

THE APOSTLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ is Risen, He is Truly Risen

JUNE 2016 المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH

OF IRVINE

Pastor's Corner

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2015-2016 PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - Randy Dabbah {17} (949) 293-7732
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[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his or her current term]

Church School Director: Eileen Ellis (949) 458-1604
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Christ is Risen!

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

Holy Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit (from "The Incarnate God, volume 2)

"In Judaism, Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Law. Fifty days after the Hebrews left Egypt, in other words, fifty days after the first Passover, Moses received the Tables of the Law on Mt. Sinai.

Down to our own time, the Jews commemorate this event on Pentecost. This is the covenant between God and his people, a covenant concluded by the Law, and also by the fruits of the earth. Indeed, Pentecost is the commemoration of the giving of the Law and at the same time a thanksgiving for the harvest...

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit revealed himself through the Law and the prophet; for he "spoke by the prophets," as we say in the Creed. But from this new Pentecost, the covenant is made between God and his new people, the new Israel. This new people is the Church, which receives the gift of the Spirit, not through the Law, but directly and without intermediaries, by the fire of Pentecost...

That which Christ had promised to his apostles is realized on this day of Pentecost: the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, comes to dwell among men. ... It is a new era which begins; it is the time of Pentecost, the reign of the Holy Spirit which "Christ foresees

before his departure. In reading chapters 14, 15, and 16 of John's gospel, we discover that the TRINITY reveals itself through Christ. By the intermediary of the Son of God, we know the Father and we receive the Holy Spirit.

Let us remember the Creed, which we recite at each Eucharistic Liturgy. For the Creed contains the most perfect teaching, which reveals the Holy Trinity to us and allows us to worship the one God in three persons:

--We confess God the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth and all things visible and invisible

--We confess God, the only-begotten Son of the Father, who has made us to know the Father and who has given us the Holy Spirit. He is our Redeemer, our Savior. By the death and resurrection which he assumed on our behalf, for our salvation, we receive life. He is our Pascha

--We confess the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who proceeds from the Father and dwells upon the Son. He gives life and reveals the truth. In his light we can attain the contemplation of the three divine Persons.

This mystery of the Trinity is revealed to us.

On the day of Pentecost, in receiving the Holy Spirit like the apostles, we enter into union with the three divine Persons. This why the feast of Pentecost is also called the "Day of the Trinity" in the Orthodox Church. For on this day the promise is fulfilled: we know the Father through the Son, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us and who unites himself to us in order to show us the whole truth."

Holy Pentecost falls on Sunday June 19 this year.

May that same Spirit be with us all the days of our lives!

Fr. Michael

Note: The Apostles Fast begins the second Monday after Pentecost and ends on Sts. Peter and Paul Day (June 29). With Pascha falling on May 1 this year, Pentecost falls on June 21, and the Apostles fast is two days, June 27 & 28.

Schedule of Special Services and Events, June 2016

Sunday June 5 Last Day of Church School

Sunday June 12, Church School Awards

Sunday June 19 – Holy Pentecost and Father's Day Luncheon

Wednesday June 23, 6:30 p.m. Evening Liturgy for Feast of Birth of St. John the Baptist

June 29/30, Western Diocese Parish Life Conference, Irvine CA (hosted by St. George Church, Phoenix, AZ)

Advance Calendar for July 2016

June 29 to July 3, Western Diocese Parish Life Conference, Irvine CA (hosted by St. George Church, Phoenix, AZ)

July 4, U.S. Independence Day

July 20 to 26, Antiochian Biennial Clergy Symposium, Ligonier PA

Metropolitan Joseph's Schedule

June: Travel to Lebanon for the meeting of the Holy Synod of Antioch and other important visitations

WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Confessions heard from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Selected Saints of the Month

June 5

BLESSED CONSTANTINE, METROPOLITAN OF KIEV

In the days of Blessed Prince Igor, when there was great quarreling and confusion among the Russian princes, there was also disorder in the Church and frequent changes on the thrones of the hierarchs. Thus, after the death of Metropolitan Michael of Kiev, Prince Izyaslav brought in the famous and learned monk Klim as metropolitan without seeking

