

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,

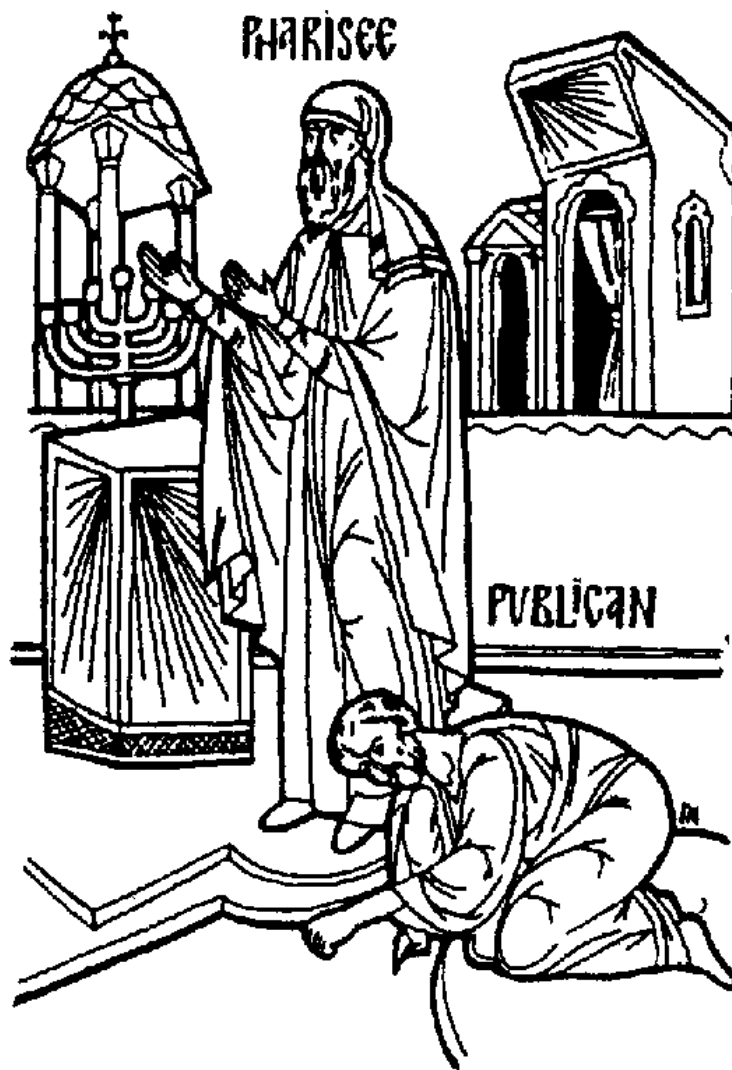
Karim Youssef & Jake Bahbah

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 21, 2016

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fifth Tone: Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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 Publican and Pharisee in the Fourth Tone: Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn the heights of humility from the publican's words. Let us cry out in repentance: O Savior of the world, be gracious to thy servants.

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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 to Timothy (3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia Verses (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. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by the Kouri and Ranney Families in memory of Kimla's father, Dr. Paul Kouri, departed this life 4 years ago, by Omar & Tarek Fakhouri and their families for the souls of their father Adel departed this life 12 years and their mother Alice departed this life 8 years, by Spir, Khader, Marwan and Rula Dabit for the soul of beloved Wife, Sister, Mother, Grandmother Laurette Nora Dabit, who dearly departed this life 6 months ago. May she rest in peace and may her memory be eternal, by Constantine and Efstathios Geronikolaou for the soul of Ioannis Konteis (god-father of Efstathios), newly-departed, by Jerri Mamey for the soul of her newly-departed sister Pamela Nassif Coble, by the Najjar and the Deeb families in loving memory of their grand-father and great-grandfather Sam Nader departed this life 36 years, and for the successful surgery on their uncle John, by the Najjar family for Walid's God-daughter Youmna and Danice's God-daughter Lailita on their birthdays, and by Michael & Charlotte Khoury and family for the health and salvation of their children and in memory of Charlotte's father Salim departed 21 years and her mother Amineh departed this life 10 years.

Light luncheon is served today by the Dabit family in memory of their mother Laurette Nora Dabit.

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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: Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi</p> <p>Ushers serving Next week: Nelson Mamey & James Goson</p> <p>Altar boys serving Today: Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriguez.</p> <p>Altar boys serving next week: James Bahbah, Peter William, Nicholas Bahou, Youssef Youssef</p>

Quote from the Saints

Try to fill your soul with Christ so as not to have it empty. Your soul is like a cistern full of water. If you channel the water to the flowers, that is, to the virtues, you will experience true joy and all the thorns of evil will wither away. But if you channel the water to the weeds, these will grow and choke you and all the flowers will wither.

