

# **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

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

*Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.*

*Church School After Holy Communion*



**May 28, 2017**

**SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

**FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

**Refrain of the Second Antiphon:** Save us, O Son of God, who didst rise from us in glory to the heavens; who sing to thee. Alleluia.

### **DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE**

**Troparion of the Ascension in the Fourth Tone:** Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

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 Sixth Tone:** When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Troparion of the Ascension in the Fourth Tone (repeat above)**

**Troparion of the Holy Fathers in the Eighth Tone:** Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to thee.

**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 the Ascension in the Sixth Tone:** When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting earth with heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved, I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

**Prokeimenon** (Daniel 3:26-27) Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For you art just in all you have done.

**The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)**

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day

of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 49:1, 5) The God of gods, the Lord, has spoken and has called the earth. Gather his saints to him.

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)**

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

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Instead of "We have seen the true light..." We sing the Troparion of the Ascension.

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**Holy Oblations are offered by** Austin, Saeda, Stephanie and Alex Turk for Gods continued blessings on their son and brother, Anthony, for his graduation from medical school, by Anton & Katie Turk for their grandson Anthony on the occasion of his graduation, and by Michael & Charlotte Khoury and family for their God child Maha on the occasion of her birthday and for the health and salvation of their children.

**Instead of the coffee hour the family of Austin and Saeda Turk will provide a luncheon for the occasion of their son Anthony's graduation. Mabrook!**

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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.*

**Ushers this week:** Dmitri Kort & Randy Dabbah

**Ushers next week:** Austin Turk & Roger Tierney

**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**

"How can we say that we adhere to the meek and All-pure Christ, if we daily poison the air with tales about the sins and shortcomings of others? To conceal your own virtue and the shortcomings of others – in this is pre-eminent spiritual wisdom." -- *St. Nicholai of Zica*

### **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**

**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!

The church is missing over 10 white round table clothes, please bring them in if you still have them and forgot to bring them back. Also we are missing five of the Ladies Purple Aprons which has the Ladies Logo on them. If you took them to wash them and forgot to bring them back please do. Thank you!

**2017 Stewardship Pledge Campaign!**

We are 2% over from our goal! As of May 26, 2017, we have a total of \$207,954 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 139 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**

**Monday May 29, Church office closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.**

**Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>**, Mere Orthodoxy 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup>**, 6:30 Vespers

**Saturday June 3**, Vespers with St. Luke Church at 5:00 p.m. No Vespers at St. Mark. After Vespers is a "Roaring 20s" Gala benefiting St. Vladimir Seminary. See flyer included for more details.

**Next week**

**Sunday June 4**, Last day of Church School. (Pentecost Sunday)

**Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>**, Mere Orthodoxy 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 Vespers

**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Sunday June 11**, All Saints Day; Church School Awards; Parish Council Meeting.

**Thursday June 22**, Ladies last meeting before summer. Place to be announced.

**July 5–9, 2017 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.

**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.

### **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](mailto:donmeena@sbcglobal.net)

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

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](http://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](http://www.ocmc.org), e-mail [teams@ocmc.org](mailto:teams@ocmc.org), or call 1-877 GO FORTH (ext 141).

### **Arabic Lessons 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](mailto: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.

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## The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a proto presbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

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