

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

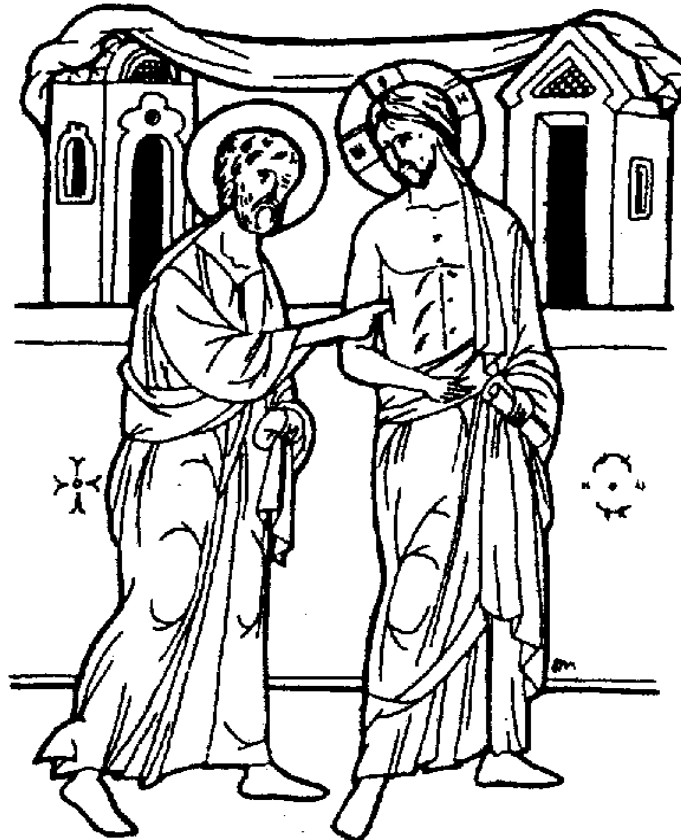
Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

CHRIST IS RISEN

THE DOUBTING THOMAS



MAY 8, 2016
THOMAS SUNDAY

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Feast Tone 5: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.

Arabic: Al-ma-sih qam min bai-ni l-am-wat, wa-wa-ti-a l-mowt bil-mowt, wa-wa-ha-ba l-hayah, lil-la-dhi-na fi l-qu-bur (sung alternately with Psalm verses in between).

THE PASCHAL ENTRANCE HYMN

Priest: In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel.

People: Save us O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of St. Thomas Sunday in the Seventh Tone: While the tomb was sealed, thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. While the doors were closed, thou didst come in to thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of thy mercy.

Troparion of St. John in the Second Tone: O Apostle John, speaker of divinity, the beloved of Christ God, hasten and deliver thy people powerless in argument; for He on Whose bosom thou didst lean accepteth thee as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the cloud of the stubborn nations, asking for us safety and the Great Mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha Tone 8: Down to the grave though thou wentest immortal Lord. Yet didst thou there hurl down death by thy throne of might and art risen with vict'ry crowned, O Christ our true God; And hast hailed with glad greeting the women that came with myrrh; And unto thine Apostles hast graciously sent thy peace, O Lord that grantest the fallen to rise with thee.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 18:14,1) Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

Reading from the First Universal Letter of St. John (1:1-7)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life -- the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was

made manifest to us -- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Alleluia Verses Psalm 101:13, 19. You O Lord, shall rise and have mercy on Zion. The Lord has looked upon the earth from heaven.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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OTHER CHANGES FOR THOMAS SUNDAY

Instead of "The angel cried...", the chanters will sing: "O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee".

Communion Hymn: "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, O Praise Thy God, O Zion, Alleluia".

Instead of "We have seen the true light..., we sing "Christ is risen..."

At the end of the Liturgy, instead of "Through the prayers..." the priest and people exchange the Paschal greeting, and the following dialogue.

Priest: Glory to his third day Resurrection!

People: We adore his third day Resurrection!

