

# **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 31, 2016**

**SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

**STS. CYRUS & JOHN, THE UNMERCENEARY HEALERS**

## **HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE**

**Troparion of the Resurrection in the Second Tone:** When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee, O Christ Thou giver of Life glory to Thee.

**Troparion of Sts. Cyrus & John in the Fifth Tone:** Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs, Cyrus and John, as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

**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 28.11,1)** The Lord will give strength to his people. Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

### **The reading from Saint Paul's First Letter Timothy (4:9-15)**

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

**Alleluia Verses (Psalm 30:1, 2)** O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be ashamed. Be my God and protector.”

## **The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (19:1-10)**

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by** Walid, Danice, Anthony, & Marina Najjar for the soul of Walid's father Assad Najjar departed this life 6 years, by Lydia Wakileh for Lillian Kassicieh and Georgette Salameh on the occasion of their birthdays, and by Samira Hajjar for the health of her children, Suha, Rana, Hani Judy, John, Michel, Hind and for the souls of her husband Sleiman and his brother Jamil Hajjar. Today we also remember all our god-parents and god-children.

**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:** Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah

**Ushers serving Next week:** Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

**Altar boys serving Today:** Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah, Richard Tierney.

**Altar boys serving next week:** Noah Fortuna, Daniel Atallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada.

### **Quote from the Saints**

"The man who is seriously concerned about death reduces the amount of what he has to say, and the man who has received the gift of spiritual mourning runs from talkativeness as from a fire." — St. John Climacus

### **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**

God Parent Sunday

**Special thanks to Tony Rodriguez and his company WTI**, for the donation of our new office phone system. The new system allows us to offer more information to people calling the church and to manage both out-going and incoming messages with greater ease and functionality

## **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

### **.This Week**

**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

### **Next week**

**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.

### **Upcoming Services & Events**

**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

## **Orange County Orthodox Young Professionals**

Young adults are welcome to join us for social and spiritual/discussion each month. Contact Kyra Pelachik at hi\_imkyra@yahoo.com or Charlie Kassaseya at charlesgk@gmail.com or at 858-761-1720.

February 19 - "Risen" Movie & Dinner

February 23 - Discussion about the Antiochian Orthodox Institute

March 13 - Focus Feeding

March 22 - Discussion: "How Thoughts Determine our Spiritual Life"

April TBD - Local Hiking Activity

April 19 - Discussion: "Back to Basics: Divine Liturgy 101"

May TBD - Wine & Paint Event

May 24 - Discussion: "Practical Applications to your Spiritual Life"

### **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 28th, we have a total of \$149,648 pledged which is 75% of our total goal of \$200,000. We have also successfully collected 102 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

### **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

## **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.

### **SAMP - Church School**

**Our SAMP Priest for 2015 - 2016 school year is Fr. Frumentius Elias Taubata.**

**In order to support our Priest**

**Your child should be :**

- **Remembering him in their daily prayers**
- **Contributing to our SAMP fund by bringing a dime, quarter or dollar to church school each Sunday and placing the funds in the basket on the table.**

**Thank You ! Eileen Waian-Ellis**

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](mailto:community.programs@ralphps.com) or visit our website at [www.ralphps.com](http://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

## **Note from the Church Office**

Church Organizations; Men's, Ladies & Teen, please check your mail every week at the church office. Thank you!

### **Sts. Cyrus and John (January 31)**

These Saints lived during the years of Diocletian. Saint Cyrus was from Alexandria, and Saint John was from Edessa of Mesopotamia. Because of the persecution of that time, Cyrus fled to the Gulf of Arabia, where there was a small community of monks. John, who was a soldier, heard of Cyrus' fame and came to join him. Henceforth, they passed their life working every virtue, and healing every illness and disease freely by the grace of Christ; hence their title of "Unmercenaries." They heard that a certain woman, named Athanasia, had been apprehended together with her three daughters, Theodora, Theoctiste, and Eudoxia, and taken to the tribunal for their confession of the Faith. Fearing lest the tender young maidens be terrified by the torments and renounce Christ, they went to strengthen them in their contest in martyrdom; therefore they too were seized. After Cyrus and John and those sacred women had been greatly tormented, all were beheaded in the year 292. Their tomb became a renowned shrine in Egypt, and a place of universal pilgrimage. It was found in the area of the modern day resort near Alexandria named Abu Kyr.