

# **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](http://www.st-mark-church.org)

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Protodeacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

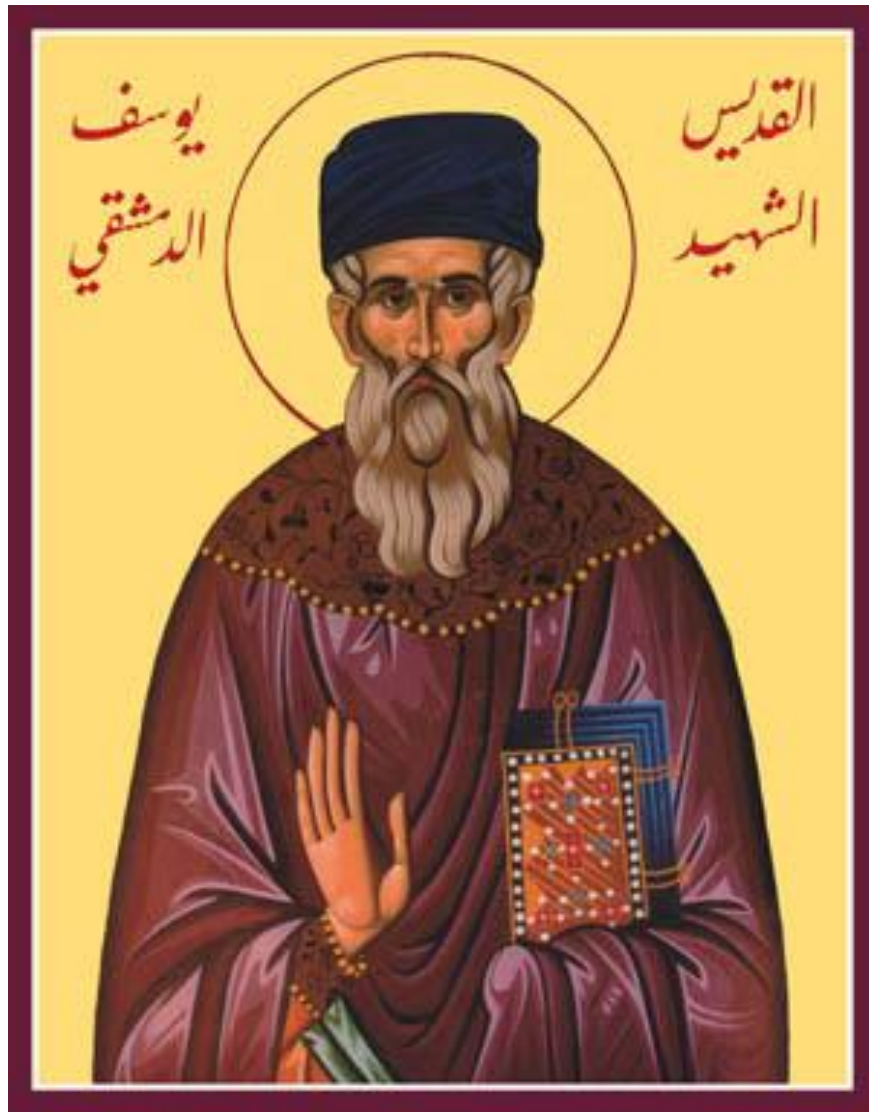
Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Mark Ellis,

Karim Youssef

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade



**JULY 10, 2016**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**HIEROMARTYR JOSEPH OF DAMASCUS & HIS COMPANIONS**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Resurrection in the Second Tone:** When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee, O Christ Thou giver of Life glory to Thee.

**Troparion of St. Joseph of Damascus in the Fifth Tone:** Come, ye faithful, let us honor the martyr of Christ, a priest of the Church of Antioch; who by the word of the Word, and by his blood and the blood of his companions, baptized the land of Syria, its Church and its people. Being immersed in the light of the Gospel from his youth, he worked and taught and defended the Church of Christ and her flock. O Father Joseph of Damascus, be for us an example, defending us and interceding for us fervently before the Savior.

