



# Saint Mary Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria & Sunday of the Forefathers  
(Ancestors) of Christ

Martyr Anthia, Mother of Eleutherios; Venerable Paul of Latra

## 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!

هَلُمَّ لِنَسْجُدْ وَنَرْكَعْ لِلْمَسِيحِ مَلَكُنَا وَالْهَنَا، خَلَصَنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتَلِ لَكَ هَلْلُويَا!

## Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Eight)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

انْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ الْعُلُوِّ يَا مُتَحَنِّنٌ، وَقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ذَا الثَّلَاثَةِ الْأَيَّامِ، لِكَيْ تُعْتِقَنَا مِنَ الْآلَامِ، فَيَا حَيَاتَنَا وَقِيَامَتَنَا، يَا رَبَّ الْمَجْدِ لَكَ.

## Troparion of the Forefathers (Tone Two)

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

لَقَدْ زَكَّيْتَ بِالْإِيمَانِ الْأَبَاءَ الْقَدَمَاءَ، وَبِهِمْ سَبَقْتَ فَخَطَبْتَ الْبَيْعَةَ الَّتِي مِنَ الْأُمَّمِ، فَالْقَدِيسُونَ بِالْمَجْدِ يَفْتَخِرُونَ، إِذْ مِنْ زَرْعِهِمْ أَيْنَعَتْ ثَمَرَةٌ حَسِيبَةٌ، وَهِيَ الَّتِي وَلَدَتْكَ بِغَيْرِ زَرْعٍ. فَبِتَضَرُّعِهِمْ إِلَهُهُ الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُهُ أَرْحَمْنَا.

## Troparion of St. Eleutherios of Illyria (Tone Five)

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios. .

شَارَكْتَ الرُّسُلَ فِي أَخْلَاقِهِمْ، وَخَلَفْتَهُمْ عَلَى كِرَاسِيهِمْ. فَوَجَدْتَ الْعَمَلَ مِرْقَاةً إِلَى رُؤْيَةِ الْإِلَهِيَّاتِ، يَا مُلْهَمًا مِنَ اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ فَصَلَّتْ بِإِحْكَامٍ كَلِمَةَ الْحَقِّ، وَجَاهَدَتْ عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ حَتَّى الدَّمِّ، يَا الْفَيْثَرِيُوسُ الشَّهِيدُ فِي رُؤْسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ. فَتَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ إِلَهُهِ، فِي خَلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.

### 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 ميلادِكِ حَفِظْتِ البتوليةَ وصننتها وفي رقادِكِ ما أهملتِ العالمَ وتركتِهِ يا والدةَ الإله. لأنكِ انتقلتِ إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعتِكِ أنقذي من الموتِ نفوسنا.

### Kontakion of Preparation of Christ's Nativity (Tone Three)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God. .

اليومَ العذراءُ تأتي إلى المغارةِ لتلدَ الكلمةَ الذي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ، ولادةً لا تُفسَّرُ ولا يُنطقُ بها، فأفرجِي أيتها المسكونةُ إذا سمعتِ، ومجدي مع الملائكةِ والرعاةِ، الذي سيظهرُ بمشيئتهِ طفلاً جديداً وهو إلهنا الذي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.

### The Epistle for St. Eleutherios

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.*

*What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?*

#### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18)**

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ

كريمَ بينَ يدي الرَّبِّ مَوْتُ باريهِ.

بماذا نكافئُ الرَّبَّ عن كلِّ ما أعطانا؟

فصلٌ من رسالةِ القديسِ بولس الرسولِ الثانيةِ إلى تيموثاوس.

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، لا تخجلُ بشهادةِ ربِّنا، ولا بي أنا أسيرهُ، بل اشترك في احتمالِ المشقاتِ لأجلِ الإنجيلِ بحسبِ قُوَّةِ الله، الذي خلصنا ودعانا دعوةً مقدَّسةً، لا بمقتضى أعمالنا، بل بمقتضى القصدِ والنعمةِ التي أُعطيتْ لنا في المسيحِ يسوعَ قَبْلَ الأزمنةِ الأزليَّةِ، وإنَّما أظهرتِ الآنَ بظهورِ مُخلصنا يسوعَ المسيحِ، الذي أنبطلَ الموتَ وأنارَ الحياةَ والخُلُودَ بواسطةِ الإنجيلِ. الذي جعلتُ أنا له كارراً ورسولاً ومُعَلِّماً للأُممِ. لهذا السببِ أحتملُ هذهِ الأمورَ أيضاً. لكنني لستُ أخجلُ، لأنني عالمٌ بمن آمنْتُ، وموقنٌ أنَّه قادرٌ

Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

أَنْ يَحْفَظَ وَدِيْعَتِي إِلَى ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ. تَمَسَّكَ بِصُورَةِ الْكَلَامِ الصَّحِيحِ الَّذِي سَمِعْتَهُ مِنِّي، فِي الْإِيْمَانِ وَالْمَحَبَّةِ الَّتِي فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. اِحْفَظِ الْوَدِيْعَةَ الصَّالِحَةَ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ السَّاكِنِ فِيْنَا. أَنْتِ تَعْلَمُ هَذَا أَنَّ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ فِي أَسِيَّا ارْتَدُّوا عَنِّي، الَّذِينَ مِنْهُمْ فِيَجْلِسُ وَهَرْمُوجَانِسُ. لِيُعْطِ الرَّبُّ رَحْمَةً لِبَيْتِ أَنْيْسِيفُورُسَ، لِأَنَّهُ مِرَارًا كَثِيرَةً أَرَاخِنِي وَلَمْ يَخْجَلْ بِسِلْسِلَتِي، بَلْ لَمَّا كَانَ فِي رُومِيَّةَ، طَلَبَنِي بِأَوْفَرِ اجْتِهَادٍ فَوَجَدَنِي. لِيُعْطِهِ الرَّبُّ أَنْ يَجِدَ رَحْمَةً مِنَ الرَّبِّ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ. وَكُلُّ مَا كَانَ يَخْدُمُ فِي أَفْسُسَ أَنْتِ تَعْرِفُهُ جَيِّدًا.

## The Gospel for the Forefathers

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

### فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيمًا وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ: تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ. فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاحِدًا فَوَاحِدًا يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلًا، وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ، فَاسْأَلْكَ أَنْ تَعْفِيَنِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَجْرِبَهَا، فَاسْأَلْكَ أَنْ تَعْفِيَنِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً، فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ. فَآتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ. فَحِينِيذًا، غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ، وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعًا إِلَى شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَزِقِّهَا وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدَعَ وَالْعُمْيَانَ وَالْعُرْجَ إِلَى هَهُنَا. فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ، قَدْ قُضِيَ مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ، وَيَبْقَى أَيْضًا مَحَلٌّ. فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِّلْعَبْدِ: أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِجَةِ

واضطربهم إلى الدخول حتى يمتلئ بيّتي. فإني أقول  
لكم إنه لا يذوق عشاّي أحدٌ من أولئك الرجال  
المدعّوين. لأنّ المدعّوين كثيرون والمختارين قليلون.



**3rd & 9th Day Memorial**  
Fadia Mousa Daoud  
**Memory Eternal!**



**6 Month Memorial**  
Khaled Mesaf  
**Memory Eternal!**

## Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
12/12/2024	6:30pm	YAM Night
12/13/2024	8:30am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	9:00am	Divine Liturgy for St Herman of Alaska
	5:30pm	Nativity Compline
	6:00pm	Kids SOYO & Jr. SOYO
	7:00pm	Adult Education
12/14/2024	10:00am	Arabic School
	3:30pm	Catechism Class
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion
	6:00pm	Brotherhood of St Paisios Gathering
12/15/2024	8:15am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
12/16/2024	5:30pm	Prayers before Holy Communion
	6:00pm	Divine Liturgy for Prophet Daniel
12/17/2024	6:00pm	Vespers
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
12/18/2024	7:00am	Orthros
	9:00am	Co-Op
	10:00am	Arabic Bible Study
	6:00pm	Nativity Compline
	6:00pm	SOYO Night
12/19/2024	9:00am	Co-Op
	9:00am	Orthros

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend  
Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

Archiepiscopal Vicar for  
Toledo and the Midwest

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Nativity of Christ, 2024

The Magi offered to Him from what was His: myrrh and frankincense that He had brought into existence and created. . . . From the great treasury of all creation, Mary gave to Him everything she gave. She gave Him milk from what He made to exist. She gave Him food from what He had created. . . .

