



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

V. Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad, Pastor
V. Rev. Fr. Malek Rihani
Rev. Archdeacon Saed Rihani
Subdeacon Matthew Sweis
Subdeacon Ameer Tadros

Parish Council

Luai Sweiss - Chairman
Abdullah Tadros - Vice Chairman
Jason Haddad - Treasurer
Ramiz Sweiss - Financial Secretary
Fabiola Sweis - Secretary
Nidal Al-Farah
Constantin Kari
Abeer Khouri
Faris Samawi
Bassam Shaheen
Feras Sweis

Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Philip Riske
SOYO - Murad Salman
Fellowship - Fabiola Sweis
Antiochian Women -
Magida Abudayyeh
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
Ushers - Jamal Swais, Louis Sweiss

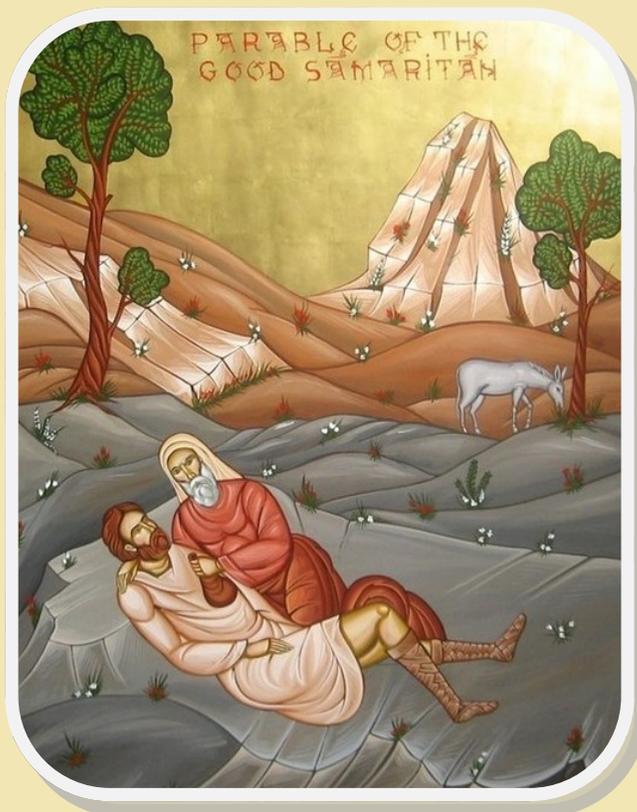
Office

May Sweis
administrator@stmaryoc.org

Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our
Office Administrator

November 15th, 2015
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Eighth Sunday of Luke



Weekly Schedule of Services

Saturday: 5:00p.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.

Changes in the Liturgy

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!

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 for the Holy Martyrs Guria, Shamuna, and Habib the Deacon (Tone Five)

Since thou hast given us the miracles of thy holy Martyrs Guria, Shamuna and Habib as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

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 Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone Four)

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the Divine Spirit, whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

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 Eighth Sunday of St. Luke

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:25-37).

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Advent Fast & Christmas Reminder!

The Nativity Fast (Advent) begins Sunday, 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. Matins will begin at 5pm followed by Liturgy at 6pm, Thursday 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. We look forward to seeing you all at Christmas Liturgy. God bless!

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

11/15: Ghaleb and Rita Sweis & Family

11/22: Sakher and Faryel Sweis & Family

11/29: Samih and Maysoon Sweis
& Family



Wedding

John Eannace

&

Colleen Kurcz

Congratulations!



Engagement

Issa Atef Sweis

and

Nermin Salmand Maaiah

Congratulations!

Divine Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos

Please join us for Liturgy on Saturday,
November 21st at 10 am.

Epistle Reading

11/15: Angela Haddad & Lily Sweiss

11/22: Salena Ibrahim & Awan Sweis

Annunciation Bookstore

Open every Sunday after Liturgy

Monday -Friday

11:00am - 2:00pm

Please email Nader Haddad at

naderemile3@yahoo.com

with any requests.

Bible Study verse of the week (from the Orthodox Study Bible).



John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'."

The Orthodox Study Bible explains that the way we reach the Father is forever established in the Persons and work of the Son. The Son is the truth because He is the unique revelation of the Father. Christ is the life who became Man so we might have life, and as He is our life, not even death can hinder us from coming to Him. Only in Christ can one come to know the Father, for only in Christ is the way of all truth and all life found.



"Liturgy after the Liturgy"

Taking our faith outside the church walls

Annual Christmas Toy Drive

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

It is that time of the year again to begin preparing for our Annual Christmas Drive. The wish lists for 50 children given to us by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services have all been distributed. Thank you to all who took one! For most of these children, these will be the only Christmas gifts they receive.

**All gifts must be dropped off
at the church office
during regular business hours"**

Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm

By Sunday, November 22nd



Fishers of Men Monthly Breakfast



Saturday, November 21st
at 10 am
Fellowship Hall
following the
Liturgy for the Presentation of the Theotokos

St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

FALAFEL SALE!

