

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

Church Office Hours: M-F – 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Website: www.st-mark-church.org

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Protodeacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Mark Ellis,

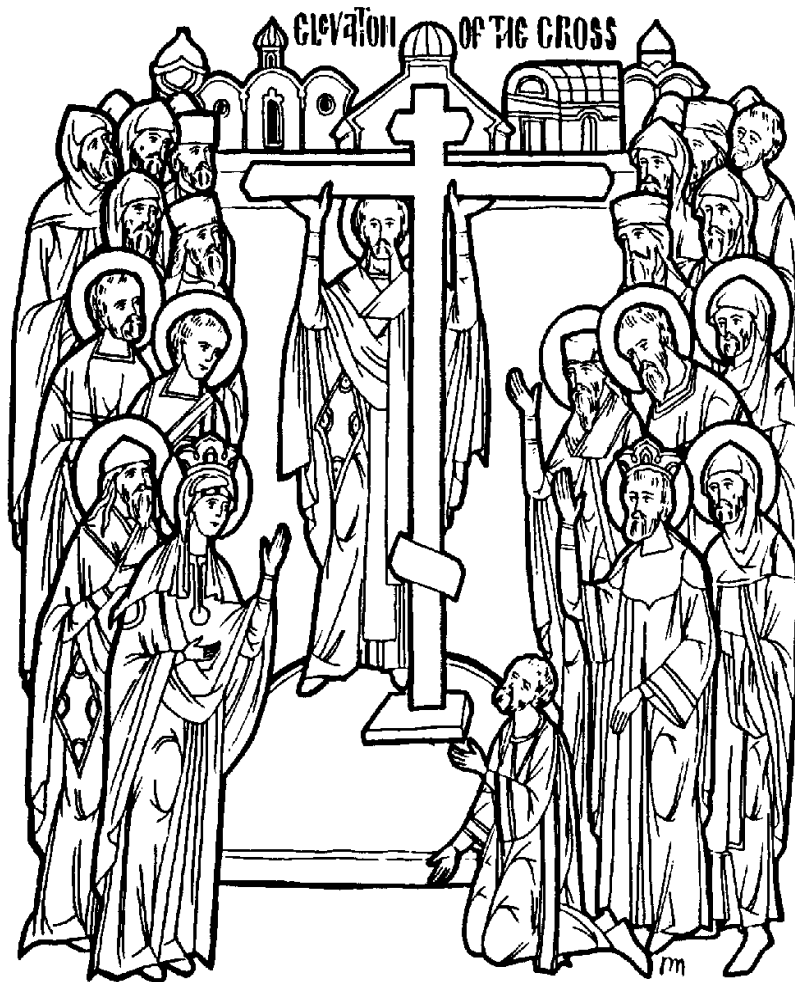
Karim Youssef & Jake Bahbah

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade

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

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.



SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2015

SUNDAY AFTER EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Refrain of the Second Antiphon: Save us, O Son of God, crucified in the flesh...”

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Holy Cross in the First Tone: O Lord save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

“Come let us worship...who art risen from the dead...”

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Seventh Tone: Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross; thou didst open paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the mourning of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim warning

that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting the world Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Cross in the First Tone (repeated in Arabic)

Troparion of St. Eustathios and his family in the Fourth Tone

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons’ strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

All: Troparion to St. 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 the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the Fourth Tone: Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted up upon the cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new nation which is called by thy name. Make glad in thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 103.24,1) Tone 4: O Lord, how magnificent are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The Reading from the gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Constantine Geronikolaou for the soul of his father Efstathios departed this life 5 years, by Charlie, Michael & Christopher Wakileh for their parents Ibrahim and Lydia on the occasion of their 35th wedding anniversary, and by Jacob, Vera, Randy, and Jake Bahbah for their son Andy on his birthday. We also remember our founding members who have fallen asleep in the Lord: John Attyah, Bahije Azzouni, Lorraine Baba, Elias Dabbah, Arthur Dibs,

George Dibs, Abraham El-Hinn, Alexandria Haddy, Shafik Kassicieh, Georgette Khamis, Ibrahim Khamis, Mary Khamis, Najwa Moubayed, Bishara Mansour, Mary Mansour, Fred Mamey, Margaret Sady.

Coffee hour is given today by the Coffee Hour Committee

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Please remember in your prayers: Odette Chade, Maha Kureh, Darlyne Dibs, Eleanor Wackeen, Michael Asaly, Georgette Salameh, Lourice Kishek, Paul and June Anter and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, Yemen, Ukraine, West Africa, Nepal and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

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Ushers serving Today: Men's Club

Ushers serving next week: Men's Club

Altar boys serving Today: James Dabbah, Paul Youssef, Nour Youssef, Matthew Dabbah

Altar boys serving next week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah, Richard Tierney

Quote from the Saints

"O Father who created Adam from dust, O Son Who by Thy cross delivered Adam's race from ruin, resurrect me and set me at Thy right hand, that I might glorify Thy name!"

