

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

Sunday Schedule: Orthros (Matins) & Confessions 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Church School After Holy Communion

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

CHRIST IS RISEN



May 21, 2017

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

Ss. CONSTANTINE AND HELENA, EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Feast Tone 5: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.

Arabic: Al-ma-sih qam min bai-ni l-am-wat, wa-wa-ti-a l-mowt bil-mowt, wa-wa-ha-ba l-hayah, lil-la-dhi-na fi l-qu-bur (sung alternately with Psalm verses in between).

THE PASCHAL ENTRANCE HYMN

Priest: In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel.

People: Save us O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: **Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fifth Tone:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection. (*Repeated in Arabic*)

Troparion of Sts. Constantine & Helena in the Eight Tone: Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and, like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Friend of man.

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 of Pascha in the Eighth Tone: Down to the grave though thou wentest immortal Lord. Yet didst thou there hurl down death by thy throne of might and art risen with vict'ry crowned, O Christ our true God; And hast hailed with glad greeting the women that came with myrrh; And unto thine Apostles hast graciously sent thy peace, O Lord that grantest the fallen to rise with thee.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 18.14,1) Tone 8: Their voices have gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (26.1, 12-20)

In Those Days, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

"I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. : But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles -- to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 88:19, 21) I have exalted one chosen from the people. My arm also shall strengthen him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my

eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshipped him.

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OTHER CHANGES FOR SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

Instead of "It is truly meet...", sing the Easter hymn, "The Angel cried to the Lady...", and "Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem...".

Communion Hymn: "Receive ye the body of Christ and taste and see him that is found deathless."

Instead of "We have seen the true light...", "we sing "Christ is risen..."

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Holy Oblations are offered by Simon Kishek and family for the soul of his newly-departed brother in Ramallah last Friday, Alfred J. Kishek, may his Memory be Eternal, by Theresa Joubran for her husband Michael on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary, by Tony, Paula, Leilah & Paul Rodriquez for mother, grandmother and great grandmother June Anter on the occasion of her birthday, and by Edna Deeb and the Najjar family for Wladimir Worotko, who passed from this life this week. He is the husband of our cousin Debbie, and son in law to our uncle and aunt, Carl and Alice Andrews. Memory Eternal.

Instead of the coffee hour the Kishek family is offering a luncheon in memory of Alfred Kishek.

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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, Tarek Fakhouri, and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

<p>Ushers this week: Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah</p> <p>Ushers next week: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna</p> <p>Altar boys serving this week: Noah Fortuna, Daniel Attallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada.</p> <p>Altar boys serving next week: Samir Khamis, Joseph Attallah, Andrew Bahbah.</p>

Quote from the Saints

"Guard your mind from evil thoughts concerning your neighbors, knowing that the demons put them there, aiming to blind you to your own sins and prevent you from directing yourself toward God." -- *St. Elias the Egyptian*

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

Thanks to the Men of St. Mark for last week's beautiful Mother's Day Luncheon and to our Teen SOYO for the lovely roses for our moms.

Our Teens will enjoy an afternoon of fun at Boomers in Irvine.

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 2% over from our goal! As of May 19, 2017, we have a total of \$207,454 pledged which is 102% of our total goal of \$205,000. Thank you to those who have made their 2017 pledge commitment! We have also successfully collected 138 pledge commitments.

Thank You! Thank you! 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

Wednesday May 24, 6:30 Evening Liturgy: Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.
(Orthros 5:30 p.m.)

Next week

Tuesday May 30th, Mere Orthodoxy 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday May 31st, 6:30 Vespers

American Arabic Educational Foundation

Graduating High School Seniors

The scholarship requires that the applicant be a graduating high school senior or equivalent, planning to enter either an academic or vocational school the term following the granting of the scholarship, and that the **recipient be a resident of one of the following California Counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, or Ventura; be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; and of Arabic Heritage.**

College and Graduate Students

Applications may be submitted from college and graduate students. The above eligibility and qualifications apply.

Applications can be obtained by emailing Donald P. Meena at donmeena@sbcglobal.net

The applications must be returned no later than June 15, 2017.

Upcoming Services & Events

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.

St. Nichols Summer Camp sign-ups are now open!

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

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

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

All parents with children from 8-18years of age are encouraged to sign them up 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 or email her at lilianzeidan@yahoo.com

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.

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 Orthodox Christian greeting of Pascha

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

AL-MASSIH QAM! HAKKAN QAM! (Arabic)

CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI! (Greek)

CHRISTOS A INVIAT! ADEVERAT A INVIAT! (Romanian)

CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINU VOSKRESE! (Slavonic)

CRISTO HA RESUCITADO! EN VERDAD HA RESUCITADO! (Spanish)
