

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

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.



APRIL 17, 2016

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fifth Tone: Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal 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 of Saint Mary of Egypt in the Eighth Tone: In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the souls since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

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 and pay them to the Lord our God. God is known in Judah. His name is great in Israel.

The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ having appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves but through His own blood, entered in once for into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 94.1, 2) Tone 8: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; Let us shout with jubilation unto God our Savior. Let us come into his presence in thanksgiving.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and scourge him, and spit upon him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And Jesus said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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For the Liturgy of St. Basil, in lieu of the usual hymn to the Theotokos, we sing "In Thee Rejoiceth..." (See page 57 of the Congregational Liturgy book)

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Holy Oblations are offered by Paul & June Anter, Tony, Paula and Leila Rodriquez to son, grandson and brother, Paul Nicholas Rodriguez Anter on the occasion of his 17th birthday, and to mark the completion of his Eagle Scout project, the paved walk behind our church.

Falafel Luncheon is given today by St. Mark Men's Club.

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, 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, Ethiopia, Palestine, Yemen, Ukraine, West Africa, Nepal and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

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This week Ushers: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

Next week Ushers: Special team for Palm Sunday

Altar boys serving this week: James Dabbah, Paul Youssef, Nour Youssef, Natthew Dabbah.

Altar boys serving next week: Special team for Palm Sunday

Quote from the Saints

"Blessed is God Who creates the great and wondrous, the glorious and marvelous without end. Blessed is God Who has shown me how He rewards those who fear Him. Truly, O Lord, Thou dost not forsake those who seek Thee!"

St. Zosimos (from the Life of St. Mary of Egypt)

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

Men's Club Falafel Luncheon. Donation \$7 per Adults & \$5 per children under 12.

Please take home a coin box (either for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center or for Food for Hungry People). Put your spare change in it for the rest of Lent and return them to the Church after Pascha.

New Church Directory for 2016 (with no pictures) is available on the table at the church hall. Please take only one per household. Thank you!

Palm Crosses:

We need many hands to help of making the Palm Crosses before Palm Sunday April 24; we started Friday April 15, after Akathist services; and continues today after Church during the coffee hour; Next week Tuesday April 19 after Mere Christianity; Wednesday April 20 after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy; Friday April 22 after the Ladies baking day and at night after the service.

Lydia Wakileh

Arabic Choir Practice:

Led by Protodeacon George Moubayed

We would like to be prepared to sing and join the Arabic choir during the Holy week. If you are interested of being a part of the Arabic choir we urge you please to make an effort to come and practice before the Holy Week. Protodeacon led the Practice on Friday April 15th, and it will continue Wednesday April 20, and Friday April 22 after services. Please respond to this email or call the office with the dates you will attend.

Thank you and God bless you all

Protodeacon George Moubayed

THE LENTEN FAST has begun.

During Great Lent, the rules of the dietary fast are thus: All of Lent and Holy Week we are to abstain from all meat and animal products (including eggs, milk, animal fats, etc.) The only exceptions are shellfish. In addition, Mondays through Fridays, we are to abstain from wine and other alcoholic drinks and olive oil. This is the "letter of the law." It is important for you and your family to participate in the "spirit of the law", working out this Lenten effort within your household in ways pleasing to God and beneficial for the soul. We all must be reminded that the purpose of the dietary fast is to help us to fast from sin and ungodliness! If you have questions regarding Lenten discipline, please see Fr. Michael.

House blessings

Fr Michael is available for house blessings during Lent (as the service schedule allows). 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

Votive Candle Stand

Censer Stand

Candle Stand (sand)

Tabernacle for the Altar

Sterling Silver Blessing Cross

Exterior Chandelier (light fixture for Exonarthex)

Processional Banners (2)

Processional Fans & Cross

Holy Water Basin

Chanters Stand Lamp

We also have 4 donations towards new Altar Server robes. We are looking to provide two sets (one light and one dark), totaling 32 robes. Thus, we have 28 robes to go!

This Week

Monday April 18, 6:30 p.m. Great Compline

Tuesday April 19, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy

Wednesday April 20, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:30 p.m. Lenten Pot-luck dinner after service.

Friday April 22, Antiochian Women Baking day at the church kitchen;

Friday April 22, 6:30 p.m. Little Compline for Raising of Lazarus

Saturday April 23, Orthros (9:00 a.m.) and Divine Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) for the Raising of Lazarus

Next week

Sunday April 24: Antiochian Women Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale, please See form included in this bulletin.

Our breakfast Pascha sign-up sheet is posted in the church hall; please make sure you sign up for your donation. For more information please see Denise Nassif.

The red dye for Easter eggs is available at the bookstore!!

Easter and Palm Sunday candles will be ready next week for sale.

Upcoming Services & Events

April 25 to April 30, Holy Week.

All Evening Services begin at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday April 24, 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros

Monday April 25, 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros

Tuesday April 26, 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros

Wednesday April 27, 6:30 p.m. Holy Unction service

Thursday April 28, 10:00 a.m. Holy Thursday Liturgy; 6:30 p.m. Service of the 12 Passion Gospels

Friday April 29, 9:30 a.m. Royal Hours; 3:30 p.m. Vespers of taking down the Body of Christ from the Cross; 6:30 p.m. Lamentations

Saturday April 30, 10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy; 11:00 p.m. Pascha Vigil

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America Educational Grant.

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America are able to award grants in the amount of \$500.00 each to help women (who at least 26 years of age) to return to education or training in order to improve their circumstances and those of their families. They will be awarding these scholarships in July at the NAB meeting.

Antiochian Women's Scholarship application is available at the table by the bulletin board.

Dead line for the Committee to receive the application is June 1, 2016.

Please find more information on the Annual Antiochian Women's Scholarship and the application on the table at the hall by the bulletin board if you are interested.

Mark your calendar: Mother/Daughter Spring Tea May 22, 2016

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

April 19 - Discussion: "Is there a correct way to confess your sins – The Sacrament of Confession" at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church, 6:30pm

May 7 – Hike to Mount. Baldy with Fr. Patrick O'Grady

May 24 - Discussion: "Practical Applications to your Spiritual Life" at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church, 6:30pm

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).

**64th Annual Parish Life Conference Of
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
Dioceses of Eagle River and the Northwest**

Hosted by St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Phoenix, AZ

JUNE 28, 2016 - JULY 3, 2016

AT JW MARRIOTT PHOENIX DESERT RIDGE SPA & RESORT

Please see flyer included for more information and registration

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

When Mary was only twelve years old, she left her parents and departed to Alexandria, where she lived a depraved life for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she went with many pilgrims to Jerusalem, that she might see the Exaltation of the venerable Cross. Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition. Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, time and again she perceived a certain invisible power preventing her entrance, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered. Therefore, wounded in heart by this, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross, and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshipped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for forty-seven years lived a most harsh manner of life, surpassing human strength; alone, she prayed to God alone. Toward the end of her life, she met a certain hermit named Zosimas, and she related to him her life from the beginning. She requested of him to bring her the immaculate Mysteries that she might partake of them. According to her request, he did this the following year on Holy and Great Thursday. One year after this, Zosimas again went thither and found her dead, laid upon the ground, and letters written in the sand near her which said: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of wretched Mary. I died on the very day I partook of the immaculate Mysteries. Pray for me." Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by some, in 437, and by others, in 522. She is commemorated also on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.