St. Ephraim the Syrian

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

+Canned Food Drive

Low employment and homelessness continue to be significant problems, even in affluent Orange County. In light of this, the ongoing canned food collection of our parish is a small but important way to help. Please try to bring something to go in the collection barrel every week.

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

- Please be on time for services; those arriving late should not approach the Chalice for Communion.
- To receive Communion, one must be a baptized/chrisdated Orthodox Christian who has prepared by prayer, fasting, alms giving, and regular confession.
- Confessions are heard on Saturday evenings after Great Vespers and during the week by appointment.
- Men, women, and children: please dress modestly for services.
- Please remove lip balm or lipstick before receiving Communion or kissing the holy icons, Chalice, or Gospel.
- If you wish to stand for the entire service, please do so in the back or the aisle so as not to block the view of others who may need to sit. When seated, we should refrain from a posture of relaxation (e.g., crossing legs or arms).
- Pledges, Tithes, Donations: Giving 10% of one's income is God-pleasing, as are all gifts offered by a pious and cheerful giver with a humble heart. Membership forms, renewed annually, are located in the Hall.
- Children are welcome! Yet, if they interfere with the prayers of the faithful, we all may need a break. Food and drink (and toys) are not allowed in the Temple.

Today

Blessings on committee co-chairs Nelson Mamey and Lew Malouf and all the committee members and donors on a beautiful event this last Saturday celebrating our 30th Anniversary of our parish. God has blessed our parish greatly, let us give thanks!

Church School Registration – after liturgy

Teacher Meeting 12:15 in the 3rd & 4th, grade classroom

Teen SOYO meeting in the Teen Room

Lost N Found Box: Please check the lost and found box in the hall that has all lost and found items especially sweaters.

This Week

Wednesday September 23rd, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Next week

Sunday September 27th, 12:30 p.m. Ladies Guild Annual Friendship Tea at the home of Denise & Don Nassif after church. Please Ladies reserve today at the coffee hour with Lydia and see flyer included for more details.

Sunday September 27th, 1st day of Church School Classes

Upcoming Services & Events

Wednesday September 30th, 6:30 P.M. Vespers

At our Annual Parish Meeting October 4, 2015, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for election to three Parish Council seats. If you would like to be nominated or to suggest someone for nomination, please speak with outgoing Council Members, or Fr. Michael. Per our parish Constitution, all nominations must be made through the Nomination Committee (outgoing Council members, Nelson Mamey, Issa Bahbah, Penny Skaff and Mark Ellis). The Nominating Committee must complete its work no later than 10 days before the Annual Meeting (September 24, 2015), and the list of Nominees will be printed in the Sunday Bulletin one week before the Annual Meeting. Only Orthodox Christians 25 years of age or older, who are Regular Pledged members of St.

Mark's, are in good spiritual standing, and agree to fulfill the duties of a Council Member, may be nominated for Parish Council.

2015 Fall Gathering

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church will host the Fall Gathering this year on October 9-11, 2015. Please see flyer included to make your reservation. Dead line to reserve your hotel is September 20th for the rate of \$152+tax.

St. Michael Church and St. Nicholas Cathedral will be co-hosting the Fall Meeting of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees and the Order of St. Ignatius Governing Council on October 22-25, 2015. Saturday evening Vespers will be held at St. Michael Church with the ground-breaking for a new Sanctuary followed by a Banquet honoring Fr. Timothy Baclig 25 years as Pastor of St. Michael Church at the Warner Center Marriott; \$100 (Adults/Teens) and \$40 (Children: 12 and under). St. Michael is soliciting sponsors for the weekend. Sunday Hierarchal Liturgy, with the Antiochian Hierarchs will be held at St. Nicholas Cathedral followed by a Luncheon: \$25 (Adults/Teens) and \$15 (Children: 12 and under). For online registration for event tickets and Sponsorship, or information on the weekend go to: <http://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/fallmeeting>. For more information contact the weekend Co-Chairs Sondra Love: slove1@socal.rr.com 818.383.3489 or Michael Srour: mcsrour@gmail.com 818.314.9363.

For information on the Sunday Luncheon contact Rose Samore: rosesamore@gmail.com 818.378.2055 or Concetta Smarius: concettasmarius@yahoo.com 213.700.0229

Today's Commemoration, The Great-martyr Eustathios and his family

The holy Martyr Eustathios before his baptism was an illustrious Roman general named Placidus in the days of the Emperor Trajan. While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice. Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a vision in which she was instructed to become a Christian. They sought out the Bishop of the Christians and were baptized, Placidus receiving the name Eustathius, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapius and Theopistus. The family was

then subjected to such trials as Job endured. Their servants died, all their goods were stolen, and on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem they were scattered abroad, each not even knowing if the others were still alive. By the providence of God, they were united again after many years, and returned to Rome in glory. Nevertheless, when they refused to sacrifice to the idols-a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent-the Emperor Hadrian, who had succeeded Trajan, had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. They suffered martyrdom about the year 126.

BUY SCRIP

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.