Elder Porphyrios

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 5th & 6th grades

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 23, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy. Theme “The Holy Trinity”
We will begin with dessert, followed by our video presentation and discussion.**

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

Next week

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

**Tuesday March 1, Mere Orthodoxy, 7:00 p.m. We will begin with dessert,
followed by our video presentation and discussion.**

Wednesday March 2, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Sunday March 6, Judgment Sunday

Upcoming Services & Events

Monday March 14, First Day of Lent

**St. Mark Church School
Confession Schedule**

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

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

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 18, we have a total of \$165,061 pledged which is 83% of our total goal of \$200,000. We have also successfully collected 115 pledge commitments!

We hope to reach our goal by the end of February. If you haven't made your pledge commitment yet, please do so by February 29, 2016.

We thank you for your continued support! Below is a list of our 2016 current pledging members whose commitment to St. Mark is very much appreciated.

In Christ,
St. Mark Stewardship Committee

ANWAR & JINA ALARJA
IMAD & ARIJ ALCHAMMAS
SLEIMAN & SEHAM ALDADA
KHALED AMMARI
PAUL & JUNE ANTER
SAMIR & AFIFA ARTOUL
MICHAEL & MAY ASALY
GABRIEL & SAMIRA ATALLAH
GHASSAN & GISELLE AWAYJAN
ANAHD AZZOUNI
NICHOLAS & LORIE BABA
JACOB & VERA BAHBAH
JOE & SALWA BAHBAH
PHILLIP & TARIZE BAHBAH
GHASSAN & GENY BAHOU
WALLY & MUNA BATARSEH
STEVEN & LISA BEYROOTY
SAMIR & LUCY BILLEH
YOUSEF & RITA BILLEH
VANDA BILLEH
EDWARD & DANA CHADE
LEO & IRMA CHADE

GEORGE & RANIA CHAMI
VLADIMIR & JOANNA CHENDLER
RUTH CONN
RANDY & MAY DABBAH
SUE DABBAH
MARWAN & RULA DABIT
NOHA DAHER
JOE & GOLDIE DARUTY
SCOTT & DIANE DARUTY
ELIAS & LILIAN DEBBAS
TONY DEBBAS
EDNA DEEB
DARLYNE DIBS
MARY DIBS
SAMIRA EISSA
CHARLOTTE EL-HINN
MARK EL-HINN
MARK & EILEEN ELLIS
SAAD & SAMAR ELSAYEGH
MAJED & BUNIA FASHEH
SPIRO & SAMIRA FASHEH
KEVIN & SARA FORTUNA

RICHARD & MARY LOU GALLADE
GREG & JANETTE GANTER
CONSTANTINE GERONIKOLAOU
JAMES J. & CAROLE JO GOSON
SANDELLA GOSON
KAREEM (KEN) & ADELE HABEEB
ESPERENCE HADSHITI
NORMAN & WETCKA HAFETY
FR. PATRICK & NINA IRISH
RICHARD & VERA JIRJIS
SHAWKI & DOHA JIRJIS
MICHEL & THERESA JOUBRAN
MAURICE & NADIA KARKAR
Wael & LOUISA KASHOU
LILIAN KASSICIEH
BACHIR & HELENE KASSIR
ELIAS & HILDA KHAMIS
MITRI KHAMIS
ANTOUNE & MAYSSOUN KHOURY
FAYEZ KHOURY
MICHAEL & CHARLOTTE KHOURY
ELYAS & NAJAT KHURY
OSAMA & RULA KISHEK
SIMON & LOURICE KISHEK
DIMITRI & KANDY KORT
VIJAY & MALVINA KUMAR
EMILIE LAFFOON
FR. MICHAEL & DONNA LAFFOON
JHONNY & SONIA LIQUETE
SUZANA MAATOOKS
LEWIS MALOUF
GLORIA MAMEY
NELSON & JERRI MAMEY
OLGA MANNEH
NABIL & ANNE MANSOUR
ROBERT & LINDA MOKBEL

PROTODEACON GEORGE MOUBAYED
ELIAS & JEAN NASRAWI
SAMMY & LANA NINO
FRED & LORI NOUR
KYRA PELACHIK
PAUL & SUSAN QAQUNDAH
TAMMY QUTAMI
ROBERT & KIMLA RANNEY
ISKANDAR (ALEX) SAAD
FARAH & SYLVIA SABA
SIHAM SABA
MANUEL & GEORGETTE SALAMEH
RAMZI & RANDA SALAMEH
RASHA SALIB
JAMAL & HIAM SAYEGH
STEVEN & BARBARA SCHOLL
KENDALL & RONDA SCHORR
DON JR & PENNY SKAFF
ROBERT & SARAH SMATHERS
MARY SOPHIEA
DAVID & JULIANA TANNOUS
FOUAD & RIMA TARAZI
DAVE & BRENDA TAX
ANDRE & SHARITA TERZIAN
ROGER & CAROL TIERNEY
ANEES & REHAM TURK
AUSTIN & SAEDA TURK
IBRAHIM & LYDIA WAKILEH
MATTHEW & SOPHIA WHITACRE
ROBERT & THEODORA WHITEHEAD
PATRICK & SUSAN WILDE
GEORGE YAGHNAM
HANY & MARYAN YOUSSEF
KARIM & MARIZE YOUSSEF
ADIB & NABILA ZABANEH

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!

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.