



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 28th, 2025

After-feast of & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the brother of God

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 والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خالصنا.

مُدَبَّرَةٌ طَبَقًا لِكُلِّ مُرَادِهِ بِهَا. صُنْعُهُ الإِعْتِرَافُ وَعِظْمُ الْجَلَالِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.

بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خالصنا.

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

بشفاعاتِ والدَةِ الإلهِ يا مخلصُ خالصنا.

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 مُفْتَدِرَةً.

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!

أشرق النور في الظلمة للمستقيمين، النور يشرق في الظلام للأبزار، لأتة الرؤوف والرحيم والصديق.

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

المجد للآب والإبن والروح القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين، آمين.

يا كلمة الله الابن الوحيد...

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 موطئاً 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 الكواكب 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، خالصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الاموات، لنرتل لك هلولويا!

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.

إن تلميذات الرب تعلمن من الملاك الكرز بالقيامة النهج، وطرحن القضاء الجدّي، وخاطبن الرسل مفتخرات

وقائلات: سبي الموت وقام المسيح الإله، ومنح العالم الرحمة العظمى.

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 therefrom 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 .

مِيلَادُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْهُنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنَ الْكَوَكِبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوِّ أَتَيْتَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Troparion of 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; for 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.

يَا يَوْسُفُ، بَشِّرْ دَاوُودَ جَدَّ الْإِلَهِ بِالْعَجَائِبِ الْبَاهِرَةِ، لِأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَ بَتُولًا حَامِلًا. فَمَعَ الرُّعَاةِ مَجَّدْتَ، وَمَعَ الْمَجُوسِ سَجَّدْتَ، وَبِالْمَلَائِكِ أَوْحِيَ إِلَيْكَ. فَابْتَهِلْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

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.

فِي مِيلَادِكَ حَفِظْتَ الْبَتُولِيَّةَ وَصَنَنْتَهَا وَفِي رِقَادِكَ مَا أَهْمَلْتَ الْعَالَمَ وَتَرَكْتَهُ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ. لِأَنَّكَ انْتَقَلْتِ إِلَى الْحَيَاةِ بِمَا أَنْكَ أُمُّ الْحَيَاةِ. فَبِشْفَاعَاتِكَ أَنْقِذِي مِنَ الْمَوْتِ نَفُوسَنَا.

Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone Three)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

الْيَوْمَ الْبَتُولُ تَلِدُ الْفَائِقَ الْجَوْهَرَ، وَالْأَرْضُ تُقَرِّبُ الْمَغَارَةَ لِمَنْ هُوَ غَيْرُ مُقْتَرَبٍ إِلَيْهِ. الْمَلَائِكَةُ مَعَ الرُّعَاةِ يُمَجِّدُونَ، وَالْمَجُوسُ مَعَ الْكَوَكِبِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ يَسِيرُونَ، لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ وُلِدَ مِنْ أَجْلِنَا صَبِيٌّ جَدِيدٌ، الْإِلَهِ الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.

Epistle for the Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

God is wondrous in His saints.

In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul 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

عَجِيبٌ هُوَ اللَّهُ فِي قَدِيسِيهِ. فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ.

فَضَلُّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، أَعْلَمِكُمْ أَنَّ الْإِنْجِيلَ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُ بِهِ، لَيْسَ

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.

بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ. لِأَنِّي لَمْ أَتَسَلَّمْهُ أَوْ أَتَعَلَّمْهُ مِنْ
إِنْسَانٍ، بَلْ بِإِعْلَانِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ. فَإِنَّكُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ
بِسِيرَتِي قَدِيمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ، أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَضْطَهِدُ
كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ بِإِفْرَاطٍ وَأَدْمَرُهَا. وَأَزِيدُ نَقْدًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ
عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ أَتْرَابِي فِي جَنْسِي، بِكُونِي أَوْفَرَ مِنْهُمْ
غَيْرَةً عَلَى تَقْلِيدَاتِ آبَائِي. فَلَمَّا ارْتَضَى اللَّهُ، الَّذِي
أَفَرَزَنِي مِنْ جَوْفِ أُمِّي وَدَعَانِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ، أَنْ يُعْلِنَ ابْنَهُ
فِيَّ لِأُبَشِّرَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ، لِسَاعَتِي، لَمْ أَصْغِ إِلَى لَحْمٍ
وَدَمٍ. وَلَا صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ إِلَى الرُّسُلِ الَّذِينَ قَبْلِي،
بَلْ انطَلَقْتُ إِلَى دِيَارِ الْعَرَبِ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ رَجَعْتُ إِلَى
دِمَشْقَ. ثُمَّ إِنِّي بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ، صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ
لَأُزَوِّرَ بَطْرُسَ، فَأَقَمْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا. وَلَمْ
أَرَ غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ سِوَى يَعْقُوبَ أَخِي الرَّبِّ.

