

# **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

*Church School After Holy Communion*



**DECEMBER 11, 2016**

**SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Resurrection in the Eighth Tone:** From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Troparion of the Forefathers in the Second Tone:** Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, 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 Feast of the Nativity in Tone 3:** Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.

+++++

**Prokeimenon** (Daniel 3:26, 27) Tone 8: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For you are just in all you have done.

### **The reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Colossians (3:4-11)**

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 98.6, 33:17) Tone 4: Moses and Aaron are among his priests. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24)** The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

+++++

**Holy Oblations are offered today by** Eileen & Mark Ellis and Family, Christopher & Mary Waian and Family, Eric & Inez Waian and Family, and Edlyn & Lee West and Family, For our Beloved Mother and Tita, Elizabeth Sady Waian 40 days and Father and Gido Elias Waian 26 years, and by Melad & Wafa Hanna for the soul of Wafa's mother Jamileh departed this life 2 years and for the souls of Ibrahim 3 years, Jack, and George, and for the health and salvation of their children Michael, Amanda, Samir and the Hajal family. Blessings on our Choir and Chanters on the occasion of Choir and Chanters Appreciation Sunday!

**Coffee Hour is given today by** Eileen Ellis and family for the 40 days memorial for her mother Elizabeth.

+++++

*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.*

+++++

<p><b>Ushers this week:</b> Nelson Mamey &amp; Jimmy Goson</p> <p><b>Ushers next week:</b> Nader Qoborsi &amp; Maurice Karkar</p> <p><b>Altar boys serving this week:</b> Samir Khamis, Joseph Atallah, Andrew Bahbah</p> <p><b>Altar boys serving next week:</b> Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriguez.</p>
--

### **Quote from the Saints**

"There is one God Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is One in Essence with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason." -- *St. Spiridon*

### **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

#### **St. Mark 2017 Stewardship Pledge Drive!**

Our parish Stewardship Drive has begun and we're asking you to please consider making a pledge commitment to St. Mark for 2017. If you have not done so, you can turn in your pledge commitment to the white box in the back of the church now, but you don't need to make the first payment until January 2017.

Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge commitment. As of December 6, 2016, we have a total of \$49,990 pledge which is 24% of our total goal of \$205,000. We have also successfully collected 49 pledge commitments.

We hope to reach our goal by the end of February. Your financial pledge and commitment is important and supports the work of the church, the parish itself and those who work for St. Mark. Your support is appreciated!

In Christ,

St. Mark Stewardship Committee

#### **SOYO Meeting after Church**

#### **Antiochian Women Meeting after Church.**

**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!**

**The 2017 Calendars are here. Please pick up one Calendar per family from the table at the hall by the bulletin board.**

St. Mark Sunday School children will perform our **Christmas program on Sunday, December 18 this year.** All children are invited to participate. Our last rehearsal is this Sunday. Our high school students will be reading Bible Verses during the program. This is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas as our children learn these Christian songs. All participating children will also receive a gift after the performance.

Also in preparation for Christmas, our **St. Mark bookstore** has many new items which make perfect Christmas gifts, large and small. Check out the new ornaments and prayer bracelets from St. Paisius Monastery or the honey and lavender from St. Barbara Monastery in addition to all other gifts. Books make great stocking stuffers too!

### ***SOS Family***

St Mark's has once again adopted two families for the Christmas Season. **A small Christmas tree is in the hall with small notes indicating items you may sponsor for this charitable effort. Bring the wrapped gifts to the Church by Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>.** Please see Gisele Awayjan after Liturgy if you have any questions. Please help make this Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate than ourselves.

### ***This Week***

**Advent (the Christmas Fast) began on November 15:** 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 December 13,** Parish Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday December 14,** Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.

**Friday December 16**, Christmas Bake Day at the church, 10.00 a.m.

**Friday December 16**, Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.

**Next week and Christmas Week Services**

**Sunday December 18**, Antiochian Women Annual Bake Sale, please see order form included in this bulletin to order your bake goodies.

**Sunday December 18**, Church School Christmas Program after church

**Monday December 19**, Pre-Feast Vespers/Confessions 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday December 20**, Vespers/Confessions 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday December 21**, Vespers/Confessions 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday December 22**, Vespers/Confessions 6:30 p.m.

**Friday December 23**, Royal Hours 9:30 a.m. Vespers 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday December 24**, Christmas Eve Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Vespers 6:30 p.m.

**Upcoming events and services**

**Sunday December 25**, Feast of Nativity of Our Lord Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m.  
(Orthros 9:00 a.m.)

**Monday December 26**, Church Office is closed.

**Wednesday December 28**, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>**, Vespers 4:00 p.m. /8:00 p.m. Men's Club Annual New Year's Eve at our Church Hall, please see flyer included for more information.

**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)

1December 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.

### **Venerable Daniel the Stylite**

This Saint was from the village of Marutha in the region of Samosata in Mesopotamia. He became a monk at the age of twelve. After visiting Saint Symeon the Stylite (see Sept. 1) and receiving his blessing, he was moved with zeal to follow his marvellous way of life. At the age of forty-two, guided by providence, he came to Anapulus in the environs of Constantinople, in the days of the holy Patriarch Anatolius (see July 3), who was also healed by Saint Daniel of very grave malady and sought to have him live near him. Upon coming to Anapulus, Saint Daniel first lived in the church of the Archangel Michael, but after some nine years, Saint Symeon the Stylite appeared to him in a vision, commanding him to imitate his own ascetical struggle upon a pillar. The remaining thirty-three years of his life he stood for varying periods on three pillars, one after another. He stood immovable in all weather, and once his disciples found him covered with ice after a winter storm. He was a counsellor of emperors; the pious emperor Leo the Great fervently loved him and brought his royal guests to meet him. It was at Saint Daniel's word that the holy relics of Saint Symeon the Stylite were brought to Constantinople from Antioch, and it was in his days that the Emperor Leo had the relics of the Three Holy Children brought from Babylon. Saint Daniel also defended the Church against the error of the Eutychians. Having lived through the reigns of the Emperors Leo, Zeno, and Basiliscus, he reposed in 490, at the age of eighty-four.