



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 29th, 2015
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Thirteenth Sunday of Luke



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

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 One)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding
Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried
aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ,
glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art
the lover of mankind.

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 Preparation of the Nativity (Tone Three)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner
to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou
hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds Him who shall appear
by His own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.

Epistle for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-19).

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Gospel for the Thirteenth Sunday of St. Luke

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:18-27).

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

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!

A Message from our Fellowship

A special, heartfelt thank you goes to the Antiochian Women who not only donated but assisted the Fellowship with making the sandwiches for their Falafel Sale last week. We had a great time preparing together. Thank you!



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

11/29: Samih and Maysoon Sweis
& Family

12/06: Nabeel Sweis and Luay Madain
& Families

12/13: Joseph and Muna Makri & Family

Epistle Reading

11/29: Futien Johnson & Norma Tadros

12/06: Nour Swaiss & Rita Magnuson



Open every Sunday after Liturgy

Monday -Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm

Please email Nader Haddad at

naderemile3@yahoo.com

with any requests.

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



In the Gospel of Matthew we read the parable of a king who held a wedding banquet, but none of the invited guests chose to come, so the king invited people from the streets.

The story continues... *“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘friend, how do you come in here without a wedding garment?’ and he was speechless. Then the king said to the servant, ‘bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’* Matthew 22:11-13

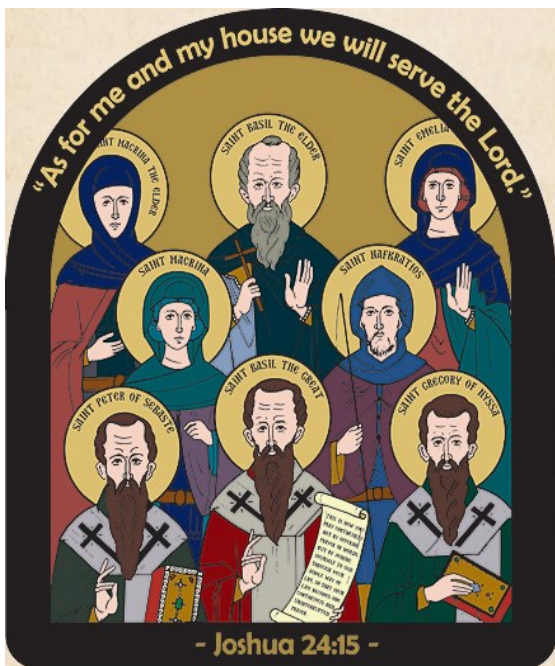
Explanation: Our initial thought in reading this text would be that the king was so harsh in punishing the poor man who was not properly dressed for the banquet, but the Orthodox Study Bible provides the following interpretation: The wedding garment would have been provided by the king, and therefore the man had no excuse for not wearing one; thus he is speechless. His refusal to wear the garment that was provided is an illustration of those who refuse God's hospitality, or who want His kingdom on their own terms. Specifically the garment refers to the baptismal garment, and by extension a life of faith, repentance, virtue and charity. Without these, a person will ultimately be cast into outer darkness.

Sunday School

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

OR

Register on a computer outside of the Church Gym.



November

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)

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.

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. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

Happy Thanksgiving!

Join the Fellowship of St. John the Divine & the Athletics Department on Thanksgiving morning for a friendly game of football!

When: Thursday, November 26th, 2015 @ 9:00AM

Where: Palos Heights Parks & Recreation Center

6601 W. 127th St.,

Palos Heights, IL 60463

Ages 18 years and older

If you would like to play, please contact any fellowship officer or Nidal Haddad at (708)-691-8849

6330 W. 127th St.

Palos Heights, IL | StMaryFSJD



**The Fishers of Men and
The Fuheis Association Proudly Host**

Breakfast With St. Nicholas



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

This event is complimentary



Breakfast with St. Nicholas will be immediately after Holy Communion in the Sunday School classrooms. After breakfast the children will take pictures with St. Nicholas and receive gifts bags outside of the Nadi.

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

Open Gym Schedule

Volleyball Open Gym - 7pm

Tuesday, December 1st
Tuesday, December 8th
Tuesday, December 15th



Basketball Open Gym - 4 pm

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
Chr **stmas**

A wooden cross is the central focus, decorated with a large, colorful bow made of pink and yellow ribbons. Green pine branches are tucked 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!

