



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
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 - 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 29th 2019

*After-feast of E. Sunday after the Nativity of Christ
Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,
and James the Brother of the Lord*

الأحد الذي بعد عيد الميلاد وتكريم القديسين يوسف الخطيب
وداود الملك ويعقوب أخ الرب



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

First Antiphon

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

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

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

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 the ages of ages. Amen.

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

أَعْتَرِفُ لَكَ يَا رَبُّ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِي، وَأُحَدِّثُ بِجَمِيعِ عَجَائِبِكَ. فِي مَجْلِسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ وَفِي مَجْمَعِهِمْ، عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَعْمَالُ الرَّبِّ.

بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

مُذَبَّرَةٌ طِنْبًا لِكُلِّ مُرَادِهِ بِهَا. صُنْعُهُ الْإِعْتِرَافُ وَعِظْمُ الْجَلَالِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.

بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

المجدُ للآبِ وَالإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلِّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ. آمِينَ.

بشفاعاتِ والدةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خلصنا.

Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, 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...

طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَتَّقِي الرَّبَّ وَيَهْوَى وَصَايَاهُ جَدًّا. تَكُونُ ذُرِّيَّتُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُقْتَدِرَةً.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

يكون المجد والغنى في بيته. وبره يدوم الى دهر الداهرين.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

أَشْرَقَ النُّورُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لِلْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ، النُّورُ يُشْرِقُ فِي الظُّلَامِ لِلْأَبْرَارِ، لِأَنَّهُ الرَّؤُوفُ وَالرَّحِيمُ وَالصِّدِّيقُ.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

المجدُ للآبِ وَالإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلِّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ، آمِينَ.

يا كلمةِ اللهِ الابنِ الوحيدِ...

Third Antiphon

The Lord said unto my Lord: "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With thee is dominion in the day of thy power, in the beauties of thy saints.

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

قال الرب لربي اجلس عن يميني حتى اجعل أعداءك موطناً لقدميك. عصا قوتك يرسل لك الرب من صهيون. معك الرئاسة في يوم قوتك في بهاء قديسيك.

ميلادك أيها المسيح إلهنا قد اشرق نور المعرفة في العالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل. وأن يعرفوا أنك من مشارق العلو أتيت. يارب المجدلك!

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 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.

لِنَفْرَحِ السَّمَاوِيَّاتِ وَتَبْتَهِجِ الْأَرْضِيَّاتِ. لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ صَنَعَ عِزًّا بِسَاعِدِهِ، وَوَطِئَ الْمَوْتَ بِالْمَوْتِ وَصَارَ بَكْرَ الْأُمُوتِ. وَأَنْقَذَنَا مِنْ جَوْفِ الْجَحِيمِ. وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعَظْمَى.

Troparion of the Nativity (Tone Four)

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

ميلادك أيها المسيح إلهنا قد اشرق نور المعرفة في العالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل. وأن يعرفوا أنك من مشارق العلو أتيت. يارب المجدلك!

Troparion for the Sunday after the Nativity (Tone Two)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child. With the shepherds thou didst give glory; with the Magi thou didst worship; and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

يا يوسف بشر داود جدّ الإله بالعجائب الباهرة لأنك قد رأيت بتولا حاملا. فمع الرعاة مجدت ومع المجوس سجدت وبالملاك أوحى إليك. فابتهل إلى المسيح الإله أن يخلص نفوسنا!

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 حفِظتِ البتولية وصننتها وفي رقادك ما أهملتِ العالمَ وتركتِهِ يا والدَةَ الإله. لأنك انتقلتِ إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموتِ نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Nativity (Tone Three)

Today, the Virgin giveth birth to the transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes; God before the ages.

اليومَ البتول تلدُ الفائقَ الجوهر، والأرضُ تقربُ المغارة، لمن هو غير مقربٍ إليه. الملائكة مع الرعاة يمجدون، والمجوس مع الكوكب في الطريقِ يسرون. لأنه قد ولد لنا صبيٌّ جديدٌ، وهو الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

Epistle for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

الرسالة للأحد الذي بعد عيد الميلاد

God is wonderful among His saints!