**All: 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 Theotokos in the Second Tone:** O undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cry to thee in faith, with assistance; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

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**Prokeimenon (Psalm 149:5,1)** the saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-10)**

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a

criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:22-33)**

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by the Laffoon and Whitacre families for Donna Laffoon and Sharon (Laffoon) Zanjani on the occasion of their birthdays, and by the Tierney family for the health and salvation of Lupe Allen.**

Eggs & Sausage Burrito breakfast is given today by the Men's Club.  
Donation \$7.00 for each adult and child.

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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, Bangladesh, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.***

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**Ushers this week:** Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

**Ushers next week:** Michael Asaly & Gabriel Atallah

**Altar boys serving this week:** James Bahbah, Peter Williams, Nicholas Bahou, Youssef Youssef.

**Altar boys serving next week:** James Dabbah, Paul Youssef, Nour Youssef, Mathew Dabbah.

**Quote from the Saints**

"People were not created merely to live here on earth like animals that disappear after their death, but to live with God and in God, and to live not for a hundred or a thousand years, but to live eternally." -- *Bishop Innocent, Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kurilian and Aleutian Islands*

**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*

**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 five have been sponsored; we have 7 robes to go!

### *This Week*

**Tuesday July 12, 6:30 pm** Parish Council meeting

**Wednesday July 13, 6:30 pm** Vespers

**Thursday July 14, 7:00 pm** Mere Orthodoxy

### *Next week*

**July 18 to 22, Archdiocese Clergy Symposium, Antiochian Village, Bolivar PA. (Fr. Michael will be attending)**

### *Upcoming Services & Events*

**August 1 to 14, Dormition Fast**

**FOCUS 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](http://www.ocmc.org), e-mail [teams@ocmc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ococyp@gmail.com) or Charlie Kassaseya at 858-761-1720. You can find our events on [www.tinyurl.com/ococyp](http://www.tinyurl.com/ococyp) or Facebook (search: OC Orthodox Christian Young Professionals)

July 17 – 2:30pm-5:00pm, Duffy Boat Ride in Newport Beach

July 26 – 6:30pm, Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church with Deacon Stephen Bell

August TBA – Hike with Fr. Patrick O’ Grady

August 23 – 6:30pm, “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.

## **Saint of the Day: Saint Joseph of Damascus (July 10)**

The holy, glorious and right-victorious New Hieromartyr Joseph Mouhana al-Haddad and his Companions, or Saint Joseph of Damascus, as he is commonly known, was a weaver by trade. After he was married and ordained to the priesthood, Joseph was assigned Great Economos of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos (al-Mariamiyeh) in the heart of the Old City of Damascus. On Monday, July 9, 1860, the brutal massacre of Christians which began in the Lebanese mountains spread to Damascus. Some Damascenes (including Michael Hawaweeny and his young wife Mariam who was bearing in her womb a son, the future Saint Raphael), fled the city for Beirut. The majority, however, took refuge in al-Mariamiyeh. Joseph took up his communion kit containing the Reserved Sacrament, left his home and began to make his way to the Cathedral by jumping from rooftop to rooftop in the Old City. As he went, he stopped to confess and commune the aged and infirm who could not flee their homes, encouraging them with stories from the Lives of the Great Martyrs. On the morning of Tuesday, July 10, the Cathedral was surrounded, pillaged and burned. Those inside perished in the flames; of those who escaped and fled into the streets, most were caught and forced back into the burning building, while only a few, including Father Joseph, survived. As he roamed the narrow streets searching for survivors who needed confession and communion, Joseph was surrounded by the enemies of Christ. Seeing that his end was near, Saint Joseph took out his communion kit and consumed what remained of the Body and Blood of Christ. Recognizing him as the “leader of the Christians,” the persecutors savagely attacked and killed him with axes. Joseph and his Companions were glorified by the Holy Synod of Antioch in 1993.