

# **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](http://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

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade



**JUNE 26, 2016**

**SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion for the Resurrection in the Eighth Tone:** From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate one, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection. O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Troparion of the Saints in the Fourth Tone:** Thy Church, O Christ our God, hath regaled herself in the blood of thy Martyrs throughout all the world, as in purple and fine linen. Through them she lifteth her voice, crying, turn with thy compassion to thy people, and grant peace to thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

**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.

**Priest: Kontakion of All Saints in the Eighth Tone:** Unto thee, O Lord, the Author of creation, the universe doth offer the God-bearing martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By whose prayers, through the Theotokos, do thou preserve in the profoundest peace thy Church, O most merciful One.

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**Prokeimenon** (Psalm 67:35, 26) God is wonderful among his saints. Bless God in the congregations.

### **Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:33-12:2)**

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy --wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 33:17, 19) The righteous cried and the Lord heard them. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver them from them all.

**The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew** (10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30)

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

"He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, the last first.

Communion hymn: "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just: Praise is meet for the upright."

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by** June Anter, Tony and Paula Rodriguez family, Steve and Kathy Anter family, for the soul of their beloved husband, father and Giddo, Paul Anter, departed this life 40 day, by Anthony, Stephanie & Alex Turk for their parents Austin & Saeda on their birthdays and their wedding anniversary, by the Bahbah & Wakileh families for their mother Adele on her birthday and for their brothers Joe and Phillip's birthdays, by Anton, Keitie and the Turk family for their daughter Juliana and her husband David Tannous on their 3<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary and for their granddaughter Adella on her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, and by our church members to our Father Michael Laffoon on his birthday June 23.

**Coffee Hour is given today by** the Anter family for 40 day memorial of Paul Anter.

*Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Odette Chade, Maha Kureh, Darlyne Dibs, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, Lourice Kishek, June Anter and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Palestine, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.*

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<p><b>Ushers this week:</b> Nader Qoborsi &amp; Maurice Karkar <b>Ushers next week:</b> Sam Munayyer &amp; Wael Kashou <b>Altar boys serving this week:</b> Samir Khamis, Joseph Atallah, Andrew Bahbah. <b>Altar boys serving next week:</b> Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriguez</p>
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### **Quote from the Saints**

"Return my soul to the sweet garden of paradise, and may it abide in light that, surrounded by the delights of paradise, I too may say with all the saints: Glory to the Immortal Father; honor to Him Who presents heavenly gifts to this worthless one, that he may bring a tithe of glory to the King of all!" -- *St. Ephraim the Syrian*

### **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 Wednesday and 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**

**Most of the items in the St. Mark Book of Needs have been sponsored (Thank You!) The following items are still in need of sponsorship**

Candles Stands (2)

Epiphany Holy Water Font

New Altar Server robes. We are looking to provide two sets (one light and one dark), totaling 32 robes. Twenty five have been sponsored; we have 7 robes to go!

**This Week**

**Due to the late date of Pascha this year, we have a very brief Apostles Fast.** The Fast begins tomorrow and ends Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

- ***Fasting Guidelines for the Apostles Fast, which always begins the second Monday after Pentecost.***
- **Abstinence from all meat and dairy products all days. Fish (with backbone) allowed on Saturdays and Sundays. Oil and wine allowed on Tuesday, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.**

**JUNE 28, 2016 - JULY 3, 2016**

**64th Annual Parish Life Conference Of**

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

**Diocese of Los Angeles and the West**

**Dioceses of Eagle River and the Northwest**

**Hosted by St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Phoenix, AZ**

**AT JW MARRIOTT PHOENIX DESERT RIDGE SPA & RESORT**

**Please see flyer included for more information and registration**

***Because of the Parish Life Conference, there will be no Mere Orthodoxy on June 28 or Vespers on June 29.***

### Next week

**Monday July 4, U.S. Independence Day (Church office closed)**

**Wednesday July 6, 6:30 pm Vespers**

### Upcoming Services & Events

**Tuesday July 12, 6:30 pm Parish Council meeting**

**FOCUS is gearing up for our upcoming National Summer Feeding Program,** which will begin mid-June, in two locations within Southern California. Nearest to Orange County, FOCUS OC is working with the YMCA of Long Beach to get regular meals to kids throughout the summer, and we need the help of you and your parish communities to assemble lunches!

#### How It Will Work

For 6 weeks during the summer, **June 27 - August 5, 2016**, FOCUS will be implementing this program, gathering volunteers at local kitchen prep sites (our is at St. Luke Church Garden Grove), and assembling lunches (from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.). These will then be delivered to youth centers.

**We are hoping that our parish can take the lead for one of the six weeks, and we need a volunteer to lead this effort. Please see Austin Turk or Fr. Michael for more details.**

**Orthodox Christian Mission Center opportunities for mission work.** Empower youth and teens in countries where youth ministry is emerging and opportunities for youth leadership exist. Orthodox Mission Teams to Alaska, Kenya, and Albania will offer programs for students and adult leaders, giving them the opportunity to develop vision for their youth groups, as well teach the Biblical basics of youth ministry and what it means to be a leader. These teams will model servant leadership by assisting in small groups, recreation, and worship. OCMC invites you to join these opportunities in youth ministry. For more information, please visit [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org), e-mail [teams@ocmc.org](mailto:teams@ocmc.org), or call 1-877 GO FORTH (ext 141).

#### **Orange County Orthodox Christian Young Professionals**

Young adults are welcome to join us for a social and spiritual/discussion each month. Contact Kyra Pelachik at [ococyp@gmail.com](mailto:ococyp@gmail.com) or Charlie Kassaseya at

858-761-1720. You can find our events on [www.tinyurl.com/ococyp](http://www.tinyurl.com/ococyp) or Facebook (search: OC Orthodox Christian Young Professionals)

June 28 – 7:00pm, Liturgy for Apostles Peter & Paul, followed by Dinner, St. Barnabas Orthodox Church

July 17 – 2:30pm-5:00pm, Duffy Boat Ride in Newport Beach

July 26 – 6:30pm, Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church with Deacon Stephen Bell

August TBA – Hike with Fr. Patrick O' Grady

August 23 – 6:30pm, "Life of the Theotokos" Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church, 6:30pm

September TBA – Camping Trip

### **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.

### **On the Sunday of All Saints:**

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood. Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and

their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers). In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.