

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,

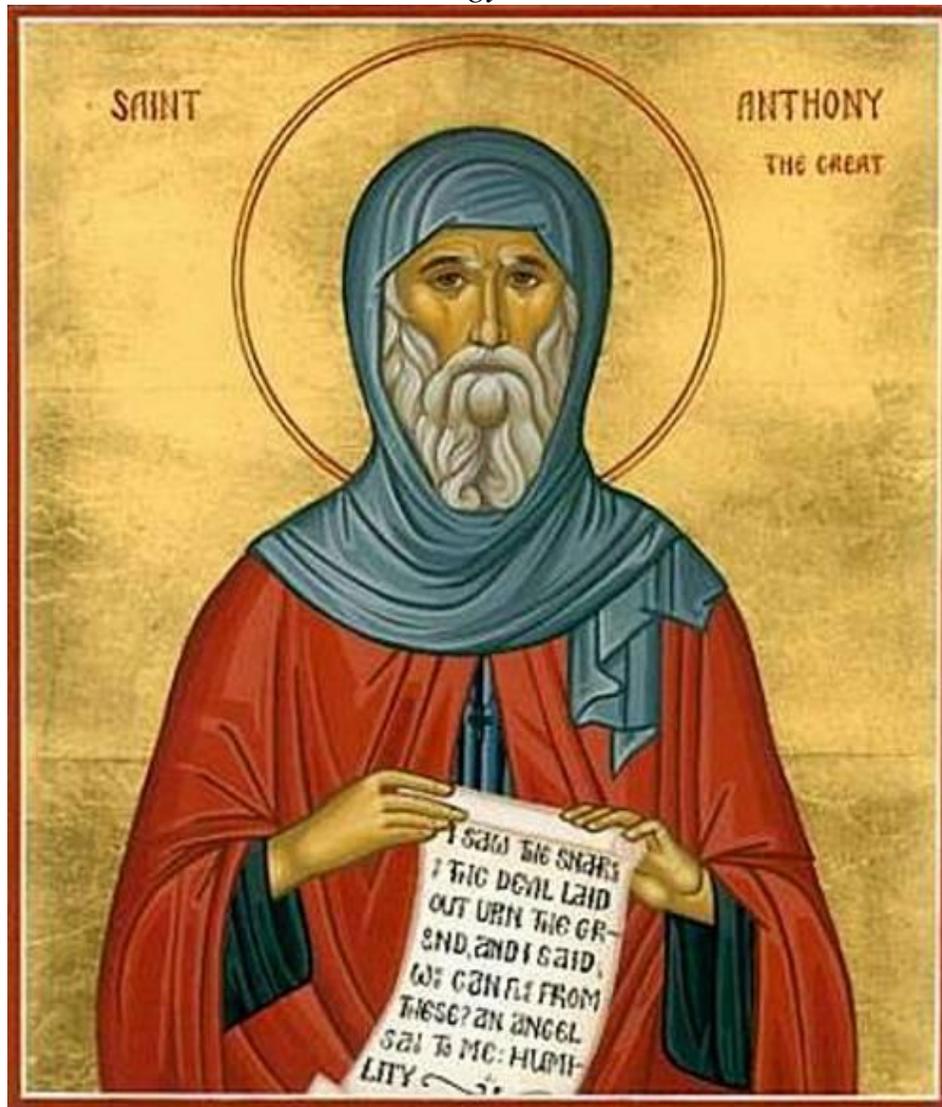
Karim Youssef & Jake Bahbah

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.



JANUARY 17, 2016
ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of 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 St. Anthony the Great in the Fourth Tone: Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah in his condition, and followed John the Baptist in his upright ways, becoming a dweller in the wilderness and an establisher of the universe by thy prayer, O Father Anthony. Wherefore, intercede thou with Christ God to save our souls.

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 Presentation of Christ in the First Tone: Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

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Prokeimenon: (Psalm 115.15,12) Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:17-21)

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia Verses: (Psalm 91) It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy Name, O Most High. To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Joumana Boutros Hanna in loving memory of her mother Labibeh Elias Boutros departed this life one year, and by Fr. Michael and by all the members of St. Mark Church to our Protodeacon George Moubayed on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Coffee Hour is given today by the Coffee Hour Committee.

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

<p>Ushers serving Today: Michael Asaly, Gabriel Attallah</p> <p>Ushers serving Next week: Sleiman Aldada & Sam Kishek</p> <p>Altar boys serving Today: James Bahbah, Peter Williams, Nicholas Bahou, Youssef Youssef.</p> <p>Altar boys serving next week: James Dabbah, Paul Youssef, Nour Youssef, Matthew Dabbah</p>

Quote from the Saints

"Be fearful that you do not become famous because of some work that you do. If they begin to praise you because of your work, do not rejoice or take delight in it, but keep your works secret as much as you can, and do not allow anyone to speak about them." -- St. Anthony

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

Antiochian Women of St. Mark Monthly meeting after Church in the 3rd and 4th Grade classroom.

