



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 14th, 2016

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost and
Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew*



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 Four)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying death hath been spoiled, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

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 Theotokos (Tone Two)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Epistle Reading for the Seventeenth 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 is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:16-7:1).

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel for the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (15:21-28).

At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

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!



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

02/14: Romel and Nabeela Sweis & Family

02/21: Bishara Sweis & Family

02/28: Abdullah and Nader Tadros & Families

Epistle Reading

02/14: Abeer Khouri & Saleem Swaiss

02/21: Salena Ibrahim & Nour Swaiss



Engagement

Adel Tawfiq Fakhouri
and
Nadine Mazen Tadros
Congratulations!



Engagement

Michael Basem Shakta
and
Samantha Raed Sweiss
Congratulations!

Shawarma Sale

Sunday, February 21st



Sponsored by the Antiochian Women

Understanding the Divine Liturgy: *“Blessed is the Kingdom”*

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

The first exclamation of the Divine Liturgy reveals the key to the entire celebration: *“Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.”*

With these words the celebrant announces the source and the goal of the divine service of the People of God, the very context and contents of the entire liturgical action. To bless the Kingdom of God means to love it as one's most precious possession. The response of the people to the proclamation of blessing by the priest is with the word **“Amen,”** which means **“so be it.”** It is the official confirmation that this Kingdom is indeed the *“pearl of great price”* for the faithful, which once having found it, they will love it and serve it and desire to have it forever (Lk 13:14).

SPRING GATHERING 2016

Hosted by St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights, IL

March 10th -13th 2016



March 10 -11th: Clergy Retreat with his Grace, Bishop ANTHONY

March 11-13th: Spring Gathering of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, Teen SOYO and the Antiochian Women

A special guest appearance will be made on Saturday night by **Tyler Mancuso: One Man A Capella!**



Two of Tyler's YouTube Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwEvWxVZXb0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTqAf4rYqsE>

The **DoubleTree by Hilton** is conveniently located just over a mile from St. Mary's and 15 minutes from the Indiana border: 5000 W. 127th St. Alsip, IL 60803

Reserve your room by February 11th to receive the special rate of \$109/night. To reserve online, visit:

www.alsipdoubletree.com (use group code ORT)

or call 1-800-222-8733

Registration fee is \$35. This includes a pizza dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and a farewell lunch on Sunday!

Weekend includes:

- Fellowship
- Business Meetings
- "Ask Sayidna" Pizza Party
- Mini-Hafle
- Cheesefare weekend (Enjoy all the dairy you want!!!)
- Service Project
- Hierarchical Divine Liturgy/ Teens and FSJD to chant Vespers/Orthros
- Farewell Luncheon on Sunday

St. Mary Church
6330 W. 127th Pl.
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TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS

Sponsored by
THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CLERGY ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO



6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 20, 2016

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
893 Church Road
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

Homilist:
His Grace Bishop PAUL
Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest (OCA)

Responses offered by
Pan Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago
Gordana Trbuhovich, Director



Happy Mother's Day

*Honoring our Mothers on their Special Day
St. Mary Orthodox Church
Would like to invite you to attend our annual*

Mother's Day Party

Saturday, May 7th at 12:00 pm

Tickets: \$40.00 per person

Orland Chateau

14500 S LaGrange Rd

Orland Park, IL 60462

For more information please contact

Rita Sweis 773-510-4303 or

Yasmin Sweis 708-712-9502

See the Antiochian Women for tickets.

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

Sunday School News/Event



Youth Choir

Youth Choir will meet every Sunday starting on February 7th, 2016 after Liturgy from 12:15pm to 12:45pm and the **1st** Saturday of every month from 3-6pm

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.



*Lenten
Retreat*

Middle School Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 19th, 2016

1pm-6pm

Includes lunch and 5pm Great Vespers
more details to follow.

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.





Sunday School Corner

Sunday School Bulletin
Week of February 14, 2016

Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

One day, a woman from a foreign country met Jesus. "Lord," she said, "Please heal my daughter." Jesus did not answer her at first. Then he said, "My work is for the people of the country, Israel, not Canaan. I was sent only to the people of Israel."

She knelt before him and begged him, "Lord, help me."

Jesus said, "It is not fair to give to others what is meant for the children of Israel. It would be like giving the children's bread to the dogs."

The woman said, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table."

Then Jesus said, "O woman, you have great faith. Be it done as you desire." Her daughter was healed at that hour.



