

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.



September 10, 2017

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

MARTYRS MENODORA, METRODORA AND NYMPHODORA OF BITHYNIA;

The Troparion for the Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone: Thy Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

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.

The Troparion for the Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone [Repeated]

All: **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 Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone: By thy holy nativity, O immaculate one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death; thy people celebrate it, having been saved from the penalty of their transgressions, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 27:9, 1) O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. To you O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Section from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren, Amen.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 88:19,21) I have exalted one chosen from my people. For my hand will support him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Anton & Keti Turk and Ihab & Jamie Hanna for their children and grandkids Jirise and Zaina on the occasion of their birthdays, and by Sal & Jamey Kureh and family for the soul of Sal's Mother Maha departed this life last week. May her Memory be Eternal!

Coffee Hour is given today by the coffee hour committee.

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, 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.

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<p>Ushers this week: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino Ushers next week: Sam Munayyer & Wael Kahsou Altar boys serving this week: James Dabbah, Nadim Youssef, Nour Youssef, Matthew Dabbah Altar boys serving next week: Sammy Khamis, Andrew Azzam, George Bahbah, Richard Tierney.</p>

Quote from the Saints

May the soul that has sought refuge in Thy cross and inherited eternal incorruptible treasure praise and exalt Thee together with the spirits that number her among Thy ranks.

St. Ephraim the Syrian

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

Blessings and Thanks to our Hoedown Committee, led by Barbara Scholl, Kyra Pelachik and Nelson Mamey for our fun event on Saturday!

Church School teachers meeting

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!

This Week

Wednesday September 13, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Thursday September 14, 6:30 p.m. Evening Liturgy, Liturgy, Elevation of the Holy Cross, (Orthros at 5:30 p.m.)

Saturday September 16th the Antiochian Women of St Mark and St. Barnabas and St Luke will meet together in Christian Fellowship for a social event to be held at St Luke.

Plan to enjoy an afternoon that will include fellowship, food, and wine tasting & chocolate!

Each parish will co-host a table that pairs finger foods, cheeses, wine, chocolates & desserts. Also non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Afterwards, we will end with Vespers together. **See flyer included for more details.**

In His Service,

Charmaine

Next week

Sunday September 17, Church School Registration, **Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday September 19, Becoming Truly Human 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 20, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Saturday September 23, 12:30 p.m. The Annual Antiochian Women of St. Mark Friendship tea, at the home of Denise Nassif. (See flyer included for more details)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday September 24, first day of Church School classes

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).

October 8, Parish Annual Meeting, All communing adult Orthodox Christians, pledged to St. Mark for the current year are eligible to vote. We need your participation in this meeting! Plan to be there. We will vote on a 2018 Budget, hear organization reports and elect three new Council Members. If you would like to run for a Council seat, or suggest another member for nomination, please see Fr. Michael or one of the out-going Council members: Randy Dabbah, Joe Daruty, or Ghassan Awayjan. The list of nominees will be printed in the October 2 bulletin. In accordance with our Parish Constitution, no nominations are allowed from the floor.

2018 Sweetheart Ball: Prospective Debutantes and Parents

The Ladies' Society of St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Cathedral is now preparing to host the 56th Sweetheart Ball to be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Universal Hilton Hotel.

Your experience as a debutante will be most memorable, filled with a variety of activities! Nothing would give us greater pleasure than to share this amazing experience with you this coming year. Debutantes must be at least 15 years old by October 1, 2017.

If you are interested in becoming a debutante in the Sweetheart Ball please email or call me as soon as possible. The deadline to sign up is October 15th, 2017.

Much Love,

Caren Deeb Kouri auntylulu@aol.com (818-399-8899)

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.

Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, & Nymphodora (September 10)

These Martyrs, sisters according to the flesh, were from Bithynia. They lived in virginity on a mountain near the Pythian hot springs of Bithynia, devoting themselves to asceticism and prayer. Betrayed to the local governor, Fronto, they were subjected to frightful tortures, and so gave up their holy souls into the hands of God. They contested for the Faith during the reign of Maximian, in the year 304.



*You Are Invited
To The 1st Ever
OC Sisterhood Gathering*

Antiochian Women

A Sisterhood Serving Christ - Through Serving Others

Saturday, September 16th at 2pm

At St. Luke Orthodox Church 13261 Dunklee Ave - Garden Grove

*In Christian Fellowship, the Antiochian Women of
St. Luke, St. Mark & St. Barnabas*

*will gather together for an afternoon of wine, cheese,
non-alcoholic beverages, appetizers, chocolates & desserts*

*It's an opportunity to get to know one another,
with each parish hosting a themed table!*

We will conclude with Vespers at 5pm

Hope you can join us!

**Please RSVP & see what you can bring for your parish
table to one of the following by September 4th**

Kh. Christina Tassos -- ctassos7304@gmail.com

Denise Nassif -- pearlgirdn@aol.com

C. Sue Braun -- c.suebraun@gmail.com



Dearest Ladies
You are cordially invited to
The Antiochian Women of
St. Mark's Annual
Friendship Tea

Saturday, September 23, 2017
AT 12:30 PM

Hosted by- Denise Nassif
Nassif Residence

64 Summer House, Irvine

Finger Foods only and ready to be served
No preparation in the kitchen please!

Please Bring Your Favorite
Tea Cup!

RSVP to: Denise Nassif (949) 500-8318 or
Church Office 949-851-8933

By Monday, September 18, with the dish you
are bringing....

A-F- dessert O-U-salad (green or pasta)

G-N-main dish V-Z - fruit



St. Timothy Orthodox Church
SAC-Edual Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
4593 Central Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94534
www.StTimothy.ca
StTimothyFallGathering@gmail.com

TO: His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
FROM: Rev. Fr. John Christianson
Date: July 2, 2017
RE: 2017 Fall Gathering

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This year we have been granted the honor by His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, to host for the first time in Fairfield, California, the annual Fall Gathering: **October 6-8, 2017**. We cherish this opportunity to welcome you to our parish to help renew and establish friendships with our "cousins" of the Diocese.

Enclosed with this memo you will find everything needed to register and reserve your rooms at one of the three hotels where we have reserved room blocks. Please book your room reservation no later than September 6th to ensure guaranteed rates. This is peak tourist season in Napa and the hotels will release the rooms after Sept. 6th due to demand.

You will find all the needed information for this year's Fall Gathering online at www.antiochianarchdiocese.org.

Registration and Wine Tasting Reservation Deadlines: September 24th, 2017

We look forward to sharing our hospitality! Make sure to join us and your entire Diocesan family for this wonderful weekend. If you have any questions, please email our committee: StTimothyFallGathering@gmail.com or call our Fall Gathering Chairwoman, Kh. Barbara Christianson at 831-818-7772. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Your Servants in Christ,
Fr. John Christianson & St. Timothy Parish Family

1/1/17

