

# **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](http://www.st-mark-church.org)

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Protodeacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

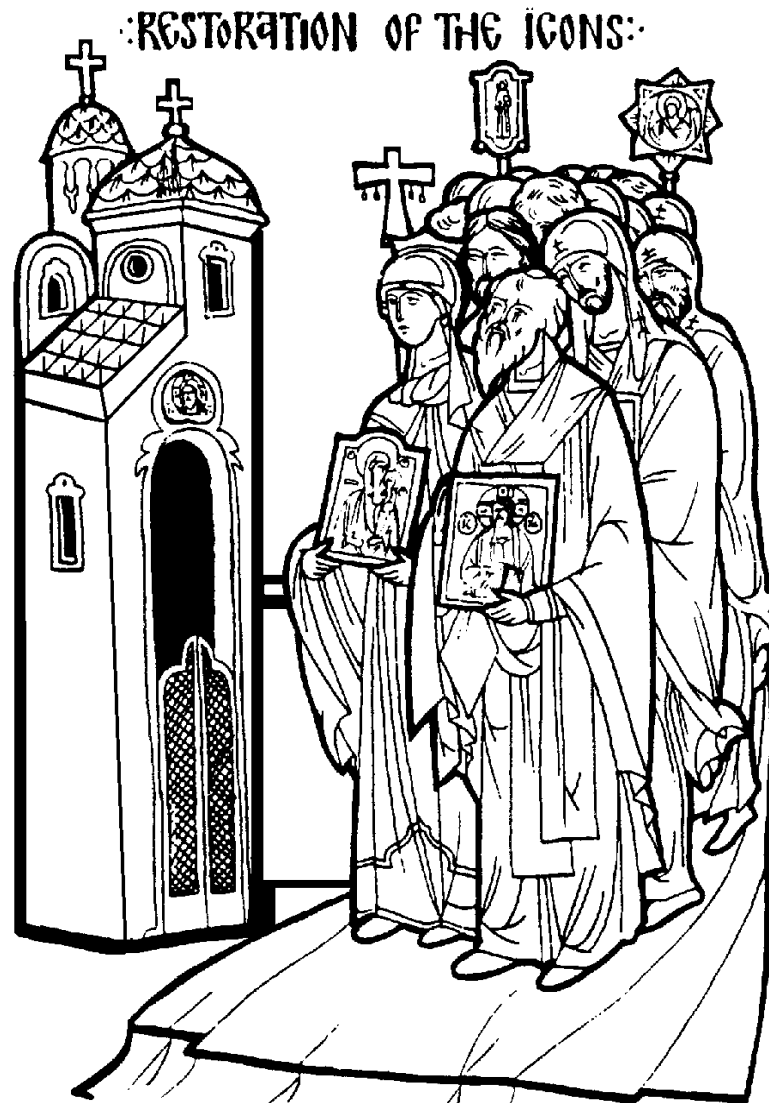
Choir Director Barbara Scholl

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 5, 2017**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

# LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

## During the Entrance

**Troparion of the First Sunday of Lent, in the Second Tone:** We reverence thine immaculate icon, O good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God; for of thine own good will thou wast pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh, that thou mightest deliver from bondage to the enemy those who thou has fashioned. Wherefore, we cry aloud unto thee with thanksgiving: Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, for thou didst come to save the world.

### HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Resurrection, in the Fourth Tone:** Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy

**Troparion of the First Sunday of Lent, in the Second Tone** (Repeat above)

**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.

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**Prokeimenon (Daniel 3.26,27) Tone 4:** Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our Fathers. For you are righteous in all things you have done for us.

**The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (11:24-26, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of

weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**Alleluia Verses (Psalm 98.6; 33.17) Tone 4:** Moses and Aaron are among his priests. They call on the Lord and he hears them.

**The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (1:43-51)**

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by** Nelson and Jerri Mamey in memory of Kevin Wesley Speier, husband of Angelina Mamey Speier; Pamela Nassiff Coble (one year), sister of Jerri Lynn Mamey; and Norman Henry Mamey (two years), brother of Nelson Mamey and Denise Mainero; by the Bahbah family for Jacob on the occasion of his birthday 3/1, by the Turk family, David and Adella Tannous for Juliana on the occasion of her birthday, and by Omar, Fatin, Katrina & Elaina Fakhouri for their daughter Nicole on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Luncheon is given today by the Mamey and Mainero Families.**

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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.*

**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:** Vera Jirjis & Tina Tomeo

**Epistle reading in English:** Edna Deeb

**Epistle reading in Arabic:** Lilian Kassicieh

**Ushers serving next week:** Lydia Wakileh, Kristin Chala, Carol Tierney

**Epistle reading in English:** Marty Morisson

**Altar boys serving this week:** Samir Khamis, Joseph Attallah, Andrew Bahbah.

**Altar boys serving next week:** Andrew Khamis, Alex Turk, Jay Skaff, Paul Rodriquez.

### **Quote from the Saints**

"Love every man in spite of his falling into sin. Never mind the sins, but remember that the foundation of the man is the same - the image of God."

*St. John of Kronstadt*

### **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/chrismated 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

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

**Teen SOYO meeting after church.**

### **Antiochian Women of St. Mark**

This Sunday will be our first Sunday for Selling FRESH SPINACH FATAYER during Coffee Hour. This is something new we are trying this year, since we just thought you might want to purchase and have spinach fatayer on hand for your families at the BEGINNING of Lent....and not just at the end. You will be able to purchase them individually to eat right there with your coffee, YUM!!! , or in quantities to take home! Please don't misunderstand; they will also be available at our Palm Sunday Bake Sale too, just as we do every year.

AND.....one more new announcement!!! 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 let's 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](mailto: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.

### **2017 Stewardship Pledge Card!**

Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge commitment. As of March 3, 2017, we have a total of \$173,670 pledged which is 84% of our total goal of \$205,000. We have also successfully collected 109 pledge commitments. If you have not done so, please turn your pledge commitment to the white box in the back of the church.

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**

**Monday March 6**, Great Compline at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday March 8**, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m., followed by Lenten pot-luck

**Friday March 10**, Akathist (2<sup>nd</sup> Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.

**Next Week**

**Monday March 13**, Great Compline at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday March 15**, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m., followed by Lenten pot-luck

**Friday March 17**, Akathist 3<sup>rd</sup> (Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.

**Upcoming events and services**

**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.**

**Saturday March 25**, Feast of Annunciation, Orthros 9:00 a.m, and Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**March 31 – April. 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. 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 **53<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Archdiocese Convention**. Hosted by: **St. George Cathedral, Coral Gables, Florida – July 23-30 2017**. Event registration form is included in this bulletin.

## 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 (916) 390-6337.

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](http://www.ocmc.org), e-mail [teams@ocmc.org](mailto: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, 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.

### **The 1st Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy**

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.