



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, February 1st, 2026

Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican &
Forefeast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

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 One)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ، قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ أَيُّهَا الْمُخَلِّصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. لِذَلِكَ قُوَّتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ، هَتَّقُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبِ الْحَيَاةِ: الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمُلْكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لِتَدْبِيرِكَ، يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدَّكَ.

Troparion of the Forefeast (Tone One)

The Heavens' choir looked down from the vaults of the Heavens, and gazing on the earth, they beheld with amazement the First-born of all creation brought forth as a suckling babe to the Temple by a pure and virginal mother; and with us, they now do sing a hymn for the Forefeast, astonished and full of awe.

لَقَدْ أَشْرَفَتِ الْمَصَافَاتُ السَّمَاوِيَّةُ مِنَ الْقَنَاظِرِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ مُتَطَلِّعَةً عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، فَظَنَرَتْ بِكَرِّ كُلِّ الْخَلِيقَةِ تَحْمِلُهُ إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ طِفْلاً رَضِيعاً أُمَّ لَمْ تَعْرِفْ رَجُلاً، فَدَهَشَتْ تُرْتِلُ مَعَنَا لِتَقْدِمَةِ الْعِيدِ تَرْتِيلاً رَهيباً.

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 حفظت البتولية وصنيتها وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم وتركته يا والدة الإله. لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Forefeast (Tone Four)

On this day doth Simeon receive with gladness God, the giver of the Law; and he doth cry to Him in fear: Let me depart now, O Master Christ, for I have seen Thee, the glory of Israel.

اليومَ يَتَقَبَّلُ سَمْعَانُ بِفَرَحِ الرَّبِّ الْمَعْطِيِ النَّامُوسَ، وَيَصْرُخُ إِلَيْهِ بِخَوْفٍ، أَطْلُقْنِي الْآنَ، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ السَّيِّدَ،
لَأَنِّي رَأَيْتُكَ يَا مَجْدَ إِسْرَائِيلَ.

The Epistle for the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا.

إِنْتَهَجُوا أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى
تِيموثَاوَسَ.

يَا وَلَدِي تِيموثَاوَسَ، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَيْتَ تَعْلِيمِي،
وَسِيرَتِي، وَقَضِيَّ، وَإِيمَانِي، وَأَنَاتِي، وَمَحَبَّتِي،
وَصَبْرِي، وَاضْطِهَادَاتِي، وَالْأَمِيَّ، وَمَا أَصَابَنِي فِي
إِنطَاكِيَّةٍ وَأَيْقُونِيَّةٍ وَلِسْتَرَةَ، وَأَيَّةِ اضْطِهَادَاتٍ احْتَمَلْتُ،
وَقَدْ أَنْقَذَنِي الرَّبُّ مِنْ جَمِيعِهَا. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ
أَنْ يَعِيشُوا بِالنَّقْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. أَمَّا
الْأَشْرَارُ وَالْمُغْوُونَ مِنَ النَّاسِ، فَيَزْدَادُونَ شَرًّا، مُضِلِّينَ
وَمُضَلِّينَ. فَاسْتَمِرِّي أَنْتِ عَلَى مَا تَعَلَّمْتَهُ وَأَيَّقَنْتِ بِهِ،
عَالِمًا مِمَّنْ تَعَلَّمْتِ، وَأَنَّكَ مُنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ
الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ تُصَيِّرَكَ حَكِيمًا لِلْخَلَاصِ بِالْإِيمَانِ
بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

Gospel for the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ
الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانَانِ صَعِدَا إِلَى الْهَيْكَلِ
لِيُصَلِّيَا، أَحَدُهُمَا فَرِيسِيٌّ وَالْآخَرُ عَشَّارٌ. فَكَانَ الْفَرِيسِيُّ
وَاقِفًا يُصَلِّي فِي نَفْسِهِ هَكَذَا، "اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْكُرُكَ لِأَنِّي
لَسْتُ كَسَائِرِ النَّاسِ الْخَطْفَةِ، الظَّالِمِينَ، الْفَاسِقِينَ، وَلَا
مِثْلَ هَذَا الْعَشَّارِ. فَإِنِّي أَصُومُ فِي الْأُسْبُوعِ مَرَّتَيْنِ،
وَأَعْشِرُ كُلَّ مَا هُوَ لِي." أَمَّا الْعَشَّارُ فَوَقَفَ عَنْ بُعْدٍ،
وَلَمْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يَرْفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، بَلْ كَانَ يَقْرَعُ
صَدْرَهُ قَائِلًا، "اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي أَنَا الْخَاطِيءُ." أَقُولُ لَكُمْ،
إِنَّ هَذَا نَزَلَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ مُبَرَّرًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ. لِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ
رَفَعَ نَفْسَهُ اتَّضَعَّ، وَمَنْ وَضَعَ نَفْسَهُ ارْتَفَعَ.

Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
2/1/2026	8:15am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
	12:00pm	YAM Bake Sale
	5:00pm	Great Vespers w/Artoklasia for Feast of the Presentation of Christ
	6:00pm	Orthros for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ
2/2/2026	9:30am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	10:00am	Liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ
2/3/2026	9:00am	Orthros
	6:00pm	Byzantine Music Class
	6:30pm	Catechism Class
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
2/4/2026	7:00am	Orthros
	10:00am	Arabic Bible Study
	6:00pm	Paraklesis
2/5/2026	9:00am	Orthros
2/6/2026	9:00am	Liturgy for St Photios the Great
2/7/2026	10:00am	Arabic School
	12:00pm	SOYO Outing
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion



St. Mary Orthodox Church Young Adult Ministry

Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY

SAT

JANUARY 31ST

YAM BAKE SALE

SUN

FEBRUARY 1ST

YAM BRUNCH ~ HARVEST ROOM

SUN

FEBRUARY 8TH

BIBLE STUDY

SAT

FEBRUARY 28TH

YAM DEANERY MONASTERY TRIP

SAT

MARCH 28TH



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

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.*



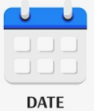
*All Saints, Chicago | St. George, Cicero
St. George, Spring Valley | St. Mary, Palos Heights
Holy Transfiguration, Warrenville
St. Katherine Mission, Niles*

Chicago Deanery SOYO RETREAT *Fr. Chad Hatfield*



“Loyalty to Christ”

January 31st, 2026

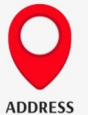


5:00pm - 9:30pm



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!



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:

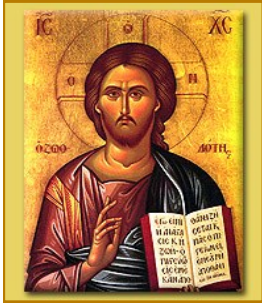
1. Each student selected to participate in the scholarship program will be awarded a \$1,000 annually through the 12th grade, as long as the requirements are met each year.
2. The scholarship includes \$500 for tuition, books, school supplies, \$500 for extra-curricular activities, and access to a curated 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 February 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Martyr Tryphon of Syria; and Martyr Perpetua of Carthage and her four companions. On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist. O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly, receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian song, And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion. In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights. Through the intercessions of the wonder-working Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.