



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

V. Rev. Fr. Danial Doss (OCA)

Rev. Archdeacon Saed Rihani

Rev. Dn. Jacob Andoun

Parish Council

Fr. Mousa Haddad - Presiding Officer

Rashid Sweis - Chairman

Shireen Salman - Vice Chairman

Jason Haddad - Treasurer

Rain Chamoun - Financial Secretary

Fabiola Sweis - Secretary

Fadi Abu Manneh

Raed Bisharat

Laith Swais

Elia Sweis

Najib Zedan

Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Elizabeth Andoun

SOYO - Daniel Nemri

YAM - Sally Sweis

Antiochian Women - Rita Sweis

Stewardship - Elia Sweis

Fundraising - Nassar Khoury

Humanitarian - Shireen Salman

OCLife - Nancy Cannon

Choir - Angela Haddad

Chanters - Khaled Salman and Danny Haddad

Webmaster - Sana Sweis

Ushers - Jamal Swais, Louis Sweis

Couples Ministry - Nader & Angela Haddad

Office

May Sweis

office@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call or email the church office

May 5th, 2019

New Sunday

Sunday of St. Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin"

الأحد الجديد

أحد القديس توما الرسول



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Weekly Schedule of Services:

Saturday Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday Orthros 8:45am followed by Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Wednesday Morning Prayers followed by Arabic Bible Study 10:00am

Check our website for feast day services and all other services

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

عيد الفصح المجيد المقدس

First Antiphon

Shout with joy to God, all the earth. Sing to His name; give glory to His praises.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

هللوا لله يا جميع الأرض، رتلوا لاسمِهِ أعطوا مجداً لتسبجتهِ.

بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا!

قولوا لله ما أرهَبَ أعمالك، كلُّ مَنْ في الأرضِ يسجدونَ لك ويرتلونَ لاسمِكَ أيها العلي.

بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا!

المجد للآبِ والإبنِ والروحِ القدس الآن وكل أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الداهرين آمين.

بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا!

Second Antiphon

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee, Alleluia!

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy salvation among all nations. Let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God; let all the peoples give thanks to Thee.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee, Alleluia!

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, 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. Amen.

O only-begotten Son, etc.

ليترأف الله علينا ويباركنا، وليضئ بوجهه علينا ويرحمنا.

خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الأموات لترتل لك هلولويا!

لتُعرف في الأرض طريقك وفي جميع الأمم خلاصك.

خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الأموات لترتل لك هلولويا!

تعترف لك الشعوب يا الله تعترف لك.

خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الأموات لنرتل لك هلوليا!
المجد للآب والإبن والروح القدس، الآن وكلّ أوانٍ وإلى دهرِ الداهرينَ، آمين.
يا كلمة الله الابن الوحيد...

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from his face.
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.

Christ is risen, etc.

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

Christ is risen, etc.

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Christ is risen, etc.

ليقم الله ويتبدد جميع أعدائه ويهرب مبغضوه من أمام وجهه.
المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووطئ الموت بالموت، ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور!
كما يباد الدخان يبادون وكما يذوب الشمع من أمام وجه النار.
المسيح قام من بين الأموات...
كذلك تهلك الخطاة من أمام وجه الله والصديقون يفرحون ويتهللون أمام الله ويتنعمون بالسرور.
المسيح قام من بين الأموات...
هذا هو اليوم الذي صنعه الرب لنفرح ونتهلل به.
المسيح قام من بين الأموات...

Entrance Hymn (Tone Two)

In the gathering places, bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel. Save us O Son of God, Who art Risen from the dead, who sing unto thee: Alleluia!

في المجامع باركوا الله، الرب من ينباع إسرائيل. خالصنا يا ابن الله، يا من قام من بين الأموات، لنرتل لك هلوليا!

Paschal Troparion (Tone Five)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! (Thrice)

المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووطئ الموت بالموت، ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور!

Troparion of the Sunday of St. Thomas (Tone Seven)

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

إِذْ كَانَ الْقَبْرُ مَخْتوماً أَشْرَقَتْ مِنْهُ أَيُّهَا النُّورُ. وَلَمَّا كَانَتِ الْأَبْوَابُ مَغْلَقَةً وَافِيَتِ التَّلَامِيذَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ
قِيَامَةُ الْكُلِّ. وَجَدَدْتَ لَنَا بِهِمْ رُوحاً مُسْتَقِيماً بِحَسَبِ عَظِيمِ رَحْمَتِكَ.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone Eight)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

وَلَيْسَ كُنْتَ نَزَلْتَ إِلَى قَبْرِ يَا مَنْ لَا يَمُوتُ. إِلَّا أَنْكَ حَطَمْتَ قُوَّةَ الْجَحِيمِ وَقُمْتَ غَالِباً أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ.
وَلِلنِّسْوَةِ الْحَامِلَاتِ الطَّيِّبِ قَلْتَ افْرَحْنَ وَلرُّسُلِكَ وَهَبْتَ السَّلَامَ. يَا مَانِحَ الْوَاقِعِينَ الْقِيَامَ.

