



# 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 - Jenna Riadi

Fellowship - Sally Sweis

Antiochian Women -

Magida Abudayyeh

Handmaids - Mansoura Khouri and

Lina Haddad

Humanitarian - Shireen Salman

OCLife - Nancy Cannon

Fishers of Men - John Eannace

Athletics - Nidal Haddad

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

*January 10th, 2015*

*Sunday after the Theophany of Christ*



#### 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

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a strange people.

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

The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.

*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 the ages of ages. Amen.

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

### Second Antiphon

I am well pleased for the Lord has heard my voice and my supplication.

*Save us, O Son of God, who was baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

The sorrows of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me. I found trouble and sorrow, and I called upon the Name of the Lord.

*Save us, O Son of God, who was baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; and our God is Merciful.

*Save us, O Son of God, who was baptized by John in the Jordan, 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.

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

### Third Antiphon

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

*When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlighten the world, glory to Thee!*

# **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 Seven)**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief;  
Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst  
bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting  
the world the Great Mercy.

## **Troparion of the Theophany (Tone One)**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity  
was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, by  
calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed  
the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and  
hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

## **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 Theophany of our Lord (Tone Four)**

Today thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and thy light hath been shed  
upon us, who praise thee with knowledge, saying: Thou hast come and  
appeared, O unapproachable Light.

## Epistle for the Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us!*

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous!*

**The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (4:7-13).**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## Gospel for the Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12-17).**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

thank  
you!

The Fellowship of St. John the Divine would like to thank all those who participated in the blood drive. We were able to donate enough blood to save about 105 lives and we were also able to contribute \$440 to the IOCC that will go towards the Syrian Relief Fund. Thank you to everyone for their patience and support. God bless!

A big thank you to Mousa Dahdal for administering 22 flu shots last week. We look forward to working with him next flu shot season!

## **Axios! Mustaheq! He is Worthy!**



The clergy and parishioners of St. Mary Church congratulate the Very Rev. Fr. Fouad Saba on his elevation to the dignity of Archpriest. May God grant Fr. Saba, Kh. Diana, Katherine, and Mousa many healthy years in His service. Mabrook!

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY**



Our Annual General Assembly will take place immediately following today's Divine Liturgy. Please plan to be in attendance. Thanks and God bless!

## **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.



# 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*

01/10: Awan and Hana Sweis & Family

01/17: Emad and Issam Haddad & Families

01/24: Mazen and Lamees Ammari & Family

## Epistle Reading

01/10: Elaine Riadi & Lily Sweiss

01/17: Delia Haddad & Awan Sweis

## **Annunciation Bookstore**

Open every Sunday after Liturgy

Monday -Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm

Please email Nader Haddad at

Naderemile3@yahoo.com with any requests.



## *The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity Revealed*

*By Fr. Thomas Hopko*

In the Old Testament we find Yahweh, the one Lord and God, acting toward the world through His Word and His Spirit. In the New Testament the "Word becomes flesh" (*Jn 1:14*). As Jesus of Nazareth, the only-begotten Son of God becomes man. And the Holy Spirit, who is in Jesus making him the Christ, is poured forth from God upon all flesh (*Acts 2:17*).

One cannot read the Bible nor the history of the Church without being struck by the numerous references to God the Father, the Son (Word) of God and the Holy Spirit. The New Testament record, and the life of the Orthodox Church is absolutely incomprehensible and meaningless without constant affirmation of the existence, interrelation and interaction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit towards each other and towards man and the world.



**40 Day Memorial**  
Fadwa Fakhoury  
**Memory Eternal!**



## OCCHY BLURB

**15 Shots of Vodka KILLED This 17-Year-Old While Her Friend's Parents WERE IN THE HOUSE!**



[Read] what Shelby Allen's family wants you to know about drinking in a "safe home."

L-R: Tera (sister), Steve (father), Shelby (the deceased), and Debbie Allen (mother).

<http://www.seventeen.com/life/real-girl-stories/a36845/binge-drinking-killed-shelby-allen/>

*The best gift for the New Year is a wholesome, healthy child.*

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

## **Reminder**

If you did not place your donation in the pledge box when you walked in, please remember to do so as you leave.

**Thank You!**

Saint Mary's ALTAR SERVERS' MINISTRY  
"UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"



January 24, 2016 – April 24, 2016  
(Effective Sunday January 24, 2016)

**The following is the NEW list of teams and schedule for Altar Servers. Please make sure that you are here and ready to serve 10 minutes before liturgy begins (9:50 AM)! GOD BLESS!**

(Any questions or if your child's name is not on the list, please contact Subdeacon Matthew Sweis at [mrsweis@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsweis@hotmail.com) or see him on Sundays after Divine Liturgy). See Schedule BELOW:

**Murad Salman (Team Leader): Team A**

Jordan Albakhit  
George Albakhit  
David Sweiss  
Michael Sweiss  
Kyse Dahdal  
Joseph Fallouh  
Joseph Haddad  
Rami Sweis  
Saleem Swaiss  
Samer Sweis  
Christian Sweis

