

## **Service Projects--Youth Oriented and Beyond: Mission Mentality in a Larger Parish**

**Synopsis:** This presentation will share the various ways that members of our parish have engaged in service ministry, particularly our youth as members of SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations).

1. Quick Background on Basilica of St. Mary
  - a. Early History-Fr. George Shalhoub
  - b. Demographics
2. Examples of service
3. See Father's story at [arabamericanstories.org](http://arabamericanstories.org) (Episode 8)

**Importance-The Why:** "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" Matthew 25:40

1. Service ministry is one of the best ways to create an engaged community
2. Lay leadership are catalysts for the type of work we have done

### **What we have done and how we have done it:**

1. Community Thanksgiving Dinner-Teen Lead Initiative
2. Partnership with FOCUS Detroit
3. Other types of service

### **Additional Resources:**

1. [www.stmarylivonia.com](http://www.stmarylivonia.com)
2. [facebook.com/stmarylivonia](https://facebook.com/stmarylivonia)
3. YouTube Channel-Basilica of St. Mary
4. [Focusdetroit.org](http://Focusdetroit.org)

For More information, feel free to contact Sonya at: [skassis@tbosm.com](mailto:skassis@tbosm.com), 734-422-0010, ext. 17

**Bio:** Sonya Kassis is the Parish Ministries Coordinator at the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia, MI, a position she began in 2016. In that capacity, she serves as the SOYO coordinator, church school superintendent, and connects the various ministries and their programs. She was born and raised in the Antiochian Orthodox Church. She previously worked in education as a cultural educator at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, MI.