Gospel for the Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

The Reading 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

فَصَلُّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِي
الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

لَمَّا انصَرَفَ الْمَجُوسُ، إِذَا بِمَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لِيُوسُفَ
فِي الْحُلْمِ، قَائِلًا: قُمْ فَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَاهْرُبْ إِلَى
مِصْرَ، وَكُنْ هُنَاكَ حَتَّى أَقُولَ لَكَ. فَإِنَّ هِيرُودُسَ
مُزْمِعٌ أَنْ يَطْلُبَ الصَّبِيَّ لِيُهْلِكَهُ. فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ
وَأُمَّهُ لَيْلًا، وَانصَرَفَ إِلَى مِصْرَ. وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى وَفَاةِ
هِيرُودُسَ، لِيَتِمَّ الْمَقُولُ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: مِنْ
مِصْرَ دَعَوْتُ ابْنِي. حِينَئِذٍ، لَمَّا رَأَى هِيرُودُسَ أَنَّ
الْمَجُوسَ سَخِرُوا بِهِ، غَضِبَ جَدًّا، وَأَرْسَلَ فَقَتَلَ كُلَّ
صَبِيَّانِ بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ وَجَمِيعِ تَحُومِهَا، مِنْ ابْنِ سَنَتَيْنِ فَمَا
دُونَ، عَلَى حَسَبِ الزَّمَانِ الَّذِي تَحَقَّقَهُ مِنَ الْمَجُوسِ.

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.”

حِينَئِذٍ، تَمَّ مَا قَالَهُ إِزْمِيَاءُ النَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلُ: صَوْتٌ سَمِعَ فِي الرَّامَةِ، نَوْحٌ وَبُكَاءٌ وَعَوِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ، راحيلُ تَبْكِي على أولادِها، وَقَدْ أَبَتْ أَنْ تَتَعَزَّى لَأَنَّهُمْ لَيْسُوا بِمَوْجُودِينَ. فَلَمَّا ماتَ هيرودسُ، إذا بِمَلَكِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لِيُوسُفَ فِي الحُلَمِ فِي مِصرَ، قائلاً: قُمْ فَخُذْ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ واذْهَبْ إلى أرضِ إسرائيلَ، فَقَدْ ماتَ طالِبُو نَفْسِ الصَّبِيِّ. فقامَ وأخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وجاءَ إلى أرضِ إسرائيلَ. ولَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّ أرْخِيلائوسَ قَدْ مَلَكَ على اليهوديَّةِ مَكَانَ هيرودسَ أبيه، خافَ أَنْ يذْهَبَ إلى هُنَاكَ، وَأُوجِيَ إِلَيْهِ فِي الحُلَمِ، فأنصَرَفَ إلى نواحي الجليلِ. وأتى وسَكَنَ في مَدِينَةٍ تُدعى ناصِرَةَ، لِيَتِمَّ المَقُولُ بالأنبياءِ: إِنَّهُ يُدعى ناصِرياً.



40 Day Memorial
Rafiq Sweis
Memory Eternal!



6 Month Memorial
Liza Zaghloul
Memory Eternal!

Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
12/28/2025	8:15am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
12/30/2025	6:00pm	YAM Christmas Party
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
12/31/2025		Office Closed
	9:00am	Orthros
	6:00pm	Liturgy for the New Year (Circumcision of our Lord and St Basil the Great)
1/1/2026		Office Closed
1/2/2026	9:00am	Orthros
1/3/2026	5:00pm	Great Vespers
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion
	7:00pm	YAM Deanery Puttshack Outing



