



# 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, January 4th, 2026

Sunday before Theophany of Christ

Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily

## 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 مَلَكْنَا وَالْهَنَا، خَلَصَنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنَ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتَلِ لَكَ هَلْلُويَا!

## Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Five)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

لِنُسَبِّحْ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدْ لِلْكَلِمَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلآبِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ  
لِخَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سَرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُوَ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَخْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.

## Troparion of the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone Four)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

إِسْتَعِدِّي يَا زَبُولُونَ، وَتَهَيَّأِي يَا نَفْتَالِيمَ. وَأَنْتَ يَا نَهْرَ الْأُرْدُنِّ، قِفْ مُمْسِكاً عَنْ جَرِيكِ، وَأَقْبِلِ السَّيِّدَ بِفَرَحٍ، آتِيّاً  
لِيَعْتَمِدَ. إِطْرَبْ يَا آدَمَ وَابْتَهِّجْ مَعَ الْأُمِّ الْأُولَى وَلَا تُخْفِيا ذَاتَكُمَا، كَمَا اخْتَفَيْتُمَا فِي الْفِرْدَوْسِ قَدِيماً، لِأَنَّهُ لَمَّا  
رَأَكُمَا عُرَاةً، ظَهَرَ لَكِي يُلْبِسَكُمَا الْحُلَّةَ الْأُولَى. الْمَسِيحُ ظَهَرَ مُرِيداً أَنْ يُجَدِّدَ الْخَلِيقَةَ كُلَّهَا.

## 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 حَفِظْتِ الْبَتُولِيَّةَ وَصَنَنْتَهَا وَفِي رِقَادِكَ مَا أَهْمَلْتِ الْعَالَمَ وَتَرَكْتِهِ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ. لِأَنَّكَ انْتَقَلْتِ إِلَى  
الْحَيَاةِ بِمَا أَنْكَ أُمُّ الْحَيَاةِ. فَبشَفَاعَاتِكَ أَنْقِذِي مِنَ الْمَوْتِ نَفُوسَنَا.

## Kontakion of the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone Four)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

اليومَ حَضَرَ الرَّبُّ فِي مَجَارِي الْأُرْدُنِّ، هَاتِفًا نَحْوَ يُوْحَنَّا قَائِلًا: لَا تَجْرَعُ مِنْ تَعْمِيدِي، لِأَنِّي أَتَيْتُ لِأُخْلِصَ آدَمَ الْمَجْبُولَ أَوَّلًا.

## Epistle for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord, my God.*

### The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

خَلِّصْ يَا رَبُّ شَعْبَكَ وَبَارِكْ مِيرَاثَكَ.

إِلَيْكَ يَا رَبُّ أَصْرُحُ إِلَهِي.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى تِيموثَاوَسَ.

يَا وَلَدِي تِيموثَاوَسَ، تَيَقِّظْ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَاحْتَمِلِ الْمَشَقَّاتِ، وَاعْمَلْ عَمَلَ الْمُبَشِّرِ، وَأَوْفِ خِدْمَتَكَ. أَمَّا أَنَا فَقَدْ أُرِيقُ السَّكِبُ عَلَيَّ وَوَقْتُ انْحِلَالِي قَدْ اقْتَرَبَ. وَقَدْ جَاهَدْتُ الْجِهَادَ الْحَسَنَ، وَأَتَمَمْتُ شَوْطِي، وَحَفَظْتُ الْإِيمَانَ. وَإِنَّمَا يَبْقَى مَحْفُوظًا لِي إِكْلِيلُ الْعَدْلِ الَّذِي يَجْزِينِي بِهِ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ الرَّبِّ، الدِّيَانِ الْعَادِلِ، لَا إِيَّايَ فَقَطُّ، بَلْ جَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ ظُهُورَهُ أَيْضًا.

## Gospel for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقَسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

بَدَأَ إِنْجِيلِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: "هَاءَئَذَا مُرْسِلٌ مَلَائِكِي أَمَامَ وَجْهِكَ يُهَيِّئُ طَرِيقَكَ قُدَّامَكَ. صَوْتُ صَارِخٍ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ: أَعِدُّوا طَرِيقَ الرَّبِّ وَاجْعَلُوا سُبُلَهُ قَوِيمَةً." كَانَ يُوْحَنَّا يُعَمِّدُ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ وَيَكْرِزُ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةِ التَّوْبَةِ لِغُفْرَانِ الْخَطَايَا. وَكَانَ يَخْرُجُ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعُ أَهْلِ بَلَدِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَأُورُشَلِيمَ فَيَعْتَمِدُونَ

clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

جميعهم منه في نهر الأردن، مُعترفين بخطاياهم. وكان يوحنا يلبس وبر الإبل وعلى حَقْوِيهِ مِنْطَقَةٌ مِنْ جِلْدٍ، ويأكلُ جَراداً وَعَسلاً بَرِيّاً. وكان يكرز قائلاً: إِنَّهُ يَأْتِي بَعْدِي مَنْ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنِّي، وأنا لا أستحق أن أنحني وأحلَّ سَيْرَ حِذَائِهِ. أنا عَمَدْتُكُمْ بالماءِ، وأما هُوَ فَيُعَمِدُكُمْ بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ.



### Graduation

Marya Mikhail Sweis

Biological Sciences & Psychology w/  
concentration on Educational Psychology

University of Illinois Chicago

**Congratulations!**

## Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
1/4/2026	8:15am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	3:00pm	Basketball Tournament
1/5/2026	10:00am	Great Hours and Typika for the Theophany of Christ
	2:45pm	Prayers before Holy Communion
	3:00pm	Compline
	3:30pm	Great Vespers with Artoklasia for Theophany
	4:30pm	Orthros for Theophany
	6:00pm	Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany with the Great Blessing of Water
1/6/2026	7:00pm	Choir Practice
1/7/2026	7:00am	Orthros
	10:00am	Arabic Bible Study
	6:00pm	Paraklesis
	6:00pm	SOYO Night
1/8/2026	9:00am	Orthros
1/9/2026	7:00am	Orthros
1/10/2026	10:00am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion



# 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:**

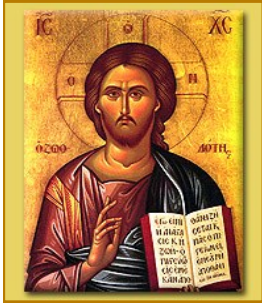
1. Each student selected to participate in the scholarship program will be awarded a \$1,000 annually through the 12th grade, as long as the requirements are met each year.
2. The scholarship includes \$500 for tuition, books, school supplies, \$500 for extra-curricular activities, and access to a curated 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](mailto:akkawifoundation@gmail.com)  
Learn more about the Akkawi Foundation at [www.akkawifoundation.org](http://www.akkawifoundation.org)





## Weekly Synaxarion



On January 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we prepare to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the holy Seventy Apostles. In addition to the twelve Great Apostles, the Lord chose seventy other, lesser apostles and sent them to preach to the Jews. He sent them out two by two before His face, to each town and place, saying: “Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves” (Luke 10:1-5). But as Judas, one of the Twelve, fell away from the Lord, so some among these Seventy withdrew from Him, not with the intention of betraying Him but from human weakness and lack of faith (John 6:66). The apostles elected new ones to take the fallen apostles’ places. These Seventy labored in the same way as the twelve Great Apostles; they were the assistants of the Twelve in the spreading and strengthening of the Church of God in the world. They suffered much torture and malice, from men and from demons, but their firm faith and burning love for the risen Lord made them conquerors of the world and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.