

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.



August 6, 2017

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

REFRAIN OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Save us, O Son of God, who wast transfigured on Mount Tabor, who sing to thee.
Alleluia.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Priest: With thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light.

People: Save us, O Son of God, who wast transfigured on Mount Tabor, who sing to thee. Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of Transfiguration in the Seventh Tone: Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, revealing thy glory to thy disciples, as far as they could bear it. Let thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners, though the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of light: Glory to thee.

Kontakion of the Transfiguration, in the Seventh Tone: Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God and thy disciples, beheld thy glory as far as they could bear it; so that when they would behold thee crucified, they would understand that thy passion was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 103: 42, 1) O Lord, how magnificent are your works. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading from Saint Peter's Second Universal Letter (1:10-19)

Brethren, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never fall; there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and that voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Alleluia Verses (Psalms 88:11, 143:15) The heavens are yours; the earth is yours. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (17:1-9)

At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother and led them up a high mountain, apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

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Holy Oblations are offered today by the Laffoon and Whitacre families for Luke Whitacre on the occasion of his 2nd birthday, and by Simon & Laurice Kishek for the health of their family and for the souls of Issam and Samira.

Coffee Hour is given today by the coffee hour committee.

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Maha Kureh, Darlyne Dibs, Nuha Qushair, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, June Anter, Kh. Lynn Wilson, Kh. Katherine Tsichlis, 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: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

Ushers next week: Austin Turk & Roger Tierney

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

Altar boys serving next week: Noah Fortuna, Daniel Attallah, Connor Wilde, George Aldada.

Quote from the Saints

He was transfigured not by assuming what He was not, but in revealing to His disciples what He was, opening their blind eyes and making them see.

St. John of Damascus

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

In honor of the Feast Day, Fish, Wine and Oil are allowed.

Thanks to the Kishek family for donating the Grapes for the Feast of the Transfiguration.

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 still missing over 10 **white round table clothes**, if you took some home to launder, please return them now. We are also missing five of the **Ladies Purple Aprons** which have the Ladies Logo on them. If you took them to wash them, please return them now. Thank you!

Lost & Found: There are two eye glasses at the office; one is plastic pinkish frame and the other one grey or black metal frame. See Lydia if it belongs to you. Thanks

This Week

The August Fast in honor of the Theotokos began August 1 and lasts to the 14th. The Church prescribes the following fast: we abstain from all meat, dairy products (including eggs), fish, wine and olive oil (in some traditions olive oil is allowed). Shellfish may be eaten throughout the fast. Wine and olive oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays only. Please make every effort to fast according to the best of your ability and to come to the Sacrament of Holy Confession during this holy season!

Next week

Tuesday August 15, Feast of Dormition of the Theotokos, 10:00 am Liturgy (Orthros 9:00 a.m.)

Wednesday August 16, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Services & Events

Wednesday August 23, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

BOOTS and BLING DINNER AND HOEDOWN, Saturday, September 9 from 6-10 pm. Join us for our annual fundraising dinner at Strawberry Farms Golf Club as we host a Barbecue Dinner & Hoedown! Come learn to western line dance, two step or try your luck at our 50/50 raffle, silent auction and putting contest! All proceeds benefit St. Mark Orthodox Church. Every paid ticket purchased at St. Mark Church (i.e. before the day of the event) receives one gift per ticket. This venue has a limited seating of 250 and last year we sold out. Donation is \$50 per ticket if paid before 8/27 and \$65 per ticket if paid after 8/27. \$30 for children 12 and under. For "Hoedown" sponsorship packages, see Nelson Mamey. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.st-mark-church.org Questions? Contact event chairs, Kyra Pelachik and Barbara Scholl (949)533-4634. Make reservations at church or at this website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-mark-orthodox-church-boots-bling-bbq-dinner-hoedown> You'll have a 'yee-haw' good time!

Sunday September 24, 12:30 p.m. The Annual Antiochian Women of St. Mark Friendship tea. At the home of Denise Nassif.

October 6, 7, 8 Diocese of the West Fall Gathering, hosted by St. Timothy Orthodoxy Church of Fairfield CA. This is an annual meeting of representatives of Teen SOYO, Antiochian Women and Young Adult Ministry. St. Mark's should be represented for all three groups. Information regarding registration and hotel accommodations is available on our information table. You may also access this at www.antiochianladiocese.org (click on Diocesan Fall Gathering at the right side of the page).

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 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 Tuesdays 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.

Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord (August 6)

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the

Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.