



# 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. Fr. Jacob Andoun

Rev. Archdeacon Saed Rihani

#### 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

Laiith 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 - Rashid Sweis

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

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

*Forefeast of and Sunday before the Nativity of Christ*

*Sunday of the Genealogy*

الأحد الذي قبل عيد ميلاد السيد (أحد النسبة)



#### 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

### تغييرات في القداس

#### 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!

هلم لنسجد ونركع للمسيح ملكنا والهنا، خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الاموات، لنرتل لك هلوليا!

#### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Two)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

عندما انحدرت إلى الموت أيها الحياة الذي لا يموت. حينئذ أمت الجحيم ببرق لاهوتك. وعندما أقمت الأموات من تحت الثرى. صرخ نَحْوَك جميع القوات السماويين. أيها المسيح الإله معطي الحياة المجد لك.

#### Troparion of the Fore-feast (Tone Four)

Be thou ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a noetic paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

استعدي يا بيت لحم فقد فتحت عدن للجميع. تهيأي يا إفراثا لأن عود الحياة قد أزهَرَ في المغارة من البتول. لأن بطنها قد ظهر فردوساً عقلياً فيه الغرس الإلهي. الذي إذ نأكل منه نحيا ولا نموت مثل آدم. المسيح يولد مُنهضاً الصورة التي سقطت منذ القديم.

#### Troparion of the Sunday before the Nativity (Tone Two)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

عظيمة هي تقويمات الإيمان، لأن الثلاثة الفتية القديسين قد ابتهجوا في ينبوع اللهب كأنهم على ماء الراحة. والنبى دانيال ظهر راعياً للسباع كأنها غنم. فبتوسلاتهم أيها المسيح الإله ارحمنا.

#### 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.

في ميلادك حفظت البتولية وصنيتها وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم وتركته يا والدة الإله. لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

### Kontakion of the Fore-feast of the Nativity (Tone Three)

Today the Virgin cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe if thou shouldst hear and glorify with the Angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by His will shall become a new-born Babe and who is our God before the ages.

اليوم العذراء تأتي إلى المغارة، لتلد الكلمة، الذي قبل الدهور، ولادة لا تُفسر ولا يُنطق بها، فافرحي أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، الذي سيظهر بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

### Epistle for the Sunday before the Nativity

#### الرسالة للأحد الذي قبل الميلاد

*Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers!*

*For Thou are just in all that Thou hast done to us!*

**The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40).**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

مبارك أنت يا رب إله آبائنا!

لأنك عدلٌ في كلِّ ما صنعت بنا!

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين (١١:٩-١٠, ٣٢-٤٠).

يا اخوة بالإيمان نزل إبراهيم في أرض الميعاد نزوله في أرض غريبة وسكن في خيام مع اسحق ويعقوب الوارثين معه للموعِد بعينه \* لأنه انتظر المدينة ذات الأسس التي الله صانعها وبارئها \* وماذا أقول أيضاً. إنه يضيق بي الوقت إن أخبرت عن جِدعون وباراق وشمشون ويفتاح وداود وصموئيل والأنبياء \* الذين بالإيمان قهرُوا الممالك وعمَلُوا البرَّ ونالُوا المواعِد وسدُّوا أفواه الأسود \* وأطفأوا حِدَّة النار ونَجَّوا من حِدِّ

السيفِ وتَقَوُّوا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ وصاروا أشداءً في الحَرْبِ وكَسَرُوا معسكراتِ الأَجَانِبِ \* وأُخِذَتْ نساءُ أمواتِهِنَّ بالقيامَةِ. وعُدِّبَ آخرونَ بتوتيرِ الأَعْضاءِ والضَّرْبِ ولم يقبلُوا بالنجاةِ ليحصلُوا على قيامَةِ أفضلِ \* وآخرونَ ذاقوا الهُزْءَ والجُلْدَ والقَيْودَ أيضاً والسِّجْنَ \* وَرُجِمُوا ونُشِرُوا وامْتَحِنُوا ومَاتُوا بِحَدِّ السيفِ وسأحُوا في جُلودِ غَمِّ ومَعَزٍ وهُم مُعَوِّزونَ مُضايِقونَ مجهودونَ \* (ولم يكنِ العالمُ مُستَحِقًّا لهم \*). وكانوا تائِهينَ في البراري والجبالِ والمغاورِ وكهوفِ الأرضِ \* فهؤلاءِ كُلُّهم مشهوداً لهم بالإيمانِ لَمْ يَنَالُوا المواعِدَ \* لأنَّ اللهَ سَبَقَ فَنظَرَ لَنَا شيئاً أَفْضَلَ أَنْ لا يَكْمُلُوا بدوننا.

