

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

17840 Sky Park Circle, Irvine, CA 92614 (949) 851-8933

Website: www.st-mark-church.org

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Deacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director Barbara Scholl; Chanters: Dionysius Ingraham,

Theresa Joubran, Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, & Elia Qushair

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh; Youth Director: Juliana Turk

Saturday evening Great Vespers 4:00 p.m. (Confessions after)

Sunday Schedule: Orthros (Matins) & Confessions 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Church school after Holy Communion

FEBRUARY 19, 2012

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

HOLY APOSTLES ARCHIPPOS, PHILEMON AND APPIAS OF THE 70

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Third Tone: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled own death by death and became the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of Saint Mark in the Fourth Tone: From thy childhood the light of truth enlightened thee, O Mark, and thou didst love the labor of Christ the Savior. Wherefore thou didst follow Peter with zeal and didst serve Paul as a fellow laborer and didst enlighten the world with thy holy Gospel.

Kontakion of Meat Fare Sunday in the First Tone: When thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before thy judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things made public; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 117. 14, 18) The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord With chastisement has the Lord chastened me!

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if any one sees you, as someone who has knowledge reclining at table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak, be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses: (Psalm 19. 1, 9) The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the

sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Gabi & Samira Attala for the health of their sons Joseph and Daniel, for the soul of Samira's father Elias departed this life 28 years and for the souls of Julia, Hanna, Khalil and Mary, by Mufid and Salam Samara for the health of their children Ghassan and Ramsy, and by Michael and Chalrotte Khoury for the health and salvation of their children and in memory of Charlotte's father Salim Daher departed this life 17 years.

Luncheon is given today by the Attalla and Samara families for the memory of Samira's father Elias and the health of Samara's children.

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Please remember in your prayers: Irene Zogob, Genevieve Saba, Pamela Sanbar, Fr. Alexander Atty, Najwa Moubayed, Paul Anter, June Anter, Christopher Chala, Nabila Zabaneh, and Eleanor Wackeen.

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<p>Ushers serving this week: Nelson Mamey & James Goson Ushers serving next week: Nader Qoborsi & Maurice Karkar. Altar boys serving this week: James Dabbah, Jordan Qutami, Matthew Dabbah. Altar boys serving next week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah.</p>

Quotes from the Saints

"...Oh how necessary it is for everyone not wishing to spend their old age in dreariness to become used to prayer early in life."

St. Theophyl fool-for-Christ

NOTE TO OUR VISTORS

Welcome to St. Mark's! We are pleased to have you here with us today. Please be informed that only those Orthodox Christians who are prepared through prayer, fasting, and the sacrament of confession should approach the Chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" or intercommunion with other churches (non-Orthodox). If you have any questions concerning this, please talk to Father Michael before taking communion. Visitors are welcome to venerate the cross at the end of the service and to receive some of the blessed bread, if they so desire.

For Orthodox Christians to receive Holy Communion:

- You must be spiritually prepared and uphold the beliefs and moral teachings of the Church.
- You must keep the fast (Wednesday & Friday, and other fasting seasons)
- If married, your marriage must have been consecrated in the Orthodox Church.
- If (unfortunately) divorced, you must be formally restored to communion by the Church by confession and Episcopal decision.
- If an Orthodox Christian has left the church, or has been absent from services for a long period, and is returning, he or she must see the priest prior to receiving the sacraments of the Church.

Today

The Ladies Guild is taking pre-orders for Spinach Pies and Falafel mix. Order these now to have these great fasting foods for Great Lent. Please place your order this week by calling the Committee leaders or use the form included in this bulletin. Dead line Date was extended for ordering Spinach pies until March 1st and pick up on Sunday March 4th.

For Spinach Pies, Barbara Khamis (714-964-6137 or Julie Bahbah (714-998-4375)
For Falafel Mix, Diana Khamis (714-962-7367)

Camp St. Nicholas Scholarship

Scholarship money from the Order of St. Ignatius is available for families that need assistance to send their children to Camp St. Nicholas this coming Summer. There are also scholarships available from the Hanna Chade Fund. Attendance at the

Antiochian Village Summer Camp is also eligible for these scholarships. The deadline for the St. Ignatius scholarships is March 1.

Very Important

Please do not use table cloths for regular coffee hour. Please use the plastic roll in the kitchen. If you need to use table cloths from the storage room PLEASE talk to Fr. Michael or Lydia first. Thanks

The Church still missing 4 red round table cloths, 7 new white round table cloths, and 9 old white round table cloths. If you have them or know who has them, or who has used them lately from the Church, please bring them back! Thank you.

