

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

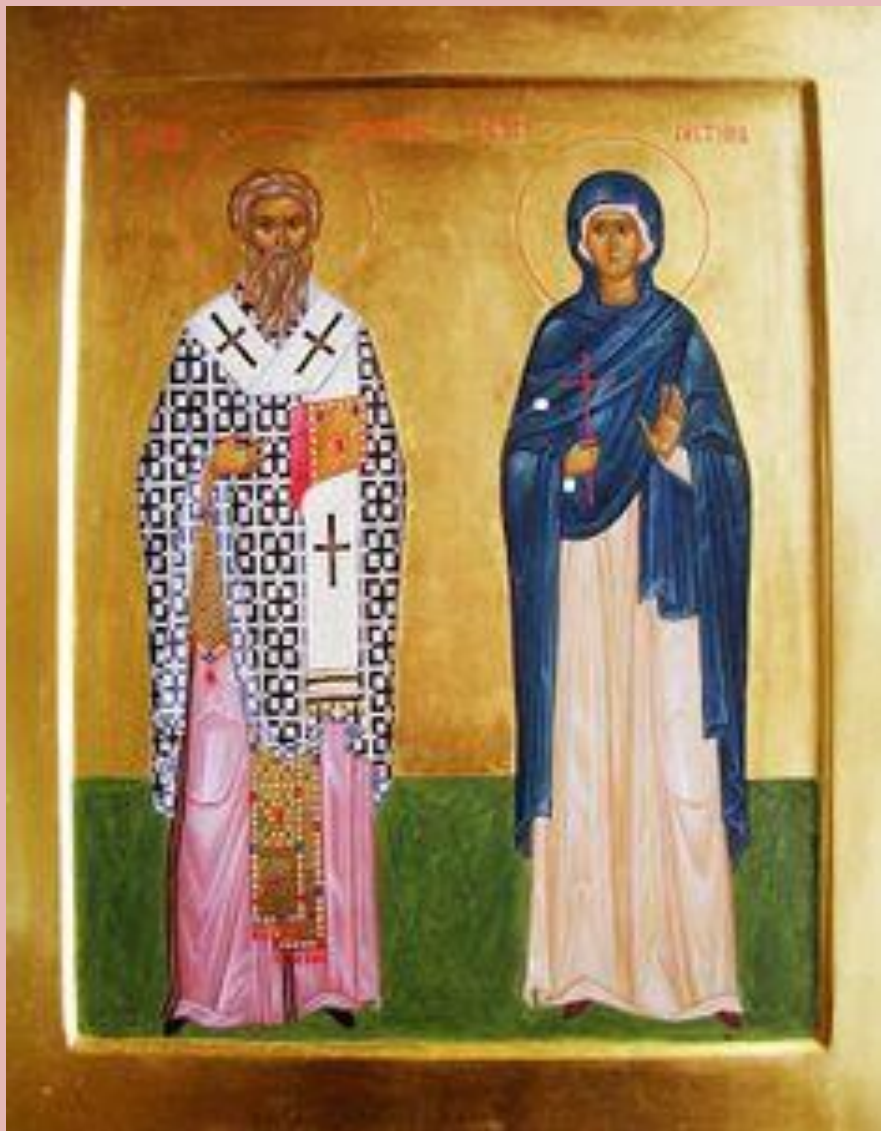
Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Mark Ellis,

Karim Youssef

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade

Church School After Holy Communion



SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 2016

HIEROMARTYR CYPRIAN THE CONFESSOR

VIRGIN-MARTYR JUSTINA OF NICOMEDIA

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

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 St. Cyprian the Confessor in the Fourth Tone: By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Hieromartyr Cyprian. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

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

Reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (4:6-15)

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

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."

The Reading from the gospel according to St. Luke (6:31-36)

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful".

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Austin and Saeda, Alexander and Stephanie Turk for the health and salvation of Anthony in celebration of his birthday, by Youssef, Samir & Lucy Billeh and family for churching Youssef's wife Rita and their new born baby girl Lucy, and for the health and salvation of Vanda and her family and Youssef and his family and Victoria and Firas, by Marie Mardini for the souls of Yacoub, Hebo, Mallak, Michelle, Tony and Youssef.

Instead of Coffee Hour today: Taco Truck luncheon benefitting Teen SOYO

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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, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

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October is Youth Month in our Archdiocese. During the Sundays of October, members of our Teen SOYO will read the Epistles, and assist in ushering.

Ushers this week: Teen SOYO

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

Altar boys serving next week: James Dabbah, Nadim Youssef, Nour Youssef, Matthew Dabbah.

Quote from the Saints

"If a man has a full intention to please God, then God teaches him His will either through thoughts, through some other person, or through Holy Scripture." -- *St. Peter of Damascus*

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.

TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's home. All are welcome!
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the back of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the actions of the Liturgy (what the priests, deacon, altar boys are doing)
- Sing the hymns and responses. Children learn how to worship in church by copying you.
- Incidental noise and movement are not reasons to take your child out of church. If a child's crying or movements become a distraction to others, then it is time to leave until they are calm.

- If you have to leave the church with your child, do so but please come back. Our Lord said, “Let the children come to me and forbid them not, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and one another. Let them know that they are at home in our house of worship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing!

Please welcome our children and give a little encouragement to their parents.

Today

Teen SOYO Car Wash after Divine Liturgy and Taco Truck Luncheon: Combo pkg. 1 taco lunch and car wash for \$20, Taco lunch only, Adults \$10 & kids 12 & under \$8, Car wash only, suggested donation \$15

Antiochian Women meeting

FOCUS North America Backpack Program

Imagine how excitement would turn to anxiety if going back to school meant a supply list filled with items that parents couldn't afford, sneakers from last year that don't quite fit, and hand-me-down clothes from older siblings that leave you feeling less confident.

This year, as you prepare your own children to go back to school, please join FOCUS to help children in need get ready for school. Your family, youth group. or parish can participate in our fill-a-backpack program and provide a child with a complete set of school supplies. The program runs through October so there is plenty of time to help,

Here is the list of supplies to complete the backpacks with: **Glue Stick, Ruler, 3 Ring Binder, Pack of Pens, Highlighter, Subject Folder, Box of Pencils, Lined Paper, Scissors, Pencil Box Spiral Notebooks, Crayons, Calculator, Notebook Dividers, Colored Pencils.** (This list is included in each backpack)

Please see Tammy Qutami, who will be distributing the backpacks and collecting them by Sunday October 9, 2016. You may also return them to the church in an assigned bucket. Thank you in advance!

This Week

Tuesday October 4, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy.

Wednesday October 5, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

No Vespers on Saturday October 8/ Diocese Fall Gathering

Diocese of the West Annual Fall Gathering on October 7-9, 2016, will be held at **St. Simeon Orthodox Mission in Santa Clarita, CA**. Please see flyer included for more information

Next week

Sunday October 9, Parish Annual Meeting, All adult Orthodox Christians, pledged to St. Mark for the current year are eligible to vote. We need your participation in this meeting! Plan to be there. We will vote on a 2017 Budget, hear organization reports and elect three new Council Members. If you would like to run for a Council seat, or suggest another member for nomination, please see Fr. Michael or one of the out-going Council members: Afifa Artoul, Paula Rodriguez, Richard Jirjis and Fouad Tarazi. The list of nominees for next week's election are: **Austin Turk, Lori Nour, Mark Ellis, and Marwan Dabit**. In accordance with our Parish Constitution, no nominations are allowed from the floor.

Tuesday October 11, Parish Council meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday October 12, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Thursday October 13, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy.

Upcoming Events

Sunday October 16, Men's Club/ Teen SOYO meeting after Church

Mark your calendar for the Annual Wine & Dinner tasting on Saturday November 5, at the church hall. Please see flyer included for more information.

November 11-13, 2016, Annual Pilgrimage to St. Paisius. Please see flyer included for more information

ORTHODOXY IN THE VINEYARD - YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Meet and hangout with Orthodox Christian Young Adults from all over in Napa, CA at a Young Adult Fall Retreat - Hosted by the Young Adult Ministry within the Antiochian Diocese of Los Angeles and the West. We've planned a day of spiritual discussion lead by Jacob Saylor - Youth Directory at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. The day will include time at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA (just outside of Napa), lunch, wine tasting at the local vineyard and dinner. Our topic will be focused on "In the world, but not of the world - How to be an Orthodox Christian in a materialistic and sometimes superficial world."

21+ Young Adult Event

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2016

Time: 8:30am - 7:30pm

Cost: \$50 Per Person (includes Lunch, Wine Tasting and Dinner)

For more info and to register, please visit www.dlawyoungadults.com. Make sure to register online by Sunday, October 30, 2016 - Space is limited!

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)

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.

St. Euphrosyne of Alexandria

Saint Justina who was from Damascus, lived in virginity for the sake of Christ. Saint Cyprian, who was from Antioch, began as an initiate of magic and worshipper of the demons. A certain foolish young man who had been smitten with Justina's beauty hired Cyprian to draw her to love him; when Cyprian had used every demonic device he knew, and had failed, being repulsed by the power of Christ Whom Justina invoked, he understood the weakness of the demons and came to know the truth. Delivered from demonic delusion, he came to Christ and burned all his books of magic, was baptized, and later ascended the episcopal throne in his country. Later, he and Justina were arrested by the Count of Damascus, and having endured many torments at his hands, they were sent finally to Diocletian in Nicomedia, where they were beheaded about the year 304.
