving and always.

With paternal blessing and love in Christ,

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

November 17, 2015
Gregory the Wonder-Worker, Bishop of Neo-Caesarea

Dear Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest Diocese,

Christ is in our Midst!

It is with a heavy heart I address you as we witnessed fatal attacks on innocent people in Beirut, Lebanon, in Paris, France, and scores of others in both places who were injured. The Islamic State (known also as ISIS or ISIL) claimed responsibility for both attacks. We lift our prayers to our Father for those who died, those who were victims, and the families effected by both.

As our world continues to change, we will not allow ourselves to slip down the slope of descent into barbarism, and with it, suffer a real loss to our own humanity in the aftermath of these and future terrorist attacks which we continually see before our eyes. Therefore let us be relentless in prayer and help, and continue within our ability to advance goodness and peace.

While some will carry on in the abuse of power and in spreading death and sorrow, we must strive to increase our witness of our Lord and King ~ the King of Peace. It is only He who is the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the hopeless, the Savior of the storm-tossed, and the giver of Life. We pray God will give us the strength to endure His holy will and to persevere to the end.

May the King of Peace whose Nativity we are preparing to celebrate, grant us a blessed fast and to always be with us.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

**Bishop of Toledo
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

2635 Manchester Blvd., Toledo, OH 43606-2825
(260) 615-8777 Cell
bpanthonymichaels@gmail.com



Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast



Saturday, November 21st at 10:00 am
St. Mary's Fellowship Hall
Immediately following the
Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

FALAFEL SALE!

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Brought to you by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine



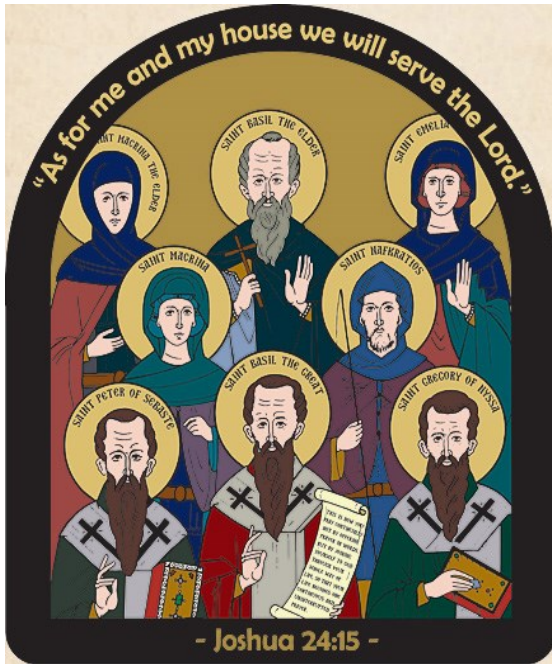
6330 W. 127th St. Palos Heights, IL | StMaryFSJD



Sunday School

Online registration is at www.StMaryOC.org/sunday_school.html
OR

Register on a computer outside of the Church Gym.



November

21st: 3rd-5th Confession Workshop
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Church

27th-29th Creative Projects Mini Camp (1-3pm)

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

January

16th-18th Creative Projects Mini Camp (1-3pm)

Sunday School Confession Workshop

We are having a confession workshop for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students on November 21st, from 1pm to 3:30pm. Please make sure your child attends the workshop. Snacks will be served.

CHRISTMAS RETREAT & CHRISTMAS CARD SIGN-UP

SOYO will have a table in the main hallway for parents to sign up their High Schoolers for the Christmas Retreat. ALSO, at the same table, we encourage all parishioners to sign up for the Community Christmas Card. Anyone who would like to sponsor someone for the Retreat, please see Fr. Mousa, Fr. Malek or Dn. Saed.



"Liturgy after the Liturgy"

Taking our faith outside the church walls

Annual Christmas Toy Drive

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

It is that time of the year again to begin preparing for our Annual Christmas Drive. The wish lists for 50 children given to us by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services have all been distributed. Thank you to all who took one! For most of these children, these will be the only Christmas gifts they receive.

**Please drop off your gifts at the church office
during regular business hours:
Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm**

This Sunday, November 22nd

THANKSGIVING DAY PAN-ORTHODOX DIVINE LITURGY

**Sponsored by
THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CLERGY ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO
AND
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SYNERGY**



**9:00 am
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 26, 2015**

**Holy Virgin Protection
Russian Orthodox Cathedral
1800 Lee Street
Des Plaines, Illinois**

**Responses offered by
Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral Choir
Dr. Misha Gill, Director**

St. Philothea Project



This year St. Mary's Teen SOYO will be participating in the St. Philothea Project. This Christmas Season we will be putting together 50 small School Supply Packages. These packages will be going to support Saint Constantine and Elena Parish in Rombo Kenya and Saint George School in Kibera Slum, Kenya. Your generosity is appreciated. Please drop off donations in the marked bin placed outside of the gym.

Supplies needed:

150 pens

250 pencils

50 boxes of 12 Crayola crayons

50 erasers

Additionally, a \$100 donation is needed to purchase 50 small crosses and 50 small icons to be placed in each package

For any questions or to make a monetary donation, please contact:

Kh. Delia Haddad at kh.delia@gmail.com

Or

Rima Sleiman at rimsa.saigh@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS!



There will be a mandatory training on **Sunday, December 27th or Sunday, January 17th.**

You must attend one of the sessions.
A light lunch will be served.

Teams will be created and a schedule will start in January 2016.

We are in **NEED** of new Altar Boy robes. We are asking for each family to donate 2 robes (1 gold and 1 purple) for each child serving.

Continuous trainings will be held for the Altar servers.

Please see Subdeacon Matthew (mrsweis@hotmail.com) or Deacon Saed (saedrihani6@gmail.com) with any questions.