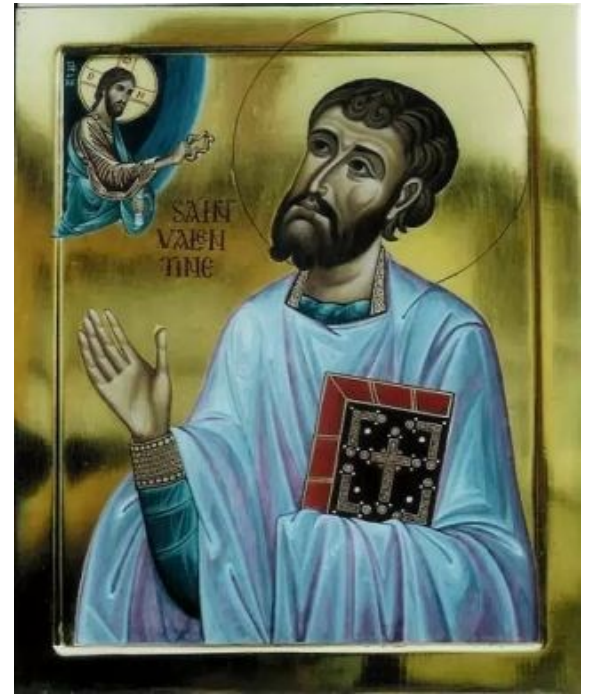
Who was Saint Valentine? Have you finished your Art, Writing, Poetry & Photography for the Creative Festivals? Are there any more Sunday School events coming up? All these questions answered inside!

Are you receiving Sunday School Emails? If you did not receive an email with the words and music from us, you need to get onto our list! Email SundaySchool@StMaryOC.org to let us know!

Who was Saint Valentine?

At least 3 men named Valentine were martyred for their faith.

- One man named Valentine died with a group of fellow believers and very little is known.
- The 2nd Valentine was a Bishop beheaded during the persecution of Christians.
- Hieromartyr Valentine's relics are in Terni & his feast day is July 30th.
- The 3rd martyr named Valentine was also beheaded and buried near the Bishop.
- St. Valentine the Roman's relics are in Rome & Dublin & his feast day is July 6th.



**WATCH FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
SUNDAY SCHOOL
LENTEN RETREATS**

**Middle School Retreat
For 6th through 8th Graders
Start of Lent in March
March 19th**

**Elementary School Retreat
For PreK through 5th Grades
Lazarus Saturday**

Let us know if you want to help!

Creative Project Festival 2016 At St Mary Church, Palos Heights IL

Theme: The Home is a "Little Church"
& "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Josh. 24:15

FUN FACTS about the Creative Festivals:

- ◆ Created for students to express their faith
- ◆ Metropolitan JOSEPH chose the theme
- ◆ Grades 1—12 may participate in 4 main categories:
Writing, Poetry, Art & Photography
- ◆ Grades 1—12 may participate in 2 Parish Categories:
Short Video & Original Song
- ◆ PreK & K may enter St Mary competition & show only
- ◆ PreK & K categories: Art & Poetry
- ◆ St Mary Gallery will be displayed during Feb & March
- ◆ St Mary Awards for each class by March 13th
- ◆ Each archdiocese judges & awards at their PLC in July



REGISTER NOW FOR OUR LAST
WORKSHOP ON SAT, FEB 13!!
RSVP: SundaySchool@StMaryOC.org

Did you know???? Creative Festival Entries can be done at home!!!!

The more entries to choose from, the better!
Students will pick their best work for competition, AND they can display their honorable mentions in our Parish Gallery during the month of February.

Please see Preyma Grace for details.

Entries will be accepted until Feb 14th to be included in St. Mary Parish Festival & Archdiocese Festival.

