

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



FEBRUARY 19, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

HOLY APOSTLES ARCHIPPOS, PHILEMON AND APPHIAS OF THE 70

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the First Tone: When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

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 Meat Fare Sunday in the First Tone: When thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before thy judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things made public; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at thy right hand, O righteous Judge

Prokeimenon (Psalm 117. 14, 18) The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord with chastisement has the Lord chastened me!

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses: (Psalm 19. 1, 9) The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O

blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Bobbie Kouri & family and by the Ranney family for the soul of husband, father and grandfather Dr. Paul Kouri departed this life five years, and by the Turk family for their daughter Jamie Hanna on the occasion of her birthday and for the health of her family. We also pray today for the soul of Kevin (Michael) Speier, son of Fr. Nicholas and Kh. Jan Speier of St. Athanasius Church, Santa Barbara and husband of Angelina (Mamey) Speier, who passed from this life on Wednesday morning. Memory Eternal!

Coffee hour will be 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.

Ushers this week: Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi

Ushers next week: Nelson Mamey & Jimmy Goson.

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

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

Quote from the Saints

Abba John said, "If a king wishes to subdue a city belonging to enemies, he first of all keeps the enemy without bread and water, and the enemy being in this way harassed by hunger becomes subject to him; and this it is in respect to hostile passions (which serve pride), and if a man endures fasting and hunger regularly, his enemies become stricken with weakness in the soul." -- The Paradise of the Fathers, On Fasting and Abstinence

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/christened 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

Today is Judgment Sunday, the last day for eating meat until Pascha.

Antiochian Women meeting after church. Please Ladies join us!

House blessings

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

February 19 – Meat-fare 3 & 4 grades and 1 & 2 grades confession

St. Mark 2017 Stewardship Pledge Card!

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 February 15, 2017, we have a total of \$163,470 pledged which is 80% of our total goal of \$205,000. We have also successfully collected 98 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. Please put the Liturgy book service back in the pocket when you are done using it. Thank you!

This Week

Is called Cheese Week. This last week before Great Lent we are called to fast (abstain) from meat every day. At the same time, we are allowed all dairy products, eggs, fish etc. on all days.

Funeral Services for Kevin Speier

Monday February 20, 7:00 p.m. Trisagion Memorial at St. Athanasius Church
300 Sumida Gardens Lane, Santa Barbara.

Tuesday February 21, 11:00 a.m. Funeral Service at First Presbyterian Church
21 E. Constance, Santa Barbara. Burial at Goleta Cemetery. Meal of Mercy will follow at the First Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Athansius Orthodoxy Church Benevolence Fund.

Fr. Michael will be returning from the Funeral of Kevin Speier on Tuesday, there is no Mere Orthodoxy this Tuesday.

Fr. Michael Leaves for the Antiochian Village in his capacity as the NAC SOYO Spiritual Advisor. God willing, he will return Saturday evening. Therefore both Wednesday Vespers and Saturday Vespers are cancelled.

Next Week

Sunday February 26, *Forgiveness Sunday*

Monday February 27, First Day of Lent; Great Compline at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday February 28, and Thursday March 2, Great Compline at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 1, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m., followed by Lenten pot-luck

Friday March 3, Akathist (Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming events and services

Sunday March 5 Sunday of Orthodoxy at St. Luke Orthodox Church Garden Grove 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Service Schedule:

- **Mondays Great Compline, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesdays Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Fridays Akathist Service (Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.**

March 31 – April. The 2017 Antichian Women's Lenten Retreat of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the west at St. Nicholas Camp Frazier Park. The Speaker will be Rev. Fr. Calinic Berger. More information to follow.

Mark your calendar for two dates: First date of **July 5–9, 2017** for the **Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Parish Life Conference**. Hosted by **St. Michael Church, Van Nuys, CA**

Please see Registration form included in this bulletin.

Second date is for the **53rd Biennial Archdiocese Convention**. Hosted by: **St. George Cathedral, Coral Gables, Florida – July 23-30 2017**. Event registration form is included in this bulletin.

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: <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).

Orange County Forum

A place for Orthodox Christian young adults in the Orange County area, married and single, to have fellowship and 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 county through coordinated events,

ministries and common prayer. Join our Face book group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/OrangeCountyForum> for a list of scheduled events and more information. We meet at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine and start at 6:30p.m. Our upcoming schedule of events includes:
Tuesday, Feb 28 - Discussion on Fasting
Tuesday, Mar 14 - 'Holy Icons' with Special Guest Speaker Dr. Eve Tibbs
Tuesday, Mar 28 - Discussion on St. Mary of Egypt

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.

Sunday of Judgment

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.