Open Gym Schedule

Volleyball Open Gym - 7pm

Tuesday, November 24th

Tuesday, December 1st

Tuesday, December 8th

Tuesday, December 15th



Basketball Open Gym - 4 pm

Sunday, November 22nd

Sunday, November 29th

Sunday, December 6th

Sunday, December 13th

Sunday, December 20th

Looking for the perfect Christmas gifts?
Stop by our bookstore and check out our new arrivals, gifts and cards.
We have all your Christmas shopping needs!

Keep *Christ*
in Christmas

A wooden cross is the central focus, decorated with a large, colorful bow made of pink and yellow ribbons. Green pine branches are wrapped around the base of the cross. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a subtle floral pattern and sparkling light effects.

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT WITH YOUR PURCHASE!

TEEN SOYO NIGHTS



We welcome all teens to attend our Wednesday, Teen SOYO Nights

Every Wednesday from 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

The first Wednesday of each month is a bible study.

We enjoy fellowship, open discussions, time in the gymnasium
& homework time as well!

For more information, please contact:

Deacon Saed Rihani, Milad Sleiman, or Rima Sleiman

Deacon Saed: saedrihani6@gmail.com/ (773) 454– 2191

Milad: milad.s.sleiman@gmail.com/ (630) 632 –6747

Rima: rimsaigh@gmail.com/ (708) 590– 9559

Winter Food Drive 2015

November 8th - December 27th



1 out of 6 families are struggling with hunger

Remember...42 lbs of food will feed a family of 4 for 3 days!

Food Drive Grocery List:

Beans, Chili, Cereal, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Rice, Shelf Stable Milk, Soup, Tuna, Stew, Canned Vegetables Canned Fruit, Mac & Cheese.

Remember to bring items for the Food Drive this Sunday. Each Sunday School class will compete to raise the most food.

The winning class will receive a Pizza Party!

Sunday School Students should drop off their food items in one of the carts just outside of the Sunday School's main entrance (in the large hall way). Each cart will be labeled by grade.

Remembering the words of St. John Chrysostom: "It is a better thing to feed the hungry than to raise the dead."

SOYO 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RETREAT



“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

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN SAINT MARY’S SOYO AT OUR TENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RETREAT!

Come get inspired and reconnected with your faith. Special sessions with Fr. Malek Rihani, Fr. Mousa Haddad, and Dn. Saed Rihani!

- What:** Christmas Retreat 2015
Where: St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI
When: December 28th - December 30th, 2015
Who: All High School Students are welcome
Cost: \$200 per teen
\$150 for second teen from the same family
\$100 for third teen from the same family

For Information Contact: Rima Sleiman at (708) 590-9559

" For Scholarships or Financial Assistance, please contact Fr. Mousa Haddad directly."

DEADLINE: December 20, 2015

\$50 DEPOSIT REQUIRED
Space is Limited

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 20th. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 10th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2015 pledge is paid in full by Sunday, December 27th, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and God bless!

18th Annual Midwest Diocese Basketball Tournament Canton, Ohio January 15-17, 2016

Division I: Ages 12-15 / Division II: Ages 15-18 / Division III: Ages 19-26

Friday, January 15

7 pm: Registration begins (Hotel Lobby)

8 pm: Pizza (Registration area)

8:30pm: Retreat (Hotel Ballroom)

Saturday, January 16

**7 am: Morning prayers/Light Breakfast/Tournament Brackets
(Hotel Ballroom)**

8 am: Basketball Tournament begins

12 pm: Lunch (at Basketball locations)

6 pm: Great Vespers (St. George Serbian)

7 pm: Banquet/ Awards Presentation/Hafli (St. George Serbian)

Sunday, January 17

8:45 am: Matins (St. George Antiochian)

10 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy (St. George Antiochian)

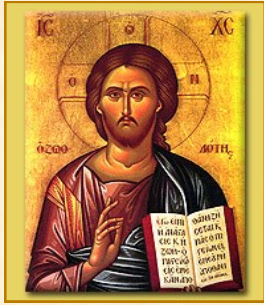
Brunch and Farewell (St. George Antiochian)

**Early Registration: \$50 by January 8 Registration: \$60
(Includes all meals and events)**

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1118 Cherry Ave. NE Canton, OH 44704
330-455-8482 stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net**

**Hotel Information: Courtyard by Marriott
4375 Metro Circle NW N. Canton, OH 44720 330-494-6494
Group Rate: \$85/night (mention St. George Canton)
Our block of rooms will be reserved for us until Jan. 3**

Please Contact Nidal Haddad at (708) 691-8849 or at Haddadnidal24@yahoo.com.



Weekly Synaxarion



On November 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos, and we commemorate the holy Apostles of the Seventy: Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos, disciples of the Apostle Paul. Philemon was a wealthy nobleman from Colossae in Phrygia; Apphia was his wife who cared for the sick and vagrants. Philemon became Bishop of the Church in Gaza; Archippus became Bishop in Colossae. Onesimus, who was formerly an unbeliever and slave of Philemon, stole certain of his vessels and fled to Rome. However, on finding him there, the Apostle Paul guided him onto the path of virtue and the knowledge of the truth, and sent him back to his master Philemon, to whom he wrote an epistle (one of the fourteen Biblical epistles of Saint Paul). In this epistle, Paul commended Onesimus to his master and reconciled the two. Onesimus was later made a bishop; in Greece he is honored as the patron Saint of the imprisoned. All these Saints received their end by martyrdom in the first century. On this day, we also commemorate Clement, bishop of Ochrid and enlightener of Bulgaria; Martyr Cecilia of Rome and those with her; Venerable Kallistos Xanthopoulos of Athos; and Martyr Michael, prince of Tver. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.