Bless God in the congregations!

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19).

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

عجيبٌ هو اللهُ في قديسيه!

في المجامعِ باركوا الله!

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل غلاطية (١٩-١١:١).

يا إخوة أعلمكم أنّ الإنجيل الذي بشرتُ به ليس بحسبِ الإنسان * لأنني لم أتسلمه أو أتعلّمه من إنسان بل بإعلان يسوع المسيح * فإنكم قد سمعتم ببيرتي قديماً في ملة اليهود أنني كنت اضطهدُ كنيسة الله بإفراطٍ

وأدمرها* وأزید تقدماً في ملة اليهود على كثيرين من أترابي في جنسي بكوني أوفر منهم غيراً على تقاليدت أبائي* فلما ارتضى الله الذي أفرزني من جوف أمي ودعاني بنعمته* أن يعلن ابنه في لأبشر به بين الأمم لساعتي لم أصغ إلى لحم ودم* ولا صعدت إلى أورشليم إلى الرسل الذين قبلي بل انطلقت إلى ديار العرب وبعد ذلك رجعت إلى دمشق* ثم إني بعد ثلاث سنين صعدت إلى أورشليم لأزور بطرس فأقمت عنده خمسة عشر يوماً* ولم أر غيره من الرسل سوى يعقوب أخي الرب.

Gospel for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

الإنجيل للأحد الذي بعد عيد الميلاد

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23).

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير، التلميذ الطاهر (٢٣-١٣:٢)

لما انصرف المجوس إذا بملاك الرب ظهر ليوسف في الحلم قائلاً فم فخذ الصبي وأمه واهرب إلى مصر وكُن هناك حتى أقول لك* فإن هيرودس مُرْمِعٌ أن يطلب الصبي ليُهْلِكَهُ* فقام وأخذ الصبي وأمه ليلاً وانصرف إلى مصر* وكان هناك إلى وفاة هيرودس ليتم المقول من الرب بالنبى القائل: من مصر دعوت ابني* حينئذ لما رأى هيرودس أن المجوس سَخِرُوا بِهِ غَضِبَ جداً وأرسل قَتَلَ كُلَّ صبيان بيت لحم وجميع تخومها من ابن سنتين فما دون على حسب الزمان الذي تحقَّقه من المجوس* حينئذ تم ما قاله إرميا النبي القائل: صوت سَمِعَ في الرامة نوح وبكاء وعويل كثير، راحيل تبكي على أولادها وقد أبت أن تتعزى لأنهم ليسوا بموجودين* فلما مات هيرودس إذا بملاك الرب ظهر ليوسف في الحلم في مصر قائلاً: فم فخذ

الصَّبِيِّ وَأُمَّهُ وَاذْهَبْ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فَقَدْ مَاتَ طَالِبُو نَفْسِ الصَّبِيِّ * فِقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَجَاءَ إِلَى
أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ * وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّ ارْشِيلاوَسَ قَدْ مَلَكَ عَلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ مَكَانَ هِيرودَسَ أَبِيهِ خَافَ أَنْ يذْهَبَ إِلَى
هَنَّاكَ وَأُوْحِيَ إِلَيْهِ فِي الْحُلَمِ فَانصَرَفَ إِلَى نَوَاحِي الْجَلِيلِ * وَأَتَى وَسَكَنَ فِي مَدِينَةٍ تُدْعَى نَاصِرَةَ لِيَتَمَّ الْمَقُولُ
بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ إِنَّهُ يُدْعَى نَاصِرِيًّا.

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!



Annual General Assembly Meeting

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 12th 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 31st, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and 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

12/29: Nabeel and Mariana Sweis & Family

1/5: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family

1/12: Hasan and Saeda Sweis & Family

Epistle Reading

12/29: Angela Haddad &
Subdn. Wajih Haddad

1/5: Marram Salman & Nour Swaiss



Churching

Nart

Parents: Rostom & Razan Rihani

Congratulations!