Sunday, November 22, 2015

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



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



Open Gym Schedule

Volleyball Open Gym - 7pm

Tuesday, November 17th
Tuesday, November 24th
Tuesday, December 1st
Tuesday, December 8th
Tuesday, December 15th



Basketball Open Gym - 4 pm

Sunday, November 22nd
Sunday, November 29th
Sunday, December 6th
Sunday, December 13th
Sunday, December 20th

**Looking for the perfect Christmas gifts?
Stop by our bookstore and check out our new arrivals, gifts and cards.
We have all your Christmas shopping needs!**

Keep *Christ*
in
Chr **stmas**

A wooden cross is the central focus, decorated with a large, colorful ribbon bow in shades of pink, yellow, and red. Green pine branches are wrapped around the base of the cross. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a subtle floral pattern and sparkling light effects.

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT WITH YOUR PURCHASE!

TEEN SOYO NIGHTS



We welcome all teens to attend our Wednesday, Teen SOYO Nights

Every Wednesday from 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

The first Wednesday of each month is a bible study.

We enjoy fellowship, open discussions, time in the gymnasium
& homework time as well!

For more information, please contact:

Deacon Saed Rihani, Milad Sleiman, or Rima Sleiman

Deacon Saed: saedrihani6@gmail.com/ (773) 454– 2191

Milad: milad.s.sleiman@gmail.com/ (630) 632 –6747

Rima: rimsaigh@gmail.com/ (708) 590– 9559



ATTENTION ALL TEENS:

November 18th, 2015 is a special Teen SOYO Night.

Come learn self-defense techniques by a UFC Gym Trainer

Teens between the age of 13 and 18 are welcome

When: In the gym at 6:30, Session starts from 7:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Attire: Comfortable workout clothes and gym shoes

All equipment for the class will be provided

For more information, please contact:

Deacon Saed Rihani, Milad Sleiman, or Rima Sleiman

Deacon Saed: saedrihani6@gmail.com/ (773) 454– 2191

Milad: milad.s.sleiman@gmail.com/ (630) 632 –6747

Rima: [rima.saigh@gmail.com](mailto:rима.saigh@gmail.com)/ (708) 590– 9559

Winter Food Drive 2015

November 8th - December 27th



1 out of 6 families are struggling with hunger

Remember...42 lbs of food will feed a family of 4 for 3 days!

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.

Remember to bring items for the Food Drive this Sunday. Each Sunday School class will compete to raise the most food.

The winning class will receive a Pizza Party!

Sunday School Students should drop off their food items in one of the carts just outside of the Sunday School's main entrance (in the large hall way). Each cart will be labeled by grade.

Remembering the words of St. John Chrysostom: "It is a better thing to feed the hungry than to raise the dead."

Attention Parents and All Altar Servers:
Training For Altar Servers

- Save the dates of Sunday, December 27th or January 17th. There will be mandatory training for the Altar Servers immediately after Sunday School.
- Your son must attend either date for the training; we will have a light lunch for them at the Training. The Session will last about 45 minutes.
- Any questions, please see Subdeacon Matthew Sweis or Deacon Saed.
- Altar Servers will be assigned to Teams starting in January.

CHRISTMAS RETREAT & CHRISTMAS CARD SIGN-UP

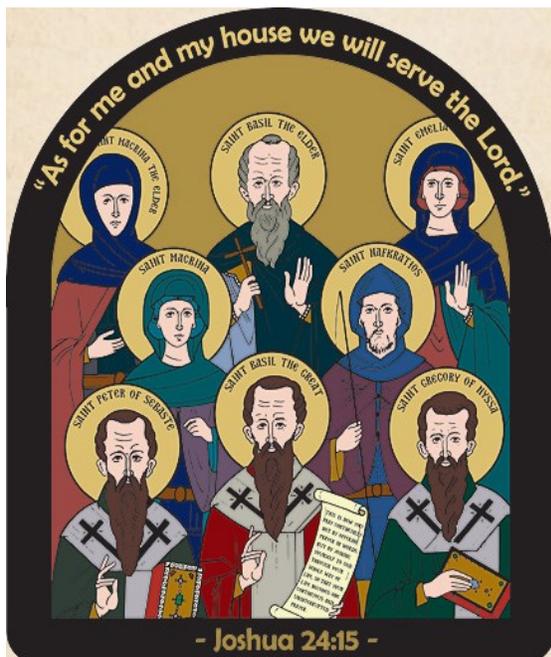
SOYO will have a table in the main hallway for parents to sign up their High Schoolers for the Christmas Retreat. ALSO, at the same table, we encourage all parishioners to sign up for the Community Christmas Card. Anyone who would like to sponsor someone for the Retreat, please see Fr. Mousa, Fr. Malek or Dn. Saed.

Sunday School Registration

Online registration is at www.StMaryOC.org/sunday_school.html

OR

Register on a computer outside of the Church Gym.



