

# THE APOSTLE

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### MARCH 2010

## SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF IRVINE

### Pastor's Corner

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**Very Rev. Father Michael Laffoon, Pastor**

Residence phone: (949) 559-6133

**Rev Fr. Patrick Irish, Attached**

**Rev. Deacon George Moubayed**

**Sub-deacon: Athanasius Fakhouri**

**Choir Director: Barbara Scholl**

**Chanters: Elia Qushair, Theresa Joubran, Dionysius  
Ingraham, Mark Ellis, and Jacob Bahbah.**

**Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh**

**Youth Director: Juliana Turk**

#### 2008-2009 PARISH COUNCIL

**Austin Turk {11} Chairman** (949) 581-2060

**Randy Dabbah {11} Vice Chairman** (949) 595-0863

**Kendall Schorr {12} Secretary** (714) 602-7936

**Theodore Skaff {12} Treasurer** (949) 305-9565

**Michael Khoury {10} Co Treasurer** (714) 717-2349

**Ghassan Awayjan {10} Building Committee &  
Membership** (951) 454-5429

**Mufid Samara {10} Building Committee** (714) 809-  
1125

**Fouad Tarazi {11} Building Fund & Asst. Treas.** (949)  
462-3232

**Paula Rodriguez: {12} Special Events & Stewardship**  
(949) 470-9876

**Vera Sidorenko: {10} Web Design** (949) 888-0540  
[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his or  
her current term]

**Church School Director:**

**Eileen Ellis** (949) 458-1604

**Men's Club President: Mark Ellis:** (949) 458-1604

**Ladies Guild President:**

**Vera Bahbah** (714) 943-7113

**Teen SOYO President: Melisa Khoury** (714) 373-  
1225

*Lenten Message, given by Bishop Maxim of the  
Serbian Diocese of the West (excerpts) on  
Forgiveness Sunday, 2010*

Blessed be the upcoming Great Paschal Lent which  
brings us into the Lord's and our Pascha-through the  
Cross and Resurrection-Christ's and ours in Him...

Now, my beloved, through the practice of fasting,  
the Church-and fasting is our obedience to the  
Church-invites us to liberate ourselves from our  
self-sufficiency and to offer the fruits of Lent-joy,  
meekness, peace, mercifulness-to our beloved ones  
and to those in need.

As the sacred hymnography of the Church urges us,  
all the ascetic elements-fasting, abstinence,  
frugality, restriction of personal desires, intense  
prayer, and confession-are essential to the period of  
Great Lent and should not be considered  
burdensome obligations or unbearable duties that  
result in despondency or dejection.

All these ascetical efforts and all cleansing from the  
passions are in essence preconditions for our  
Eucharistic communion with God, and this  
communion cannot be understood apart from love.  
Just as the sacrifice on the Cross takes its meaning  
from the Resurrection, so all our Lenten effort finds  
their fulfillment in Holy Communion.

Let us be obedient to the counsel of the Church and  
understand the practice of fasting just as She  
prescribes. In doing so we will walk together with  
Christ to Golgotha and rejoice with Him on the  
Feast of Feasts!

In inviting you to the "opened arena of virtues"  
from our Episcopal seat, I extend to all of you my  
paternal prayer and spiritual blessing for a fruitful

journey through the period of Great Lent, asking your forgiveness.

Love and paternal blessings,

**Bishop Maxim**

### THE LENTEN FAST

**During Great Lent, the rules of the dietary fast are thus: All of Lent and Holy Week we are to abstain from all meat and animal products (including eggs, milk, animal fats, etc.) The only exceptions are shellfish. In addition, Mondays through Fridays, we are to abstain from wine and other alcoholic drinks and olive oil. This is the "letter of the law." It is important for you and your family to participate in the "spirit of the law", working out this Lenten effort within your household in ways pleasing to God and beneficial for the soul. We all must be reminded that the purpose of the dietary fast is to help us to fast from sin and ungodliness! If you have questions regarding Lenten discipline, please see Fr. Michael.**

### SPECIAL SERVICES/EVENTS IN MARCH

General Schedule of Lenten Services:

Mondays - Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays – Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:30 p.m. (except as noted below)

Wednesday March 17, 7:00 p.m. Little Compline with Canon of St. Andrew and reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt

Thursday March 18, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30

Thursday March 25 Vespers Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Annunciation, 6:30 p.m. **Joint service at St. Luke Church Garden Grove.**

Fridays Little Compline with Akathist Hymn, 7:30 p.m. (on Friday March 26, we sing the Canon of St. Lazarus)

