



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 Y. 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 Sweiss
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 Sweiss

Office
May Sweis
administrator@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental
Call the church office or email our
Office Administrator

February 7th, 2016

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew

After-feast of the Presentation 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

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king.
My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

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

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever.

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.

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

Second Antiphon

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, 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

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

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 Three)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple (Tone One)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who granteth us Resurrection.

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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord will give strength to his people!

Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:1-10).

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel for the Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:14-30).

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I

knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sew, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” As Jesus said these things He cried out: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

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!



Orthodoxy 101 : Evil Spirits

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

In addition to the created spiritual powers who do the will of God, there are, according to the Orthodox faith, those who rebel against Him and do evil. These are the demons or devils (which means literally those who “pull apart” and destroy) who are also known both in the Old and New Testaments as well as in the lives of the saints of the Church.

Satan (which means literally the enemy or the adversary) is one proper name for the devil, the leader of the evil spirits. He is identified in the serpent symbol of Gen 3 and as the tempter of both Job and Jesus (Job 1:6; Mk 1:33). He is labelled by Christ as a deceiver and liar, the “father of lies” (Jn 8:44) and the “prince of this world” (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He has “fallen from heaven” together with his evil angels to do battle with God and his servants (Lk 10:18; Isa 14:12). It is this same Satan who “entered Judas” to effect the betrayal and destruction of Christ (Lk 22:3).

The apostles of Christ and the saints of the Church knew from direct experience Satan’s powers against man for Man’s own destruction. They knew as well Satan’s lack of power and his own ultimate destruction when man is with God, filled with the Holy Spirit of Christ. According to Orthodox doctrine there is no middle road between God and Satan. Ultimately, and at any given moment, man is either with God or the devil, serving one or the other.

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. (1 Pet 5:8)

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

02/07: Faysal and Suhair Sweis & Family

02/14: Romel and Nabeela Sweis & Family

02/21: Bishara Sweis & Family

Epistle Reading

02/07: Scott Abdo & Khaled Salman

02/14: Angela Haddad & Saleem Swaiss

Chili Sale



Today
February 7th, 2016

Sponsored by the Fellowship



Memory Eternal!
Abdullah Salameh Tadros



OCCHY BLURB

A 16-Year-Old Teen Suffered Second Degree Burns When an E-Cigarette Exploded in His Face

Another e-cigarette has **EXPLODED**. Ty Greer, a 16-year-old teen in Alberta, Canada, suffered second degree burns and broken teeth after his e-cigarette spontaneously exploded just inches from his mouth while he was using it in his car.



"It lit my kid's face on fire, busted two teeth out," Perry Greer, Ty's father, told the Canadian Press. "It burned the back of his throat, burned his tongue very badly. If he wasn't wearing glasses, he possibly could have lost his eyes. ...He wanted to die. That is how much pain he was in."

<https://www.yahoo.com/health/16-old-teen-suffered-second-211900580.html>

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



Annunciation Bookstore

Open every Sunday after Liturgy

Monday -Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm

Please email Nader Haddad at

Naderemile3@yahoo.com with any requests.

St. Mary's is thrilled to introduce the start of our
MENTORING PROGRAM

Have you been wanting to give back to your community? Have you been thankful for all of God's blessings, and want to help the youth find success and happiness in their spiritual and professional life?

Are you a teen who has been thinking about high school, college, and your future? Have you been searching for that extra push, guidance and some helpful advice from someone experienced and trustworthy?

Search no more!

**Applications for mentors and mentees will be available
Sunday, February 14th!**

Stay tuned for more information!

Questions? Please see Fabiola Sweis, Elaine Riadi, or
Deacon Saed

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.



Sunday School News/Event



Youth Choir Workshop

February 6th, 2016 in Church Gym

3PM-6PM (includes Great Vespers)

Youth Choir will meet every Sunday starting

on February 7th, 2016

after Liturgy from 12:15 to 12:45

Creative Festivals Wrap Up

February 13th, 2016

1PM-5PM open to 1st through 12th graders.

Lunch will be provided, students will finish-up projects or start a new one.

