

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



JULY 24, 2016

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GREAT-MARTYR CHRISTINA

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fourth Tone: Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of St. Christina in the Fourth Tone: O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.

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 103.24,1) Tone 4: O Lord, how magnificent are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (10:1-0)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.

Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (That is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith, which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is

Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Alleluia Verses (Psalms 44.4, 7) Tone 4: Draw your bow and prosper and reign, for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Reading from the gospel according to St Matthew (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Melad & Wafa Hanna for the health and salvation of their children Michael, Amanda & Sameer, and by June Anter and the Rodriguez Anter family, for the soul of the newly departed on Monday, July 18th, Gloria Balian (1st and closest cousin to Paul Anter). Memory Eternal!

Coffee Hour is given today by the Coffee Hour Committee.

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, 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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<p>Ushers this week: Sleiman Aldada & Sam Kishek Ushers next week: Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah Altar boys serving this week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah. Altar boys serving next week: Noah Fortuna, Daniel Atallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada.</p>
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Quote from the Saints

If there is any rest for us in this world, then it consists only in purity of the conscience and patience. This is a harbor for us who sail upon the sea of life....
St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

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

No Wednesday Vespers

Next week

Dormition Fast begins on Monday August 1. During this Fast the Church prescribes the following fast: we abstain from all meat, dairy products (including eggs), fish, wine and olive oil (in some traditions olive oil is allowed). Shellfish may be eaten throughout the fast. Wine and olive oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays only. Please make every effort to fast according to the best of your ability and to come to the Sacrament of Holy Confession during this holy season!

Wednesday August 3, 6:30 Vespers

Friday August 5, 6:30 Great Vespers

Saturday August 6, Orthros (9:00 a.m.), Divine Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Upcoming Services & Events

UN"GOLF DINNER AND HOEDOWN, Saturday, September 10 from 6-10 pm. Join us for our annual fundraising dinner at Strawberry Farms as we host an "Un"Golf Barbecue Dinner & Hoedown! Come learn to western line dance, two step or try your luck at our 50/50 raffle and putting contest! All proceeds benefit St. Mark Orthodox Church. Every paid ticket purchased at St. Mark Church receives one box of Girl Scout cookies per ticket. This venue has a limited seating of 250. \$50 per ticket if paid before 8/28. \$60 per ticket if paid after 8/28. \$30 for children 12 and under. For "Hoedown" sponsorship packages, see Nelson Mamey. Questions? Tickets can also be purchased online at www.st-mark-church.org Contact event chairs, Kyra Pelachik and Barbara Scholl. You'll have a 'yee-haw' good time!

Antiochian Women of St. Mark, please mark your calendar for the Annual Friendship Tea on Sunday September 25th, Place to be announced soon.

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 **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church** at the address - 5761 E Colorado St, Long Beach, CA 90814.), 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)

July 26 – 6:30pm, “Unity in Diversity from an Orthodox Perspective” Discussion at St. Barnabas Orthodox Church with Deacon Stephen Bell

August TBA – Hike with Fr. Patrick O’ Grady

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

September TBA – Camping Trip

September 27 – 6:30pm Discussion

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: Holy Great Martyr Christina (July 24)

Saint Christina was from Tyre in Syria, the daughter of a pagan named Urban. Enlightened in her heart to believe in Christ, she broke her father's idols, made of gold and silver, and distributed the pieces to the poor. When her father learned this, he punished her ruthlessly, then cast her into prison. The rulers subjected her to imprisonments, hunger, torments, the cutting off of her breasts and tongue, and finally impalement, in the year 200, during the reign of the Emperor Septimius Severus.