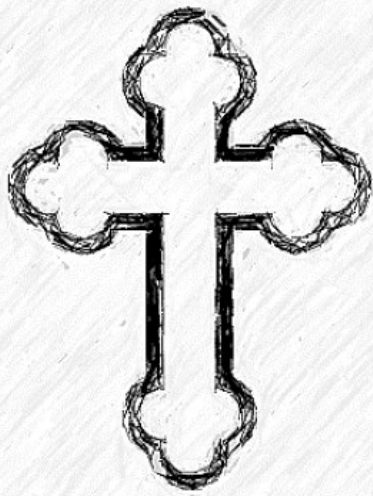
For more information, please contact:

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



IN DEFENSE
OF CHRISTIANS

National Day of Action and Ecumenical Prayer Service
Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015 at 7 p.m.
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1220 S. 60th Ct., Cicero, IL 60804

IDC, in coordination with local communities across the country, including prominent clergy and politicians, is hosting a National Day of Action to help raise awareness of persecuted Christians in the Middle East and the humanitarian/human rights crisis in the region. We are launching a campaign of solidarity through personal and community prayer, political action, and charitable giving.

IDC will also celebrate the one-year anniversary of its Chicago chapter at this event.

visit www.indefenseofchristians.org or contact IDC Chicago Chapter Chairman George Kourieh at (773-848-3500) or Co-Chairman Robert Sweiss at (708-945-6969) for more information.

PRAY. ACT. GIVE.

*The Fellowship of St. John the Divine
cordially invite you to a*

Christmas Gathering

Saturday, December 19th
6:30 p.m. in the Nadi

It is finally that time of year!
Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater &
bring your favorite Lenten dish to share.

The FSJD is hosting a Christmas
Gathering filled with fun activities &
a session given by St. Mary's clergy.

If you would like to participate in a grab
bag, please bring a gift within the
amount of \$20.

The person with the ugliest
Christmas sweater will be awarded a
prize!

Questions? Please contact
Marram Salman (708)-307-7473
Reem Sweis (708)-522-9477

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



St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

We need **YOU** to become future Leaders of our
FELLOWSHIP for 2016!

ELECTIONS

Saturday, December 19th
(during our Christmas Gathering)
St. Mary's Nadi

If you're interested in taking a position of leadership in our Fellowship of St. John the Divine, please see Fabby Sweis or Dn. Saed with a self-nomination or recommendation of others to run for Office.

We are looking for nominations for the offices of President,
Vice President, PR and Treasurer.

Deadline to submit nominations is **Sunday, December 13th.**

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17



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.



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



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



New Year Hafleh

December 31st, 2015 at 7:00pm

St. Mary's Gymnasium (North Entrance)

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

Tickets:

Adults - \$75

12yrs & younger - \$40

Appetizers - Dinner - Sweets - Live Band - Open Bar

Music by:

Nabil Nemeh & Doris Farhat



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)

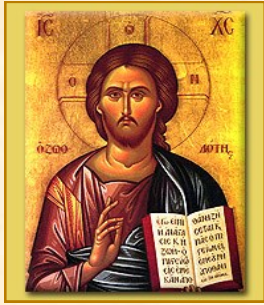
Brunch and Farewell (St. George Antiochian)

**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 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the contest of the holy Martyr Paramonos of Bithynia and his 370 fellow Martyrs. Paramonos contested for piety's sake during the reign of Decius, in the year 250. A ruler named Aquilinus, seeking relief from a bodily malady, visited a certain therapeutic hot spring. He brought with him captive 370 Christians from Nicomedia, and commanded them to offer sacrifice in the temple of Isis. When they refused, he had them all slaughtered. Paramonos, beholding their murder, boldly cried out against such an act of ungodliness. When Aquilinus heard this, he sent men to kill the Saint. Thus they all entered into the Eternal Kingdom. On this day, we also commemorate Martyr Philoumenos of Ancyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai; Hieromartyr Dionysios, bishop of Corinth; Urban, bishop of Macedonia; and Nicholas, archbishop of Thessalonica. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.