

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



JUNE 12, 2016

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Refrain of the Second Antiphon: Save us, O Son of God, who didst rise from us in glory to the heavens; who sing to thee. Alleluia.

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Ascension in the Fourth Tone: Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to thee. Alleluia

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: Troparion of the Resurrection in the Sixth Tone: When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Ascension in the Fourth Tone (repeat above)

Troparion of the Holy Fathers in the Eighth Tone: Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to thee.

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 Ascension in the Sixth Tone: When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting earth with heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved, I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

Prokeimenon (Danie 13:26-27) Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For you art just in all you have done.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of

the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 49:1, 5) The God of gods, the Lord, has spoken and has called the earth. Gather his saints to him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

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Instead of "We have seen the true light..." We sing the Troparion of the Ascension.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Michael, Charlotte, Melody, George, Melissa, & Amanda Khoury for Grace on the occasion of her graduation from UC Santa Barbara, by Randy & May Dabbah and family for their son Matthew, on his graduation from High School, and by Imad & Arij Alchammas and family for the soul of Arij's father Nadim Watfa departed this life 25 years.

By Eileen Waian-Ellis for the Health and Salvation of our wonderful Church School Teachers : Marize, Kh. Donna, Tammy, Afifa, Vera, Fatin, Charlotte Mark, Edna, Jacob, and Graduating Seniors Students : Nora, Matthew, Elizabeth Nabeel, Autumn, Leila & Connor.

Coffee hour is given today by Randy, May & the Dabbah family.

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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, 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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<p>Ushers this week: Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi Ushers next week: Nelson Mamey & Jimmy Goson Altar boys serving this week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah, Richard Tierney. Altar boys serving next week: Noah Fortuna, Daniel Atallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada</p>
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Quote from the Saints

"Do you see this shared celebration and joy of ours, which the Lord bestowed on those who believe in Him with His Resurrection and Ascension? It sprang from affliction. Do you see this life, or rather, this immortality? It shone upon us through death. Do you see the heavenly height to which Christ ascended when He was taken up, and the sublime glory with which He was glorified according to the flesh? He attained to this by means of humility and dishonour. As the Apostle says of Him, 'He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in

heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father' (Phil. 2:8-11)." *St. Gregory Palamas*

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

Church School Awards

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

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. Twenty have been sponsored; we have 12 robes to go!

This Week

Tuesday June 14, 6:30 pm Parish Council meeting

Wednesday June 15, 6:30 Vespers

Thursday June 16 7:00 pm Men's Club Meeting. Our guest speaker is Fr. Josiah Trenham.

Next week

Tuesday June 21, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy

Wednesday June 22, 6:30 Vespers

Thursday June 23, 6:30 p.m. Evening Liturgy for Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Upcoming Services & Events

**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

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.

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)

June 18 – Beach Bonfire, Corona Del Mar State Beach

June 28 – Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church, 6:30pm

July TBA – Duffy Boat Ride in Newport Beach

July 26 – Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church, 6:30pm

August TBA – Hike with Fr. Patrick O’ Grady

August 23 – “Life of the Theotokos” Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church, 6:30pm

September TBA – Camping Trip

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.

Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Council

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar. Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

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