November

15th: 1st Practice for Christmas Pageant
at 12noon in Christian Education wing

21st: 3rd-5th Confession Workshop
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Church

December

6th: Breakfast with Saint Nicholas
After Liturgy at Church

13th: Sunday School Christmas Presentation
at the end of Liturgy

21st-23rd: Creative Projects Camp
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

27th - Jan 3rd, Christmas Break



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

PRESENTS

THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2015

CHICAGO'S SINGER

FEATURING



SAED KHOURY



**ST. MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6330 W 127TH STREET
PALOS HEIGHTS, IL 60463**

DOORS OPEN @ 6:00 P.M

TICKETS:

ADULTS \$30

CHILDREN \$20



For tickets contact: Kholoud Swais 708-431-0084, Shireen Salman 708-717-9640, or Magida Abudayyeh 708-415-5040.



THANKSGIVING DAY PAN-ORTHODOX DIVINE LITURGY

**Sponsored by
THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CLERGY ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO
AND
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SYNERGY**



**9:00 am
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 26, 2015**

**Holy Virgin Protection
Russian Orthodox Cathedral
1800 Lee Street
Des Plaines, Illinois**

**Responses offered by
Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral Choir
Dr. Misha Gill, Director**

SOYO 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RETREAT



“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN SAINT MARY’S SOYO AT OUR TENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RETREAT!

Come get inspired and reconnected with your faith. Special sessions with Fr. Malek Rihani, Fr. Mousa Haddad, and Dn. Saed Rihani!

- What:** Christmas Retreat 2015
Where: St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI
When: December 28th - December 30th, 2015
Who: All High School Students are welcome
Cost: \$200 per teen
\$150 for second teen from the same family
\$100 for third teen from the same family

For Information Contact: Rima Sleiman at (708) 590-9559

" For Scholarships or Financial Assistance, please contact Fr. Mousa Haddad directly."

DEADLINE: December 20, 2015

\$50 DEPOSIT REQUIRED
Space is Limited

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 Luai Sweiss know by Sunday, December 20th. Nominations will not be considered after that date.

Our Annual General Assembly Meeting will take place Sunday, January 10th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Please make sure your 2015 pledge is paid in full by Sunday, December 27th, so that you can participate in the General Assembly.

Thanks and God bless!

18th Annual Midwest Diocese Basketball Tournament Canton, Ohio January 15-17, 2016

Division I: Ages 12-15 / Division II: Ages 15-18 / Division III: Ages 19-26

Friday, January 15

7 pm: Registration begins (Hotel Lobby)

8 pm: Pizza (Registration area)

8:30pm: Retreat (Hotel Ballroom)

Saturday, January 16

**7 am: Morning prayers/Light Breakfast/Tournament Brackets
(Hotel Ballroom)**

8 am: Basketball Tournament begins

12 pm: Lunch (at Basketball locations)

6 pm: Great Vespers (St. George Serbian)

7 pm: Banquet/ Awards Presentation/Hafli (St. George Serbian)

Sunday, January 17

8:45 am: Matins (St. George Antiochian)

10 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy (St. George Antiochian)

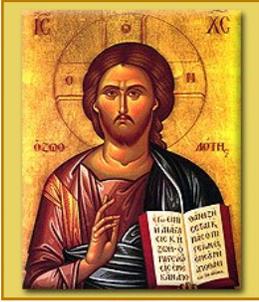
Brunch and Farewell (St. George Antiochian)

**Early Registration: \$50 by January 8 Registration: \$60
(Includes all meals and events)**

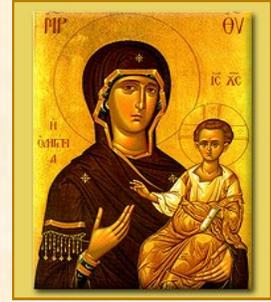
**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1118 Cherry Ave. NE Canton, OH 44704
330-455-8482 stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net**

**Hotel Information: Courtyard by Marriott
4375 Metro Circle NW N. Canton, OH 44720 330-494-6494
Group Rate: \$85/night (mention St. George Canton)
Our block of rooms will be reserved for us until Jan. 3**

Please Contact Nidal Haddad at (708) 691-8849 or at Haddadnidal24@yahoo.com.



Weekly Synaxarion



On November 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Martyrs and Confessors of Edessa in Syria: Guria, Shamuna and Habib the Deacon. Guria and Shamuna contested during the reign of Diocletian, in 288; Habib contested in the days of Licinius, in 316; he was buried with Guria and Shamuna. The three have one common feast and they are always portrayed together in icons. They are invoked for help in marital difficulties. A certain Goth had come with the Roman army to Edessa and was quartered in the house of a pious widow named Sophia. The Goth asked Sophia for the hand of her daughter, Euphemia; reluctantly, Sophia at last agreed. She made the Goth vow by the power of the holy Martyrs Shamuna, Guria, and Habib to keep Euphemia as the apple of his eye. As he was nearing his home, however, the treacherous man revealed to Euphemia that he already had a wife. Euphemia became the Goth couple's slave which dealt with her mercilessly. After extreme sufferings, which included being sealed alive in a tomb and left there to die, Euphemia begged the Saints to save her, and they miraculously conveyed her to Edessa, to the very shrine of the holy Martyrs. Euphemia was reunited with her mother through their holy prayers. On this day, we also commemorate Thomas the New, patriarch of Constantinople; and Venerable Paisios Velichkovsky. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.