## Gospel for the Sunday before the Nativity

### الإنجيل للأحد الذي قبل الميلاد

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25).**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from

sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير، التلميذ الطاهر (٢٥-١:١).

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح ابن داود ابن إبراهيم\* فإبراهيم ولد إسحق وإسحق ولد يعقوب ويعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته\* ويهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تامار وفارص ولد حصرون وحصرون ولد آرام\* وأرام ولد عميناداب وعميناداب ولد نحشون ونحشون ولد سلمون\* وسلمون ولد بوغز من زاحاب وبوغز ولد عوبيد من راعوث وعوبيد ولد يسي ويسي ولد داود الملك\* وداود الملك ولد سليمان من التي كانت لأريّا\* وسليمان ولد رحبعام ورحبعام ولد أبيا وأبيا ولد آسا\* وآسا ولد يوشافاط و يوشافاط ولد يورام ويورام ولد عزيا\* وعزيا ولد يوتام ويوتام ولد آحاز و آحاز ولد حزقيّا\* وحزقيّا ولد منسى ومنسى ولد آمون و آمون ولد يوشيا\* ويوشيا ولد يكنيا وإخوته في جلاء بابل\* ومن بعد جلاء بابل يكنيا ولد شالتئيل وشالتئيل ولد زربابل\* وزربابل ولد أبيهود وأبيهود ولد ألياقيم وألياقيم ولد عازور\* وعازور ولد صادق وسادوق ولد آخيم وآخيم ولد أليهود\* وأليهود ولد ألعازار وألعازار ولد متان و متان ولد يعقوب\* ويعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم التي ولد منها يسوع الذي يدعى المسيح\* فكل الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً\* أمّا مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا. لمّا خُطبت مريم أمّه ليوسف ووجدت من قبل أن يجتمعا حُبلى من الروح القدس\* وإذ كان يوسف رجلها صديقاً ولم يرد أن يُشهرها هم بتخليتها سراً\* وفيما هو مُتفكّر في ذلك إذا بملاك الرب ظهر له في الحلم قائلاً يا يوسف ابن داود لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم. فإن المولود فيها إنّما هو من الروح القدس\* وستلد ابناً فتسميه يسوع فإنه هو يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم\* (وكان هذا كله ليتّم ما قيل من الرب بالنبي القائل. ها إن العذراء تحبل وتلد ابناً ويدعى عمائوئيل الذي تفسيره الله معنا)\* فلما نهض يوسف من النوم صنع كما أمره ملاك الرب. فأخذ امرأته\* ولم يعرفها حتى ولدت ابنها البكر وسماه يسوع.

### **Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy**

Important! Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Liturgy. It will begin at 6pm, Tuesday December 24th. How can we truly celebrate Christmas if we skip out on Christmas Liturgy? The Christmas season is a very busy time, & we have plans to be with friends & family. But, we must learn to set our priorities straight, so schedule your gatherings around the Christmas Liturgy. Can you imagine having a birthday party without the birthday boy?! That's exactly what we do when we don't attend Christmas Liturgy. Let us begin to change the secularization of Christmas & bring Christ back into the picture by remembering the reason for the season. We look forward to seeing you at Christmas Liturgy. God bless!

# 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*

12/22: Feras and Jackie Salman & Family

12/29: Nabeel and Mariana Sweis & Family

1/5: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family

## Epistle Reading

12/22: Subdn. Matthew & Lily Sweiss

12/24: Nicholas Alswais & Danny Haddad



## 3rd & 9th Day Memorial

Emilin Nasra  
Memory Eternal!



## Memorial

Mansour Hattar  
Memory Eternal!

## Pledge Envelopes

**Please pick up your 2020 pledge envelopes from the back of the church after Liturgy today.**

## **Holy Bread & Coffee Hour**

The sign up sheet for 2020 Holy Bread and Coffee Hour is posted in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Please sign up for one or more days.



