

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



AUGUST 7, 2016

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AFTER-FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for 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 Transfiguration of Christ in the Seventh Tone: Thou was transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, revealing thy glory to thy disciples, as far as they could bear it. Let thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners, though the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of light: Glory to thee.

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.

Priest: Kontakion of the Transfiguration in the Seventh Tone: Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, and thy disciples beheld thy glory as far as they could bear it; so that when they would behold thee crucified, they would understand that thy passion was voluntary and would proclaim to the world that thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 27. 9,1) Tone 6: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. To you, O Lord, have I cried O my God.

Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 90.1-2) He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will live in the protection of the God of heaven. He will say to the Lord: "You are my protector."

Reading from the gospel according to St Matthew (9:27-35)

At that time, when Jesus was passing by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity of the people.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by the Whitacre and Laffoon families on the occasion of the birthdays of Luke Whitacre (August 2) and Joseph Laffoon (August 5), by Joe & Goldie Daruty in memory of their beloved friend recently deceased Vivian Fakhoury. May her Memory be Eternal, and by Nader & Suhair Qoboris for the soul of Suhair's mother Iqbal Beiruty, departed this life one year.

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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Ushers this week: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

Ushers next week: Austin Turk & Roger Tierney

Altar boys serving this week: Samir Khamis, Joseph Atallah, Andrew Bahbah

Altar boys serving next week: Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriquez.

Quote from the Saints

"Do not believe your flesh when it grows weak and refuses to serve you, on the pretence of not being sufficiently strengthened by food. This is a delusion. Overcome it; pray fervently, and you will see that the weakness of your body was false, imaginary, not real: you will see in truth that 'not in bread alone does man live, but in every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' Do not put your trust in bread." -- *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

Today we will bless some of the donated items from our Book of Needs. They include: a new Censer Stand (donated by Melad and Wafa Hanna), two sets of altar server's robes, one dark and one bright, (donors are Seham Saba, Victoria Billeh, Alex Saad, George Chami, Philip and Tarize Bahbah, and "Paul's Pavers"), a new sterling silver Tabernacle (donated by Austin and Saeda Turk), and a new sterling silver hand Blessing Cross (donated by Sonia Daher). The beautiful candle stand in our Narthex was donated by Simon and Laurice Kishek. Blessings on all these donors. We will bless additional items in the weeks to come as they are ready to be put into use.

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

Candle 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

Dormition Fast began 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!

Tuesday August 9, Parish Council 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday August 10, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Mere Orthodoxy will resume in September

Friday August 12, Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.

Next week

Monday August 15, Parish Council 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday August 10, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

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 steps 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.

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)

August 13th – TBA – Hike rescheduled

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

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.

Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6)

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5). Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.