



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 25th, 2026

Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople
& Fifteenth Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus)

Venerable Demetrios the sacristan; New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople

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 وَنَرْكِعْ لِلْمَسِيحِ مَلَكُنَا وَالْهَنَا، خَلَصَنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنَ 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.

أَنْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ الْعُلُوِّ يَا مُتَحَنِّنٌ، وَقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ذَا الثَّلَاثَةِ الْأَيَّامِ، لِكَيْ تُعْتِقَنَا مِنَ الْأَلَامِ، فَيَا حَيَاتَنَا وَقِيَامَتَنَا، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

Troparion of St. Gregory the Theologian (Tone One)

The shepherd's pipe of thy theology conquered the trumpets of the philosophers; for since thou didst search out the depths of the Spirit, beauty of speech was added to thee. But intercede with Christ God, O Father Gregory, that our souls be saved.

إِنَّ مِزْمَارَ لَاهُوتِكَ الرَّعَائِيَّ غَلَبَ أَبْوَاقَ الْخُطَبَاءِ. فَقَدْ بَحَنْتَ فِي أَعْمَاقِ الرُّوحِ وَأَضَيْفَ لَكَ حُسْنَ التَّكَلُّمِ. فَتَشَفَّعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا أَبَانَا غَرِيغُورِيُوسَ، 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.

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

Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ (Tone One)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، يَا مَنْ بِمَوْلِدِهِ قَدَّسَ الْمُسْتَوْدَعَ الْبَتُولِيَّ، وَبَارَكَ يَدَيْ سِمْعَانَ كَمَا لاقَ، وَأَدْرَكْنَا الْآنَ وَخَلَّصْنَا؛ إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ بِسَلَامٍ فِي الْحُرُوبِ، وَأَيِّدِ الْمُلُوكَ الَّذِينَ أَحْبَبْتَهُمْ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ وَحْدَكَ مُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.

The Epistle for St. Gregory the Theologian

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. Hear this, all ye people.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:26-8:2)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect forever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, one Who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer.

فَمِي يَتَكَلَّمُ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَقَلْبِي يَهْدُ بِالْفَهْمِ.

إِسْمَعُوا هَذَا يَا شُعُوبَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، كَانَ يَلِيْقُ بِنَا رَيْسُ كَهَنَةٍ مِثْلُ هَذَا، قُدُّوسٌ بِلَا شَرٍّ وَلَا دَنَسٍ، قَدْ انْفَصَلَ عَنِ الْخَطَاةِ وَصَارَ أَعْلَى مِنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ الَّذِي لَيْسَ لَهُ اضْطِرَارٌّ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ مِثْلَ رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ أَنْ يُقَدِّمَ ذَبَائِحَ أَوْلًا عَنْ خَطَايَا نَفْسِهِ ثُمَّ عَنْ خَطَايَا الشَّعْبِ، لِأَنَّهُ فَعَلَ هَذَا مَرَّةً وَاحِدَةً، إِذْ قَدَّمَ نَفْسَهُ. فَإِنَّ النَّامُوسَ يُقِيمُ أَنْاسًا بِهِمْ ضَعْفُ رُؤَسَاءِ كَهَنَةٍ. وَأَمَّا كَلِمَةُ الْقَسَمِ الَّتِي بَعْدَ النَّامُوسِ فَتُقِيمُ ابْنًا مُكَمَّلًا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. وَأَمَّا رَأْسُ الْكَلَامِ فَهُوَ: أَنَّ لَنَا رَيْسَ كَهَنَةٍ مِثْلَ هَذَا، قَدْ جَلَسَ فِي يَمِينِ عَرْشِ الْعِظْمَةِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ خَادِمًا لِلْأَقْدَاسِ وَالْمَسْكَنِ الْحَقِيقِيِّ الَّذِي نَصَبَهُ الرَّبُّ لَا إِنْسَانَ. لِأَنَّ كُلَّ رَيْسِ كَهَنَةٍ يُقَامُ لِكَيْ يُقَدِّمَ قَرَابِينَ وَذَبَائِحَ. فَمِنْ تَمَّ يَلْزَمُ أَنْ يَكُونَ لِهَذَا أَيْضًا شَيْءٌ يُقَدِّمُهُ.