Teen Meeting after Church School

House blessings

We are now in House Blessing Season. To schedule a house blessing, please contact Fr Michael by calling the church office, (949) 851-8933 or via email at frmlaffoon@yahoo.com

When Fr Michael comes to your home, please turn off all televisions and other distractions and prepare a list of the living to be remembered in the prayers

As many of you know, we have had a serious roach infestation in our kitchen. Just before Christmas, we hired a professional extermination company to clean and disinfect all the cupboards in our kitchen, hand wash all dishes, pans, pots etc., steam clean the cupboards, clean underneath the freezers, refrigerator and ovens and power wash the floor. They then placed multiple types of baits, dusts, etc. to exterminate any surviving bugs. **It is now vital that we minimize anything that would allow roaches to re-establish themselves. Food or food particles cannot be left out in the kitchen. Food spilled on to the floor, especially grease must be cleaned immediately. Sugar and other such items must be kept in sealed containers when not in use. This clean up and extermination was an expensive item. If we exercise proper hygiene, we can avoid this in the future.**

This Week

Wednesday January 20, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Next week

Wednesday January 27, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Saturday January 30, So Cal Deanery Parish Council Workshop

Upcoming Services & Events

Saturday February 13, Mark your Calendar for our Church Annual Valentine Day at our beautiful Church Hall, more information to come!!

Our annual Anaheim Ducks Hockey game followed by Broomball with St. Luke's and St. Mark's will be held on Sunday, February 21 at 4 pm. The discounted price of \$25 per ticket will be booked when a check is received, made payable to "Anaheim Ducks" (box office price is \$30). There is a limited block of 200 seats and once they are gone, we can't get more at this price. Contact for St. Mark is Barbara Scholl. Contact for St. Luke Church is Frank Kouri. Your contact has gift certificates in case you'd like to give these as holiday gifts. Broomball will be after the game on the ice at Honda Center at no extra charge and only available

to our group. Questions? Call Barbara Scholl at 949-533-4634. If you see any conflicts, let me know. It will be a fun connection for all!

In Christ, Barbara Scholl

**The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Fellowship Dinner
Sunday January 31, 2016**

5:30 p.m. Social

6:00 Dinner

Bistro Gardens, Studio City

Please join Metropolitan Joseph for the Los Angeles area Fellowship Dinner. Tickets are \$80 per person. Please contact Concetta Smarius for reservations or information at 213-700-0229 or email at concettasmarius@yahoo.com.

All members of the Order are encouraged to attend. Friends and prospective members are welcome.

ORANGE COUNTY ORTHODOX YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Check out a list of upcoming meetings and activities. For more information and to get involved, please contact Kyra Pelachik at hi_imkyra@yahoo.com or Charlie Kassaseya at Charlesgk@gmail.com or call 858-761-1720. For an updated list of events, please visit www.Facebook.com/OCOrthodoxChristianYoungProfessionals

"IS EVERY THOUGHT YOURS?"

St. Paul's Young Adult group is open to all. Our evenings go from 7pm-9pm.

For more information contact our young adult director

at christian@stpaulsirvine.org or visit our website

at www.stpaulsirvine.org/youth and www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulsirvine

January: 26th ; February: 9th & 23rd

March 8th & 22nd ; April: 12th & 26th

May: 10th & 24th

We have begun our 2016 Pledge Drive. In your bulletin you should find a Pledge Card for the New Year. Please fill in and place these cards **in the White Box** on the table by the bulletin board, so that we can fulfill the 2016 Budget as passed by the parish at our annual meeting.

St. Mark 2016 Stewardship Pledge Drive Progress Report

Thank you to all of you who have made their 2016 Pledge Commitment to St. Mark. As of January 14, we have 76 pledges for a total of \$128,650 pledged.

The 55th St. Nicholas Ladies Society Sweetheart Ball

Saturday, February 20, 2016, 6pm

Pull out your Ball gown and dust off your Tuxedo!

Plan on spending a delightful evening with your family
and friends at the prestigious
Century Plaza Hotel.

Join us in supporting our Cathedral as we
celebrate our beautiful St. Nicholas Debutantes.

Tania Matar will be taking reservations starting on Sunday, November 22, 2015.

taniamatta@sbcglobal.net or 818-903-0953

Yours in Christ,

Caren Deeb Kouri ;Sweetheart Ball Chairman; 818-399-8899

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 Saudi Turk at the coffee hour.

Scrip

Dear St. Mark Church,

The Kroger Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. We do this through a variety of activities, including charitable giving, sponsorships and the unique Community Rewards Program of Ralphps. We are also committed to carefully protecting our customers' personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well. As your neighborhood food retailer, we deeply value our ability to support local organizations like yours.

Your supporters (16 households) who shopped at Ralphps between 2015-09-01 and 2015-11-30 (Cycle 16, Qtr 1)

have contributed to your \$131.15 total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days from 2016-01-05. If you have any questions, please email community.programs@ralphps.com or visit our website at www.ralphps.com. Thank you for your continued support of your local Ralphps store.

Don't forget to use your newsletter, website, and events to encourage your supporters to link to your organization. The more your supporters

shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

Thank you,
Community Rewards Staff

Anthony the Great (January 17)

Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God." Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.