March 27, Lazarus Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

March 28, Palm Sunday

March 29, Start of Holy Week

### April 2010 Advanced Calendar

April 4- – **GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA**

April 25- Feast of St. Mark, Hierarchical Liturgy with Bishop Joseph

### Bishop Joseph's Schedule

#### March 1-3, 2010

Church of the Redeemer, Los Altos Hills, CA  
Northern California Deanery Liturgical Retreat

#### March 5, 2010

St. James Mission, Anaheim, CA  
Akathist Service

#### March 6-7, 2010

St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, Mesa, AZ  
Episcopal Visit

#### March 10, 2010

St. John the Baptist Church, Post Falls, ID  
Presanctified Liturgy

#### March 12, 2010

Christ the Savior Mission, Spokane Valley, WA  
Akathist Service

#### March 14, 2010

St. John the Theologian Church, San Juan Capistrano, CA  
Episcopal Visit

#### March 17, 2010

St. Luke Church, Garden Grove, CA  
Presanctified Liturgy

#### March 18, 2010

Holy Resurrection Church, Tucson, AZ  
View New Church Construction

#### March 19-21, 2010

St. George Church, Phoenix, AZ  
Episcopal Visit

#### March 22-23, 2010

St. Anthony Greek Monastery, Florence, AZ  
Visit

#### March 27, 2010

St. Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA  
Lazarus Saturday

#### March 28, 2010

St. Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA  
Palm Sunday

#### March 29, 2010

St. Barnabas Church, Costa Mesa, CA  
Bridegroom Orthros

#### March 30, 2010

St. Peter the Apostle Church, San Dimas, CA  
Bridegroom Orthros

**March 31, 2010**

St. Luke Church, Garden Grove, CA  
Holy Unction Service

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

Wednesday Vespers 6:30 p.m. (during Lent, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy) **Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.**  
**Confessions heard after service.** [Note time change]

Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Confessions heard from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Selected Saints of the Month**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**The Holy Martyr Euthalia**

This holy Euthalia was a Sicilian maiden and had a mother with same name and a brother, Sermilianus. They were all pagans and unbaptised. The elder Euthalia became ill of an issue of blood. There appeared to her in a dream the holy martyrs Alphius, Philadelphus and Cyprinus (May 10<sup>th</sup>), and told her that she would be healed only if she were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Euthalia believed in Christ, was baptised and was healed. Seeing this marvel, her daughter also was baptised. Sermilianus began to mock his mother and sister for their Christian faith, then to threaten them. The mother fled from the house in fear. Then the brother began to persecute his sister. But she was unafraid, for Christ was dearer to her than her brother, and she said to Sermilianus: "I am a Christian, and have no fear of death." The wicked brother sent a servant to her to violate her, but when the servant assaulted St Euthalia, he was stricken blind. The evil brother saw the wonder, but his heart remained obdurate. Like Cain, he hurried after his sister, grabbed hold of her and cut off her head. Thus was the holy virgin Euthalia crowned with a wreath of eternal glory. And thus in this example were fulfilled the words of Christ that He was bringing a sword among men which would divide those of one blood but not those of one faith.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**The Seven Hieromartyrs of Cherson**

Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Elpidius, Agathodorus, Aetherius and Capito. They were all bishops in Cherson at different times, and all suffered from unbelievers (only Aetherius died peacefully), either as Jews or Greeks from Scythia. They had all gone to that savage land as missionaries, sent by the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the light to the Gospel there. They were all tortured and suffered for the sake of their Lord. Basil raised the son of a prince of Cherson to life, which embittered the Jews and they brought charges against him. He was bound by the feet and dragged through the streets of the town until he gave up the ghost. Ephraim was beheaded, Eugene, Elpidius and Agathodorus were beaten with rods and stones until they gave their souls onto God's hands. Aetherius lived in the time of Constantine the Great, and so he governed the Church in freedom and peace, built a great church in Cherson and died peacefully. When the last of them, Capito, was sent as a bishop, the savage Scythians sought a sign of him, that they might believe. And they suggested to him that he go into a burning furnace, and, if he were not burned up, they would believe. With fervent prayer and hope in God, Capito put on his Episcopal pallium and, crossing himself, entered the burning furnace, holding his heart and thoughts directed towards God. He stood in the flames for about an hour, and came out untouched, with no scorch-mark either on his body or his clothing. Then all cried out: 'There is one God, the great and powerful God of the Christians, who keeps His servant safe in the burning furnace!' and the whole town and surroundings were baptised. Many spoke of this wonder at the Council of Nicaea (325), and all glorified God and praised the firm faith of St Capito. But Scythian unbelievers caught Capito by the River Dnieper and drowned him. They all suffered around the beginning of the fourth century.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Our Holy Father Theophanes the Confessor**

