

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.



MARCH 6, 2016

JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE) SUNDAY

42 MARTYRS OF AMORION

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection, in the Seventh Tone Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world 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.

Priest: Kontakion of Meat Fare Sunday, in the First Tone When Thou comest, O God, to the earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 117:14,18) Tone 2: The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 19:1, 9): May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble. O Lord, save the king, and hear us when we call upon you.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at

the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Maurice & Nadia Karkar for the health of Nadia's father George Habash, by the Bahbah family for Jacob on his birthday, by the Turk family, David & Adella Tannous for Juliana, on her birthday and the health of their grandson Alex, by Austin & Saeda Turk for the health and salvation of their children Anthony, Stephanie & Ales, by the Khoury family for their daughter Amanda's 13th birthday, and by Lydia Wakileh for the health of her sister Nuha, and for Kyra Pelachik on her birthday (3/2), and by Michael & Theresa Joubran for the health of Theresa's great nephew Anise Jr. and for the health and salvation of Joubran, Mikele & Kuba families.

Coffee Hour is given today by the Coffee 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.

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March is Antiochian Women's month, the Ladies will participate in Ushering, Reading the Epistle and serving during the 4 Sundays of March.

Ushers serving this week: Tariez Bahbah & Barbara Khamis

Epistle reading in English: Denise Nassif

Epistle reading in Arabic: Gisele Awyajan

Next week Ushers serving: Suhaila Dabbah & Lydia Wakileh

Next week Epistle reading in English: Marty Morrison

Altar boys serving Today: James Dabbah, Paul Youssef, Matthew Dabbah.

Altar boys serving next week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah, Richard Tierney.

Quote from the Saints

"From this it is that countless evils have arisen - from ignorance of the Scriptures; from this it is that the plague of heresies has broken out; from this it is that there are negligent lives; from this there are labors without advantage. For as men deprived of this daylight would not walk a right, so they that look not to the gleaming of the Holy Scriptures must be frequently and constantly sinning, in that they are walking in the worst darkness." (St. John Chrysostom, Introduction to Homily On Romans)

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/chrismated 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

The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Tomorrow we being fasting from all meat and meat product this week, but every day of this week we may eat cheese, dairy, eggs, etc.

Lent begins one week from tomorrow.

Antiochian Women meeting after Church

Confessions will be heard after Divine Liturgy, for 1st & 2nd 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

The following items have been sponsored from the St. Mark Book of Needs

Processional Banners (2)

Censer Stand

Exterior Chandelier

Holy Water Basin

Chanters Stand Lamp; 8 gal. Holy Water Font

We also have 2 donations towards new Altar Server robes. We are looking to provide two sets (one light and one dark), totaling 32 robes. Thus, we have 30 robes to go!

Church School SAMP Boutique

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

You all made our boutique a big success!

To our teachers who donated items and helped at the boutique,

All those who made purchases and donations,

And an even bigger Thank You to our fabulous student jewelry makers!!

God Bless and Thank You! *Eileen Waian-Ellis*

This Week

Is Cheese week (see above for fasting guidelines)

Tuesday March 8, 6:30 P.M Parish Council Meeting

No Vespers on Wednesday March 9

Thursday March 10, Mere Orthodoxy, 7:00 p.m. We will begin with dessert, followed by our video presentation and discussion. Our Topic "The Incarnation"

Friday March 11, SOYO activities: Vespers and Ice Skating.

Next week

Sunday March 13, Forgiveness Sunday; Daylight Saving time begins.

Antiochian Women Lenten Luncheon to benefit Help Feed Hungry children (Mjadra, Rice, Green beans with tomato sauce, drinks and Desserts) **donation \$6 adults; \$4 children under 12 years old.**

Monday March 14, first day of Lent; 6:30 p.m. Great Compline

Tuesday March 15, 6:30 p.m. Great Compline

Wednesday March 16th, 6:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy following by a potluck dinner.

Thursday March 17, 6:30 p.m. Great Compline

Friday March 18, 6:30 p.m. Akathist Hymn (First Madayeh)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday March 20, Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 p.m., at St Mark Church.

Monday March 21, 6:30 p.m. Great Compline

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

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"

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

Orthodox Christian Mission Center opportunities for mission work. Empower youth and teens in countries where youth ministry is emerging and opportunities for youth leadership exist. Orthodox Mission Teams to Alaska, Kenya, and Albania will offer programs for students and adult leaders, giving them the opportunity to develop vision for their youth groups, as well teach the Biblical basics of youth ministry and what it means to be a leader. These teams will model servant leadership by assisting in small groups, recreation, and worship. OCMC invites you to join these opportunities in youth ministry. For more information, please visit www.ocmc.org, e-mail teams@ocmc.org, or call 1-877 GO FORTH (ext 141).

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 Saeda Turk at the coffee hour.

The 42 Martyrs of Amorion (March 6)

These Martyrs, men of high rank in the Roman (Byzantine) army, were taken captive when the city of Amorion in Phrygia fell to the Moslem Arabs in 838, during the reign of Theophilus the Iconoclast. Among them were Aetius and Melissenus, the generals; Theodore, the chief of the imperial ceremonial bodyguard; Craterus, the eunuch; Callistus, Constantine, Bassoes, and Theophilus, who were military officials; and certain others who held important positions. Because of their experience in war and their virtue, the Moslems did not slay them, but tried by all means to convert them to Islam and have them to fight in their own campaigns. They kept the holy Martyrs shut up in a dark dungeon in the city of Samarra in Syria, threatening and abusing them, making promises of glorious rank and magnificent riches, keeping them in hunger, oppression, and darkness, not for a few weeks, or a few months, but for seven full years. Finally, unable to break the courage and faith of their captives, they beheaded them in the year 845.