the blessing of the patriarch of Constantinople, contrary to the age-old tradition. The patriarch sent Metropolitan Constantine to investigate the matter. Constantine removed Klim and deposed all those clerics that he had ordained. Because of this the people were divided: some adhered to Klim and others adhered to Constantine. Then, according to the wishes of the Russian princes, the patriarch sent a third, Theodore, and both Klim and Constantine were removed. When Constantine died, in the year 1159 A.D. they opened his will, and in it he had requested that he not be buried but that his body be thrown in a field to be consumed by dogs, because he considered himself to have been the culprit responsible for the confusion in the Church. Not daring to disobey his testament, but nevertheless with great fear, men took the body of the metropolitan and threw it into a field, where it lay for three days. For three days there was a terrible thunder over Kiev, lightning flashed all around and struck, and the earth quaked. Eight men perished from the lightning. Three fiery pillars appeared over Constantine's lifeless body. Seeing all of this, the prince of Kiev ordered that the body of Constantine be taken and honorably buried in the church where the tomb of Igor was located. Immediately afterward a calm ensued in nature. Thus God justified His humble servant.

June 13

THE HOLY FEMALE MARTYR AQUILINA

Aquilina was born in the Palestinian town of Byblos of honorable Christian parents. At age seven little Aquilina was already completely versed in the true Christian life, and at age ten she was so filled with divine understanding and the grace of the Holy Spirit that she preached Christ to her female companions with great power and zeal. When Diocletian's persecution began, someone accused Aquilina before Volusian, the imperial deputy, who was more like a beast than a man. Volusian first ordered that Aquilina be flogged and then that a red-hot rod be passed through her ears and brain. To the last moment, the virgin Aquilina freely and openly confessed Christ the Lord, but when her brains and blood began to flow from her head, she fell as though dead. The deputy, thinking Aquilina was indeed dead, ordered her body to be carried outside the city and thrown upon a dung heap for the dogs to consume. But an angel of God appeared

to her at night and said to her: "Arise, and be whole!" The virgin arose and was whole, and for a long time she offered up praise of thanksgiving to God, imploring Him not to deprive her of fulfilling the ascetic feat of martyrdom. A voice from heaven was heard: "Go; it shall be unto you as you ask!" And Aquilina set out for the town. The gates of the town opened of their own accord before her, and she entered the palace of the deputy like a spirit and appeared before his bed. The deputy was seized with unspeakable fear, seeing the virgin alive whom he thought was dead. The following day, at his command, the executioners led Aquilina out to behead her. Before her beheading, the virgin Aquilina prayed to God on her knees and gave up her soul. The executioner cut off her lifeless head. Her relics gave healing to many of the sick. Aquilina was twelve years old when she suffered for the Lord. She suffered and was crowned with a martyr's wreath in the year 293 A.D.

June 19

THE HOLY APOSTLE JUDE

Saint Jude was one of the Twelve Apostles. He was the son of Joseph and Salome^(*) and the brother of James, the brother of the Lord. Joseph the carpenter had four sons with Salome [the daughter of Angeja, the son of Varahina, the brother of Zacharias]: James, Hosea, Simon and Jude. This Jude is sometimes called: "Jude, the brother of James" due to his brother being better-known (St. Luke 6:16 Acts 1:14). St. Jude begins his epistle in this manner: *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ and the brother of James* (St. Jude 1:1). Even though he could be called the brother of the Lord as much as James, he did not do this, out of humility and shame, for he did not at first believe in Christ the Lord. When the elderly Joseph, before his death, wanted to leave a portion of his estate to Jesus, as well as to his other children, all of them protested, even Jude. Only James voluntarily set aside a share of his portion and intended it for Jesus. Jude is also called Levi and Thaddeaus. There is another Thaddeaus of the Seventy Apostles (August 21), but this Thaddeaus or Jude was one of the Great Apostles. Jude preached the Gospel throughout Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Idumedia, Syria, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Armenia. In Edessa, the town of Abgar, he augmented the preaching of the other Thaddeaus. When Jude was preaching in the

regions around Ararat, he was captured by pagans, crucified on a cross and killed by being shot with arrows, that he might reign eternally in the Kingdom of Christ.

^(*)Not the Salome of Bethlehem, but another.

June 24

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST OF THE LORD

Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before announcing the miraculous conception by the unwedded virgin [Mary], the archangel announced the miraculous conception by the childless old woman [Elizabeth]. Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God, and thus his tongue was bound by dumbness and it remained thus until eight days after the birth of John. On that day the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and naming. When they asked the father what name he wished to give to his son, since he was mute he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zacharias was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron. The news of the appearance of the angel of God to Zacharias was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as that of his dumbness and the loosing of his tongue at the moment when he wrote the name "John." The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children in Bethlehem, he directed men to the hills, to the dwelling place of the family of Zacharias, to kill John also. But Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged at this, King Herod sent his executioners to Zacharias in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was again Zacharias' turn to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zacharias was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the paving stones and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave, where she died soon after. The young child John remained alone in the wilderness under the care of God and His angels.