Named 'the Sygrian' from his birthplace, Sygriane, he was a kinsman of the Emperor Leo the Isaurian (717-41) and his son Copronymos (741-75). He had enormous wealth and lived in great splendour. But all this lost its value for Theophanes when he enthroned Christ the Lord in his soul. Then he was hindered by a marriage which he was obliged to make. He succeeded, though, in persuading his

bride that they should live as brother and sister in chastity, and, as soon as his parents died, his wife went to one monastery and he to another. His monastery was in the Syrian mountains in the Cyzicus region. The splendid and wealthy Theophanes lived for some time in the monastery as the poorest wretch. And all marvelled at the great change in him. Then, because he had become so known for his firm faith, abstinence and wisdom, he was invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council at Nicaea in 787, at which the veneration of icons was upheld. Because of his great purity and chastity, God gave him the gift of wonder-working and he was able to heal all manner of illness, especially mania and madness. He prayed to God for all the sick and distressed and helped them by his prayers. Only when he himself fell ill and was sick for a long time did he refuse to pray for his own healing but endured it with thanksgiving. When another iconoclast period arose under the wicked Emperor Leo the Armenian, Theophanes was taken to Constantinople and thrown into prison, where he spent two years in discomfort, pain and humiliation. The Emperor then sent him into exile on the island of Samothrace, an exile which he had foreseen in his spirit and foretold to the prison warders. When he arrived on Samothrace, he lived for only twenty-three days, then went to his Lord and Creator to receive the deserved wreath of glory.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **The Holy Archangel Gabriel.**

The herald of the incarnation of the Son of God, he is one of the seven great angels who stand before the throne of God. He revealed to Zacharias the birth of the Forerunner, and said of himself: 'I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God' (Lk. 1:19). His name, Gabriel, signifies 'man of God'. Speaking about the Annunciation, the holy Fathers comment that an angel with such a name was sent to signify who He was, and of what nature He was, who would be born of the most pure Virgin. He would be the Man of God. Others have found that it was this same Gabriel who announced the conception of the Virgin Mary to Joachim and Anna, and that it was he who taught Moses in the wilderness to write the Book of Genesis. The holy Fathers considered that Gabriel belongs to the foremost and highest order of heavenly powers, the

seraphim closest to God. The names of these seven are: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selathiel, Jegudiel and Barachiel. Some would add Jeremiel to this Number. Each has his own particular service, but all are equal in honour. Why did God not send Michael? For the reason that Michael's service is the suppression of the enemies of God's truth, while Gabriel's is the annunciation of the salvation of the human race.

## **Parish & Organizations News**

### **Ladies Guild**

In February the ladies sponsored their Annual Valentine Party: It was a gorgeous success. Many thanks to Diana Khamis, Lydia Wakileh, May Asaly and Wafa Hanna.

### **Up coming Event:**

- Spic and Span the Kitchen Friday during February.
- Bake Holy Bread
- March "Antiochian women Month" the ladies will Usher and read the epistle.
- The ladies are sponsoring a Lenten Lunch, on March 14, 2010, Please feel free to join us and support the women.
- Starting a Bible Study for the ladies on March 5, 2010 @2:00, Discussion theme "Becoming a Woman of Purpose", 10 weeks, discussions, Bible quotes, bring your bible with you, meet at the church.
- Set plans to visit the Elderly widowed ladies in our church.
- Women's retreat at St. Nicolas camp in April Please see flyer included in this Newsletter for more information,

### **Teen SOYO**

The teens have had a fantastic start to the New Year starting off with our annual winter camp. We have also had two Christian education lessons and an ice

skating event. Coming up for the teens are the following events:

2/24 Teens to attend Pre-Sanctified Liturgy together  
3/7 Sunday Movie after church.  
3/13 Saturday Bishop Joseph Visit (date subject to change)

4/9 Friday Bowling @ Irvine Lanes  
\*\*\*CHAPERONES & DRIVERS NEEDED\*\*\*

**Please Mark your calendars for the following events and RSVP as soon as you can to the event organizer so that we can best serve your children.**

In Him,  
Juliana Turk  
SOYO Youth Director

### Men's Club

Our Men met on Thursday, February 25 at the home of Abe and Diana Khamis (thank you!). Fr Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew Church in Riverside was our guest speaker. He shared photos and spoke about his recent trip to Syria. The date and time of our next meeting will be announced by email and in the Sunday bulletin.