Instead of the Trisagion Hymn we sing:

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia! (Thrice)

أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ بِالْمَسِيحِ اعْتَمَدْتُمْ، الْمَسِيحِ قَدْ لَبِستُمْ. هَلُّوْلِيَا!

Epistle of St. Thomas

الرسالة لأحد القديس توما

Great is our Lord, and great is his power!

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good!

The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (5:12-20).

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

عَظِيمٌ هُوَ رَبُّنَا وَعَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ قُوَّتُهُ!

سَبِّحُوا الرَّبَّ فَإِنَّهُ صَالِحٌ!

فصلٌ من أعمالِ الرُّسُلِ القديسينَ الأطهارِ (٢٠-١٢:٥).

في تلكِ الأيامِ جَرَتْ على أيدي الرُّسُلِ آياتٌ وَعَجَائِبُ كثيرةٌ في الشعبِ. (وكانوا كُلُّهُمْ بِنَفْسٍ واحدةٍ في رواقِ سليمان * ولم يكن أحدٌ مِنَ الآخَرِينَ يَجْتَرِئُ أَنْ يخالطَهُمْ. لَكِنْ كانَ الشعبُ يُعَظِّمُهُمْ * وكانَ جماعاتٌ من رجالِ ونساءٍ يَنْصَمُونَ بكثرةٍ مؤمنينَ بالرب) * حتى إِنَّ الناسَ كانوا يَخْرُجُونَ بالمرضى إلى الشوارعِ ويضعونَهُمْ على فُرُشٍ وأَسِرَّةٍ لِيَقَعَ وَلَوْ ظِلُّ بُطْرُسَ عند اجتيازِهِ على بعضٍ منهم فَيُبرَأوا مِنْ كُلِّ عِلَّةٍ بِهِمْ * وكانَ يَجْتَمِعُ أيضاً إلى أورشليمَ جمهورُ المدنِ التي حولها يَحْمِلُونَ مرضىً ومُعَدَّبينَ مِنْ أرواحِ نَجِسةٍ. فكانوا يُشْفَوْنَ جَمِيعُهُمْ * فقامَ رئيسُ الكهنةِ وكُلُّ الذينَ معه وَهُمْ مِنْ شِيعَةِ الصَّدُوقِيِّينَ وامتألوا غيرَةً * فألقوا أيديَهُمْ على الرُّسُلِ وجَعَلُوهُمْ في الحبسِ العامِ * فَفَتَحَ ملائِكُ الربِّ أبوابَ السجنِ ليلاً وأخرَجَهُمْ وقال * امضوا وقفوا في الهيكلِ وكلموا الشعبَ بجميعِ كلماتِ هذه الحياة.

Gospel of the Sunday of St. Thomas

الأنجيل لأحد القديس توما

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (20:19-31).

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيليّ البشير، التلميذ الطاهر (٣١-١٩:٢٠).

لما كانت عشية ذلك اليوم وهو أول الأسبوع والأبواب مغلقة حيث كان التلاميذ مجتمعين خوفاً من اليهود جاء يسوع ووقف في الوسط * وقال لهم السلام لكم * فلما قال هذا أراهم يديه وجنبه. فرح التلاميذ حين أبصروا الرب * وقال لهم ثانية السلام لكم كما أرسلني الأب كذلك أنا أرسلكم * ولما قال هذا نفخ فيهم وقال لهم خذوا الروح القدس * من غفرتم خطاياهم تُغفر لهم ومن أمسكتم خطاياهم أمسكت * أما توما أحد الاثني عشر الذي يُقال له التوأم فلم يكن معهم حين جاء يسوع * فقال له التلاميذ الآخرون إننا قد رأينا الرب. فقال لهم إن لم أعاين أثر المسامير في يديه وأضع يدي في جنبه لا أؤمن * وبعد ثمانية أيام كان تلاميذه أيضاً داخلاً وتوما معهم فأتى يسوع والأبواب مغلقة ووقف في الوسط وقال السلام لكم * ثم قال لتوما هات إصبعك إلى ههنا وعاین يدي وهات يدك وضعها في جنبي ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً * أجاب توما وقال له ربي والهي * قال له يسوع لأنك رأيتني آمنت. طوبى للذين لم يروا وآمنوا * وآياتٍ أخر كثيرة صنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه لم تُكتب في هذا الكتاب. وأما هذه فقد كُتبت لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع هو المسيح ابن الله. ولكي تكون لكم إذا آمنتم حياة باسمه.

