



# SAINT MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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

## St. Mary Parish Clergy

Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad, Pastor  
Very Rev. Fr. Malek Rihani  
Subdeacon Matthew Sweis  
Subdeacon Ameer Tadros

## Parish Council

Fr. Mousa - Presiding Officer  
Fadi Abu Manneh - Chairman  
Feras Sweis - Vice Chairman  
Abdullah Tadros - Treasurer  
Constantin Kari - Financial Sec.  
Abeer Khouri - Secretary  
Nidal Al-Farah  
George Barakat  
Bassam Salman  
Feras Salman  
Faris Samawi  
Samer Tadros

## Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Omar Sweis  
SOYO - Marram Salman  
Fellowship - Khalil Haddad  
Antiochian Women - Susan Sweis  
Handmaids - Mansoura Khouri and  
Lina Haddad  
Humanitarian - Shireen Salman  
OCLife - Nancy Cannon  
Fishers of Men - John Eannace  
Athletics - Melad Qodsi  
Choir - Michael Rascia  
Chanters - Khaled Salman and  
Faris Samawi  
Webmaster - Sana Sweis

## Office Administrator

Katia Haddad  
administrator@stmaryoc.org

## Parish Administrator

Rachel Kari  
rkari@stmaryoc.org

## Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our  
Office Administrator

## December 8, 2013

## Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



## Weekly Schedule of Services

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. -- Great Vespers

Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Matins -- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. Matins -- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study  
(Confessions by Appointment)

Welcome to St. Mary Orthodox Church! We extend our warmest and heartfelt greetings to you and your family. If this is your first time with us, we pray that you feel at home. After all, we are gathered together in our Father's house. For more information, please see one of the ushers at the end of the service for a "Welcome Packet." May God bless you and give you many healthy years in His service.

# Hymns of the Day

## **Entrance Hymn (Tone Two)**

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!

## **Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Seven)**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

## **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.

## **Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Nativity (Tone Three)**

Today the Virgin cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe if thou shouldst hear and glorify with the Angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by His will shall become a new-born Babe and who is our God before the ages.

## **Epistle for the Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

*The Lord will give strength to his people!*

*Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory!*

**The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (2:14-22).**

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## **Gospel for the Tenth Sunday of St. Luke**

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (13:10-17).**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As He said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

# PARISH NEWS



Honoring your loved ones: Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays to provide Holy Bread and Coffee hour. It's this gift of Holy Bread that we use to prepare communion and to share with our parishioners at the end of the service. *What better way to honor your loved ones on their birthday, anniversary, graduation or memorial. It takes minimal effort, and it encourages fellowship among our community.*

## *Holy Bread and Coffee Hour*

12/08: Fadi and Natalie Abu Manneh & Family

12/15: Feras and Jackie Salman & Family

12/22: Jamal and Kholoud Swais & Family



## **Bulletin Blurb for Sunday December 8, 2013**

Q: HOOKAH PENS (a colorful & flavorful new trend, hugely mass produced and marketed to the adolescent market) contain:

- no harmful substances and are totally safe
- none of the risks of other e-cigarettes
- some nicotine and toxins found in antifreeze
- bubblegum

### **C. some nicotine and toxins found in antifreeze.**

With the misconception of any 'Hookah' being safer than cigarettes, one must be aware that any type of inhaling will have some effect on your lungs and throat. Even though some Hookah Pens do not have the contents printed on the pen itself, but on the outer packaging only, most consumers may not see the nicotine & chemical content. While all hookah pens claim to be 'tobacco free' not all Hookah Pens are 'nicotine free'. Nicotine is a toxin found in tobacco plants, used at one time for bug sprays. All vapor cigarettes contain chemical content which is hazardous to one's health. Effective Jan. 1, 2014, IL law will prohibit the sale of alternative nicotine products to minors. 720 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 675/1.5 (2013). Any merchant found selling such products to minors or any underage minors found purchasing or using such products are punishable by law and will be fined. The CDC, FDA, American Academy of Pediatrics and Intl Union Against TB and Lung Disease all agree that use of these products will tend to increase addiction of nicotine and tobacco products in children.