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.

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 or angelahaddad14@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sun Dec 29	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Tues Dec 31	6:00pm	Liturgy for New Year (St. Basil and Circumcision of Christ)
Fri Jan 3	10:00am	Royal Hours & Typika for Theophany
Sat Jan 4	10:45am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
Sun Jan 5	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	5:00pm	Great Vespers w/ Artoklasia for Theophany
Mon Jan 6	9:00am	Orthros for Theophany
	10:00am	Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany
	7:00pm	Open Gym
Wed Jan 8	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Arabic Bible Study
	6:30pm	SOYO Night
Fri Jan 10	6:00pm	Antiochian Women Meeting
Sat Jan 11	10:45am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
Sun Jan 12	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School

Odeh and Jamileh Akkawi Foundation

The Odeh and Jamileh Akkawi Foundation is now accepting applicants for its annual scholarship.

This scholarship is intended to provide our young men and women the resources they need to reach their God-given potential. The future well-being of our beloved community depends on educated leaders who are well rounded, and are not afraid to take risks in order to advance themselves – and all of us – to the highest levels possible.

Important Notes

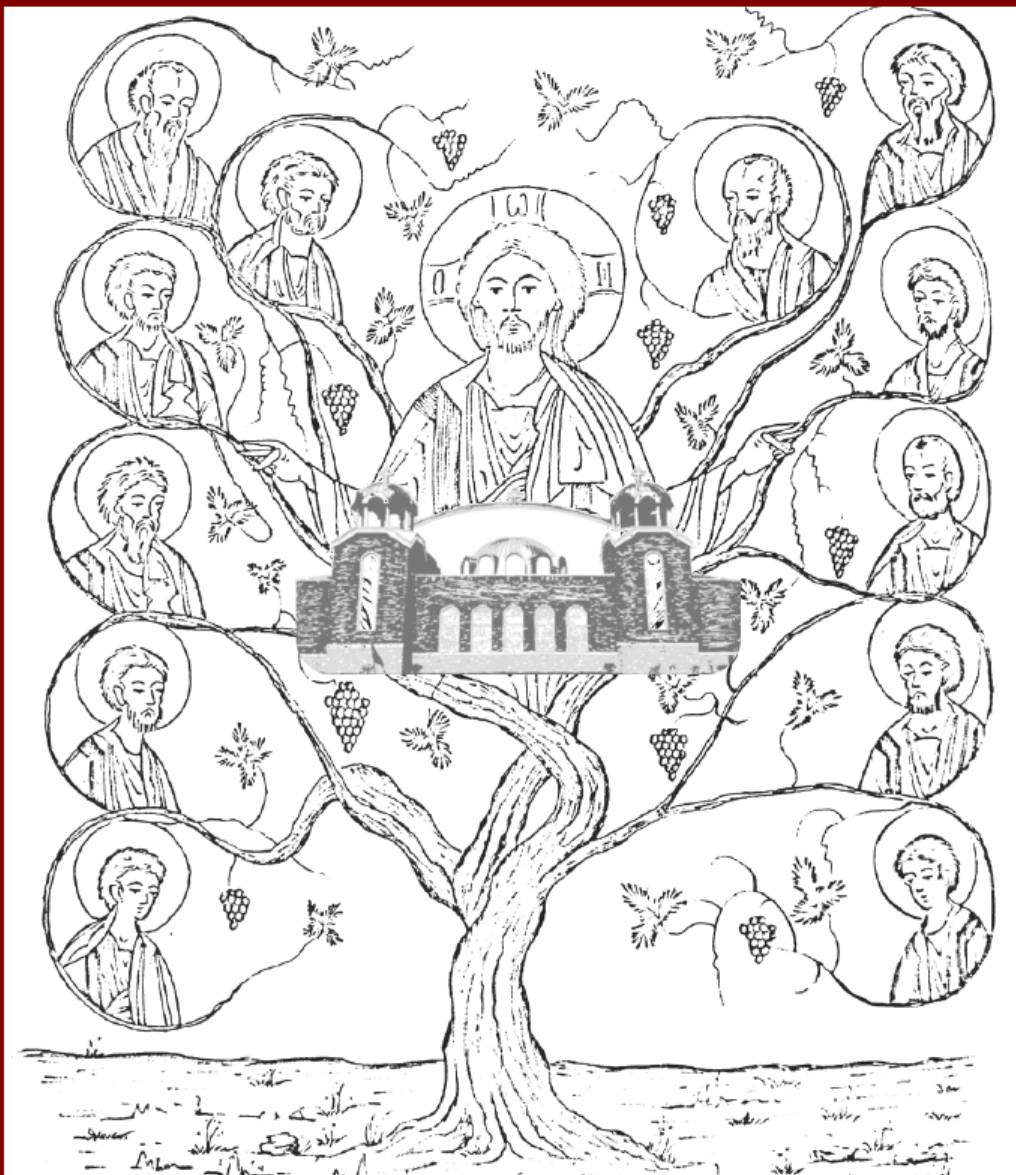
Applicants need to be currently attending the Sixth or Seventh grade.