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PLEASE NOTE: **TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY** for the Departed may not be said as a 9th day, 40th day, 6th month, or an anniversary memorial from Lazarus Saturday through Thomas Sunday. The only Trisagion Prayers of Mercy permitted during that period are those said for the faithful who pass from this life in these holy days. Thus the next Sunday at which the Trisagion Prayers of Mercy can be sung will be May 15.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Fr Michael for his wife, Kh. Donna on the occasion of their 37th wedding anniversary, by the loving daughter Paula, son in law Tony & grandchildren Leilah & Paul Rodriguez for mother and grandmother June Anter. Holy Oblations are offered also to all our mothers, grandmothers, and god-mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day, wishing them all the best always.

Mother's Day 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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Ushers this week: Michael Asaly & Gabriel Atallah
Ushers next week: Sleiman Aldada & Sam Kishek
Altar boys serving this week: Noah Fortuna, Daniel Atallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada
Altar boys serving next week: Samir Khamis, Joseph Atallah, Andrew Bahbah

Quote from the Saints

"Christ is our hope, our cleansing and sanctification, our resurrection, life, and repose. He alone is what we all need, and therefore, the Church constantly pronounces these words aloud so that we may hear them during the Holy Services of the Church, and be constantly renewed." -- St. John of Kronstadt

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

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

Mother's Day Luncheon is given today by the Men's Club after Church. Mothers and Godmothers no charge, Men \$7 and Children \$5.

Most of the items in the St. Mark Book of Needs have been sponsored (Thank You!) The following items are still in need of sponsorship

Processional Torch (1 has been spoken for)

Candles Stands (2)

Epiphany Holy Water Font

New Altar Server robes. We are looking to provide two sets (one light and one dark), totaling 32 robes. Six have been sponsored; we have 26 robes to go!

This Week

Tuesday May 10, 6:30 Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday May 11, 6:30 Vespers

Thursday May 12, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy

Next week

Wednesday May 18, 6:30 Vespers, followed by **Mere Orthodoxy** with special guests Mother Ameliana and Fr. Elias Bitar

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday May 22, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. **The Antiochian Women of St. Mark 8th Annual Mother/Daughter Tea Luncheon with Little Ladies Diamond Tiara Fashion Show ages 4-12.** Application for the fashion show will be available next week

Tuesday May 24, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy

Wednesday May 25, 6:30 Vespers

Sunday May 29, FOCUS Ministry

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.

FOCUS is gearing up for our upcoming National Summer Feeding Program, which will begin mid-June, in two locations within Southern California. Nearest to Orange County, FOCUS OC is working with the YMCA of Long Beach to get regular meals to kids throughout the summer, and we need the help of you and your parish communities to assemble lunches!

How It Will Work

For 6 weeks during the summer, **June 27 - August 5, 2016**, FOCUS will be implementing this program, gathering volunteers at local kitchen prep sites (our is at St. Luke Church Garden Grove), and assembling lunches (from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.). These will then be delivered to youth centers.

We are hoping that our parish can take the lead for one of the six weeks, and we need a volunteer to lead this effort. Please see Austin Turk or Fr. Michael for more details.

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).

Orange County Orthodox Christian Young Professionals

Young adults are welcome to join us for a social and spiritual/discussion each month. Contact Kyra Pelachik at ococyp@gmail.com or Charlie Kassaseya at 858-761-1720. You can find our events on www.tinyurl.com/ococyp or Facebook (search: OC Orthodox Christian Young Professionals)

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

June, July & August events TBA

**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.

The Orthodox Christian greeting of Pascha

CHRIST IS RISEN!

TRULY HE IS RISEN!

AL-MASSIH QAM!

HAKKAN QAM! (Arabic)

CHRISTOS ANESTI!

ALITHOS ANESTI! (Greek)

CHRISTOS A INVIAT!

ADEVERAT A INVIAT! (Romanian)

CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!

VOISTINU VOSKRESE! (Slavonic)

CRISTO HA RESUCITADO!

EN VERDAD HA RESUCITADO! (Spanish)