\$5 registration fee to be paid at the door.

Register by emailing SundaySchool@StMaryOC.org

Creative Festivals: Anyone working on their own projects? Contact Preyma Grace Riske, so she can include you in the Gallery.



Sunday School Summer Programs

We're looking for volunteers 16+ to run a weekly program on Tuesday evenings also a Vacation Church School.

Both are open to 1st through 12th graders.



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	
Faris Makhamreh		Gus Bousheh	
Issa Khoury		Nicholas Bousheh	

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' SCHEDULE /NO LATE ARRIVALS

Thank you parents and sons for observing the Altar Boys' Schedule as posted in the Bulletin. We invite any other boys who wish to serve to let us know after the Liturgy, so we can add them to the appropriate team. Also, Effective Sunday February 28, All Altar Boys who are scheduled to serve MUST arrive before 10am, otherwise they will not be able to serve. We must give God our attention and be on time; late arrivals only disturb the worship service. Parents: Please arrive on time as to not discourage the boys from their service in the Holy Altar. Any questions or concerns, please see SubDeacon Matthew or Deacon Saed.

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.



Come join us for
Life After Retreat



Who: Teen SOYO members, Retreat attendees are highly encouraged to attend the LAR

When: February 24th, 2016, at 6:30 PM

Where: St. Mary's Church Nadi

Why: Reflection on Retreat Theme:

"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

TEEN SOYO NIGHTS



We welcome all teens to attend our Wednesday, Teen SOYO Nights, 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 contact one of the SOYO Advisors.



Open Gym Schedule

Basketball Open Gym 4 pm

- Sunday Feb. 7th
- Sunday Feb. 14th
- Sunday Feb. 21st
- Sunday Feb. 28th
- Sunday Mar. 1st
- Sunday Mar. 8th
- Sunday Mar. 15th
- Sunday Mar. 22nd
- Sunday Mar. 29th

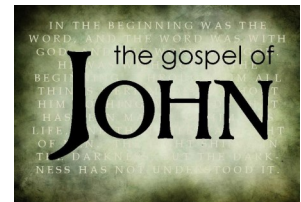
Volleyball Open Gym 7 pm

- Tuesday Feb. 9th
- Tuesday Feb. 16th
- Tuesday Feb. 23rd
- Tuesday Mar. 6th
- Tuesday Mar. 13th
- Tuesday Mar. 20th
- Tuesday Mar. 27th

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!



SUPERBOWL 50 PARTY

Presented by:
The Fellowship of St. John the Divine

Sunday, February 7th, 2016
Pre-game is at 4:30PM/Kickoff is at 5:25PM

General Information

We are pleased to present Superbowl 50 which will take place in the Nadi. This event will consist of family, friends, food, and drinks. Come and join us for a night of fun!

Admission: \$10 per person
(Additional \$5 for beer - 21 & up)

Ages: 13 and older

For more information, please contact Sally Sweis at (708)655-2529, Josephine Tadros (708)745-8406 or any Fellowship Officer.

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.

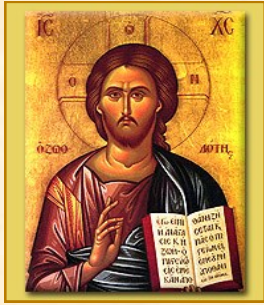
Email:

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 February 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ. On this day, we commemorate our righteous Father Parthenios, bishop of Lampsakos. As a child Parthenios remembered well the words of the Gospel and endeavored to fulfill them. He settled in the area of a lake where he fished. He then sold the fish and distributed the money to the poor. As bishop of Lampsakos, he cleansed the town of paganism, closed the idolatrous temples, built many churches and strengthened the faithful in the Faith. Through prayer, he healed every manner of illness and he was particularly powerful over evil spirits. Once he wanted to cast out an evil spirit from an insane man, but it begged him not to do so. Parthenios told the spirit to dwell in him instead, and it fled in fear. Parthenios reposed in the fourth century. On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Luke of Hellas; and New-martyr George of Crete. On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom). By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.