

# **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 & 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 24, 2016**

**ST. XENIA OF ST. PETERSBURG**

## HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Resurrection in the First Tone:** While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

**Troparion of St. Xenia of St. Petersburg in the Eighth Tone:**

In thee, O wandering stranger, Christ the Lord hath given us an ardent intercessor for our kind. For having received in thy life sufferings and grief and served God and men with love, thou didst acquire great boldness. Wherefore, we fervently hasten to thee in temptations and grief, crying out from the depths of our hearts: Put not our hope to shame, O Blessed Xenia.

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

**The reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to Timothy (1:15-17)**

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Alleluia Verses** (90:1,2) He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, shall live in the protection of the God of heaven. He shall say to the Lord: "You are my protector."

**The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (18:35-43)**

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by the Turk family for the husband, father, and the jedo Anton Turk on the occasion of his birthday today.**

**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.*

**Ushers serving Today:** Sleiman Aldada & Sam Kishek  
**Ushers serving Next week:** Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah  
**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**

When Domentian struck him in the face, spat upon him and broke his teeth, the holy Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra replied, "You are doing me great honor, O Domentian, and you are not torturing me, for the mouth of my Lord Jesus Christ was also beaten and struck in like manner - and behold: I, the unworthy one, have now been made worthy of this!"

**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**

**Men's Club Meeting after Liturgy**

**Teacher 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](mailto: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 27, Vespers 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday January 29, Great Vespers and Lazer Tag Teen outing (service starts at 6:00 p.m.)**

**Saturday January 30, So Cal Deanery Parish Council Workshop**

*Next week*

**Sunday January 31, - God Parent Sunday**

**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](mailto:concettasmarius@yahoo.com). All members of the Order are encouraged to attend. Friends and prospective members are welcome.

**Monday evening February 1, Divine Liturgy for Feast of our Lord's Presentation in the Temple, 6:30 (Orthros at 5:30 )**

**Tuesday February 2, 6:30 p.m. Adult Education**

**Wednesday February 3, 6:30 p.m. Vespers**

*Upcoming Services & Events*

**Sunday February 7:**

- 1. Scouting Recognition Sunday after church**
- 2. Super Bowl Viewing Party, sponsored by the Men's Club of St. Mark**

**Saturday February 13**, Mark your Calendar for our Church Annual **Valentine Day Dinner/Dance** at our beautiful Church Hall, please see flyer included in this bulletin and reserve your seats today with Denise, Gisele or Lydia.

**Sunday February 14, FOCUS Ministry.** Preparing and serving dinner for residents of Valencia Inn, Anaheim.

**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 deadline date is Sunday, February 7.** 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

**Sunday March 6, Red Cross Bloodmobile at St. Mark's**

### **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](mailto:hi_imkyra@yahoo.com) or Charlie Kassaseya at [Charlesgk@gmail.com](mailto:Charlesgk@gmail.com) or call 858-761-1720. For an updated list of events, please visit [www.Facebook.com/OCOrthodoxChristianYoungProfessionals](http://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](mailto:christian@stpaulsirvine.org) or visit our website

at [www.stpaulsirvine.org/youth](http://www.stpaulsirvine.org/youth) and [www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulsirvine](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulsirvine)

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

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

May: 10th & 24th

### **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 22nd we have a total of \$144,548 pledged which is 72% of our total goal of \$200,000. We have also successfully collected 92 pledge commitments!

We are getting closer to reaching our goal!! If you haven't made your pledge commitment yet then please take a few minutes today during Coffee Hour to fill out a pledge card.

In Christ,

St. Mark Stewardship Committee

### **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 Ralphs. 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 Ralphs 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@ralphs.com](mailto:community.programs@ralphs.com) or visit our website at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). Thank you for your continued support of your local Ralphs 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

## **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](mailto:taniamatta@sbcglobal.net) or 818-903-0953

Yours in Christ,

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

### **St. Xenia the Fool for Christ (January 24)**

Our righteous Mother Xenia of Petersburg was born about the year 1730. She was married to a Colonel named Andrew; when she was twenty-six years old, her husband died suddenly, having been drinking with his friends. Left a childless widow, Xenia gave away all that she had, and vanished from Saint Petersburg for eight years; it is believed that she spent this time in a hermitage, learning the spiritual life. When she returned to Saint Petersburg, she wore her husband's military clothing, and would answer only to the name Andrew, that is, the name of her late husband. She took up the life of a homeless wanderer, and was abused by many as insane; she bore this with great patience, crucifying the carnal mind through the mockery she endured, and praying for her husband's soul. She was given great gifts of prayer and prophecy, and often foretold things to come; in 1796 she foretold the death of Empress Catherine II. Having lived forty-five years after her husband's death, she reposed in peace at the age of seventy-one, about the year 1800. Her grave became such a source of miracles, and so many came to take soil from it as a blessing, that it was often necessary to replace the soil; when a stone slab was placed over her grave, this too disappeared over time, piece by piece. Saint Xenia is especially invoked for help in finding employment, lodging, or a spouse.