

THE APOSTLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH

OF IRVINE

Pastor's Column

17840 Sky Park Circle
Irvine, CA 92614-6407
Tel: (949) 851-8933
Fax: (949) 851-0010
Email: frmlaffoon@yahoo.com
Website: www.st-mark-church.org

Very Rev. Father Michael Laffoon, Pastor
Residence phone: (949) 559-6133
Rev Fr. Patrick Irish, Attached
Rev. Protodeacon George Moubayed
Sub-deacon: Athanasius Fakhouri
Choir Director: Barbara Scholl
Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Karim Youssef, & Mark Ellis
Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh
Teen's Advisors: Paula Rodriquez & Dana Chade

2016-2017 PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - Randy Dabbah {17} (949) 293-7732
Vice Chairman – Barbara Scholl {18} (949) 533-4634
Secretary – Dimitri Kort {18} (909) 529-3671
Treasurer – Marwan Dabit {17} (626)665-1096
Assistant Treasurer- Kyra Pelachik {18} (714) 906-9231
Ghassan Awayjan {17} (951) 454-5429
Joe Daruty {17} (949) 612-7939
Mark Ellis {19}(949) 458-1604
Lori Nour {19} (949) 370-6224
Austin Turk {19} (949) 922-2350

[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his or her current term]

Church School Director: Eileen Ellis (949) 458-1604
Men's Club Acting President: Ghassan Awayjan (951) 454-5429
Antiochian Women of St. Mark President: Denise Nassif (949) 500-8318
Teen SOYO President: Grace Bahbah (714) 401-2094

Raising Godly Children

These notes are from a presentation by His Grace Bishop THOMAS at Orthodox Institute 2009, Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center, Bolivar, Pa.,

Parents, take the initiative to find out what your children are learning in Church School. Build upon the weekly lessons at home with supplemental teaching.

Also, build upon the Scripture readings, hymns, and commemorations of Saints and feasts that the children encounter in the Divine Services of the Church. Explain to your children what the readings and hymns mean and tell them the stories of the Saints and feasts commemorated.

Educating your children means that you must be educated in the Faith yourself. This is the parents' responsibility. Immerse yourself in the life of the Church. Worship and pray in as many of the Divine Services as possible, attend adult education classes, read the Holy Scripture, and consult the commentaries and sermons on the Scripture by the Holy Fathers.

In the home, set up a family altar or icon corner. Read the Scripture readings and lives of the Saints daily. Pray together as a family every day, at least in the morning and/or evening.

Make a big deal of feast days. Take the kids to the Divine Liturgy and enjoy a special meal to celebrate the day.

Celebrate the Name Day of the children with a celebration. Tell the story of the patron Saint's life

and explain how to emulate his or her life as an Orthodox Christian. At the family icon corner/altar make sure to have an icon of the child's patron Saint alongside the icons of the parents' patron Saints.

Ask the clergy to visit your home, to bless it, and to explain to the family the significance of this event.

Encourage the clergy to develop an outreach program involving visitations to homes in order to teach families how to practically live the Faith in the home as a "domestic church."

Strive to be a holy example within the home, as well as in public, for your children to follow.

Elder Porphyrios on Nurturing Children:

"What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. They need to become saints in their relations to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children. And the joy that will come to them, the holiness that will visit them, will shower grace on their children. Generally the parents are to blame for the bad behavior of the children. And their behaviour is not improved by reprimands, disciplining, or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness and if they don't engage in spiritual struggle, they make great mistakes and transmit the faults they have within them. If the parents do not live a holy life and do not display love towards each other, the devil torments the parents with the reactions of the children. Love, harmony and understanding between parents are what are required for the children. This provides a great sense of security and certainty."

Feasts, Special Services and Events for October

October 8 - Annual Parish Meeting

October 6 to 8 - Annual Diocesan Meetings, St. Simeon Church, Fairfield CA

November 2017 Advanced Calendar

November 4, Annual Wine and Food Tasting
November 8, Synaxis of the Archangels
November 9, St. Nectarios the wonder-worker
November 14, Holy Apostle Philip
November 15, Beginning of the Advent (Christmas) Fast
November 16, Holy Apostle Matthew
November 21, Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos
November 23, Thanksgiving Day
November 30, Holy Apostle Andrew

Metropolitan Joseph's Schedule

(Nothing listed as of 9/18)

WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Confessions heard from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Parish & Organizations News

Chrismated in Christ

On August 19, Jason Christopher Martinez. His Godfather is Elias Khamis.

Departed this life

Maha Yacoub Kureh mother of Sal Kureh, on September 4 2017. Her funeral service was at St Mark Church on September 8. Her interment was at El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest followed by the meal of mercy at Dana Point Yacht Club. May her Memory be Eternal

Married

On July 15 Randy Bahbah and Sophea Papadopoulos at St. Sophia Cathedral church. The best man is Andy Bahbah and the maid of honor is Ann Wiedemann.