**3rd & 9th Day Memorial  
Murad Hanna Akroush  
May his memory be eternal!**



**Engagement  
Odeh Sameer Tadros  
&  
Salam Sameeh Dababneh  
Congratulations!**



**New born  
Eva  
Parents: Faris and Chantal Sweis  
Congratulations!**

## **Epistle Reading**

12/8: Mansoura Khouri & Fabiola Sweis  
12/15: Khaled Salman & Angela Haddad



**St. Mary's Fishers of Men  
Monthly Breakfast  
12/07/2013  
Starting with Matins @ 9:30am**

## **"Bible Verse of the Week"**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; Hebrews 1:1-2



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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December 8, 2013

**Choir and Chanter Appreciation Sunday**

*"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being." (Psalm 103:33-34)*

Beloved Clergy, Parish Councils and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

We greet you during this holy season of the Nativity Fast as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, praying that you are all in good health.

On the second Sunday in December each year we honor our choir members and chanters in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the beauty of our church services each year. This year, that Sunday falls on December 8, 2013.

Whether at the Divine Liturgy, vespers, orthros, sacraments or various other services of the Church, they give of their time and talents to offer up glory to God. Can we imagine one of our beautiful services without our choirs or chanters? Let us therefore honor them by doing something special, praying for their good health and thanking them on this day for their special offering as part of the body of Christ. Let us also use this Sunday to encourage our people to participate more fully in the divine services by joining the choirs and chanters in offering up our prayers to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Fast and a most joyous feast of our Lord's Nativity, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate  
The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America





# Advent Fast & Christmas Reminder!



The Nativity Fast (Advent) began Friday, November 15th and will end December 24th (after Christmas Eve Liturgy). We are to fast from meat and dairy. In order for fasting to be effective, it must be accompanied with prayer and acts of mercy and love. St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "What good is it to fast from meat and dairy, if we devour and eat one another." Please remember to love and forgive in this special time in which we prepare for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Important: Mark your Calendars for Christmas Liturgy**

Important! Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Liturgy. It will begin at 6pm, 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. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Christmas Liturgy. God bless!



# Upcoming Events

Fri Dec 6	7:00pm	"Who Goes To Heaven?" - Fellowship Bible Study
Sat Dec 7	9:30am	St. Mary's Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast
	11:00am	Arabic School
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	5:30pm	Great Vespers
Sun Dec 8		Choir & Chanter Appreciation Day
	8:45am	Matins
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy / Sunday School
	2:00pm	SOYO Nursing Home Visit
	3:00pm	Co-Ed Volleyball League Games
Mon Dec 9	6:00pm	PADS Shelter Volunteering
Tue Dec 10	6:30pm	"Gospel in an Hour"
Wed Dec 11	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Parish Bible Study
	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting
	7:00pm	Co-Ed Volleyball League Open Gym
Fri Dec 13	7:30pm	Co-Ed Volleyball League Open Gym
Sat Dec 14	10:00am	Fishers of Men Retreat with Fr. James Ellison
	10:00am	Breakfast with St. Nicholas & Game Fair For Children
	11:00am	Arabic School
	1:30pm	Youth Sports League
	5:30pm	Great Vespers

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

## “Who Goes to Heaven?”

– Bible Study followed by dinner in the Nadi –

*Brought to you by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine*

Friday

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Ages 19 and older

Contact any Fellowship officer with questions.

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



## Our Annual SOYO Nursing Home Visit

### Sunday

## December 8, 2013

### 1:00pm

## Manor Care Health Services

11860 Southwest Highway,

Palos Heights, IL 60463

Questions: please see any of the SOYO officers.



**St. Mary's Fishers of Men  
and the Fuheis American Association  
Proudly Host our Annual**

# **Breakfast With St. Nicholas**

**With a Fishers of Men Adult Retreat**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013**

**10:00AM - 3:00PM**

**St. Mary's Gymnasium - Complimentary**



- 10am - 11am: Breakfast for children and adults
- 11am - 12pm: Arrival of St. Nicholas
- 12pm - 3pm: Christmas Themed Game Fair
- 12pm - 3pm: Adult Retreat in the Fellowship Hall  
with guest speaker V. Rev. Fr. James Ellison

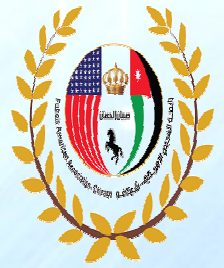
**Questions: Please see Dena Tadros or Rachel Kari**



St. Mary Orthodox Church

&

Fuheis American Association



Invite you to celebrate a community

# New Year's Party

Orland Chateau

14500 S La Grange Rd.

Orland Park, IL 60462

Music by: Faisal Al-Wazani & Nabil Nemeh

Tickets:

Adults - \$75

12yrs & younger - \$30





# Winter Food Drive

Sunday School is hosting a Food Drive! Each class will compete to raise the most food.