Megalynarion (Tone One)

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

أيتها المصباح الساطع الضياء، وأم الإله والشرف الذي لا قياس له، الأرفع من الخلائق جميعها، بالتسابيح نعظمك.

Koinonikon (Communion Hymn)

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. Alleluia!

امدحي يا اورشليم للرب، سبحي الهك يا صهيون. هلوليا!

Instead of "We have seen the true light", we sing "Christ is Risen" (Once)

وبدلاً من "قد نظرنا"، نرتل "المسيح قام" (مرة واحدة)

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

5/5: Amjad and Dima Sweiss & Family

5/12: Emile Haddad and Bishara Sweis & Families

5/19: Kamal and Nawal Sweis & Family

Epistle Reading

5/5: Marram Salman & Wajih Haddad

5/12: Murad Salman & Norma Tadros

Sign up for Holy Bread and Coffee Hour

The Holy Bread and Coffee Hour sign up sheet for 2019 is posted in the Fellowship kitchen. We still have the following days available:

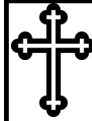
Holy Bread and Coffee Hour Holy Bread Only

June 23rd

September 8th

December 15th

December 29th



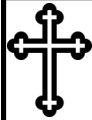
9th Day Memorial

Dr. Khalil Kafoury Sweis
Memory Eternal!



9th Day Memorial

Angel George Sweis
Memory Eternal!



Memory Eternal!

Muhsen Musa Sweis



Memory Eternal!

Wardiyeh Jiries Zawad Smeirat



Engagement

Jawad Munther Salman
and
Leeza Basil Sweis
Congratulations!



Newborn

Zara
Parents: Elias and Mary Zaboura
Congratulations!



Graduation

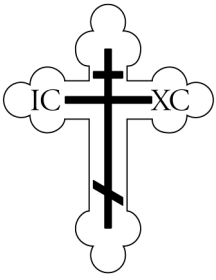
Dr. Jawad Munther Salman
Doctor of Chiropractic & Masters in
Sports Science and Rehabilitation
Logan University
Congratulations!

Please turn in your "Food for Hungry People Boxes" no later than May 12th.



Upcoming Events

Thurs May 2	7:00pm	Open Gym
Fri May 3	7:00pm	Antiochian Women Meeting
Sat May 4	10:45am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
Sun May 5	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
Tues May 7	6:30pm	Teen SOYO Night
Wed May 8	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Arabic Bible Study
Thurs May 9	7:00pm	Open Gym
Sat May 11	10:45am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
Sun May 12	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
Tues May 14	6:30pm	Teen SOYO Night
Wed May 15	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Arabic Bible Study
Thurs May 16	6:00pm	IOCC Annual Grand Banquet & Silent Auction
	7:00pm	Open Gym
Sat May 18	10:45am	Arabic School Graduation
	11:30am	Feed My Starving Children
	5:00pm	Great Vespers



"Liturgy after the Liturgy"

Taking our faith outside the church walls



Date:

Saturday - May 18, 2019

Time:

11:30am - 1:30pm

Location:

Feed My Starving Children,
555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL

Purpose: Pack meals for starving children

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization.

Children (Kindergarten and older), teens, and adults are all welcome to attend. Volunteer hours will be granted upon request.

You need to register in order to attend.

To register, please go to <https://form.jotform.com/91005937746967>
or contact Kh. Delia Haddad.

On behalf of God's children, thank you in advance for your commitment.

Sunday School Families are invited to St. Mary's

END OF YEAR SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Sunday, May 19, 2019

immediately following Liturgy

in the field behind the North parking lot



Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided

**This is a potluck event please see
sign-up sheet for dishes to bring.**



TIME TO SAVE A LIFE!



ST. MARY
ORTHODOX
CHURCH

ALONGSIDE

vitalantSM

INVITE EVERYONE TO OUR

BLOOD DRIVE!

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019

8AM – 2PM

~FREE T-SHIRT TO ALL DONORS~

SIGN-UP WITH ANGELA HADDAD AT THE BOOKSTORE OR
AT ANGELAHADDAD14@GMAIL.COM

St. Mary Orthodox Church | 6330 W. 127th St. Palos Heights, IL | www.stmaryoc.org

Car Wash Fundraising Event!



**Vacation Church School Is Fast
Approaching.
To Have A Fun And Successful VCS
We Need To Raise \$3,500.
We Are Calling All Parents To
Participate In Our Car Wash
Fundraising Event.
Saturday, June 29th.
7am –3pm
Sign Up Sheet Will Be By The
Sunday School Doors.**



MIDWEST PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

June 19-22, 2019 at Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Hosted by St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

Registration will be opening soon!

This year we are trying something a little different.

We will take all our meals together to enhance our fellowship.