On August 27, Leonard Cavillo Ramirez and Ashley Michelle Moubayed at St. Mark Church. The best man is Anthony Cardenas and the maid of honor is Lauren Moubayed.

On September 3 Jason Christopher Martinez and Aida-Angelique Ibrahim Khamis at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles. The best man is Walter Martinez and the maid of honor Tanya Khamis

Antiochian Women of St. Mark

On Saturday September 16th the Antiochian Women of St Mark, St. Barnabas and St Luke got together in a Christian Fellowship for a social event that was held at St Luke.

All The women enjoyed the afternoon which included fellowship, food, wine tasting & chocolate. Each parish co-hosted a table that pairs finger foods, cheeses, wine, chocolates & desserts. Also non-alcoholic beverages were served.

Our parish was assigned dessert wine. Denise Nassif did the presentation at our dessert wine table which included four different dessert wines, and an array of cheeses, nuts, and fresh and dried fruits that paired with those wines. We had 50 to 60 women from all three different parishes in attendance and a lovely time was had by all, and afterwards we went to vespers at St. Luke's. Please go to St. Mark Face book page and see all the pictures.

Our Annual Friendship Tea was held this year at the home of Denise Nassif on Saturday September 23, at 12:30p.m. We had brief meeting and we announced our new officers for 2017-18.

Our new President Kristen Chala; Vice president Tammy Qutami, secretary Vera Bahbah, treasurers Lydia Wakileh and Giselle Awayjan.

We will be very busy this year starting with the Breast Cancer walk on October 21st, at the Mission Viejo Lake and the luncheon on Sunday 22nd at the church hall. More details in the flyer included in this newsletter.

Please Ladies make sure you attend our first monthly Ladies meeting for this fiscal year, on **Sunday October 15th right after church.**

Let us always remember the propose of our women organization which is to develop a spirit of Christian concern and service among the women of the parish and a spirit of Christina leadership through awareness and commitment as thought by the Holy Orthodox Church

*Yours in Christ
Lydia Wakileh*

Men's Club

No report submitted.

Teen SOYO

Old business:

September 17th we held our Annual SOYO Kidnapping party for all our up and coming Teens as we initiated them into Teen SOYO!

*The kids were taken to Lake Mission Viejo for a fun filled day of team activities and ice breakers! We had about 50 in attendance! We played ball, water balloon toss, a who's who game, and the infamous watermelon eating contest!! Check our pictures out on the website! They are hilarious!

*The kids also got to rent out a variety of boats on the lake & finish off the summer with a bang!

*Special thanks to my husband, Tony who did all the BBQing of burgers & hotdogs & reserved our gazebo from 6:00am! What a trooper!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following new SOYO members!!

1. Jessica Alchammas
2. George Aldada
3. Liana Debbas
4. Nicholas Habeeb
5. Joseph Haffty
6. Chloe Jewgieniew
7. Deena Salameh
8. Brittany Turk
9. Nour Youssef

We are looking forward to your valuable contributions to Teen SOYO and to building wonderful memories, a strong spiritual bond, a deeper understanding of Orthodoxy, and having lots of fun with all of you!!!

New Business:

*SOYO will meet on Sunday, October 1st directly after Sunday school in the Teen room. Please ensure your teens are in attendance! It's our first meeting with our new members.

*The whole month of October is SOYO Youth month! Teens will be ushering and reading the Epistle every Sunday in October. Make sure your child or grandchild is signed up for at least 1 Sunday in October!

*Sunday, October 15th-SOYO will be collecting an extra offering that day to help raise money for Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village in

Pennsylvania. Please be prepared to donate and support those who have disabilities and strive to make the most of their lives!

*SOYO is hosting a special Halloween Mexican Fundraiser Luncheon on October 29th!

Please be prepared to stay for our delicious luncheon and support our Teen SOYO! Thank you!

Financials:

Current SOYO acct. bal. is \$766.37

*Balance does not reflect outstanding balances owed.

Yours In Christ,

Paula Anter Rodriguez

SOYO Advisor

Selected Saints of the Month

October 1

THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

From time immemorial, the Church has celebrated the Most-holy Theotokos as the patroness and protectress of the Christian people, who, by her intercessory prayers, implores God's mercy for us sinners. The help of the Most-holy Mother of God has been clearly shown numerous times, to individuals and to nations, in peace and in war, in monastic deserts and in densely populated cities. The event that the Church commemorates and celebrates today confirms the Theotokos' consistent protection of Christian people. On October 1, 911, during the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise, there was an All-night Vigil in the Blachernae Church of the Mother of God in Constantinople. The church was full of people. St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ was standing in the rear of the church with his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Most-holy Theotokos appeared above the people, holding her omophorion outstretched as a protective covering for the faithful. She was clothed in gold-encrusted purple, and shone with an ineffable radiance, surrounded by apostles, saints, martyrs and virgins. St. Andrew said to Blessed Epiphanius: "Do you see, brother, the Queen and Lady of all praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius replied: "I see, Father, and am struck with amazement!" The Feast of the Protection was instituted to commemorate this event, and to remind

us that we can prayerfully receive the unceasing protection of the Most-holy Theotokos in any time of difficulty.

