



# 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

Abdullah Y. Tadros - Chairman  
Rashid Sweis - Vice Chair  
Jason Haddad - Treasurer  
Abeer Khouri - Financial Sec. / Sec.  
Fadi Abu Manneh  
Magida Abudayyeh  
Nidal Al-Farah  
Constantin Kari  
Bassam Shaheen  
Luai Sweis  
Saleh Tadros

### Parish Ministries

Sunday School - Philip Risko  
SOYO - Jenna Riadi  
Fellowship - Sally Sweis  
Antiochian Women -  
Magida Abudayyeh  
Fundraising - Rashid Sweis  
Humanitarian - Shireen Salman  
OCLife - Nancy Cannon  
Fishers of Men - John Eannace  
Athletics - Nidal Haddad  
Choir - Michael Rascia  
Chanters - Khaled Salman and  
Faris Samawi  
Webmaster - Sana Sweis  
Ushers - Jamal Swais, Louis Sweis

### Office

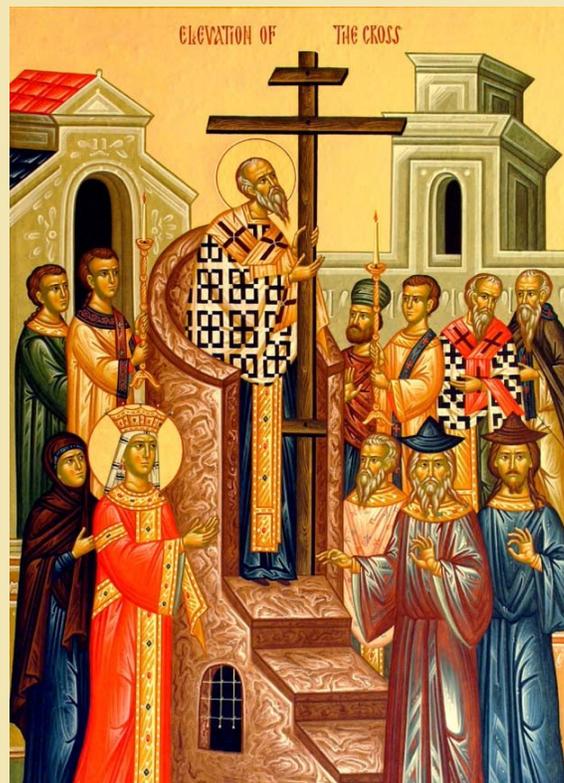
May Sweis  
administrator@stmaryoc.org

### Church Hall Rental

Call the church office or email our  
Office Administrator

*September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross  
After-Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos*



### Weekly Schedule of Services

Saturday: As Announced -- 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

### First Antiphon

O Lord, remember David and all his meekness. Lo, we heard of it at Ephrata; we found it in the fields of the wood.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.*

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.*

### Second Antiphon

The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it. Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

*Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

There will I make the horn of David to bud; I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.

*Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation.

*Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*O only-begotten son and word of God...*

### Third Antiphon

Here will I dwell, for I have desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness.

*Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.*

### **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 Three)**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### **Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone Four)**

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

### **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 Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone Four)**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

## **Epistle for the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

*O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance!*

*To thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God!*

**The Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians (6:11-18).**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world had been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## **Gospel for the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17).**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

## **REMINDER**

In an effort to eliminate distractions, collection baskets will not be passed during the Divine Liturgy. Instead, we kindly ask you to make your donation or pledge before or after service by placing it in the **donation box** at the entrance of the church. Envelopes are available on both sides of the donation box. Please keep this in mind since we depend on your contributions. Thank you for your generosity!



# 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*

09/11: Jameel Haddad & Family

09/18: Fellowship

09/25: Wajih and Siham Tadros & Family

## Epistle Reading

09/11: Sally Sweis & Natalie Salman

09/18: Marram Salman & Lily Sweiss



**1 Year Memorial**  
Riad Bajes Sweis  
**Memory Eternal!**



**3 Year Memorial**  
Najah Haddad  
**Memory Eternal!**



**Wedding**  
Jiries Munther Tadros  
and  
Madeline Rami Haddad  
**Congratulations!**



**Churching**  
Carlos  
Parents: Malek & Claudia Alassaf  
**Congratulations!**

## **Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

Wednesday, September 14th  
at 10:00 am



## **TEEN SOYO NIGHTS**

Teen SOYO Nights will begin  
September 14th, 2016.

Teens ages 13 - 18 years old  
are welcome to join us  
every Wednesday from 6:30  
p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's ALTAR SERVERS' MINISTRY  
"UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"



**September 11th - Team A:** Murad Salman, Jordan Albakhit, George Albakhit, David Sweiss, Michael Sweiss, Kyse Dahdal, Joseph Haddad, Rami Sweis, Saleem Swaiss, Samer Sweis, Christian Sweis, Charlie Sayeg, Malik Tadros, Ameer Tadros, Faris Makhamreh, Issa Khoury, Philip Haddad.

