



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

Abdullah Tadros - Chairman

Magida Abudayyeh - Vice Chair

Jason Haddad - Treasurer

Abeer Khouri - Financial Sec. / Sec.

Fadi Abu Manneh

Nidal Al-Farah

Constantin Kari

Faris Samawi

Bassam Shaheen

Luai Sweis

Saleh Tadros

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 Sweis

Office

May Sweis

administrator@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our

Office Administrator

January 24th, 2016

Fourteenth Sunday of Luke

Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg



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 St. Xenia of St. Petersburg (Tone Eight)

In thee, O wandering stranger, Christ the Lord hath given us an ardent intercessor for our kind. For having received in thy life sufferings and grief and served God and men with love, thou didst acquire great boldness. Wherefore, we fervently hasten to thee in temptations and grief, crying out from the depths of our hearts: Put not our hope to shame, O Blessed Xenia.

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 Presentation of our Lord to the Temple (Tone One)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in peace, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Epistle for the Thirty-First Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, save your people, and bless your inheritance!

To you, O Lord, have I cried, O my God!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to Timothy (1:15-17).

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel for the Fourteenth Sunday of St. Luke

The Reading is from Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:35-43).

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude was going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he called out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy upon me! And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well. And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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

01/24: Mazen and Lamees Ammari & Family

01/31: Rouzin Sweiss & Family

02/07: Faysal and Suhair Sweis & Family

Epistle Reading

01/24: Subdn. Matthew & Rima Sleiman

01/31: Rachel Tadros & Norma Tadros

Annunciation Bookstore

Open every Sunday after Liturgy

Monday -Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm

Please email Nader Haddad at

Naderemile3@yahoo.com with any requests.

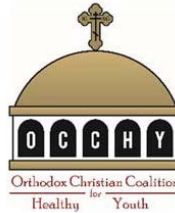


Baptism

Stephanie

Parents: Romy and Brooke Shaheen

Congratulations!



OCCHY BLURB

Hawaii Becomes First State to Raise Smoking Age to 21



Effective Jan. 1 — The new law bans those under 21 from buying tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.

While smoking has decreased greatly in Hawaii, use of e-cigarettes is on the rise. 22% of high school students have tried e-cigarettes, compared with only 5% in 2011. The act is an effort to reverse this trend by making e-cigarettes less accessible and less

attractive, said Lola Irvin, Administrator for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, because Prevention is the best strategy, and youth are especially vulnerable to nicotine addiction.

<http://college.usatoday.com/2016/01/02/hawaii-raises-smoking-age-to-21/>

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!

Orthodoxy 101 : Doctrine of Creation

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

The Orthodox Church believes that God the Father is the “Creator of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.” The Orthodox doctrine of creation is that God has brought everything and everyone which exists from non-existence into being. The main doctrinal point about creation is that God alone is uncreated and ever-existing. Everything which exists besides God was created by Him. God, however, did not create everything individually and all at once, so to speak. He created the first foundations of existence, and then over periods of time (perhaps millions of years, see 2 Pet 3:8) this first foundation of existence-by the power which God had given to it—brought forth the other creatures of God. Thus, although God is certainly the creator of everything. He acts gradually in time and by means of things previously made by Him to which He has given life-producing potencies and powers. And everything God makes is ‘very good.’



SACRED GIFT OF LIFE SUNDAY

PROTECTING THE LIFE OF THE UNBORN

PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord!

All: Lord, have mercy!

Priest: O Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of the Father; Who took on our Human nature to restore its sanctity. Do Thou the same Lord, enlighten Thy people here present and throughout the world, with the knowledge that all life is a sacred gift from Thee, from the instant of conception, to the last breath. Dispel from our minds the subjective concept of quality of life, and implant the objective truth of its preciousness. When we consider abortion, remind us that Thou wast conceived and grew in Thy mother's womb. When we consider euthanasia, call to mind the leper, the paralytic, and Thy friend Lazarus, and how Thy greatness was revealed through their suffering. When we consider the elderly, call to mind Simeon and Anna the Prophetess who proclaimed Thee to the world before the Forerunner, and Thy grandparents Joachim and Anna, who bore and reared Thy most pure mother, despite their advanced age, preparing her to be Thy living Temple. When we consider criminals to be executed, call to mind not only the penitent Thief, but also that Thou wast executed though beyond innocent. As at the tower of Babel, and in the wilderness of Sinai, have we Thy people lost sight of Thy Truth, but restore us in Thy mercy O Lord. Make us instruments of Thy Will, that by loving example, we may lead our misguided brethren to Thee, unworthy as we are. Dispel also from us, over zealousness and aggressive acts, for Thou saved us, not by summoning twelve legions of angels, but by healing the ear of the chief priest's servant and teaching and adjuring the people in love, even from the Cross. Grant this, we entreat Thee, O Thou who lovest mankind, for Thou alone art the Creator and Master of all, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine All-holy, good and life giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen!

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 House 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 House 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.

