



**Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate**  
**Diocese of Ohio, Michigan &**  
**Indiana**  
**St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church**



**St. Mary Newsletter**  
**July 2023**

I. News

a. **Congregation Announcements**

- i. Many members have attended diocese events this month: Middle School Convention, Apologetics (Defending the Faith) Conference, and High School Convention. Hope everyone who attended continues to carry the blessing of these events.

b. **Sunday School**

- i. Sunday School classes are invited for a blessed and fun time at St. Mary's.
  1. On Thursdays, from 6:30-8:30pm, they will cover the Mahragan El Keraza Curriculum (Coptic, games, snacks).
  2. Saturdays from 5-7pm will cover Mahrgan El Keraza Hymns.
  3. For more details, please contact the Sunday school servants for each grade level.
- ii. Servants Prep Course: a course to prepare servants is underway. The course meets on Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm, and is open to high school seniors and older who would like to become Sunday School servants. Please see Mamdouh William for more details.

c. **Finances and Fundraising for St. Mary's**

- i. Please plan to attend an important presentation on the church's finances this Sunday, July 30, immediately following the liturgy.
- ii. St. Mary's donations have decreased for the past couple of months, but church expenses have not decreased. Please donate to St. Mary's to maintain its services. You can donate by cash or check at the collection box in the back of the sanctuary, or donate online by bank transfer or credit card at the [St. Mary's website](#).

d. **Church Maintenance/ Improvements**

- i. Let there be light! As you have probably noticed, the sanctuary is considerably lighter now with the installation of new, LED lights.

e. **Festival 2023**

- i. This year's festival will be held Friday to Sunday, August 25-27.

- ii. Committees have been formed and started work for this event. It is the church's biggest single event and needs as many volunteers as possible. If you have any interest in helping to plan or just to work the event, please contact Michael Zaky (614.598.0635) or Karim Amin (614.767.9548).

f. **Other Announcements**

- i. Any church members, or non-members, wishing to advertise their businesses with the church should direct their questions to Medhat Abdelnour.
- ii. Bishop Saraphim is encouraging Columbus families and all families in the diocese to commit to small monthly contributions (\$25/month, \$50/month, or \$100/month) to the retreat center and senior housing in Monroe, Michigan. Please follow this link to learn more and donate: <https://donorbox.org/st-mary-st-anthony-coptic-orthodox-retreat-and-conference-center-fundraising>

- II. As always, the Board welcomes input from the congregation. There is a suggestion box that has been placed in the back of the church and we invite anyone to place suggestions there. They can be anonymous if you wish. Alternately, Fr. Makarios and the members of the board would be happy to talk--please reach out to us.