

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 5, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

AFTER-FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

REFRAIN OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Save us, O son of God, who wast held by the arms of righteous Simeon, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn: Come, let us worship... Save us, O son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Presentation in the First Tone: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection.

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 Presentation (see above)

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 to Timothy (3:10-15)

My child Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the

things you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 94.1,2) Tone 8: Come let us rejoice the Lord; Let us shout with jubilation to God our savior.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Karim and Hani Youssef for their mother Mary Behna on the 40th day after her repose and by the Turk family for their father Anton on the occasion of his birthday.

Coffee Hour today is given 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: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

Ushers next week: Austin Turk & Roger Tierney.

Altar boys serving this week: James Bahbah, Peter Williams, Nicholas Bahou, Youssef Youssef.

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

Quote from the Saints

"Be fearful that you do not become famous because of some work that you do. If they begin to praise you because of your work, do not rejoice or take delight in it, but keep your works secret as much as you can, and do not allow anyone to speak about them." -- St. Anthony

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

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.

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

February 5, - 5 & 6 confession

February 12 - 3 & 4 confession

February 19 – Meat-fare / 1 & 2 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 1, 2017, we have a total of \$138,100 pledged which is 67% of our total goal of \$205,000. We have also successfully collected 78 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

Fr Michael will depart, God willing, on Monday for the Annual Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Clergy Seminar in Alhambra, CA.

He will return Thursday afternoon. Therefore, there are no Vespers or Mere Orthodoxy this week.

The week after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is a fast-free week.

Tuesday February 7, NO Mere Orthodoxy.

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

Next Week

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.

Upcoming events and services

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: <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:
Thursday, Feb 16 - 'Preparing for Lent' with Special Guest Speaker Fr. Michael Laffoon
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 the Publican and the Pharisee

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors

of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.