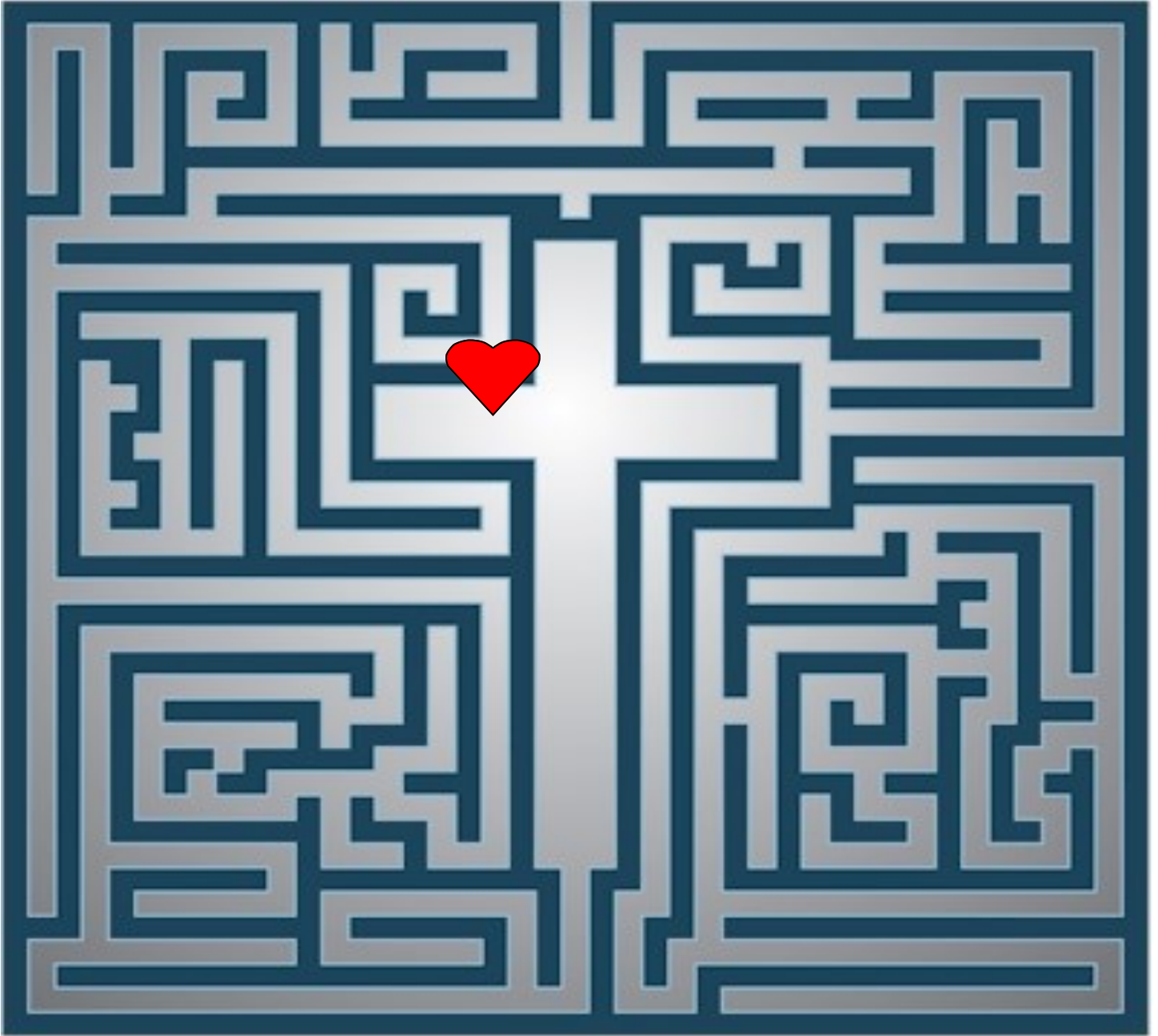
Entries will be accepted until March 6 for Archdiocese Festival ONLY.

YOUTH choir

For Boys & Girls in 1st - 12th Grades

Meetings

12:15-12:45 every Sunday after Liturgy
& 3PM-6PM 1st Saturday of the month



Would you like to get involved but you can't do every Sunday?
Let us know! We need volunteers to help run summer programs.

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.

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.



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 4pm

- 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 7pm

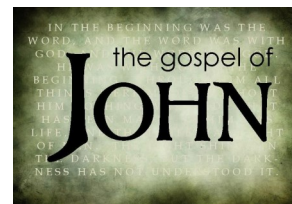
- Tuesday Feb. 16th
- Tuesday Feb. 23rd
- Tuesday Mar. 6th
- Tuesday Mar. 13th
- Tuesday Mar. 20th
- Tuesday Mar. 27th

*** Time change for February 14th and 21st. 5pm instead of 3pm.**

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!

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.

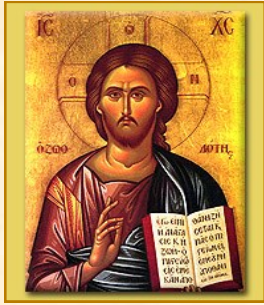
Email:

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 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Auxentios the priest of Bithynia. Auxentios was a very prominent aristocrat among the noblemen and courtiers of Emperor Theodosius the Younger in Constantinople. Enflamed with love for Christ, Auxentios was tonsured a monk. When men began to praise him, he fled from their praise and settled on a mountain called Skopa near Chalcedon, which later was referred to as Auxentios' Mountain. But people found him and brought the sick to him for healing, which he did. All of this was reason for amazement, but his humbleness was cause for even greater amazement. Whenever Auxentios was implored to heal someone he defended himself with the words: "I, also, am a sinful man!" When Auxentios healed, he either invited all present to pray to God together with him for the sick person; or he first strengthened the faith in the people and then he told them that God will give to them according to their faith; or he prayed over the head of the sick person: "The Lord Jesus Christ heals you!" Thus, the miracles would not be attributed to him but rather to God. Auxentios participated at the Fourth Ecumenical Council and strongly defended Orthodoxy against the Eutychian and Nestorian heresies. In 470, the Lord took his youthful soul in old age. On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Abraham and Maron of Syria; New-martyrs Nicholas of Corinth and George the tailor of Mitylene; and Venerable Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles and enlightener of the Slavs. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.