1. A scholarship of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to each student as follows: \$500 to supplement tuition/books/supplies; and \$500 for extra-curricular activities.
2. If chosen, the student will receive the scholarship beginning the following academic year, and will continue to receive it annually through the 12th grade, as long as the requirements continue to be met.
3. To be considered, applicants are required to:
 - a. Submit academic transcripts from the last 2 years to:
St. Mary Orthodox Church
Scholarship Committee
6330 W. 127th St.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
 - b. Complete an online application at: <https://forms.gle/Fwg3mrafQQgCRT9C7>
5. Selection is based on meeting all of the following criteria: Academic potential, character, and Financial need. Selected recipients will be notified by email no later than May 1, 2020

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 16, 2020

Questions? Please reach out to Kayed Akkawi <kayedakkawi@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		

22nd 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**

**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](#)



St. Mary's Got Talent Show Returns!

Get Ready to Bring Your Talent!

All Ages! Do you Dance? Sing?

Are you a Musician? Got Art to Show?

Register by February 1 2020!

Practice dates February 1st and 9th



Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

SPRING GATHERING 2020

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

February 20th – 23rd 2020

February 20 –21: Clergy Retreat with keynote speaker Dr. Albert Rossi

February 21-23: Spring Gathering of YAM, SOYO & Antiochian Women



Bishop ANTHONY Michaels



Dr. Albert Rossi - Keynote Speaker

Schedule Overview

Friday night

- SOYO & YAM talk with Bishop Anthony
- Antiochian Women Tea Party with Dr. Rossi

Saturday

- Divine Liturgy
- Kid's Club (all day!)
- Business Meetings
- Keynote speaker Dr. Rossi to address SOYO & Yam
- Service project
- Great Vespers
- Evening Events: Hollywood Park (SOYO), Portillo's with Sayidna (YAM)

Sunday

- Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- Farewell Lunch

Hotel Information

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 January 23rd to receive the special rate of \$109/night. To reserve online, visit: www.alsipdoubletree.com (use group code SAI) or call 1-800-222-8733

Registration Information

Early bird registration fee is \$35. Early bird rate ends January 10th! After January 10th the registration fee goes to \$40. This includes dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, Saturday evening event and a farewell lunch on Sunday!

Register online [here](#) or copy and paste the link in your browser: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#!/1089606>

Questions? Contact us: SpringGathering@stmaryoc.org

St. Mary Church
6330 W. 127th St.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
(708)239-0004

www.stmaryoc.org



Weekly Synaxarion



On December 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fourteen thousand infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem; George, bishop of Nicomedia; Venerable Abbot Markellos of the “Unsleeping Ones” Monastery; and all Orthodox Christians who have died from hunger, thirst, the sword and freezing. On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the first bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David’s seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the “Brother of the Lord” because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.