

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



NOVEMBER 13, 2016

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for 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 John Chrysostom in the Eight Tone: Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe, and disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, and shown us the heights of humility; but whilst instructing us by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ 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 Presentation of the Theotokos, in the Fourth Tone: The most pure temple of the Savior, the very precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She bringeth with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

+++++

Prokeimenon (Psalm 48:3, 1) My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall bring forth understanding. Hear this all you nations.

The reading is form Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (7:26 –28; 8:1-2)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 44.4,82.) Tone 4: Draw your bow and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

++++
Holy Oblations are offered today by Phillip, George & Grace Bahbah for Tarize on the occasion of her birthday, by the Bahbah family for Andy & Jake Bahbah on the occasion of their birthdays, and by Bahbah, Wakileh, Turk, Zadah and Hadshiti families for the soul of their uncle George Bahbah departed this life 40 days in Michigan. May his Memory be Eternal.

The Antiochian Women of St. Mark Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon "Turkey and fixings" is offered today by the Antiochian Women.

Donation \$10 for adults and \$5 children under 12

++++
Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Maha Kureh, Darlyne Dibs, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, June Anter and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

++++

Ushers this week: Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah

Ushers next week: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

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

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

Quote from the Saints

"God loves us more than a father or a mother or a friend, or anyone else can love, and even more than we can love ourselves, because He is concerned more for our salvation than even for his own glory."

- *St. John Chrysostom*

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

Antiochian Women of St. Mark Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon; Please stay and enjoy the Luncheon with us. Thank you!

Men's Club Meeting after Church, and Teen's SOYO meeting after Church

St. Mark 2017 Stewardship Pledge Drive Starting Soon!

As the end of 2016 approaches and we look towards 2017 in our parish, we ask that you think about your 2017 pledge commitment to St. Mark. This Stewardship Drive will kick off next Sunday as we work to reach our goal of \$205,000. Your financial pledge and commitment is important and supports the work of the church, the parish itself and those who work for St. Mark. Pledge cards and additional information will be available starting next week.

In Christ,
St. Mark Stewardship Committee

Please remember to take your Sunday Bulletin with you home, it will help you to remember the services and the events going on in your church. Much time and effort goes into the publishing of our bulletin so, please use it as a resource! Please put the Liturgy book service back in the pocket when you are done using it. Thank you!

This Week

Tuesday November 15, Advent (the Christmas Fast) begins.

This fast, which lasts exactly 40 days, prepares us to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity (Birth) of Jesus Christ, commonly known as Christmas. During this season we are reminded that the Christian life style must include alms giving (acts of charity), prayer and fasting. Therefore, we are asked to intensify these efforts. During Advent we should be praying more, giving more time and resources to those in need, eat less and more simply, and above all, seek to fast from sin. As usual, Wednesdays and Fridays are strict fasting days (abstention from all meat, poultry, dairy & egg products, alcohol and olive oil). Until December 20, the other days of the week we are to fast from all meat and meat products, with wine and olive oil allowed. As part of our Advent effort Orthodox Christians should also participate in the Sacrament of Confession.

Tuesday November 15, 6:30 p.m. Parish Council

Wednesday November 16, 6:30 p.m. Advent Paraklesis.

Thursday November 17, 7:00 p.m. Mere Orthodoxy

Friday November 18, 6:30 p.m. Advent Paraklesis

Next week

Monday November 21, 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Entry of the Theotokos to the Temple (Orthros 9:00 a.m.)

Wednesday November 23, No Vespers

Thursday November 24, Thanksgiving Day; Church Office closed Thursday & Friday.

Upcoming events and services

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)

November 15 - Compline & Discussion at St. Barnabas, 6:30pm

November 20 - Friends-giving Dinner, Irvine, 3:00pm

December 4 - Sawdust Festival & Dinner in Laguna Beach, 3:00pm

December 13 - Compline & Discussion at St. Barnabas, 6:30pm

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 John Chrysostom the Archbishop of Constantinople

Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, one of the Three Hierarchs was born at Antioch in about the year 347 into the family of a military commander.

In the year 386 St John was ordained presbyter by Bishop Flavian of Antioch. St John was a splendid preacher, and his inspired words earned him the name "Golden-Mouthed" ("Chrysostom"). For twelve years the saint preached in church, usually twice a week, but sometimes daily, deeply stirring the hearts of his listeners.

The fame of the holy preacher grew, and in the year 397 with the death of Archbishop Nectarius of Constantinople, successor to St Gregory the Theologian, St John Chrysostom was summoned from Antioch, and elected to the See of Constantinople.

The saintly hierarch denounced the dissolute morals of people in the capital, especially at the imperial court, irrespective of person. When the empress Eudoxia connived to confiscate the last properties of the widow and children of a disgraced dignitary, the saint rose to their defense. The arrogant empress would not relent, and nursed a grudge against the archpastor. Eudoxia's hatred of the saint blazed forth anew when malefactors told her that the saint apparently had her in mind during his sermon on vain women. A court was convened composed of hierarchs who had been justly condemned by Chrysostom: Theophilus of Alexandria,

Bishop Severian of Gabala, who had been banished from the capital because of improprieties, and others. After being exiled once, and then returned to the capital, Eudoxia had St. John exiled a second time.

In the winter of 406 St John was confined to his bed with sickness, but his enemies were not to be appeased. From the capital came orders to transfer St John to desolate Pityus in Abkhazia on the Black Sea. Worn out by sickness, the saint began his final journey under military escort, traveling for three months in the rain and frost. He never arrived at his place of exile, for his strength failed him at Comana. After receiving the Holy Mysteries, the hierarch fell asleep in the Lord on September 14, 407. His last words were, "Glory to God for all things!"

The holy relics of St John Chrysostom were solemnly transferred to Constantinople in the year 438. Although he died on September 14, St John's celebration was transferred to this day because of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross.