

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 13TH, 2015

FOREFEAST OF AND SUNDAY BEFORE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

CONSECRATION OF RESURRECTION CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Sixth Tone: When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world; O thou Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Fore-Feast of the Holy Cross in the Second Tone: We offer thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

Troparion of the Consecration of the Resurrection church in the Fourth Tone: Thou hast shown the earthly beauty of the holy tabernacle of Thy glory to be like unto the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. Strengthen it forever and ever, and accept our prayers which we unceasingly offer therein unto Thee, through the Theotokos, O Thou Who art the Life and Resurrection of all.

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 Consecration of Resurrection Church in the Fourth Tone: The Church is shown to be a many-lighted Heaven that doth shine a guiding light upon all them that do believe; wherein while standing we cry aloud: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 27:9,1) O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. To you O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Section from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither

circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.

Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren, Amen.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 88:19,21) I have exalted one chosen from my people. For my hand will support him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Matthew and James Whitacre for Sophia and Luke on the occasion of their churching today, by Joe, Salwa, Andy & Nicholas for Nora Bahbah on the occasion of her birthday, for Zaina Hanna’s birthday by her parents Ehab, Jamie and brother Jeries Hanna and by her grandparents Anton & Kietie Turk.

Coffee hour is given today by Tariez and Phillip Bahbah

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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 West Africa, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Ukraine, 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 Bahbah, Peter Williams, Nicholas Bahbah, Youssef Youssef

Altar boys serving next week: James Dabbah, Paul Youssef, Nour Youssef, Matthew Dabbah

Quote from the Saints

May the soul that has sought refuge in Thy cross and inherited eternal incorruptible treasure praise and exalt Thee together with the spirits that number her among Thy ranks.

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/christened 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

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

Monday September 14th, 6:30 P.M. Evening Liturgy, Elevation of the Holy Cross
(Orthros 5:30 pm.)

Wednesday September 16th, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Saturday September 19th, **30th Anniversary** of our parish with *A Night at the Museum*, an evening of food and fun at the Marconi Auto Museum in Tustin on Saturday September 19. See the flyer included! **Saturday Vespers will be sung at 5:00 p.m. that day.**

Next week

**Sunday September 20th, Church School Registration – after liturgy
Teacher Meeting 12:15 in the 3rd & 4th, grade classroom**

Wednesday September 23rd, 6:30 P.M. Vespers

Upcoming Services & Events

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

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 Founding of the Church of the Holy Resurrection

The church that is honoured far above all others is that of the Holy Resurrection, which Saint Constantine the Great constructed at the place of Golgotha, where our Saviour was crucified and buried. For a long time this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen; furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honour of Christ God's Resurrection-the Anastasis-was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Dracilian was Eparch of Palestine and Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. It was the latter, also, who exalted the venerable Cross and performed the consecration of this temple in the year 336.

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.