Gospel for the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ
الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ مُجْتَازٌ فِي أَرِيحَا، إِذَا
بِرَجُلٍ اسْمُهُ زَكَا كَانَ رَثِيصًا عَلَى الْعَشَّارِينَ، وَكَانَ
غَنِيًّا وَكَانَ يَلْتَمِسُ أَنْ يَرَى يَسُوعَ مِنْ هُوَ، فَلَمْ يَكُنْ
يَسْتَطِيعُ مِنَ الْجَمْعِ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ قَصِيرَ الْقَامَةِ فَتَقَدَّمَ
مُسْرِعًا، وَصَعِدَ إِلَى جُمَيْزَةٍ لِيَنْظُرَهُ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مُزْمِعًا
أَنْ يَجْتَازَ بِهَا. فَلَمَّا انْتَهَى يَسُوعُ إِلَى الْمَوْضِعِ، رَفَعَ
طَرْفَهُ فَرَأَاهُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: يَا زَكَا أَسْرِعْ أَنْزِلْ، فَالْيَوْمَ يَنْبَغِي
لِي أَنْ أَمْكُثَ فِي بَيْتِكَ. فَاسْرِعْ وَنَزَلْ وَقَبِلْهُ فَرِحًا. فَلَمَّا
رَأَى الْجَمِيعُ ذَلِكَ تَدَمَّرُوا قَائِلِينَ: إِنَّهُ دَخَلَ لِيَحُلَّ عِنْدَ
رَجُلٍ خَاطِيٍّ. "فَوَقَّفَ زَكَا وَقَالَ لِيَسُوعَ: هَاءَئَذَا، يَا
رَبُّ، أُعْطِيَ الْمَسَاكِينَ نِصْفَ أَمْوَالِي. وَإِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ
غَبَنْتُ أَحَدًا فِي شَيْءٍ، أَرُدُّ أَرْبَعَةَ أضعَافٍ فَقَالَ لَهُ
يَسُوعُ: الْيَوْمَ قَدْ حَصَلَ الْخَلَاصُ لِهَذَا الْبَيْتِ لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ
أَيْضًا ابْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ إِنَّمَا أَتَى لِيَطْلُبَ
وَيُخَلِّصَ مَا قَدْ هَلَكَ.



Newborn

Georgina

Parents: Jeremy & Salma Rafidia

Congratulations!

Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
1/25/2026	8:15am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
	12:00pm	SOYO Family Coffee Hour
1/27/2026	9:00am	Orthros
	5:30pm	Prayers before Holy Communion
	6:00pm	Liturgy for Sts Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians
	7:30pm	Choir Practice
1/28/2026	10:00am	Arabic Bible Study
	6:00pm	Paraklesis
1/29/2026	9:00am	Orthros
	6:00pm	Sisterhood of St. Olga Humanitarian Event
1/30/2026	8:30am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	9:00am	Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs
1/31/2026	9:00am	Parish Council and Ministry Leaders Retreat with Fr Chad Hatfield at St. George Orthodox Church, Cicero IL
	10:00am	Arabic School
	5:00pm	SOYO Deanery Retreat with Fr Chad Hatfield at St. Mary's
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Bible Study

Welcome To St. Mary's

SOYO

Ages 13-18

We are blessed to have a church that plans things for us to have fun and grow in Christ together. So, SOYO is not just a place to socialize but to also learn: learning is fun! We have to make sure we are respecting and listening to our leaders and teachers just like you do in school. SOYO is amazing! We get to hang out in a safe and temptation free environment, meet new peers and bring each other closer in the faith, and there is a variety of ages so you can ask for advice and learn from each other!

