

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 7, 2016

After-feast of the Presentation of Christ

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Third Tone: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple in the First Tone: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the 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 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) Tone 7: The Lord will give strength to his people. Bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6.1-10): Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet will known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 91:1,2) It is good to give thanks to the Lord. To proclaim your mercy in the morning and your truth by night.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:14-30)

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." As Jesus said these things He cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Walid, Danice, Anthony, & Marina Najjar for the soul of Danice's aunt Libby Jacob departed this life one year, and by Paul & June Anter for their daughter Paula Rodriguez on her birthday and for Fr. Patrick & Nina Irish on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

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: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

Ushers serving Next week: Austin Turk & Roger Tierney

Altar boys serving Today: Noah Fortuna, Daniel Atallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada.

Altar boys serving next week: Samir Khamis, Joseph Atallah, Andrew Bahbah

Quote from the Saints

"Are you rich? Display much bountifulness! Have you become poor? Show much endurance and patience! For neither is wealth an evil, nor poverty in itself; but these things, either of them, become so according to the free choice of those who make use of them." -- 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

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

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 9, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy. Theme "The Church as Mystery" We will begin with dessert, followed by our video presentation and discussion.

No Vespers this Wednesday February 10.

Saturday February 13, 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.

Next week

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

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.

Upcoming Services & Events

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

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 4th, we have a total of \$155,178 pledged which is 78% of our total goal of \$200,000. We have also successfully collected 108 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

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.

Note from the Church Office

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

Saint of the Day

Photius the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople (February 6)

As for the thrice-blessed Photius, the great and most resplendent Father and teacher of the Church, the Confessor of the Faith and Equal to the Apostles, he lived during the years of the emperors Michael (the son of Theophilus), Basil the Macedonian, and Leo his son. He was the son of pious parents, Sergius and Irene, who suffered for the Faith under the Iconoclast Emperor Theophilus; he was also a nephew of Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople (see Feb. 25). He was born in Constantinople, where he excelled in the foremost imperial ministries, while ever practicing a virtuous and godly life. An upright and honorable man of singular learning and erudition, he was raised to the apostolic, ecumenical, and patriarchal throne of Constantinople in the year 857.

The many struggles that this thrice-blessed one undertook for the Orthodox Faith against the Manichaeans, the Iconoclasts, and other heretics, and the attacks and assaults that he endured from Nicholas I, the haughty and ambitious Pope of Rome, and the great persecutions and distresses he suffered, are beyond number. Contending against the Latin error of the filioque, that is, the doctrine that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son, he demonstrated clearly with his Mystagogy on the Holy Spirit how the filioque destroys the unity and equality of the Trinity. He has left us many theological writings, panegyric homilies, and epistles, including one to Boris, the Sovereign of Bulgaria, in which he set forth for him the history and teachings of the Seven Ecumenical Councils. Having tended the Church of Christ in holiness and in an evangelical manner, and with fervent zeal having rooted out all the tares of every alien teaching, he departed to the Lord in the Monastery of the Armenians on February 6, 891.