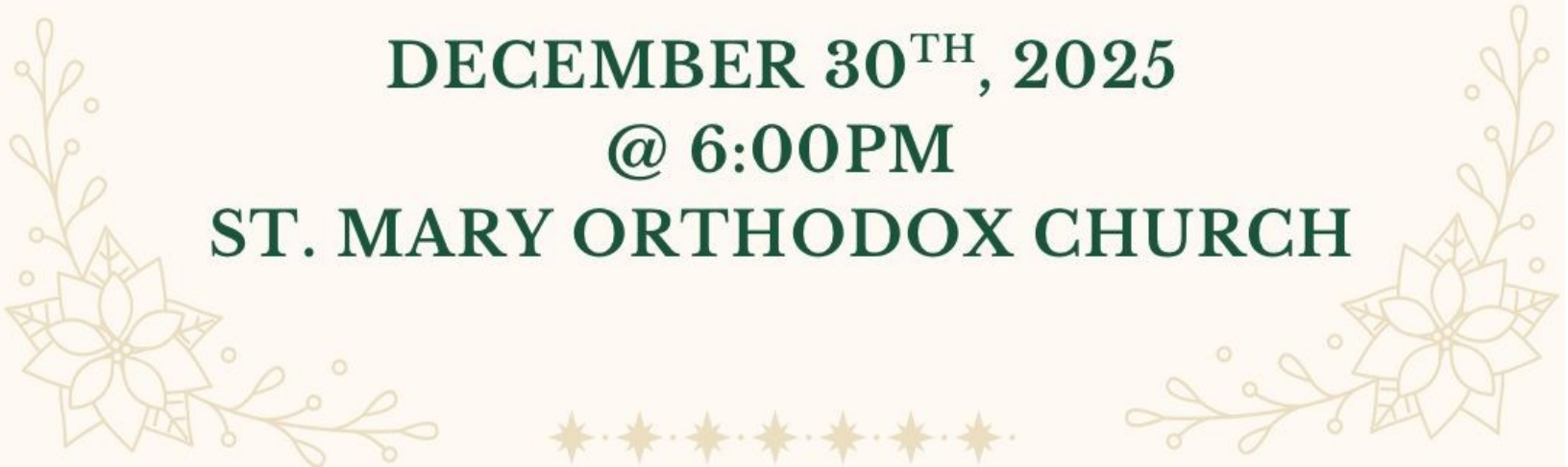
JOIN US FOR OUR

ST. MARY YAM
CHRISTMAS
PARTY!

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE



DECEMBER 30TH, 2025
@ 6:00PM
ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH



ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEW YEAR 2026

Family Celebration

Dinner - Hafleh - Raffle

TICKETS

ADULTS 12+: \$100

AGES 7-11: \$60

6 & UNDER: \$25

KIDS TICKET INCLUDES THEIR OWN
SUPERVISED PARTY DOWNSTAIRS WITH
DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT! BUBBLE
SHOW, BALLOON TWISTING AND MORE.
THE KIDS PARTY WILL END AT 11:30PM IN
TIME FOR FAMILIES TO RING IN THE NEW
YEAR TOGETHER.

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

Purchase Online



For tickets call
Danny Haddad: 708-927-3608
Elias Zaboura: 708-296-5394
Saed Khoury: 708-769-3993

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/252690959850168>

All proceeds go to St. Mary's Building Fund

December 31 At 7:30 Pm

Star Singer

SAED KHOURY
DJ SULTAN



PUTTSHACK DEANERY SOCIAL

*Chicago-land young adults are
welcome to join us*

JANUARY 3RD, 2026

TIME:

7:00pm—9:00pm

LOCATION:

PUTTSHACK, 1828
Oakbrook Center,
Oak Brook, IL 60523

\$50
PER
PERSON



THIS EVENT IS RESERVED FOR YOUNG ADULT MEMBERS OF
THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHICAGO-LAND CHURCHES



Save the Date

Join us for our Annual Arabian Night Party on
Saturday, February 7th at 6:00pm.

A night full of food, music, dancing, and raffle.

Live Entertainment by Nabil Nemeh

انتظرونا مع المطرب نبيل النعمة فى الحفل الفلكلوري العربى



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 5 -
January 4**

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

ODEH and JAMILEH

– AKKAWI FOUNDATION –
SINCE 2015

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

This scholarship is intended to provide our children with the resources they need to reach their God-given potential. The future prosperity of our beloved communities 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.

PLEASE APPLY HERE: <https://forms.gle/su55m6iy5vRj3pPD7>

Important Notes:

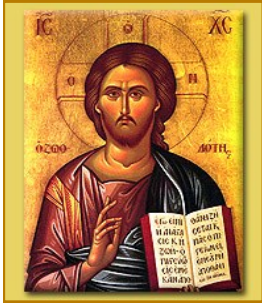
1. Each student selected to participate in the scholarship program will be awarded a \$1,000 annually through the 12th grade, as long as the requirements are met each year.
2. The scholarship includes \$500 for tuition, books, school supplies, \$500 for extra-curricular activities, and access to a curated monthly enrichment program.
Selected students will receive the funds at the beginning of the following academic year.

Selection is based on three criteria: academic potential, character, and financial need.
Selected recipients will be notified by email no later than July 1, 2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2026

Questions? Please email Dr. Kayed Odeh Akkawi at akkawifoundation@gmail.com
Learn more about the Akkawi Foundation at www.akkawifoundation.org





Weekly Synaxarion



On December 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the twenty thousand martyrs burned in Nicomedia; and Venerable Simon the myrrh-streaming, founder of Simonopetra monastery on Athos. 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 22 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 intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.