

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

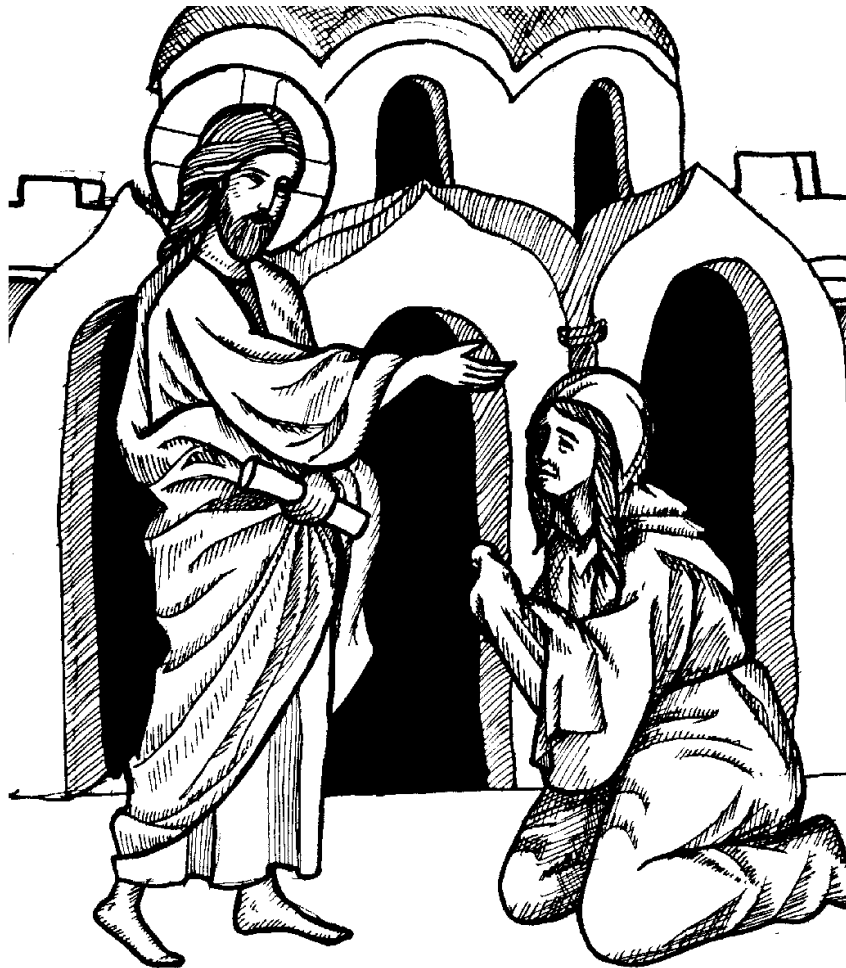
Choir Director Barbara Scholl

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 29, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN

TRANSLATION OF RELICS OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

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. Ignatius of Antioch 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 Holy Martyr among bishops Ignatius. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

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 of the Presentation in the First Tone: Thou, O Christ God, who by thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom thou didst love; for thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 75:11,1) Tone 8: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. //God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter Corinthians (6:16- 18,7:1)

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

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 Gospel according to St. Matthew (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus

did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by May Asaly for the soul of her husband Michael, departed this life 40 days, by Ibrahim & Taghreed Yaghnam and family for the occasion of the wedding of their daughter Dana and Roberto and for the soul of their daughter Noor, by Nuha Qushair and family for Hani Fanous departed this life 40 days and for the souls of Elia, Nasry, Nick, Issa, Issam, Aida, Rima, Adele & Bassem, by Manuel, Georgette Salameh & family for the soul of Georgette's Nephew Issa Al Atrash departed this life on January 20, and by Melad, Wafa, Amanda & Samir Hanna for Michael on the occasion of his birthday.

Luncheon is given today by May Asaly & Family for the 40 days memorial of her beloved husband Michael Asaly, may his memory be eternal!