**Please note that as of May 2009, the main mode of distribution for this newsletter is via an email attachment. If have received this through the US mail and would like to receive it through email, please contact the Church Office with your current email address. Likewise if you prefer a hard copy, please also contact us.**

### Hall Rentals!!

St. Mark has entered into an agreement with a caterer for the use of our church hall. This agreement will greatly benefit our parish

financially, but since we expect significantly more hall rentals, it is incumbent on our organizations and parishioners to schedule hall use well in advance. The parish will have "first call" on hall usage, but once we have committed a date to the caterer we must honor that commitment. Please plan ahead.

### Bloopers

- 1- Pick-up the new calendar from the Welcome Center. Please let us know if you have any additions or corrections
- 2- Portrait School: 10 AM (Please bring a person that you will be able to shoot that morning.)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sleiman Aldada 3/11  
Diana Aldada 3/4  
Joseph Attallah 3/27  
Sarah Asaly 3/10  
Gisele Awayjan 3/24  
Anahid Azzouni 3/19  
Jacob Bahbah 3/1  
Lucy Billeh 3/20  
Samir Billeh 3/13  
Habib Chala 3/1  
Kristin Chala 3/10  
Catherine Chala 3/23  
Nuha Daher 3/23  
Aida Eadeh 3/29  
Mark El-Hinn 3/30  
Dina Elsayegh 3/30  
Nicole Fakhouri 3/1  
Katrina Fakhouri 3/26  
Carol Jo Goson 3/29  
Wetcka Haffty 3/19  
Sameer Hanna 3/17  
Amanda Hanna 3/25  
Mary –Margret Hanna 3/26  
George Hanna 3/21  
Fr, Patrick Irish 3/12  
Maurice Karkar 3/25  
Mitri Khamis 3/6  
Tanya Khamis 3/4  
Samir Khamis 3/20  
Amanda Khoury 3/5  
Melissa Khoury 3/19

Najat Khury 3/20  
 Elena Khury 3/29  
 Nabil Mansour 3/24  
 Michele Maloof 3/12  
 Moner Megaly 3/8  
 Linda Mokbel 3/31  
 Liana Munayyer 3/3  
 Walid Najjar 3/11  
 Elizabeth Nassar 3/2  
 Daniel Rizkallah 3/16  
 Jerri Romley 3/26  
 Deena Salameh 3/23  
 Taylor Salamone 3/23  
 Ramsey Samara 3/18  
 Jamal Sayegh 3/3  
 Samira Skaff 3/29  
 Richard Tierney 3/2  
 Martha Toubbeh 3/30  
 Isabella Turk 3/10  
 Juliana Turk 3/4  
 Osama Turk 3/12  
 Michael Wakileh 3/23  
 Lydia Wakileh 3/25  
 Matthew Whitacre 3/19



Samir & Maysa Azzam 3/4  
 Carlos & Rhonda Rodriguez 3/1  
 George & Martha Toubbeh 3/28

YORGO AWAYJAN
GHOSSAN & GISELLE AWAYJAN
BASIM & AMAL AYOUB ABU RAYA
ANAHID AZZOUNI
GEORGE & LORRAINE BABA
JOE & SALWA BAHBAH
ISSA & JULIE BAHBAH
PHILLIP & TARIZE BAHBAH
JACOB & VERA BAHBAH
SAMIR & LUCY BILLEH
YOUSEF & RITA BILLEH
DENNIS & ZINA BORATYNEC
EDWARD & DANA CHADE
LEO & IRMA CHADE
VLADIMIR & JOANNA CHENDLER
RUTH CONN
RANDY & MAY DABBAB
SUE DABBAB
NOHA DAHER
SONIA DAHER
SCOTT & DIANE DARUTY
ALICE DE ABDO
EDNA DEEB
MARY DIBS
NICHOLAS DIBS
DARLYNE DIBS
JERALD DONOVAN
SAMIRA EISSA
CHARLOTTE EL-HINN
MARK & MEGAN EL-HINN
MARK & EILEEN ELLIS
SAAD & SAMAR ELSAYEGH
OMAR & FATIN FAKHOURI
SAMI & WISAM FARRAJ
SPIRO & SAMIRA FASHEH
KEVIN & SARA FORTUNA
ELSA FRECH
CONSTANTINE & RITA GERONIKOLAOU
MICHAEL & SANDEE GORDON
JAMES N. & SANDELLA GOSON
JAMES J. & CAROLE JO GOSON
KAREEM (KEN) & ADELE HABEEB
NICOLAS & NASEEM HADDAD

*The Apostle is a monthly newsletter of St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church. Parish Organizations are to submit articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Church office (949-851-8933)*

The following members have submitted their regular 2010 in support of our operating budget. Thank you for your prompt response! Please return your pledge forms as soon as possible.

