



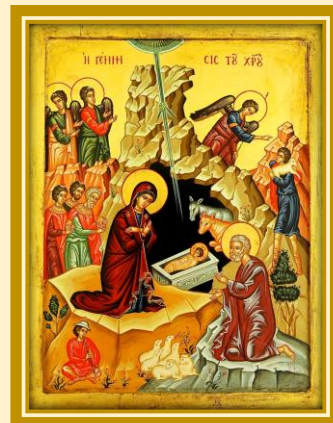
DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @MidwestSOYO | MidwestSOYO.org

December 2016 SOYO Newsletter

“...for the faithful youth are the heartbeat of the Church.”

+Metropolitan PHILLIP, of Thrice Blessed Memory



THEOLOGY IN December

In December, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the [Nativity](#) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the fullness of time, our Lord Jesus Christ was born to the Holy Theotokos and Virgin Mary, thus entering into the world as a man and revealing Himself to mankind. To learn more about December's theology, click the attached link!

Midwest SOYO Upcoming Events

Canton Basketball Tournament-

Jan. 13th-15th

Registration materials are available on MidwestSOYO.org!

Spring Gathering 2017-

March 16th-19th, 2017

SOYO SPOTLIGHT

St. George, West Saint Paul, MN.



Fr. Thomas Begley receiving the Most Improved SOYO Award from His Grace Bishop ANTHONY on behalf of his parish at the 2016 PLC!

How big is your SOYO?

We have around 12 members in our SOYO.

How often does your SOYO meet?

We try to meet whenever possible usually about once or twice a month!

What are your favorite events you do?

We do a lot of bonding events as well as service events, the favorites are our Fall Retreat, our Good Friday Vigil, as well as focus dinners!

What's the most challenging?

The most challenging thing about our SOYO is scheduling, because it is such a small group it is hard to find a good time that works for everyone, but we do our best

Who's your SOYO Board?

This upcoming 2016-2017 year we will have two new co-presidents Anna Karos and Francine Perry!

Christ is in Our Midst! He is and Ever Shall Be!

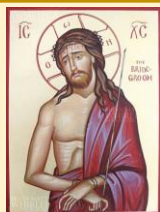
The Midwest Board hopes that you are having a fulling first semester of school! If you couldn't already tell, the year is flying by! Unfortunately, Midwest SOYO did not meet this fall for our annual gathering. We do hope that you were able to attend the Fall Gathering in Madison for the other organizations. To keep up with what we're doing on the Midwest level, we encourage you all to stay connected through our social media pages! We post weekly on our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages! Additionally, this year Midwest SOYO is trying out having videos to discuss items coming up in the Diocese. Be sure to look out for our December video and future ones to come!

Looking ahead, be sure to register and prepare for the **2017 Canton Basketball Tourney!** Forms for everything can be found on our website at MidwestSOYO.org! This amazing event has been bringing people together for years, and we hope you can come to share in another great tourney!

Midwest SOYO would like to showcase our new traveling icon! (Pictured bottom left) This beautiful icon painted by Brian Whirledge Iconography, will travel with us to all of our meetings and events! Depicting the Bridegroom, this icon will forever remember the teens of Midwest SOYO of Christ's ultimate love and passion for us, his unworthy children. Thanks to Brian for this beautiful addition to our ministry!

While we are now in the Advent Fast of our liturgical year, we hope that you and your SOYO are taking part in ways to give back to your communities. Some examples of this can include; planning a Pan-Orthodox bible study, participating in a food drive or turkey donation or getting your SOYO to serve food at homeless shelter! It's important to remember the real reason for the season, and service is the best way to show our Christian love!

Like always, feel free to email, call or message any of us if you have any questions or concerns. We wish you the best of seasons, and may your nativity feast be merry and bright! God Bless the Midwest Diocese!



President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Youth Director:

Spiritual Advisor:

Gianmarco Petrelli

Marissa Zayed

Josh Nasser

Michael Soukar

Amal Michael

V.Rev.Fr. Mousa Haddad

petrellig17@gmail.com

Marzay66@gmail.com

joshuan1118@gmail.com

soukar.99@gmail.com

amal17m@yahoo.com

fr.mousa@gmail.com