House Blessings

House blessings are traditionally done between Epiphany and the start of Great Lent. If you would like Fr. Michael to bless your home or business, please fill out the Home Blessing Request included in this bulletin, and return it to the box in the Church Hall labeled “Home Blessing” Fr. Michael will respond to your request via email or telephone to confirm your home blessing appointment. Great Lent begins on February 27th.

The home blessings will last about 40 minutes per home. When Fr. Michael arrives, all televisions, stereos, and radios should be turned off. If there is an icon corner in the home, the prayers will take place there, if not, an icon and a lit candle should be set up on a suitable table. A list of all those living in the home and others you would like to be included in the prayers should also be placed on the table.

Please pick up your Offering Envelopes if you ordered one on your pledge card, from the table at the Church Hall by the Bulletin Board.

This week

...is Cheese Week. We observe a “white fast,” that is, we are allowed all foods (including fish) on every day of the week (including Wednesday and Friday) except for meat and meat products (beef, pork, poultry, lamb, etc.)

Wednesday February 22nd, 6:30 p.m. Vespers.

Friday February 24th, Teen movie night at 7:00 p.m.

Next week

Sunday February 26th, Cheese Fare Sunday; Ladies Guild is serving Cheese Pizza for lunch.

Monday February 27th, First day of Lent, 7:00 p.m. Great Compline

Tuesday February 28th, 7:00 p.m. Great Compline

Wednesday February 29th, 6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, followed by pot luck dinner.

Friday March 2nd, 7:00 p.m. First Akathist. (Madayeh)

Saturday March 3rd, 4:00 p.m. Youth Rally and Adult session (see flyer); 6:00 p.m. Vespers at St Steven Serbian Cathedral. No Vespers at St. Mark,

Upcoming services and Events

Sunday March 4th, Sunday of Orthodoxy

Monday March 5th, 7:00 p.m. Great Compline

Wednesday March 7th, 6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Pre Sanctified Gifts followed by pot luck dinner.

Friday March 9th, 7:00 p.m. Second Akathist. (Madayeh)

Sunday March 11th, Ladies Guild Falafel Lunch.

March is Ladies Month in our Archdiocese. Therefore, members of our Ladies Guild will be assisting in ushering and in reading the Epistles.

Southern California Diocesan Antiochian Women's Retreat

March 30- April 1, 2012

33rd Annual Spring Retreat at Camp St. Nicholas, Frazier Park Ca.

For more information please see flyer included in this bulletin.

Scholarship form, Retreat schedule and driving directions are available on the table at the hall by the bulletin board.

American Arabic Educational Foundation

Graduating High School Seniors

The Scholarships requires that the applicant be a graduating high school senior or equivalent, planning to enter either an academic or vocational school the term following the granting of the scholarship, and that the recipient be resident of one of the following California Counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino San Diego, or Ventura; be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; and of Arabic Heritage applications.

For College and Graduate Students applications may be submitted from college and graduate students and the above eligibility and qualifications apply.

Applications can be obtained by emailing Sondra Murr Love (slove1@socal.rr.com)

The applications must be returned no later than June 1, 2012.

ANAHEIM DUCKS AT HONDA CENTER WITH ST. MARK AND ST. LUKE FRIENDS: We reserved a block of tickets on Sunday, March 18 at 5:05 PM, to see the Anaheim Ducks play Nashville at the Honda Center in Anaheim. Discounted tickets are \$15 per seat in the 400's section. (Seats are regularly \$25 so this is a nice bargain) In addition to attendance at the game, your ticket with the group will allow you to play broomball on the ice at Honda Center after the game! Adults and children can play broomball with their shoes on and Honda Center will provide you with a broom and a puck. It will be a blast and you won't want to miss it. The deadline for purchasing is March 1 but once the tickets run out, they're gone. First come-first served. Give your check to Barbara Scholl made payable to "Anaheim Ducks" and we'll get the tickets to you during the week prior to the game.

DISCOUNT TICKETS TO LES MISERABLES: There are some discounted tickets available to the Broadway musical, Les Miserable's for 6/24/12, Sunday at 1 PM in the back of the Orchestra section for \$36 per ticket (regular price is \$80). Feel free to invite friends or relatives to take advantage of the discount that are given for these tickets. The deadline for purchasing these discount tickets is 3/1/12 or until the block of 100 tickets is gone. If interested, please make checks payable to "SCFTA" (Segerstrom Center for the Arts) and give to Barbara Scholl.

