

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



MARCH 26, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LEAVE-TAKING OF FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

Refrain of the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who wast incarnate for our sake, who cry to thee: Alleluia.

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Feast of the Annunciation in the Fourth Tone: Today is the beginning of our salvation. The revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Entrance Hymn

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who cry to thee: Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE 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 the Feast of the Annunciation the Fourth Tone (repeat)

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.

Kontakion for the Sundays in Lent, in the Eight Tone: To thee the Champion Leader do I offer thanks of Victory. O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone canst set me free; from all forms of danger free me and deliver me that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

+++++

Prokeimenon (Psalm 28.11, 1) Tone 7: The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the

heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 91.1, 2) Tone 7: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High. To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And Jesus answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.” And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has he had this?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And Jesus said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day.”

+++++

For the Liturgy of St. Basil, in lieu of the usual hymn to the Theotokos, we sing "In Thee Rejoiceth..." (See page 57 of the Congregational Liturgy book)

Instead of the usual Communion Hymn, we sing: The Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath chosen it for His dwelling. Alleluia.

+++++

Holy Oblations are offered today by Ibrahim, Charlie & Christopher Wakileh for Lydia & Michael on the occasion of their birthdays, by Melad, Wafa & Michael Hanna for Amanda and Sameer on the occasion of their birthdays and for the churching of Iman and baby Lamar Saloum, and by Edna Deeb and the Najjar family offering prayers for the passing of their uncle Gene Hapip last week, and prayers for the health and recovery of Ricky Namey who had heart surgery last Thursday.

Falafel Luncheon will be served today by our Antiochian Women of St Mark to benefit the 2016-2017 Archdiocese Women Project "Strengthen our church ministries"

Donations \$8 Adults and \$4 children under 10 years old.

+++++

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.

March is Antiochian Women's Month, the Ladies will participate in Ushering, Reading the Epistle and serving during the 4 weeks of March.

Ushers serving this week: Maryan Youssef, Vera Jirjis

Epistle reading in English: Carol Tierney

Ushers serving next week: Paul Habeeb & Don Nassif

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

The light of dawn comes before the sun, and meekness is the precursor of all humility. So let us listen to the order in which Christ, our Light, place these virtues. He says: 'Learn from Me, because I am meek and humble of heart.'

St. John Climacus

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

Antiochian Women of St. Mark are serving a Falafel Luncheon. Donations are \$8 adults and \$4 children under 10. Please see flyer included.

NO SPINACH PIES SALE THIS SUNDAY. WE WILL RESUME SELLING NEXT SUNDAY

We need bakers for the Palm Sunday bake sale. Please Ladies see Barbara Khamis and Julie Bahbah, today to sign up.

Palm Sunday decorated Candles, will be offered for sale in the church hall for \$8.00 each next week.

The red dye for Easter Eggs is for sale in our bookstore for \$1.50 each envelope.

Antiochian Women of St. Mark

Denise has reserved the Date of **April 2nd**, for our Ladies Organization to have a **Shopping Day at "TINA MARIE'S"** ladies boutique owned by our own, Tina Tomeo Storvis. We will be meeting there after church that Sunday, and she will be serving Light Appetizers, Wine, Beverages and will be donating 20% of all purchases back to our Ladies Organization!! Now that's a great deal! So please ladies let's put that on our calendars, and lets support this fun afternoon out!

House Blessings

House blessings are traditionally done between Epiphany and the start of Great Lent. However, Fr Michael will continue to bless homes during Lent allowing for our more full liturgical schedule. If you would like Fr. Michael to bless your home or business, please call the church office, or email him directly at frmlaffoon@yahoo.com.

The home blessings will last about 40 minutes per home. When Fr. Michael arrives, all televisions, stereos, and radios should be turned off. If there is an icon corner in the home, the prayers will take place there, if not, an icon and a lit candle should be set up on a suitable table. A list of all those living in the home and others you would like to be included in the prayers should also be placed on the table.

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.

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!

2017 Stewardship Pledge Campaign!

We are almost there!! As of March 22, 2017, we have a total of \$178,346 pledged which is 87% of our total goal of \$205,000. Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge commitment! We have also successfully collected 116 pledge commitments. We are still trying to reach our goal and will continue to collect pledge cards until we do. Please turn in any remaining pledge cards to the white box at the back of the church. 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

This Week

Monday March 27, Great Compline at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 29, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m., followed by Lenten pot-luck

Thursday March 30, Great Canon of St. Andrew 7:00 p.m.

Friday March 31, Akathist 5th (Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.

Next Week

March 31 – April 2. The 2017 Antiochian 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.

Sunday April 2nd, Teen SOYO Luncheon

Monday April 3, Great Compline at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 5, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m., followed by Lenten pot-luck

Friday April 7, Little Compline, Canon of St. Lazarus 7:00 p.m.

Saturday April 8, Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday 10:00 a.m. (Orthros 9:00 a.m.)

Upcoming events and services

Sunday April 9th, St. Mark Antiochian Women Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Please see order forms included in this bulletin to order your goodies.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Sunday April 9, Entrance of our Lord and Savior into Jerusalem {Palm Sunday}
8:45 a.m. Orthros, 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sunday evening, 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros

Monday April 10, 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros

Tuesday April 11, 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros

Wednesday April 12, 6:30 p.m. Holy Unction Service

Thursday Morning April 13: Orthros 9:00 a.m., Holy Thursday Vespers Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday Evening April 13: Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6:30 p.m.

Friday Morning April 14: Royal Hours, 9:30 a.m.

Friday Afternoon April 14: Vespers of the Taking Down of our Lord's Body from the Cross, 3:30 p.m.

Friday Evening April 14: Service of Lamentations 6:30 p.m.

Saturday morning April 15, Holy Saturday Vespers Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Saturday night April 15/ April 16: PASCHA Rush, Procession, Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:00 p.m. Pascha Breakfast following. (Signup sheet is out at the hall to sign up for the food you would like to bring.

April 16, Great and Holy PASCHA, Agape Vespers, 1:00 p.m.

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.

St. Nichols Summer Camp sign-up's are now open!

Session 1: **July 16th-22nd**

Session 2: **July 23rd-29th**

Session 3: **July 30th-Aug. 5th**

***Earlybird price deadline is April 1st**

I encourage all parents with children from 8-18years of age to register at Campstnicholas.com to sign your kids up! The kids make friends and memories that will last a lifetime while learning about their faith!

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).

Arabic Lessons started at our Church

Lilian Zeidan is offering Arabic Lessons for ages Kindergarten to High school. The lessons are after Church School on Sunday at 12:00 noon for kids up to 7 years old, and from 1- 3 pm for adults. If you are interested please call Lilian Zeidan at 714-721-4148.

Orange County Forum 2017

A place for Orthodox Christian young adults in the OC area, married and single, to have fellowship, fun and engage in social and service activities. This group serves to foster the unity of faith, love and friendship between the Orthodox young adults in the community with discussion, speakers and fun social events. Join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/OrangeCountyForum> for a list of scheduled events and more information. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine starting at 6:30pm. Our upcoming schedule of events include: Sunday, March 26 – Anaheim Duck's Game Tuesday, March 28 – Discussion on St. Mary of Egypt Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2 – Young Adult Retreat in Dunlap, CA Tuesday, April 11 – Attend your home parish services for Holy Week Tuesday, April 25 – Learn to Make Phosphorus Bread

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.

Feast of the Annunciation (March 25)

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