**2010 Pledges**

**Names**

CHARLES & MARILEE AJALAT
SLEIMAN & SEHAM ALDADA
PAUL & JUNE ANTER
MICHAEL & MAY ASALY
GABRIEL & SAMIRA ATALLAH

ESPERENCE HADSHITI
LAURA HAFEZ
NORMAN & WETCKA HAFPTY
ROBERT & KRISTINA HAGEL
HAITHAM & SAHAR HANNA
GEORGE & MARY HANNA
GEORGE & CHARLOTTE HANNA
MELAD & Wafa HANNA
DENNIS INGRAHAM
RICHARD & VERA JIRJIS
SHAWKI & DOHA JIRJIS
MICHEL & THERESA JOUBRAN
MAURICE & NADIA KARKAR
Wael & LOUISA KASHOU
LILIAN KASSICIEH
BACHIR & HELEN KASSIR
MITRI KHAMIS
JULIETTE KHAMIS
ELIAS & HILDA KHAMIS
JABRA KHAMIS
MARY KHAMIS
ISA & BARBARA KHAMIS
IBRAHIM & DIANA KHAMIS
VIOLETTE KHAMIS
MICHAEL & CHARLOTTE KHOURY
ANTOUNE & MAYSSOUN KHOURY
ELYAS & NAJAT KHURY
OSAMA & RULA KISHEK
SIMON & LOURICE KISHEK
ANTONE & ITAB KISHEK
DIMITRI & KANDY KORT
EMILIE LAFFOON
MICHAEL & DONNA LAFFOON
SAMIR & ROBIN LAKKEES
ZIAD & HELEN MAHSHI
GLORIA MAMEY
NELSON MAMEY
OLGA MANNEH
NABIL & ANNE MANSOUR
MARY MANSOUR
NABIL & SUSIE MITRI
ROBERT & LINDA MOKBEL
MIRA MOUBAYED

DN. GEORGE & NAJWA MOUBAYED
SAM & ADEL MUNAYYER
ELIAS & JEAN NASRAWI
JAMIL NASSAR
ELIZABEH NASSAR
DON & DENISE NASSIF
JASON NINO
SAMMY & LANA NINO
TANYA NINO
PAUL & SUSAN QAQUNDAH
JACOB QUSHAIR
JAMAL & TAMMY QUTAMI
ISSAM & BERNADETTE RAMSEY
ROBERT & KIMLA RANNEY
JOSEPH RICHARDS
EMAD & MUNA RIZKALLAH
TONY & PAULA RODRIGUEZ
CARLOS & RHONDA RODRIGUEZ
JERRI ROMLEY
NAJIB & HEBA SAADEH
YACOUB & GENEVIEVE SABA
FARAH & SYLVIA SABA
MARWAN & HANAN SABA
SIHAM SABA
MANUEL & GEORGETTE SALAMEH
RAMZI & RANDA SALAMEH
MUFID & SALAM SAMARA
PAMELA SANBAR
JAMAL & HIAM SAYEGH
STEVEN & BARBARA SCHOLL
ANGELIKA & AUTUMN SCHORR
KENDALL & RONDA SCHORR
MILAD & MADONA SHAHEEN
FOUAD & PATRICIA SHAKER
YURI & VERA SIDORENKO
IVAN SIDORENKO
DON JR & PENNY SKAFF
THEODORE & KATHY SKAFF
ELIAS & RANIA SLIHEET
ROBERT & SARAH SMATHERS
ASHRAF SOLIMAN
MARY SOPHIEA
SHOUKI & MAJIDA SOURI

FOUAD & RIMA TARAZI
DAVE & BRENDA TAX
ANDRE & SHARITA TERZIAN
ROGER & CAROL TIERNEY
TINA TOMEO
GEORGE & MARTHA TOUBBEH
JULIANA TURK
ANTON & KEITIE TURK
AUSTIN & SAEDA TURK
ELEANOR WACKEEN
CHARLIE WAKILEH
MICHAEL WAKILEH
IBRAHIM & LYDIA WAKILEH
MATTHEW & SOPHIA WHITACRE
ROBERT & THEODORA WHITEHEAD
PATRICK & SUSAN WILDE

**Total Pledge Cards: 150**

**Total Pledged to Date: \$ 178,604**

**SAINT MARK ANTIOCHIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
17840 SKY PARK CIRCLE  
IRVINE, CA 92614**

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MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER  
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