St. Mark 2012 Stewardship Pledge Drive Progress Report

Thank you for the 147 pledges that have made their Stewardship commitment to St. Mark.

As of February 16th, we have achieved 86% of our \$210,000 goal (which is the budget our parish voted on) – or pledges for \$179,330. We are only 145% or \$30,000 away from reaching our goal and meeting the budget we all committed to.

We are in the process of sending out letters to those who pledged in 2011 but have not made a commitment in 2012.

Thank You in advance for calling, emailing or dropping off your pledge form in our pledge box in the hall.

FOCUS Calendar

Feb 26; Health Kit Assembly

Mar 11; St. Mark Feeding at Valencia Inn

Apr 7; Motel Children Dental Clinic. Co-sponsors; AYUDA, Anaheim Lions Club, Anaheim Boys-Girls Club, Grandma's House of Hope, FOCUS OC, and St. Mark

Apr 20-22; Global Youth Service Days

Apr 22; St. Mark Feeding at Valencia Inn

Apr 28; Major FOCUS OC Fundraiser, Laguna Beach

St. Mark Church Cook Book

Our St. Mark Cook Book has arrived. We would like to thank the cook book committee; Samira Atallah, Samar Elsayegh, May & Randy Dabbah and all the people that contributed their recipes. The cook book is for sale in the Church during coffee hour for \$20.

Used books needed. Both St. Herman's Orthodox Seminary of Alaska and St. Barbara Monastery of Santa Paula, CA are collecting used books. The Seminary is trying to build up their school library and St. Barbara Monastery has a used book store. Both theological and general interest books (especially children's book) are being accepted. See Mary Dibs to Donate.

Saint of the Day, Leo the Great, Pope of Rome (February 11)

According to some, this Saint was born in Rome, but according to others in Tyrrenia (Tuscany), and was consecrated to the archiepiscopal throne of Rome in 440. In 448, when Saint Flavian, Archbishop of Constantinople, summoned Eutyches, an archimandrite in Constantinople, to give account for his teaching that there was only one nature in Christ after the Incarnation, Eutyches appealed to Saint

Leo in Rome. After Saint Leo had carefully examined Eutyches's teachings, he wrote an epistle to Saint Flavian, setting forth the Orthodox teaching of the person of Christ, and His two natures, and also counseling Flavian that, should Eutyches sincerely repent of his error, he should be received back with all good will. At the Council held in Ephesus in 449, which was presided over by Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria (and which Saint Leo, in a letter to the holy Empress Pulcheria in 451, was the first to call "The Robber Council"), Dioscorus, having military might behind him, did not allow Saint Leo's epistle to Flavian to be read, although repeatedly asked to do so; even before the Robber Council was held, Dioscorus had uncanonically received the unrepentant Eutyches back into communion. Because Saint Leo had many cares in Rome owing to the wars of Attila the Hun and other barbarians, in 451 he sent four delegates to the Fourth Ecumenical Council, where 630 Fathers gathered in Chalcedon during the reign of Marcian, to condemn the teachings of Eutyches and those who supported him. Saint Leo's epistle to Flavian was read at the Fourth Council, and was confirmed by the Holy Fathers as the Orthodox teaching on the incarnate person of our Lord; it is also called the "Tome of Leo." He reposed in 461.

Good Samaritan Fund

Several years ago, St. Mark Church established a fund for assisting those in need, both within our parish and in the general community. From time to time we ask for contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund, and this is one of those times. If you are in need of assistance or you are aware of someone in our parish that needs financial assistance, please speak with Fr. Michael.

Church Etiquette

Talking during Church

Isn't it great to come into church and see friends and family members? But wait until coffee hour to say "Hi" to them. It just isn't appropriate to greet people and have a conversation with them during the services. Besides being disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards the other people in church who are trying to worship. Talk to God while in church and to your friends in the hall afterwards.

Especially during Communion we need to be attentive and respectful.

Scrip Program

Our Ladies Guild buys scrip from many and various stores and Restaurants (see list included in this Bulletin) at a 3 to 10% discount. When you buy the scrip, which is accepted just like cash at the issuing store, the Parish benefits. You pay no more for these goods and services and are making a donation to our parish. You can purchase this scrip from Saeda Turk at the coffee hour.