8 great meals for \$75 (*kids 3-12 are 1/2 price*)

Other meals options for late arrivals

We will worship morning and evening in the chapel where Thomas Howard was inspired to write Splendor in the Ordinary

Where

St. John's Catholic Newman Center on the campus of the University of Illinois

Housing Option #1

Family Friendly

A family of four can stay for \$60 per night in their own suite

Singles or groups of singles can stay for as little as \$35 per person per night

- Registration information for this option coming soon -

Housing Option #2

Conference Hotel- Holiday Inn 104.99 per night

1-1/2 miles from conference site

Reservations at IHG.com - conference rate code PLC

Bible Bowl Thursday evening followed by separate activities for youth and adults

Oratorical Competition Friday evening in Gregory Hall, Teen Dance to follow

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy Saturday morning, deluxe brunch & awards to follow

Great Speakers and Workshops

Bill Marianes – Why Are We Here?

"The 15 Steps to Create a Culture of True Stewardship and Generosity in our Churches"

"How Do We Empower Engaged Disciples of Christ to Create a Consensus Vision and Strategic Plan for our Parish"

John & Carrie Colis - How Our Life In Christ Is Mission

"Short term missions -Long term local results"

Rev. Fr. Paul Abernathy - "An Eye To See, An Ear to Hear:

What is the ministry God has for me?"

Discovering Our Own Mission Field

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Holy Motherhood

Kh Linda Ellison

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July 21-28, 2019

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AN UNCONVENTIONAL CONVENTION YOU WON'T FORGET

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for more information and to REGISTER NOW visit www.ac2019gr.org



SAVE THE DATE

*St. Mary Young Adult Ministry
invites you to our summer*

YAM RETREAT

July 5th - July 6th

**St. Iakovos Retreat Center
Kansasville, WI**

College age & up

**Join us for Liturgy with Bishop ANTHONY on
July 7th at St. Mary Church**

More details to come!



To register for VCS go to
<https://form.jotform.com/90844708861971>

More Info:
Elizabeth Andoun: 240-434-9821
Dena Tadros: 708-691-0321
Susan Sweis: 916-990-8335

**6330 W. 127TH ST.
PALOS HEIGHTS, IL 60463**



CHRIST CALLS US!
Vacation Church School 2019

**BE A
VCS
VOLUNTEER**

Adult Volunteer

Ages 18 and up

Junior Staff

Ages 15 to 17

Please See Elizabeth Andoun or Dena Tadros to Sign up.

All volunteers must attend all meetings, and be available the entire week of Vacation Church School.



August 5th –9th 2019

5pm –9pm



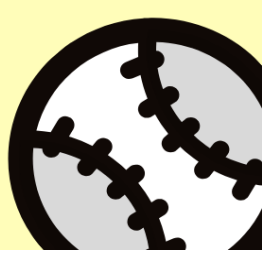

ST. MARY YAM INVITES YOU

ANNUAL SOFTBALL GAME!



JOIN THE YOUNG ADULTS FOR A GAME
OF SOFTBALL AND A BBQ
PLAYING BALL IS FREE

Come cheer on your favorite young adults
while munching on some delicious food!
One hotdog/hamburger + chips + drink= \$10



Saturday, May 25th | 1pm-5pm
Meyers Park
6601 West 127th Street, Palos Heights

Annunciation Gift Shop & Bookstore



Glory be to God! Glory Forever!

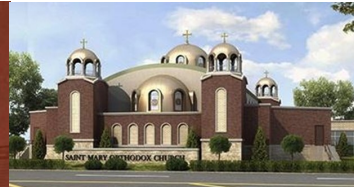
St. Mary Orthodox Church would like to inform all its parishioners to take advantage of the materials that are offered at our Gift Shop & Bookstore. If you have not had the opportunity to stop by and check out our various selections, we ask that you please do. If you are looking for that perfect gift for birthdays, graduation, house warming, baptism, etc... we have many items to choose from. If there is something you would like but do not see, please let us know and we will try to accommodate you.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Nader or Angela Haddad at 989.780.2751 or naderemile3@yahoo.com

SAINT MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH OF PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)



BUILDING COMMITTEE

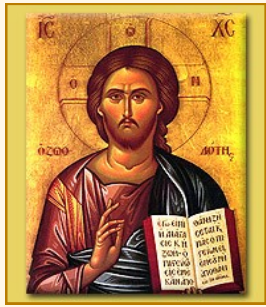
St. Mary's building committee is looking for individuals to volunteer their skills and time!

Are you or someone you know a carpenter, electrician, plumber, HVAC technician or have other trade skills? We hope you would consider volunteering and helping us complete small projects.

Please email the church office at office@stmaryoc.org
We will share with you our list of open projects and coordinate with you the right project that fits your schedule and ability.

Thank you,





Weekly Synaxarion



On May 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonica; and Venerable Euthymios, bishop of Maditos in Thrace. On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side. This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection. As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ. By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.