**September 18th - Team B:** Sharbel Samawi, Anthony Haddad, Hashem Tadros, Yousef A. Tadros, Yousef R. Tadros, Faris Tadros, Basil Tadros, David Alnemri, Daniel Alnemri, Jai Singh Riske, Sharbel Alafnan, Michael Galuszynski, Nicholas Abu-Manneh, Sleman Shaheen, Gus Bousheh, Nicholas Bousheh, Yazan Swaiss, Yanal Swaiss, Joseph Fallouh, Abraham Sweis, Ryan Alhourani, Adrian Alhourani.

**John 12:26** *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

## ALTAR BOYS GUIDELINES

Parents and Altar Boys, please read.  
These guidelines are to preserve the holiness of  
serving in the Holy Altar:

**Dress Code:** It is important that all Altar Boys who are serving on their assigned Sunday (see Team assignment in the bulletin), that they dress appropriately to serve in the Holy Altar:

**No gym shoes.** Black dress shoes

**No shorts or jeans.** Long, dress pants are mandatory

**No T-Shirts or Polo Shirts.** Dress shirts only

**Arrival ON TIME:** This means arriving BEFORE 10am, otherwise the Altar Boy will not be allowed to serve. PARENTS: Please adhere to this, as arrival on time is necessary to vest on time, as instructed in the past. Parents will have to explain to their son why he is unable to serve.

**Behavior:** All Altar Boys must behave during their time in the Holy Altar. If anyone misbehaves, the Sub-Deacons will send them back to their parents with a note regarding their behavior.

Thank you,

Any questions, please see Sub-Deacon Matthew, Sub-Deacon Amir, or Deacon Saed.

# Fishers of Men Monthly Meeting

Saturday, September 10th, 2016  
St. Mary's Fellowship Hall

Topic: *The 12 Great Feasts of the Church*



## Sunday School Snack Calendar

### September

- 11 - Sunday School Teachers
- 18 - Elevation of the Cross - NO CLASS
- 25 - Terri Albakhit, Delia Haddad,  
Jackie Salman, Tamara Sweiss



### October

- 2 - Godparent Sunday - NO CLASS
- 9 - Deya Alnemri, Katia Haddad,  
Nedaa Shaheen, Cindy Tadros
- 16 - Jennifer Alswais, Hana Haddad,  
Reem Sweis, Mickey Tadros
- 23 - Reem Ammari, Angela Haddad,  
Hanada Sweis, Lubna Karads
- 30 - Heba Assaf, Dina Khoury,  
Diana Sweis,



**\*Keep a lookout for the November and December's snack calendar!**



**High School Students**  
are invited to a



# *Pancake Breakfast*



***When:* September 11th, 2016**

***Time:* After Liturgy**

***Where:* High School Class**

***Entrance Fee:* Know your saint name  
(given to you at your baptism)**



**Hosted by Fabiola Sweis and Elaine Riadi  
Breakfast provided by Royalberry Waffle House**



## FELLOWSHIP

### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

#### SEPTEMBER

- ◆ 10th Last Day to purchase Gala Tickets
  - ◆ 11th Dawali and Kuba Sale
    - ◆ 17th Gala
    - ◆ 18th Bake Sale
    - ◆ 25th Knafeh Sale

#### NOVEMBER

- ◆ 11th Movie Night Nadi
- ◆ 18th-20th Fellowship Retreat

#### DECEMBER

- ◆ 10th Christmas Party

StMaryFSJD  

St. Mary Orthodox Church Palos Heights



Fellowship of St. John the Divine cordially invites you to our...

*Gala*  
*a black tie masquerade*

Saturday, September 17th  
Cocktail hour 6:30 PM | Doors open 7:30 PM  
St. Mary Orthodox Church  
6330 W. 127th St, Palos Heights

\$50 per person | Ages 18+

Dinner | DJ | Beer & Wine | Aerial Performer | Stilt Walker |  
Hand Stand Performer | Raffle Prizes



To purchase your tickets, contact  
Chuck Samawi 952.457.0057 | Marram Salman 708.307.7473

# St. Mary's Arabic School

*Dear families and friends, we are glad to announce that Arabic school will be starting September 10<sup>th</sup> and it will be held on Saturdays from 10:45am to 1:00pm.*

العربية



## !!!Register Today!!!

*Registration will begin August 14<sup>th</sup> in the hallway outside of the gym. If you have any questions please call the Arabic School Director Elia Sweiss at 708-707-1395.*



- ◆ Provide your children with an outstanding Orthodox Christian education.
- ◆ Let your children become more well rounded with their Faith , community, and culture.
- ◆ Set your kids on the right path to success!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 11th**

Please go to [www.StMaryOC.org/sunday\\_school.html](http://www.StMaryOC.org/sunday_school.html) to register your children!

*“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven” “ - Matthew 19:14*

**St. Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights**

# FALL MEETING CLERGY & LAITY

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

Madison, Wisconsin

October 20-23, 2016

Saint Ignatius  
Orthodox Church  
2124 Shafer Dr.  
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Only \$35 for  
Adults & Teens

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under

By October 1st after  
add \$5

Open to Whole  
Family:

-Children, Teens, Young  
Adults, Women & Men

Special Clergy  
Meetings Oct 20-21



## Clergy Retreat/Delegates Meeting

Start date: 10/20/16

End date: 10/23/16

Last day to book: 10/6/16

Marriott hotel(s) offering your special group rate:

· **Madison Marriott West** for 119 USD per night  
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562

[Book your group rate for Clergy Retreat/Delegates Meeting](#)



# Annunciation Bookstore

## Glory be to God! Glory Forever!

St. Mary Orthodox Church would like to inform all its parishioners to take advantage of the materials that are offered at our Annunciation Bookstore.