Parish & Organizations News

Sleep in the Lord

On Thursday May 12 Mr. Paul Anter, husband of June Anter and father of Paula Rodriguez of our parish. His viewing was on Wednesday May 18 at St. Mark Church in Irvine; His funeral on Thursday May 19th, at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Los Angeles; Interment at Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Park in North Hollywood.

Antiochian Women of St. Mark

The Antiochian women of St. Marks Church in Irvine worked hard organizing, cooking and decorating the hall to put on a beautiful Pascha breakfast. Shortly after Easter we immediately started in on organizing and planning our annual Mother-Daughter Tea which took place on May 22 this month after the service. The theme for our mother-daughter Team this year was Tea at Tiffany's, we had around 100 women and young ladies in attendance and everyone had an amazing afternoon!! Also, we are planning to have our June meeting early enough in June that we can plan a beautiful Father's Day luncheon for all of the fathers in our parish.

Efforts are being made to donate items to the kitchen such as dish towels and spices.

Lori Nour & Denise Nassif

Men's Club

The men's club hosted the Mother's Day Luncheon in May. Besides this, we helped with Pascha Services. We served as ushers during the week and provided security for evening services.

Respectfully submitted by

Don Skaff/Men's Club Secretary

Teen SOYO

Christ Is Risen!

In May "Paul's Paver's" walkway is now complete! Saturday, April 23rd. Paul Rodriguez-Anter and his Father, Tony finished the final steps to completing "Paul's Paver's" behind the church. It required another 6 hours of labor redistributing the piles of dirt that had been disheveled. Once again we would like to thank all of you who helped physically,

financially, and or spiritually! We share a wonderful sense of accomplishment with all of you as it was a blessing to have it done in time for Palm Sunday, & Pascha!

SOYO All Night Vigil was on Good Friday, the 29th of April. We had 24 SOYO kids go to Good Friday Services and then stay to sleep over night at the church and take turns reading excerpts from the Bible and watching over Jesus's tomb. It was a very spiritual and special experience for all who participated!

Teen SOYO was proud to honor all of our lovely Mothers with a rose of appreciation this last Sunday for Mother's Day!

Upcoming Events

TEEN SOYO CAR WASH is almost here again, just in time for summer! Mark your calendars to get your car washed on June 5th!!

*St. Nicholas Summer Camp Registration is still open. Go on-line <http://cts.vresp.com/c/?St.MarkAntiochianOrt/ce818effa4/6a713b37a3/9164cf2caf> to sign your kid up today! If you are interested in signing you child up but may have questions, please don't hesitate to ask Dana Chade, or myself. They will create memories to last a life time, and learn more about Orthodoxy while being in a beautiful and spiritual setting up in the Mountains at Frazier Park.

*Yours in Christ,
Teen's Advisor; Paula Rodriguez*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joanna Aldada 6-2
Michael Asaly 6-4
Adele Bahbah 6-25
Joe Bahbah 6-27
Nicholas Bahbah 6-17
Amanda Bahou 6/23
Firas Billeh 6-5
Edward Chade 6-19
Alexandra Rose Chala 6-13
James Dabbah 6-20

Sally Debbas 6-4
Fadi Debbas 6-8
Gabriel Donovan 6-20
Gregory Ellis 6-26
Nicole Kalache 6/7
Barbara Khamis 6-14
Marlene Khamis 6-22
Diana Khury 6-27
Madison Kort 6-14
Fr. Michael Laffoon 6-23
Nader Qoborsi 6-19
Suhair Qoborsi 6-23
Carlos Rodriquez 6-20
Rhonda Rodriquez 6-25
Marwan Saba 6-8
Ramzi Salameh 6-11
Salam Samara 6-4
Ramez Sayegh 6-20
Barbara Scholl 6-21
Rania Sliheet 6-29
Rima Tarazi 6-8
Chadi Tarazi 6-30
Dave Tax 6-6
Nicholas Tomeo 6-29
Karen Toubbeh 6-18
Austin Turk 6-24
Saeda Turk 6-29

Happy Anniversary

Sleiman & Seham Aldada 6-16
Khalil & Majida Debbas 6-27
Austin & Saeda Turk 6-24

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 Apostle is a monthly newsletter of St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church. Parish

*Organizations are to submit articles by the
15th of the month to the Church office
(949-851-8933)*

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