Our January events:

- Wednesday, January 21st 6-9 pm- SOYO NIGHT
- Sunday, January 25th - SOYO FAMILY COFFEE HOUR
- Saturday, January 31st - SOYO DEANERY RETREAT WITH FR. CHAD HATFIELD

Get in touch:

Fabiola

Fsweis@stmaryoc.org

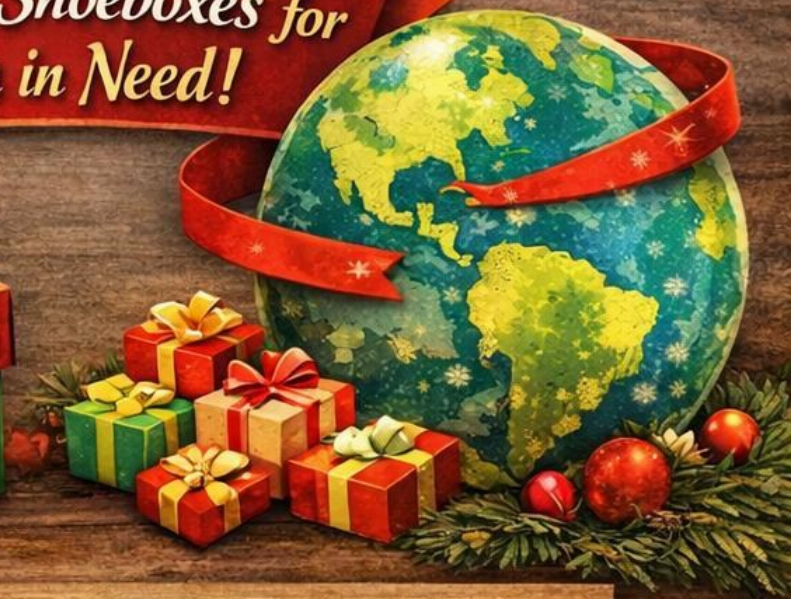
Sisterhood of St. Olga

Humanitarian Event

SAMARITAN'S PURSE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

800 N Commerce St, Aurora, IL 60504

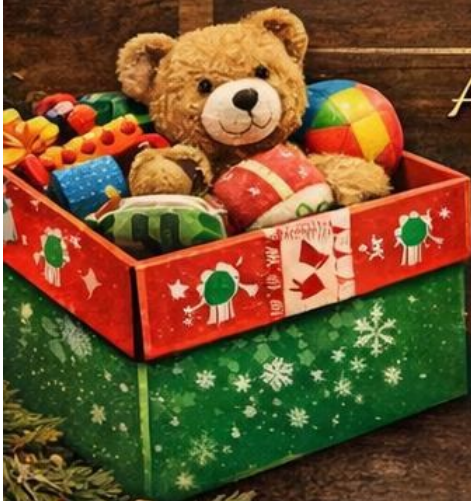
*Assembling Shoeboxes for
Children in Need!*



Thursday, January 29th, 2026

6:00pm - 9:00pm

*Ages 13-17 accompanied by
an adult welcome!*



*Help Pack Shoebox Gifts
To Share God's Love
Around the World!*



Chicago Deanery

Ministries Retreat with

Fr. Chad Hatfield



January 30th - 31st, 2026

The Antiochian Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Deanery are excited to have Fr. Chad Hatfield, former dean of St. Vladimir Seminary. He will be speaking to the ministries of our churches. See the schedule below. Please click or scan the QR code to register.

Schedule

Friday, January 30th

3:00pm - Clergy Retreat at St. George, Cicero

Saturday, January 31st

9am-3pm - Parish Council & Ministry Leaders Retreat
for all parishes at St. George, Cicero

5pm-9pm - SOYO Retreat for all teens at
St. Mary, Palos Heights

*[Click here](#)
or scan the
QR code to
register.*



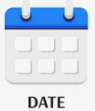
*All Saints, Chicago | St. George, Cicero
St. George, Spring Valley | St. Mary, Palos Heights
Holy Transfiguration, Warrenville
St. Katherine Mission, Niles*

Chicago Deanery SOYO RETREAT *Fr. Chad Hatfield*



“Loyalty to Christ”

January 31st, 2026

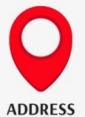


5:00pm - 9:30pm



St. Mary Church

6330 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, IL



All teens of the Antiochian Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Deanery are invited to a SOYO Retreat with Fr. Chad Hatfield, former dean of St. Vladimir Seminary. Please click or scan the QR code to register.