## Ghriebeh Sale

Sunday, December 22nd

*Sponsored by the Antiochian Women*

# Upcoming Events

<b>Thurs Dec 19</b>	5:00pm	Nativity Compline
<b>Sat Dec 21</b>	10:45am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
<b>Sun Dec 22</b>	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
	11:30am	Ghraibeh Sale
<b>Mon Dec 23</b>	7:00pm	Open Gym
<b>Tues Dec 24</b>	10:00am	Royal Hours and Typika for the Nativity
	4:30pm	Orthros for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
	6:00pm	Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
<b>Fri Dec 27-29</b>	8:00am	Annual Teen SOYO Retreat
<b>Sat Dec 28</b>	5:00pm	Great Vespers
<b>Sun Dec 29</b>	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
<b>Tues Dec 31</b>	6:00pm	Liturgy for New Year (St. Basil and Circumcision)
<b>Fri Jan 3</b>	10:00am	Royal Hours & Typika for Theophany
<b>Sat Jan 4</b>	10:45am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
<b>Sun Jan 5</b>	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	5:00pm	Great Vespers w/ Artoklasia for Theophany

## 14TH ANNUAL TEEN SOYO CHRISTMAS RETREAT!

**With Guest Speaker: Bishop Nicholas of Miami**

**Ages:** 13 - 18 years old

**When:** Friday, December 27th to Sunday, December 29th

**Where:** Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center  
8250 Finnie Rd., Newark, IL 60541

**Cost:** \$150.00

**December 27th departure time 8:30am**  
**December 29th arrival at church 7:00pm**

For Information Contact: Fr. Jacob Andoun, at 908-370-8632  
or [youthpastor@stmaryoc.org](mailto:youthpastor@stmaryoc.org)

## Annual General Assembly Meeting

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2019 pledge is paid in full by Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and God bless!



# **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest** **Basketball Tournament**

**Canton, Ohio**

**January 17-19, 2020**

***Welcome to His Grace Bishop Anthony and Participants***

**Division I: Ages 12-15 / Division II: Ages 15-18 / Division III: Ages 19+**

## **Friday, January 17**

**7 pm: Registration begins (*Hotel Lobby*)**

**8 pm: Pizza (*Registration area*)**

**8:30 pm: Sing 'Happy Birthday/Name-day' to Bishop Anthony  
(*Meeting Room*), followed by Youth Discussion**

## **Saturday, January 18**

**7 am -10 am: Breakfast available at Hotel**

**8 am: Basketball Tournament begins (*at locations to be announced*)**

**12 pm: Lunch (*at Basketball locations*)**

**6 pm: Great Vespers (*St. George Antiochian*)**

**7 pm: Banquet/Awards Presentation/Hafli (*St. George Antiochian*)**

## **Sunday, January 19 (*St. George Antiochian*)**

**8:45 am: Matins**

**10 am: Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**

**Brunch and Farewell**

**Early Registration: \$50 by January 10      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](mailto:stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net)**

**Hotel Information (New Location): Hyatt Place  
5421 Whipple Ave. NW    Canton, OH 44720    330-244-1700  
Group Rate: \$85/night (mention St. George Basketball)  
Our block of rooms will be reserved for us until Jan. 10**

**[Click here to reserve your room online](#)**

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# EAT for a GOOD cause.



Every time you dine with Fattoush Restaurant, St. Mary will receive 10% of the bill! Be sure to mention St. Mary at time of payment.

*Dine In | Carryout | Catering*

Fattoush | 10700 S. Harlem Ave. Worth, IL

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## Annunciation Gift Shop & Bookstore