**Team A:**

01/24/16  
02/07/16  
02/21/16  
03/06/16  
03/20/16  
04/03/16  
04/17/16

**Sharbel Samawi (Team Leader): Team B:**

Anthony Haddad  
Philip Haddad  
Hashem Tadros  
Yousef A Tadros  
Yousef R Tadros  
Faris Tadros  
Basil Tadros  
David Alnimri  
Daniel Alnimri  
Jai Singh Riske  
Sharbel Alafnan

**Team B:**

01/31/16  
02/14/16  
02/28/16  
03/13/16  
03/27/16  
04/10/16  
04/24/16

**John 12:26** *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*



# Open Gym Schedule

## Basketball Open Gym 4 pm

## Volleyball Open Gym 7 pm

Sunday Jan. 10th  
 Sunday Jan. 24th  
 Sunday Jan. 31st  
 Sunday Feb. 7th  
 Sunday Feb. 14th  
 Sunday Feb. 21st  
 Sunday Feb. 28th

Tuesday Jan. 12th  
 Tuesday Jan. 19th  
 Tuesday Jan. 26th  
 Tuesday Feb. 2nd  
 Tuesday Feb. 9th  
 Tuesday Feb. 16th  
 Tuesday Feb. 23rd

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the Teen SOYO:

Jenna Riadi - President  
 Helena Janineh - Vice-President  
 Matthew Ibrahim - Treasurer  
 Monita Hadweh - Public Relations  
 Jehan Tadros - Secretary.



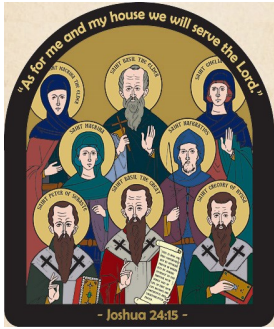
We would also like to thank the outgoing officers for all of their hard work and dedication in 2015:

Murad Salman - President  
 Jackie Tadros - Vice-President  
 Simon Tadros –Treasurer  
 Lilly Tadros - Public Relations  
 Jenna Tadros - Secretary



The swearing in of the newly elected officers will take place on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

# Upcoming Sunday School Event



Register your child for the 3 day **Creative Projects Mini Camp** from January 16th through the 18th. The camp will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and there is a \$10 sign up fee.

## 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](mailto:saedrihani6@gmail.com)/ (773) 454– 2191

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

Rima: [rima.saigh@gmail.com](mailto:rima.saigh@gmail.com)/ (708) 590– 9559

# ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS!



There will be mandatory training on Sunday, January 17th.

If you did not attend the first training session in December, you must attend this session. 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](mailto:mrsweis@hotmail.com)) or Deacon Saed ([saedrihani6@gmail.com](mailto:saedrihani6@gmail.com)) with any questions.



# **18<sup>th</sup> 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.**



**LOVIN' LIFE IN CHICAGO**

**JANUARY 17, 2016, 2-4PM**

**MarchForLifeChicago.com**  
marchforlifechicago@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL  
**MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO**

STARTS AT FEDERAL PLAZA (50 W ADAMS)

— SPEAKERS —

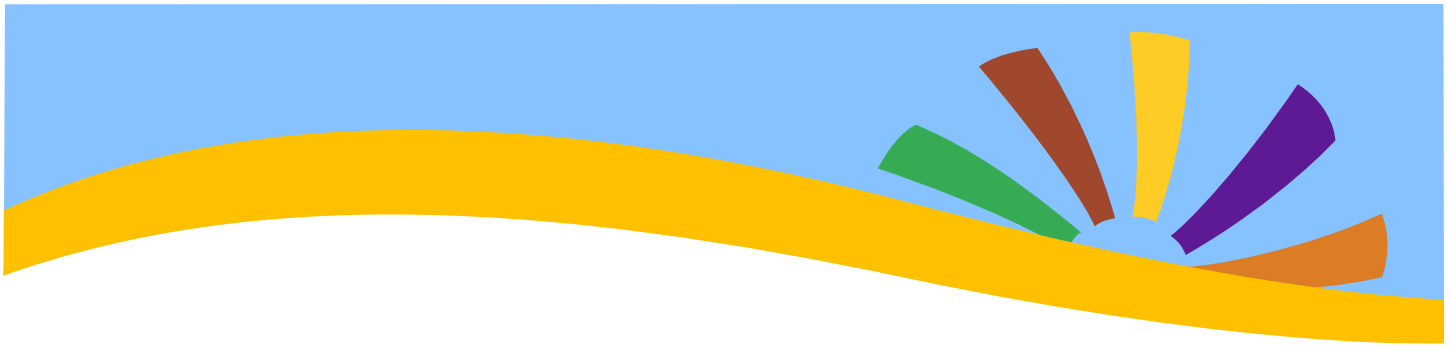
**Melissa Ohden, *Abortion Survivor***  
**Archbishop Blase Cupich**  
*Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago*

