

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



JANUARY 1, 2017

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

SPECIAL REFRAIN OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, *circumcised in the flesh*, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

DURING THE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Circumcision in the First Tone: Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(For a usual Sunday)

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ: Save us, O Son of God, **who are risen from the dead**, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Third Tone: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion for the Circumcision in the First Tone (in Arabic)

Troparion of St. Basil in the First Tone: Thy sound hath forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hadst adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Troparion of Saint 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.

Kontakion for the Circumcision in the Third Tone: Today the Lord of all endureth circumcision, cutting off the transgressions of mortals; for he is good and granteth salvation to the world. And in the heights the high priest of the Creator, Basil the light-bearer, the divine initiate of Christ, rejoiceth.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 48:3, 1): My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. Hear this all ye nations; give ear, all yet that inhabit the world

The reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Colossians (2:8-12)

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Alleluia Verses (Psalms 79:1, 36:30) Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. The mouth of the righteous will meditate wisdom.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:20-21, 40-52)

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

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Instead of "It is truly meet..." the Megalynarion of St. Basil's is sung: ***"All creation rejoices in thee..."***

Communion Verse: "Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest."
Instead of "We have seen the true light" sing the Troparion of the Circumcision.
(See above)

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Holy Oblations are offered today the Bahbah family for Issa on his birthday; by the Wakileh family for Ibrahim's birthday, by the family of Michael Asaly, departed this life on December 24, by Adele Habeeb for the soul of her husband Kareem departed this life 40 days, and by the families of Karim and Hani Youseff for their mother Mary, departed this life December 26: Memory Eternal!

Coffee Hour is giving 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.

Ushers this week: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

Ushers next week: Gabriel Attalla & Sam Kishek

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

Altar boys serving next week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah, Richard Tierney.

Quote from the Saints

"If you see your neighbor sinning, take care not to dwell exclusively on his faults. Try to think of the many good things he has done and continues to do. Many times when we do this, we come to the conclusion that our neighbor is a far better person than we are." -- St. Basil the Great

December 25 through January 4 is a fast-free period.

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

Blessings on Elias Khury and his committee for hosting the New Year's Party, held last night.

House blessings

We are now in House Blessing Season. To schedule a house blessing, please contact Fr Michael by calling the church office, (949) 851-8933 or via email at frmlaffoon@yahoo.com

When Fr Michael comes to your home, please turn off all televisions and other distractions and prepare a list of the living to be remembered in the prayers

St. Mark 2017 Stewardship Pledge Drive!

It's A New Year – Turn In Your 2017 Stewardship Pledge Card!

It's a new year and our parish Stewardship Drive has begun! We're asking you to please consider making a pledge commitment to St. Mark for 2017. If you have not done so, please turn your pledge commitment to the white box in the back of the church now.

Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge commitment. As of December 27, 2016, we have a total of \$97,800 pledged which is 48% of our total goal of \$205,000. We have also successfully collected 42 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 and commitment to St. Mark is appreciated!

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

Monday January 2, Church office is closed.

Thursday January 5, 6:30 p.m. Epiphany Liturgy (Orthros 5:30 p.m.)

Saturday January 7, Antiochian Women Annual Christmas lunch and gift exchange from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. at Darya Restaurant in Santa Ana. See flyer included for more details and reserve today with Denise Nassif

Saturday January 7, 7:00 p.m. Men's Club Christmas Dinner

Next Week

Sunday January 8, Ladies serving Zalabieh Dessert

Sunday January 8, Parish Council Meeting (after Liturgy)

Wednesday January 11, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming events and services

Sunday January 15, Antiochian Woman meeting after church

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)

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.

Saint of the Day

Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesaria

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, he spent fifteen years in Athens, where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all the other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues there were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the Jordan River along with Ebulios, his former teacher. Him as Bishop of Caesaria in Cappadocia for almost ten years and complete his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, and a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. His Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten Times during the year, including the Sunday of Lent, and of course on his Name day, January 1.