**Winning class will have a Pizza Party!!!**

October - December



## Food Drive Grocery List:

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

Sunday School Student should drop their food items in the cart in their classroom.

Any questions please see Hanada Sweis.

**"Liturgy  after the Liturgy"**  
*Taking our faith outside the church walls*

## St. Philothea Project

**This Christmas we will send 50 packages to  
Romanian orphans.**

### Items needed:

- ◆ Hats
- ◆ Gloves/Mittens
- ◆ Scarves

**A cart will be located by the Sunday school entrance. We will be collecting items until Christmas.. Questions: Please see Kh. Delia or email her at [kh.delia@gmail.com](mailto:kh.delia@gmail.com).**

***God bless you for your generosity!***

# St. Mary Orthodox Church

## 9th Annual Christmas High School Retreat

December 27 - December 29

**This annual retreat is an opportunity for you to build upon your Orthodox Christian faith and learn how to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ to your own life.**

**\$175 per teen; payment plans available.  
Please see Orieb Sweis to register or make  
your deposit. God bless!**





Sale Going on NOW!!! **Teen SOYO**

# Cold Stone Ice-Cream PIE Sale

Please see any of the **Teen SOYO** members to put in you order for your **Holiday PIE!!!**

**\$15 each**

- S'more Some More Pie
- There's Chocolate on my Peanut Butter Pie
- Butter Pie
- Cookie Dough Pie
- Caramel Turtle Treat
- Mintastic Chip Pie
- Caramel Apple Pie



## \$10 PIZZA Coupon

Includes 16 buy one get one free coupons.

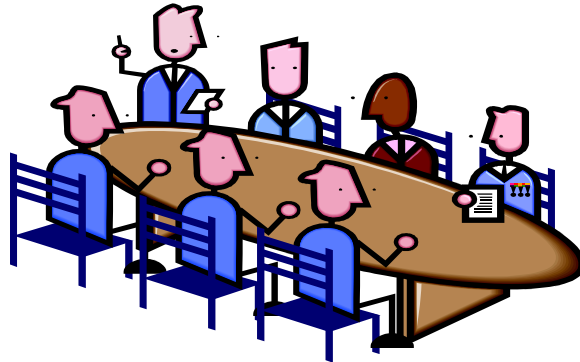
In total you will get 16 free pizzas.

You can use it at any of the Domino's locations.

Please see any of the **Teen SOYO** members to purchase your coupon!



# **Annual General Assembly Meeting and Parish Council Nominations**

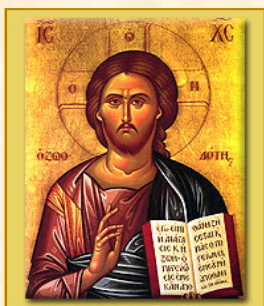


If you are interested in nominating yourself or another person for St. Mary's Parish Council, please let Fr. Mousa or Fadi Abu Manneh know by Sunday, December 15th. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 12th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2013 pledge is paid in full by Sunday, December 29th, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

**Thanks and God bless!**



## Weekly Synaxarion



On December 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we prepare to celebrate the Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna, and we commemorate our righteous Father Patapios of Thebes in Egypt. Patapios abhorred the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they came to him for solace in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, Patapios fled this wilderness to Constantinople, thinking he could hide himself more easily in a big city; but a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to Patapios. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight to look upon God's creation and praise Him all the more. Patapios, having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Patapios performed many other miracles, all through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. In great old age, he peacefully entered the Heavenly Kingdom in the seventh century. On this day, we also commemorate Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Crispos, Caesar and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; and Martyr Parthenios of Chios. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.