October 13

THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR ZLATA OF MEGLIN

Zlata was born of poor peasant parents (who also had three other daughters) in the village of Slatina, in the province of Meglin. She was a meek and devout girl, wise in the wisdom of Christ and golden, not only in name but also in her God-fearing heart. Once when Zlata went out to get water, some shameless Turks seized her and took her to their home. When one of them urged her to become a Moslem and be his wife, Zlata fearlessly replied: "I believe in Christ and Him alone do I know as my Bridegroom. I will never deny Him, even though you subject me to a thousand tortures and cut me into pieces." When her parents and sisters found her, her parents said to her: "O daughter, have mercy on yourself and on us, your parents and sisters; deny Christ in words only, so that we can all be happy, for Christ is merciful. He would forgive such a sin, committed due to the necessities of life." Her poor parents, sisters and relatives wept bitterly. However, the noble soul of St. Zlata resisted such diabolical snares. She answered them: "When you counsel me to deny Christ the true God, you are no longer my parents or my sisters. I have the Lord Jesus Christ as my father, the Theotokos as my mother, and the saints as my brothers and sisters." The Turks then cast her into prison for three months, flogging her every day until her blood soaked the ground. Finally, they suspended her upside down and lit a fire, to suffocate her with the smoke; but God was with Zlata, and gave her strength in suffering. At last they hanged her from a tree and cut her into small pieces. Thus, this brave virgin gave her soul up to God, and went to dwell in Paradise in the year 1796. Pieces of her relics were taken by Christians to their homes for a blessing.

October 19

THE HOLY PROPHET JOEL

Joel is second in the line of the minor prophets. St. Joel was the son of Phaniel, from the tribe of Reuben. He lived eight hundred years before Christ. Joel prophesied the misfortunes of the people of Israel, and the Babylonian Captivity because of the sins they had committed in the sight of God. He

called the people to fasting and the priests to tearful penitential prayer, that God would have mercy on them: Sanctify ye a fast ... and cry unto the Lord (Joel 1:14); Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar (Joel 2:17). Joel also foretold the Descent of the Spirit of God upon the apostles and the pouring out of the grace of the Spirit of God upon all Christians: Then afterward I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28). He prophesied and described the Dread Judgment of God, and also prophesied the glory of God's Holy Church.

October 30
THE HIEROMARTYR ZENOBIUS AND HIS
SISTER ZENOBIA

They were from the town of Aegea in Cilicia. They inherited the true Faith and great material wealth from their parents. Working zealously for the Faith and with great love, they distributed all their wealth to the poor. Because their hands were so generous, the hand of God shielded them from every evil intent of men and demons. The generous hands of Zenobius, which gave to the poor, were endowed by God with the gift of miracle-working, and Zenobius healed the sick of every kind of infirmity merely by touching them. Zenobius was appointed Bishop of Aegea. During a persecution, the Prefect Lysias arrested him and said: "I offer you two choices: life or death; life if you worship the gods, or death if you do not." St. Zenobius replied: "Life without Christ is not life but death, whereas death for the sake of Christ is not death but life." When Zenobius was subjected to cruel tortures, Zenobia came to the judge and said: "I also want to drink from this cup of suffering, and be crowned with that wreath." After being tortured in fire and in boiling pitch, both were beheaded with the sword in about the year 285. Thus this brother and sister took up their habitation in the Kingdom of the Immortal Christ the King.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- James Bahbah 10/15
- Lana Chami 10/23
- Sue Dabbah 10/29
- Sara Fortuna 10/27
- Trevor Fortuna 10/13
- Jillian Goson 10/7

- Ehab Hanna 10/24
- Kathrina Khamis 10/27
- Jabra Khamis 10/12
- Elyas Khury 10/7
- Lewis Malouf 10/7
- Elizabeth Mamey 10/3
- Joseph Munayyer 10/16
- Joanna Novac 10/5
- Joseph Richards 10/19
- Souad Saadeh 10/10
- Sylvia Saba 10/10
- Angelika Schorr 10/14
- Kathy Skaff 10/9
- Mireille Moubayed 10/26
- Maria Toubbeh 10/1
- Anthony Turk 10/3
- Reham Turk 10/10
- Courtney Wilde 10/29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Saad & Samar Elsayegh 10/13
- Spiro & Samira Fasheh 10/10
- Paul & Susan Qaqundah 10/29
- Robert & Kimla Ranney 10/13
- Manuel & Georgette Salameh 10/8
- Theodore & Kathy Skaff 10/16

*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 Apostle is a monthly newsletter of St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church. **Parish Organizations are to submit articles by the 15th of the month to the Church office (949-851-8933)***

**SAINT MARK ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
17840 SKY PARK CIRCLE
IRVINE, CA 92614
OCTOBER 2017
NEWSLETTER**