



Born in Taybeh, Palestine during the Intifada, Rula grew up in a time of war. As a result, she grew close to her faith like many other suffering Palestinians in her all-Christian village. She attended Taybeh Latin Christian High School and graduated with Honors. Soon after she married her late husband, Osama Khoury and moved to America. She found herself in a new country and went to college and received two separate degrees. Rula has three children; Michael, a second year medical student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, is 23 years old. Gabriel, who is 21 years old, will begin law school at American University in Washington, DC. Her youngest Amal, age 19, is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh and is studying Psychology.

After her late husband passed away, Rula moved from New York to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to start the next chapter in her life. Rula now works as a supervisor in Cambria Suites in Pittsburgh and owns her own travel agency. She plans tours to the Holy Land and other countries. Rula and her kids live their father's legacy every day and continue to make him proud with each life accomplishment. Rula is the president of the Antiochian Women's group of St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh, as well as a member of the Parish council.

During her time in New York, Rula and her family were very active at St. James Orthodox Church in Hyde Park, NY. Her husband, one of the main founders of St. James, wanted to complete his dad's dream (Fr. Michael Khoury) to open an Arabic speaking church. With help from God, the mission became a large church community. Rula and her husband have a special love for St. James Church, watching the church grow from its first baptism to establishing a Sunday School, to opening a new hall in Osama's name. Osama was the mobilization of the church and Rula plans to continue her late husband's love for the church every day.

Rula and her kids love the outdoors. They frequently hike, camp, and love their weekend trips to get ice cream. Rula and her family love visiting new countries and plan to visit Central America this winter.

Her Patron Saint is St. George. She grew up hearing her mom and grandma always asking St. George (Mar Jeries) for help and blessings. She loves the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, her kids are named after them.

Her favorite verse from the bible is "*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*" John 15:13 her husband spent his whole life serving God and his friends and this verse is special to her.

Her favorite book to read is *Wounded by Love* by Saint Porphyrios.

Rula would like to express her thanks for the opportunity to serve God and his children in her new position of President of the Antiochian Women of the East. She is very excited and can't wait to meet everyone and work alongside each other while doing the Lord's work!