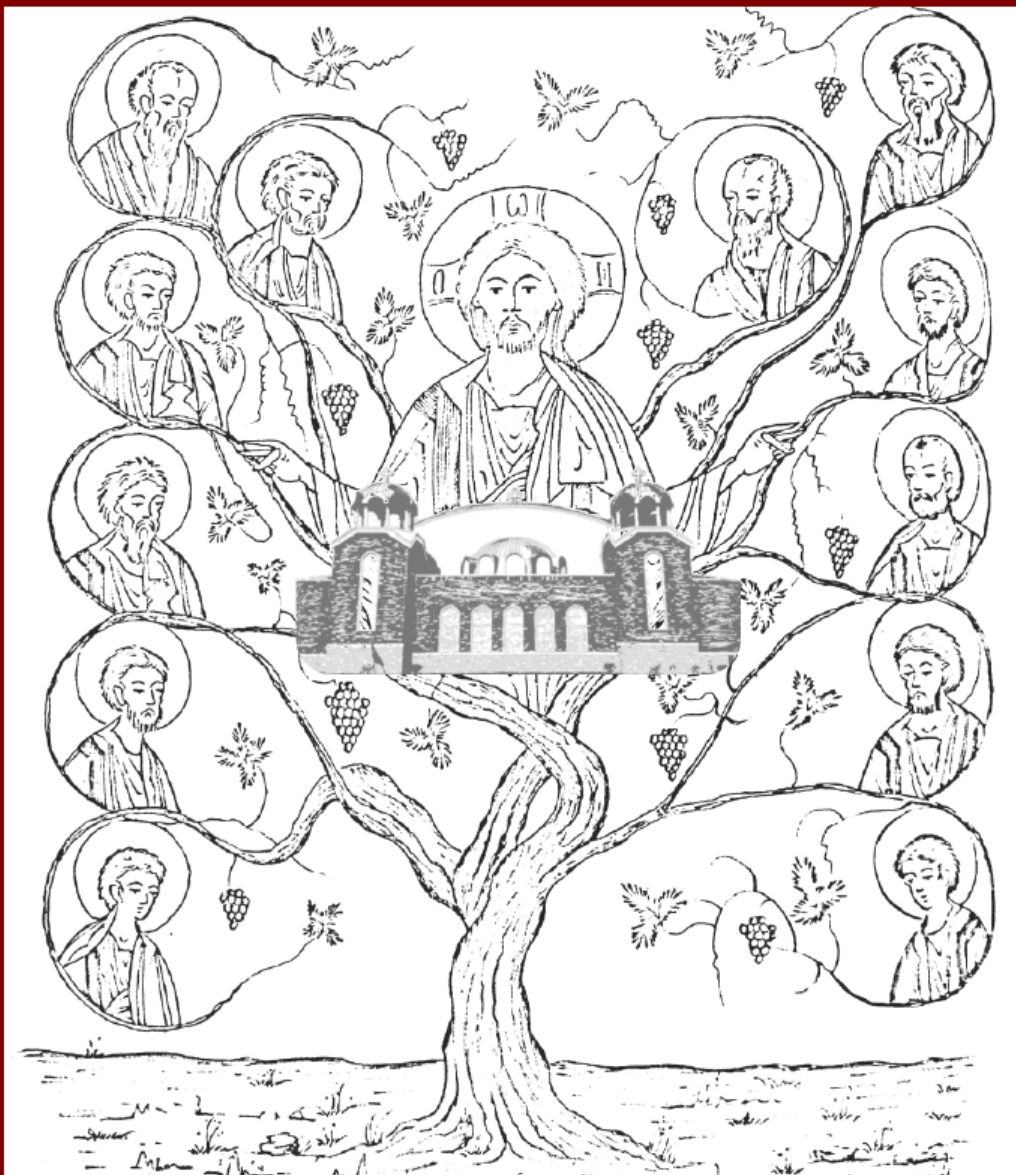


*Glory be to God! Glory Forever!*

*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](mailto:naderemile3@yahoo.com) or [angelahaddad14@gmail.com](mailto:angelahaddad14@gmail.com)

# St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights Adult Catechism Class with Fr. Jacob



## Know Your Church

*15 talks about the  
Orthodox Faith*

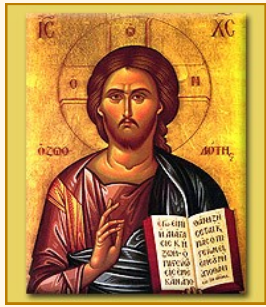
*Lectures adapted from  
Fr. Josiah Trenham*

Every Saturday  
6:00-7:00pm

January 4th–  
April 18th 2020

This class is open to all adults who are desiring to learn and grow in the Orthodox Faith. The schedule is listed below. Please contact Fr. Jacob with any questions.

1/4/20	Starting Down the Royal Path: How to become an O. C.	3/7/20	The Church and the Mother of God
1/11/20	The True God	3/14/20	The Mystery of Holy Baptism & Chrismation
1/18/20	The Human Being	3/21/20	The Mystery of Holy Confession
1/25/20	Sin	3/28/20	The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist
2/1/20	Jesus Christ the Son of God	4/4/20	The Mystery of Holy Unction, Death and the Funeral
2/8/20	Jesus Christ the Savior of the World	4/11/20	The Mystery of Holy Priesthood & Marriage
2/15/20	Repentance and Faith	4/18/20	(Baptism/Chrismation) Holy Saturday
2/29/20	The Holy Spirit		



## Weekly Synaxarion



On December 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Great-martyr Anastasia the deliverer from potions, and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos. On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths. It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.