

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,

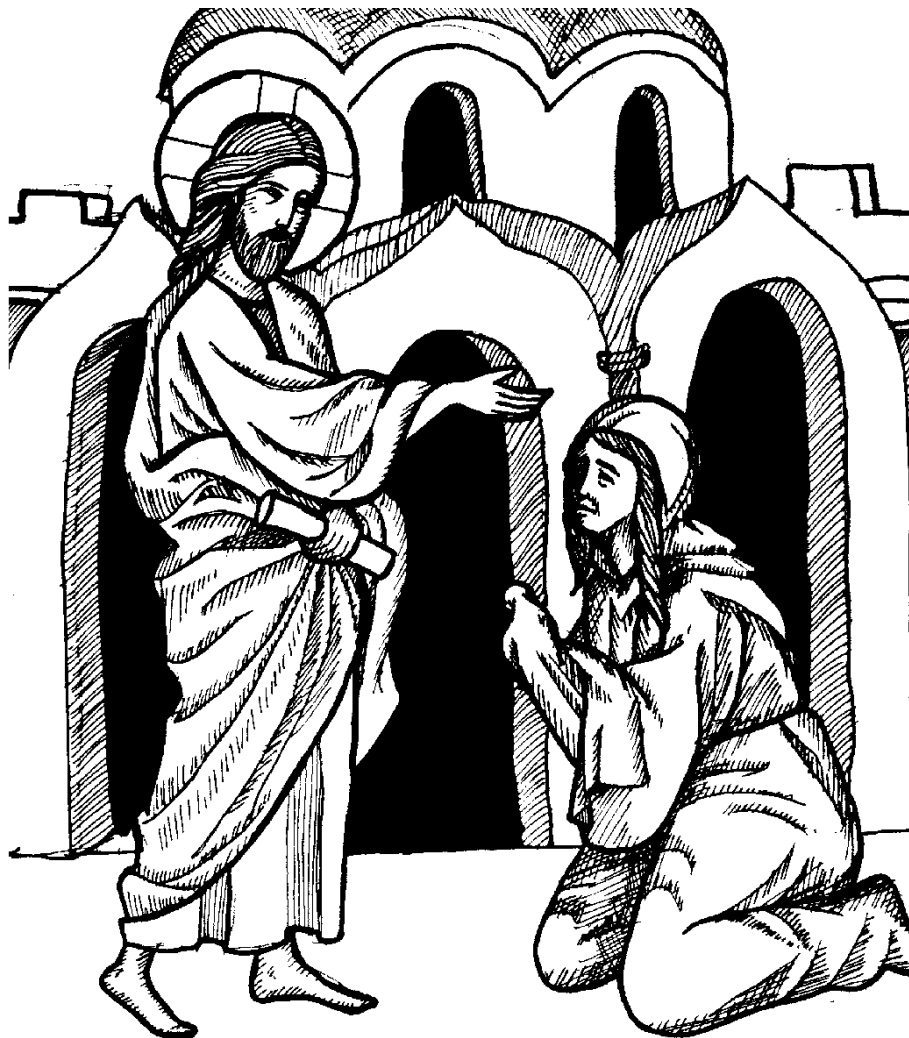
Karim Youssef & Jake Bahbah

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.



FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fourth Tone: Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen granting the world the great mercy.

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 for the Theotokos in the Second Tone: O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 75:11, 1) Tone 8: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. //God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter Corinthians (6:16- 18, 7:1)

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Alleluia Vespers (Psalm 94:1, 2) Tone 8: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to God our Savior. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost

sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Tammy & Jordan Qutami for the soul of husband and a father Jamal Qutami, departed this life 6 months, by the Bahbah and Abu Joudeh families for our Aunt Antoinette Bahbah departed this life 40 days, and for our father in Christ, Metropolitan Antony, departed this life 50 years.

Luncheon is given today by Tammy & Jordan Qutami in memory of Jamal Qutami.

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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: Austin Turk & Roger Tierney

Ushers serving Next week: Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi

Altar boys serving Today: Samir Khamis, Joseph Atallah, Andrew Bahbah

Altar boys serving next week: Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriguez.

