

# **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 4, 2016**

**GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA**

**VENERABLE JOHN OF DAMASCUS**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Resurrection in the Seventh Tone:** Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

**Troparion of St. Barbara in the Fourth Tone:** Let us honor holy Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

**Troparion of St. John in the Third Tone:** Ye faithful, come let us honor with songs of praise the comely sounding and sweet-spoken nightingale, who doth adorn and captivate the Church of Christ with his sweet songs: John, the all-wise Damascene, let us honor resplendently, the divine and eloquent, and the chief of hymnographers; who verily was filled to the utmost with every divine and earthly wisdom.

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.

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**Prokeimenon. Fourth Tone (Psalm 67:35, 26):** God is wonderful in his saints. Bless God in the congregations.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (3:23-29; 4:1-5)**

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**Alleluia Verses: (Psalm 94.1, 2.) Tone 8:** O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to God our Savior. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (13:10-17)**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by** the Bahbah, Turk, Wakileh, Hadshiti & Zadah families for the soul or their father Andrew Bahbah on his Name Day (November 30), by Steven Scholl and family for his wife Barbara on her Name Day, and by Theresa Joubran for her beloved husband Michel Joubran on the occasion of his birthday 12/5. Happy Name Day to all named Barbara!

**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, 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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**Ushers this week:** Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi

**Ushers next week:** Nelson Mamey & Jimmy Goson

**Altar boys serving this week:** Noah Fortuna, Daniel Atallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada.

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

### **Quote from the Saints**

“This Mystery is called a ‘receiving’ (metalepsis) because through it we receive the Divinity of Jesus. And it is called ‘Communion’ because through it we enter into communion with Christ and are made partakers both of His flesh and of His Divinity.”

*St. John 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/chrismated 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 Continues!**

Our parish Stewardship Drive has begun and we're asking you to please consider making a pledge commitment to St. Mark for 2017. 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. Your financial pledge and commitment is important and supports the work of the church, the parish itself and those who work for St. Mark. We appreciate your prayers and support as we strive to reach our \$205,000 goal. Pledge cards are available in the back of the church. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask a parish council member.

In Christ,  
St. Mark Stewardship Committee

**Ladies, your help is needed today to decorate our Church Christmas trees.**

**Teen Christmas cards on Sale, please find the form included in this bulletin to fill out to support our teens. Today is the last day for returning your form.**

**A Special Thank You to Tony and Paula Rodriguez for the donation of new conference table (in the Teen room).**

**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.**

**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.

**Monday December 5, Vespers, 6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday December 6, St. Nicholas Day**

**Wednesday December 7, Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday December 9, Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.**

**Next week**

**Sunday December 11, Antiochian Women Meeting after Church.**

**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.**

**Upcoming events and 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**

## **Christmas Week Services**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>**, 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)

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

December 13 - Complime & 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.

## **Holy Great Martyr Barbara of Heliopolis of Phoenicia**

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.