

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



APRIL 2, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

HYMNS AFTER THE 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 Saint Mary of Egypt in the Eighth Tone: In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the souls since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

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 Theotokos in the Second Tone: O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 75.11,1) Tone 8: Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God. God is known in Judah. His name is great in Israel.

The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ having appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves but through His own blood, entered in once for into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 94.1, 2) Tone 8: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; Let us shout with jubilation unto God our Savior. Let us come into his presence in thanksgiving.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and scourge him, and spit upon him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And Jesus said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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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)

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Lydia Wakileh for Theresa Joubran on the occasion of her birthday April 1, by Joana Novac for the soul of her mother Elena –Doina Stoenescu, departed this life one year, by Michael, Charlotte, Melody, George, Grace & Amanda Khoury for Melissa on her birthday, by Emilie Laffoon and family for her brother Edmund, departed this life 19 years, and by Sandella Goson and family for the soul of her husband James N. Goson departed this life 7 years.

Today our Teens are offering a Lenten Luncheon

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Maha Kureh, Darlyne Dibs, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, June Anter, Kh. Lynn Wilson and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

Ushers serving this week: Paul Habeeb & Don Nassif

Ushers serving next week: Palm Sunday; Special team

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

Altar boys serving next week: Palm Sunday; Special team

Quote from the Saints

"Blessed is God Who creates the great and wondrous, the glorious and marvelous without end. Blessed is God Who has shown me how He rewards those who fear Him. Truly, O Lord, Thou dost not forsake those who seek Thee!"

St. Zosimos (from the Life of St. Mary of Egypt)

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 are serving Lenten Lunch. Adult donation \$5, children under 12, \$3.

We have a new chanters stand! Thanks and blessings on Jacob and Vera Bahbah and their sons for donating this item. The stand was built by Fr. David Kruse of St. Raphael Church in Thousand Palms, CA and incorporates hand-carved panels by the same artists who made our iconostasis.

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.

March 19 Parish Council Meeting Summary

Financial report reviewed and approved.

Financial snapshot (YTD as of February 28): Total Income = \$89,832; Total Expenditures = \$59,316. Account Balances: General Checking \$66,931; Building Fund \$71,617; Good Samaritan/Hanna Chade \$14,240; Reserve Account \$45,350.

2017 Pledge Campaign progress reviewed. Currently at 121 Pledges totaling \$186,846 (as of 3/30/2017). Goal is \$205,000. We would like to complete the Stewardship Campaign by April.

Building Maintenance and Repair Items were reviewed and followed up on. Lighting for the Cross on the Church has been installed. Icons for the Deacon's Doors have been delivered and we are working on getting them installed.

Hall Rentals are on track. Master Calendar was reviewed. A donation of \$3000 on behalf of St. Mark was made to support the Camp St. Nicholas fundraising effort.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, April 30th.

Thank you.

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!

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 less than \$20,000 away from our goal! As of March 28, 2017, we have a total of \$186,846 pledged which is 91% of our total goal of \$205,000. Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge commitment! We have also successfully collected 121 pledge commitments.

Please help us wrap up this campaign by turning in your pledge cards. They can be turned in 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 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.)

Next Week

Sunday April 9th, St. Mark Antiochian Women Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Please see order forms included in this bulletin to order your goodies and find them on the tables at the hall.

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.

Upcoming events and services

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.

Friday April 14, Vigil reading

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

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:

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

When Mary was only twelve years old, she left her parents and departed to Alexandria, where she lived a depraved life for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she went with many pilgrims to Jerusalem, that she might see the Exaltation of the venerable Cross. Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition. Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, time and again she

perceived a certain invisible power preventing her entrance, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered. Therefore, wounded in heart by this, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross, and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshipped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for forty-seven years lived a most harsh manner of life, surpassing human strength; alone, she prayed to God alone. Toward the end of her life, she met a certain hermit named Zosimas, and she related to him her life from the beginning. She requested of him to bring her the immaculate Mysteries that she might partake of them. According to her request, he did this the following year on Holy and Great Thursday. One year after this, Zosimas again went thither and found her dead, laid upon the ground, and letters written in the sand near her which said: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of wretched Mary. I died on the very day I partook of the immaculate Mysteries. Pray for me." Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by some, in 437, and by others, in 522. She is commemorated also on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.