Quote from the Saints

Knowledge of the Scriptures allows us to bear difficulties. "For as the rich in money can bear fines and damages, so he that is rich in the doctrines of [Christian] philosophy will bear not poverty only, but all calamities also easily, more easily than that [wealthy] one." (Hom. IX On Colossians.) -- St. John Chrysostom

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

Confession will be heard after Divine Liturgy, for - 7 & 8 grades

Congratulations of our Men's Club for the great afternoon of fun and football at the Second Annual Super Bowl Viewing Party last Sunday. The committee was led by Club President, Ghassan Awayjan. Special thanks to Phillip Bahbah for cooking, for Austin & Saeda Turk, Randy Dabbah & Gisele Awayjan for helping.

Many thanks to the Antiochian Women of St. Mark, led by Denise Nassif, Lydia Wakileh, Gisele Awayjan, Barbara Khamis and to all the ladies who helped in decorating the hall or bringing dessert for a wonderful **Valentine Day Dinner/Dance**, held last night in our beautiful Church Hall.

FOCUS Ministry today. Preparing and serving dinner for residents of Valencia Inn, Anaheim.

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

Tuesday February 16, 6:30 p.m. Parish Council meeting.

Wednesday February 17, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Thursday February 18, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy. Theme “Original Sin” We will begin with dessert, followed by our video presentation and discussion.

**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 contact her at:
taniamatta@sbcglobal.net or 818-903-0953

Yours in Christ,

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

Next week

Tuesday February 23, Mere Orthodoxy, 7:00 p.m. We will begin with dessert, followed by our video presentation and discussion.

Wednesday February 24, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday February 28, Church School Boutique in support of the Support a Missionary Priest program (SAMP), during Coffee Hour.

St. Mark Church School Confession Schedule

Before Great Lent the children will have their confession heard after Divine Liturgy on the following Sundays:

February 21, - 5 & 6 grade

February 28, - 3 & 4 grade

March 6, - 1 & 2 grade

If your child has or will miss their classes turn they may have their confession heard on any of the above Sundays.

Please inform your students of the appropriate date and help them to come to confession prepared.

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. You can find our events on www.facebook.com/OCOrthodoxchristianyoungprofessionals

February 19 - "Risen" Movie – 7:15pm Irvine Spectrum

February 24 – Discussion with Fr. Patrick O’Grady: Divine Liturgy 101
6:30pm St. Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA

March 13 - Focus Feeding

March 22 – Discussion with Christian Siskos: How Thoughts Determine our
Spiritual
Life

April TBD - Local Hiking Activity

April 19 - Discussion: TBA

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 February 12, we have a total of \$161,353 pledged which is 81% of our total goal of \$200,000. We have also successfully collected 113 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

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

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.

Note from the Church Office

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

Saint of the Day

Venerable Auxentius of Bithynia

Saint Auxentius, by origin a Syrian, served at the court of the emperor Theodosius the Younger (418-450). He was known as a virtuous, learned and wise man, and he was, moreover, a friend of many of the pious men of his era.

Distressed by worldly vanity, St Auxentius was ordained to the holy priesthood, and then received monastic tonsure. After this he went to Bithynia and found a solitary place on Mount Oxia, not far from Chalcedon, and there he began the life of a hermit (This mountain was afterwards called Mt. Auxentius). The place of the saint's efforts was discovered by shepherds seeking their lost sheep. They told others about him, and people began to come to him for healing. St Auxentius healed many of the sick and the infirm in the name of the Lord.

In the year 451 St Auxentius was invited to the Fourth Ecumenical Council at Chalcedon, where he denounced the Eutychian and Nestorian heresies. Familiar with Holy Scripture and learned in theology, St Auxentius easily bested those opponents who disputed with him. After the end of the Council, St Auxentius returned to his solitary cell on the mountain. With his spiritual sight he saw the repose of St Simeon the Stylite (459) from a great distance.

St Auxentius died about the year 470, leaving behind him disciples and many monasteries in the region of Bithynia. He was buried in the Monastery of St Hypatius at Rufiananas, Syria.