He, who is Lord of all, gives to us all, and He Who is Enricher of all, borrows from all. He is Giver of all, as one without needs. Yet He borrows back again like one deprived. He gave cattle and sheep as Creator, but, on the other hand, He sought sacrifices like one deprived. . . . From what is His, Martha [the sister of Lazarus] gave Him food to eat; she placed before Him the foods created by Him. All who gave to Him have vowed from what is His; from His treasury they have placed gifts on His table.

St. Ephraim the Syrian, *Hymns on the Nativity* 4

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in a manger for our salvation!

As St. Ephraim reminds us in the hymn above, everything we can offer Christ has come to us from His hand, yet He humbles Himself to receive from us what He doesn't need, so that we can thereby show our love to Him and connect with Him. This reminds me of when I was a child and my parents would give me a little money for our school's Holiday Shoppe. I would buy things like a snow globe or a mug, wrap them, and give them to my parents on Christmas. They certainly didn't need these trinkets, and if they had, they could have bought them themselves. However, that wasn't the point—they were giving me the chance to do something for them, to express my love for them.

This Christmas, let us each find some special way to demonstrate our love for Christ. Let us go into the Holiday Shoppe of this world, which He has made for us, and pick out something to give Him from our hearts, something that is dear to His heart. First and foremost, let us give Him ourselves in faith, obedience, and devotion.

Wishing you all a joyous feast, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jeremy Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archimandrite Jeremy  
Archiepiscopal Vicar

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



† ST. MARY  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

# Young Adult Ministry Save the Date

Thursday, December 12th @ 6:30pm  
YAM Night  
*(Prayer, discussion, fasting snacks, sports & games)*



Sunday, December 22nd  
YAM Coffee Hour



Saturday, January 4th @ 5:00pm  
YAM Christmas Party



St Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

# *Antiochian Women*

## **Ghribeh Sale**

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

The Antiochian Women made fresh homemade Ghribeh. Help support them by purchasing a box or two online.



**\$15 per box**

**\$35 Round Gift Tray**

If you have any questions please call Ibtisam Sousan 708-334-4924 or Rita Sweis 773-510-4303 or see to any of the Antiochian Women.

Click on flyer to order

# Nativity Fast & Christmas Reminder!

## Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy

Important! Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Liturgy. Matins will begin at 8pm followed by Liturgy at 9:30pm, 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 all at Christmas Liturgy. God bless!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

# FOOD DRIVE

**NON-PERISHABLE  
FOOD ITEMS ONLY**

## **ITEMS ACCEPTED:**

Beans, Chili, Cereal, Pasta,  
Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter,  
Jelly, Rice, Dry Milk, Soup,  
Tuna, Canned Vegetables,  
Canned Fruit, Mac & Cheese,  
Juice.



**October 13 -  
January 5**

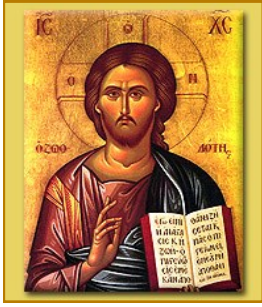
## **Drop Off Times**

**Sunday Mornings &  
Mon. - Fri. 10am - 3pm**

**HELP DONATE  
TO THOSE IN  
HUNGER!**

*Remembering  
the words of  
St. John  
Chrysostom: "It  
is a better thing  
to feed the  
hungry than to  
raise the dead."*

6330 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463 708-239-0004



## Weekly Synaxarion



On December 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Paul of Latra. On this day, we also commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Saint Anthia. Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul himself, and was baptized by him. Being early left a widow, she entrusted her only son to the education and service of the Bishop of Rome, Anacietus. Seeing how greatly Eleutherios was gifted and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him as bishop of Illyria at age 20. This Godly man kept his flock like a good shepherd, adding to their number from day to day. In the year 120, Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent a commander, Felix, with soldiers, to seize Eleutherios. Instead, Felix became a Christian, as did the Governor Choribus. They went back to the capitol where all three men were tortured and beheaded. As Anthia held the dead body of her son, she was also beheaded. Their bodies were taken to Valona in Albania, where Eleutherios glorifies the name of Christ to this day by many wonders. On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.