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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: Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah

Ushers next week: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

Altar boys serving this week: Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriguez

Altar boys serving next week: James Bahbah, Petter Williams, Nicholas Bahou, Youssef Youssef.

Quote from the Saints

What salt is for any food, humility is for every virtue. To acquire it, a man must always think of himself with contrition, self-belittlement and painful self-judgment. But if we acquire it, it will make us sons of God.

St. Isaac the Syrian

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 meeting after church

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

June Hall Rentals: If you are thinking about using our church hall for a June graduation party, you should reserve a date now. Our Caterer is already asking to reserve dates in June. We will hold these dates for parishioners until March 30. After that, we will open them for the caterer.

Parents, please note: Pre-Lent Church School Confession Schedule

January 29 - 7 & 8 confession

February 5, - 5 & 6 confession

February 12 - 3 & 4 confession

February 19 - Meat fare / 1 & 2 confession

St. Mark 2017 Stewardship Pledge Drive!

Our parish Stewardship Drive continues and 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 January 25, 2017, we have a total of \$129,180 pledged which is 63% of our total goal of \$205,000. We have also successfully collected 60 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

Tuesday January 31, Mere Orthodoxy, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday February 1, Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Orthros (5:30 p.m.)

Saturday January 4, No Vespers

Next Week

Sunday February 5, Men's Club 3rd Annual Super Bowl Viewing Party 3:00 p.m. At St. Mark Church Hall, please see flyer included for more information.

Tuesday February 7, Mere Orthodoxy, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday February 11, 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar for the **Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance**, at our beautiful Church Hall. Flyer attached for more information

Upcoming events and services

Sunday February 12, Parish Council Meeting after church

Sunday February 12, 5 p.m. (IOCC) invites you to Share the Love, at St. Luke Church. A Valentine-Themed Event to Benefit IOCC. Tickets: \$50 per person available at ioccc.org/sharethelove.

Sunday February 19, Antiochian Women meeting after church.

Please contribute to the **Camp St. Nicholas Legacy Campaign!** Members of the Diocese have come together to raise funds for immediate repairs which are needed at our camp facility. Any donation is welcome, and brings membership in the "Camp Legacy Committee" which will be hosting future fellowship events. The goal for the fundraising campaign is \$30,000. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made easily online by visiting: <https://www.gofundme.com/Campsaintnicholas> or by sending a check to: Umpqua Bank, Attention: Concetta Smarius |700 N. Central Suite 150 |Glendale, CA 91203. Checks should be made to: "St. Nicholas Cathedral Camp Repairs." For any questions, please contact Sonia Tower at 212-308-3696.

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).

Introducing the Orange County Forum. A place for Orthodox Christian young adults in the Orange County area, married & single, to fellowship & engage in social and service activities. This group serves to aid and foster the unity of faith, love, and friendship that exists between the Orthodox young adults in the local region through coordinated events, ministries, and common prayer. Join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/OrangeCountyForum for a list of scheduled events and more information. Our next gathering is Tuesday, January 28th at 6:30pm at St. Paul's Orthodox Church. You can also talk to Kyra Pelachik for more information.

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. Isaac of Syria, Bishop of Ninevah (January 28)

The great luminary of the life of stillness, Saint Isaac, was born in the early seventh century in Eastern Arabia, the present-day Qatar on the Persian Gulf. He became a monk at a young age, and at some time left Arabia to dwell with monks in Persia. He was consecrated Bishop of Nineveh (and is therefore sometimes called "Saint Isaac of Nineveh"), but after five months received permission to return to solitude; he spent many years far south of Nineveh in the mountainous regions of Beit Huzaye, and lastly at the Monastery of Rabban Shabur. He wrote his renowned and God-inspired Ascetical Homilies toward the end of his long life of monastic struggle, about the end of the seventh century. The fame of his Homilies grew quickly, and about one hundred years after their composition they were translated from Syriac into Greek by two monks of the Monastery of Mar Sabbas in Palestine, from which they spread throughout the monasteries of the Roman Empire and became a guide to the hesychasts of all generations thereafter.