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 or see him on Sundays after Divine Liturgy). See Schedule BELOW:

<u>Murad Salman : Team A</u>	<u>Team A Dates</u>	<u>Sharbel Samawi : Team B:</u>	<u>Team B Dates</u>
Jordan Albakhit	1/24/16	Anthony Haddad	1/31/16
George Albakhit	2/07/16	Philip Haddad	2/14/16
David Sweiss	2/21/16	Hashem Tadros	2/28/16
Michael Sweiss	3/06/16	Yousef A Tadros	3/13/16
Kyse Dahdal	3/20/16	Yousef R Tadros	3/27/16
Joseph Fallouh	4/03/16	Faris Tadros	4/10/16
Joseph Haddad	4/17/16	Basil Tadros	4/24/16
Rami Sweis		David Alnimri	
Saleem Swaiss		Daniel Alnimri	
Samer Sweis		Jai Singh Riske	
Christian Sweis		Sharbel Alafnan	
Charlie Sayeg		Michael Galuszynski	
Malik Tadros		Nicholas Abu-Manneh	
Ameer Tadros		Sleman Shaheen	

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.*

ALTAR BOYS' ROBES FOR GREAT LENT

We are still collecting for the Altar Boy Robes for Great Lent. This is Phase One of obtaining new Robes for all the Altar Boys. The first color is Purple, and we are asking each of the boys to donate \$100 to cover the cost of the first robe. Thanks to the families who already made the donation. All others, please give your donation to SubDn. Matthew or Dn. Saed.



Congratulations Team St. Mary

for winning second place in the teen level of the Annual Diocesan Basketball Tournament in Canton, Ohio.



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.



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



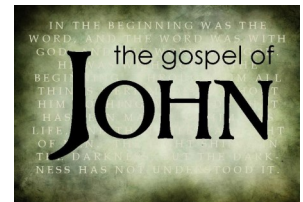
Fellowship Bible Study/ Open House

Join the Fellowship of St. John the Divine for
Bible Study/Open House
on January 31st in the Nađi
immediately following Liturgy.

2016 ADULT BIBLE BOWL TEAM

Alright Adults! Anyone 19 and older is eligible to join the Adult Bible Bowl Team.

This year's topic: Gospel of St. John.



St. Mary needs YOU! You can do it...it takes no more than 2 hours per week to study the Gospel. Our Teens have won Diocese and National Awards. WE WANT our Adults to show what THEY can do !!!! See Deacon Saed if interested. If you don't come to see him, HE will find YOU!



Open Gym Schedule

Basketball Open Gym 4 pm

Volleyball Open Gym 7 pm

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

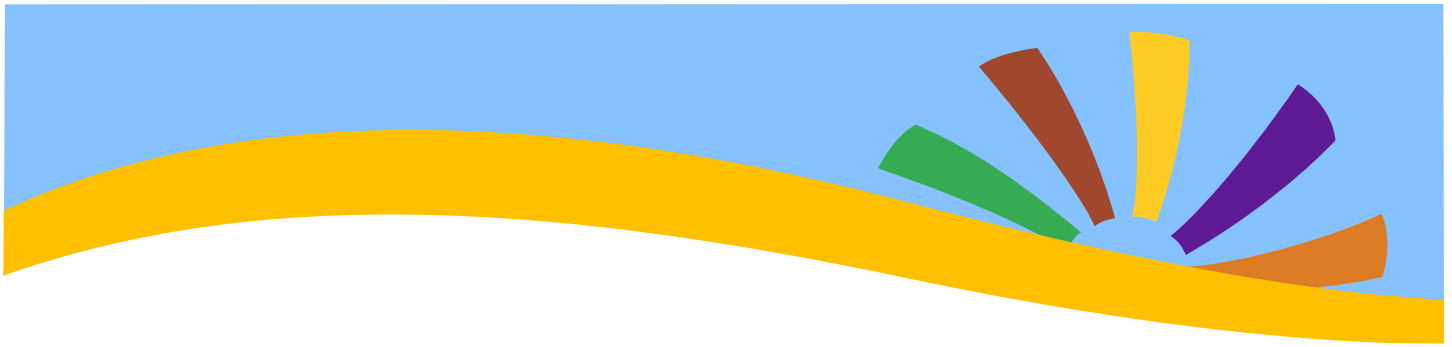
Tuesday Jan. 26th
Tuesday Feb. 2nd
Tuesday Feb. 9th
Tuesday Feb. 16th
Tuesday Feb. 23rd

Congratulations

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.

The swearing in of the newly elected officers will take place
Today, January 24th, 2016.



Ladies Social Night

Fun Games and
Refreshments



Saturday, January 30th 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

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.

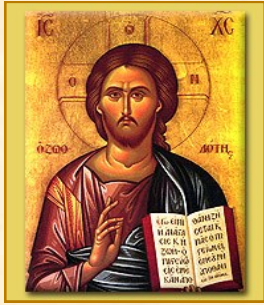
Email:

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 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Righteous Mother, Blessed Xenia, the Fool for Christ's sake and Wonderworker of Saint Petersburg. Xenia was married to a Colonel named Andrew; when she was 26 years old, her husband died suddenly. Left a childless widow, Xenia gave away all that she had, and vanished from St. Petersburg for eight years to live in a hermitage, learning the spiritual life. When she returned to St. Petersburg, she wore her husband's military clothing, and would answer only to the name of her late husband Andrew. She took up the life of a homeless wanderer, and was abused by many as insane. She bore this with great patience, crucifying the carnal mind through the mockery she endured, and praying for her husband's soul. She was given great gifts of prayer and prophecy, and often foretold things to come. In 1796 she foretold the death of Empress Catherine II. Xenia reposed in peace at age 71 in about the year 1800. Her grave became such a source of miracles, and so many came to take soil from it as a blessing that it was often necessary to replace the soil. When a stone slab was placed over her grave, this too disappeared over time, piece by piece. Saint Xenia is especially invoked for help in finding employment, lodging, or a spouse. On this day, we also commemorate our Righteous Mother Xenia the merciful of Rome; Hieromartyr Babylas of Sicily; and Venerable Philotheos, founder of Philotheou monastery on Athos. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.