If you have not had the opportunity to stop by and check out our various selection, we ask that you please do.

If you are looking for that perfect gift for birthdays, graduation, house warming, baptism, etc... we have many items to choose from. Please check out our menu below that displays a handful of our products. If there is something you would like but do not see it, please let us know and we will try to accommodate you.

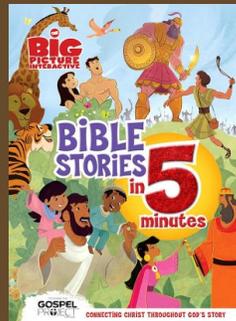
If you have any questions or comments please contact Nader or Angela Haddad at 989.780.2751 or naderemile3@yahoo.com



### Our Products

### Book of the Month

## ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE MENU



**Title:** *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories in 5 Minutes*

**PUBLISHER HOUSE:** B&H PUBLISHING GROUP

**AUTHOR:** HEATH MCPHERSON

**PUBLISH DATE:** 2014

Give kids the big picture of God's story with the new *Big Picture Interactive 5-Minute Bible Stories* comprised of 12 different five-minute stories, perfect for before bed reading. Help to shape your child's spiritual growth in an engaging new *Big Picture Interactive* book that features four-color illustrations, as well as pop-up imaging and story narration with free Augmented Reality app.

*The Big Picture Interactive 5-Minute Stories* is the latest in the family of *Big Picture Interactive* books - a series designed to grow with families and strengthen relationships in Christ through Bible-centered, multi-platform products that engage readers of all ages.

**\*Gift Cards Now Available\***

### Bibles

- Orthodox Study Bible
- Leather/Hard Cover/ Paper-back
- 75/50/15
- Arabic Large Print
- 65
- Arabic/English
- 40
- Arabic
- 30

### Icons

- Various sizes
- 35 and up

### Automobile Accessories

- License Plate Covers
- 10
- Bumper Stickers
- 2 or 2/3
- Dashboard Cross
- 10
- Crosses/Pendants
- 10

### Censors

- Large/\*Combo
- 30/35
- Small/\*Combo
- 15/20
- \*(censor, incense, charcoal, tongs)

### Jewelry

- Baptismal Crosses
- Gold/Sterling Silver
- 119/49
- Prayer Bracelet
- Wool/Wood/Metal
- 5/8/8
- Lapel Pins
- 3

### Miscellaneous

- Greeting Cards
- (Various occasions)
- 3 or 2/5
- Cell Phone Covers
- (iPhone/ Android)
- 25

WE ACCEPT CASH, CHECK AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.\*

# Save the Date

*St. Mary's 1st Annual Father-Son Retreat, a weekend of uninterrupted quality time with your son enjoying spiritual, sport and camp activities. This retreat is intended for fathers and their sons ages 5-13.*

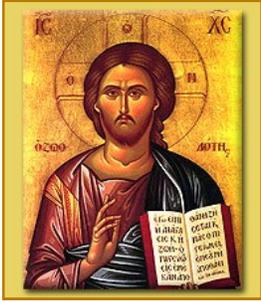
*Date: November 5th & 6th  
(Saturday & Sunday)*

*Location: St. Yakovos Retreat Center in  
Kenosha County, WI*

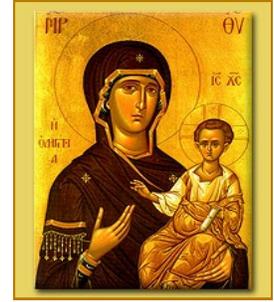
*Pricing and activities to follow*

*For additional information please call  
Abdullah Tadros (708)691-9103*





## Weekly Synaxarion



On September 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate our righteous Mother Theodora of Alexandria. Urged on by a fortune-teller, Theodora committed adultery with another man. Her conscience immediately began to trouble her, and she cut off her hair and dressed in men's garb, then went off to the men's monastery of Octodecatos under the man's name of Theodore. Her labors, fasts, vigils, meekness and tearful repentance were a source of wonder to all the brethren. Driven out of the monastery, she spent seven years wandering in the forests and deserts, caring for a harlot's child. Theodora overcame all devilish illusions by making the sign of the Cross; they all vanished like smoke. After seven years, the abbot of the monastery received her back, and she lived there in asceticism a further two years and then entered into rest in the Lord in the year 490. Only then did the monks learn that Theodora was a woman, when an angel appeared and explained everything. Thus God glorified this true penitent, who, with heroic endurance, spent nine years repenting of one sin. On this day, we also commemorate the Righteous Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios, Evanthia and Demetrianos; and Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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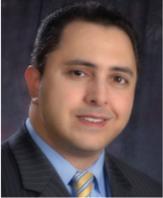
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