Schedule

5:00 PM Great Vespers at St. Mary	8:15 PM Games/Activities
6:00 PM Dinner	9:00 PM Compline
6:45 PM Ice breakers	9:30 PM Pick-up
7:15 PM Session	

*[Click here](#)
[or scan the](#)
[QR code to](#)
[register.](#)*



*All Saints, Chicago | St. George, Cicero
St. George, Spring Valley | St. Mary, Palos Heights
Holy Transfiguration, Warrenville
St. Katherine Mission, Niles*



Join us for
Young Adult Ministry
Bake Sale

Sunday, February 1st
After Liturgy
In the Fellowship Hall

Grab a sweet treat!

All proceeds will go to
our YAM fund!

See you there!



Arabian Night



طال السفر والغربة منها انا... مليت
والصبر عندي تعذر من طول الغياب



Singer

Nabil Nemeh

أهلا وسهلا بالضيوف الكرام تتشرف سيدات كنيسة سانت

ميري بدعوتكم لحضور حفل العشاء الفلكلوري العربي الذي سوف يقام

February 7th at 6:00pm

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

6330 W. 127th St. Palos Heights, IL 60463

Tickets: \$100 per person (no refunds)

Ladies only. No children

Tickets will be sold online only.

For more information please contact Muna Salman

708-769-5105, Rita Sweis 773-510-4303, and

Nina Atiyeh 708-768-4614 or any of the Antiochian Women



The Antiochian Women of St. Mary Church would like to invite you to our 8th Annual Arabian Night Party.

Enjoy a fun night of dinner, music, and dancing. There will also be a raffle with prizes including six gold pieces.

Tickets can be purchased online.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

COUPLES MINISTRY

Valentine's Event

ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH • FELLOWSHIP HALL

FEBRUARY 15TH | 5PM – 9PM



Free Babysitting
& Kids Meal Provided



Dinner • Drinks
• Entertainment

— Special Guest Entertainer —

VITO ZATTO



*Please Scan QR Code
to Purchase Tickets*



\$100 Per Couple

Includes Beverages, Food & Entertainment

Questions? Contact Rolla Sweis (708)296-8957
Jane Haddad (847)505-2888

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:

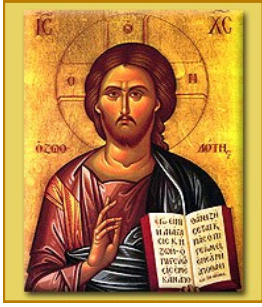
1. Each student selected to participate in the scholarship program will be awarded a \$1,000 annually through the 12th grade, as long as the requirements are met each year.
2. The scholarship includes \$500 for tuition, books, school supplies, \$500 for extra-curricular activities, and access to a curated 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 January 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople. He was born in Nazianzus and studied in Athens with Basil the Great and Julian the Apostate. Gregory correctly prophesied that Julian would become an apostate and a persecutor of the Church. When he completed his studies, Gregory was baptized. Basil consecrated him as bishop of Sasima, and Emperor Theodosius the Great summoned him to fill the vacant archepiscopal throne of Constantinople. Gregory wrote numerous works, of which his most famous are those concerning theology. Especially known because of its depth is his work Homilies on the Holy Trinity. Gregory wrote against the heretic Macedonius who erroneously taught that the Holy Spirit is a creation of God, and against Appolinarius who erroneously taught that Christ did not have a human soul but that His divinity was in lieu of His soul. Gregory died in 390 at age 80. On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Demetrius the Sacristan; and New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.