**Bishop Paul of Chicago**  
*Orthodox Church of America*

**Pastor Wilfredo De Jesús,**  
*New Life Covenant Church in Chicago*

→ SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS ←

ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE • ORTHODOX CLERGY ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO • L.E.A.R.N. (LIFE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE NETWORK) CATHOLICVOTE.ORG • LAKE COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE • AID FOR WOMEN ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO • ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO RESPECT LIFE OFFICE • STUDENTS FOR LIFE OF ILLINOIS • CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS • COUPLES FOR CHRIST • FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY AND LIFE • PRO LIFE ACTION LEAGUE • RENOVACIÓN CARISMÁTICA CATÓLICA HISPANA • SPIRIT JUICE STUDIOS • PRO-LIFE WISCONSIN • DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD • ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE • RELEVANT RADIO • THOMAS MORE SOCIETY • THE WOMEN'S CENTER • FAMILIES IN CHRIST JESUS



# Ladies Social Night

Fun Games and  
Refreshments



Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm  
St Mary's Church Fellowship Hall

Donations \$10

For information please call:

Muna Salman 708-769-5105

Jurjeit Sweis 708-606-7573

St. Mary office 708-239-0004

Sponsored by our Antiochian Women

The 8th Annual Pan-Orthodox  
*Sanctity of Life*  
*Prayer Service*  
*and Presentation*

Come join in prayer that the Lord will guide us to keep all life SACRED.

The prayer will be followed by a presentation by

**Laura Paulus**

the Executive Director & House Mother  
of the Martha and Mary Maternity Home



*Sunday, January 24, 2016*  
*6:00 PM*

*Saint Peter and St. Paul*  
*Ukrainian Orthodox Church*  
*8410 W. 131st Street*  
*Palos Park, IL 60464*

The Martha and Mary Maternity Home is an Orthodox Christian Maternity Home for pregnant women in need of support. It is the fulfillment of a long-held dream of the members of Orthodox Christians for Life - Chicago, and it is a ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

The Pan-Orthodox Board of Directors operates under the guidance of His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, with the solid support of the beloved hierarchs across all Orthodox Jurisdictions.

As an Orthodox Christian home, the Martha and Mary house provides housing, with privacy and confidentiality, for women (generally 18 and older) at any stage of pregnancy and for an appropriate amount of time after childbirth.

Laura Paulus is the newly-named Executive Director and Housemother of the Martha and Mary Maternity Home in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago. She is actively involved in the life of her parish, St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines, where after serving on the Parish Council she is now a member of the Philotochos Board.

# CHI TOWN S. SIDE TEEN NIGHT



Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth

South Side Winter Event 2016

## Orthodox Teens Health & Hookah Risk Prevention

Presentation – Video – Q&A – Youth Survey

On Wednesday night, February 17th, teens from the South Suburbs of Chicago will have a chance to gather for an informative presentation on substance prevention and awareness.

This is a great opportunity to be informed about current teen health risks and to meet new friends in the area.

*Feel free to bring a friend!*

**WEDNESDAY  
FEBURARY 17TH**

**7p-9p**

**ST. MARY**

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH**

**6330 West 127th St  
Palos Heights, IL 60463**



## R.S.V.P.

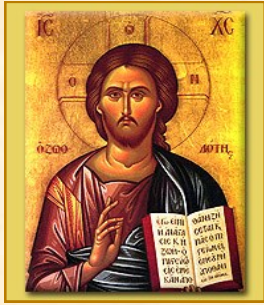
*Email:*

occhycicero@gmail.com  
- or -ajkoranda@gmail.com

*Phone:*

(708) 298-9770

Please give the name of the parish and how many will be participating when responding.



## Weekly Synaxarion



On January 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Theophany of Christ, and we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa. The brother of St. Basil the Great, Gregory was at first a married priest; but when his wife, the blessed Theosevia, died, he was chosen and consecrated as Bishop of Nyssa. He was distinguished by great secular learning and spiritual experience, and was a great preacher, a translator of the Scriptures and a theologian. As a result of his opposition to the Arians, they did everything in their power to crush him, regarding him as their chief enemy. They were so successful in this that, in the reign of the Emperor Valens, their ally, they managed to depose Gregory from his episcopal throne and drive him into exile in 376. The holy Father spent several years in patient exile, enduring poverty and humiliation. In 381, Gregory took part in the Second Ecumenical Council, where he formulated the final part of the Creed concerning the Holy Spirit. Finally, finishing his life at a great age in about the year 395, Gregory entered into the Kingdom of God and has been commemorated through all succeeding ages as a great light in the Church. On this day, we also commemorate Marcian the priest of Constantinople; Dometian, bishop of Melitene; Venerable Paul of Obnora and Makarios of Pisma; and Bishop Theophan the Recluse. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.