

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

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



September 24, 2017

PROTO-MARTYR THEKLA, EQUAL-TO-THE APOSTLES

& FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Seventh Tone: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Thekla the Proto-martyr in the Third Tone: O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Silouan the Athonite in the Fourth Tone: By prayer thou didst receive Christ as thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

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 for the Theotokos in the Second Tone: O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 67:35,26) in the Fourth Tone: God is wonderful among his saints. Bless God in the congregations.

Reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad

to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 39:1, 2) in the Second Tone: I waited patiently for the Lord. He set my feet upon a rock.

The Reading from the gospel according to St. Luke (5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Eileen Waian-Ellis and the Parish of St. Mark for the Health and Salvation of our Church School Children and Teachers as they begin the school year, and by Randa & Ramzi Salameh & family for the soul of Randa's father, Michael Musallam 10 year memorial and for the health and salvation of Musallam & Salameh families.

Coffee Hour is given today by Randa & Ramizi Salameh

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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 Tschlis, Tarek Fakhouri, Caren Deeb 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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Ushers this week: Marwan Dabit & Gabriel Attallah

Next week Epistle reader: Diana Aldada

Teen Ushers next week: Paul Rodriguez, Deena Salameh, George Aldada, Merolla Youssef, Youssef Youssef, Nadim Youssef, Nour Youssef, Jillian Goson, Maryann Hannouneh & Andrew Hannouneh

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

Altar boys serving next week: Samir Khamis, Joseph Attalah, Andrew Bahbah.

Quote from the Saints

“I ask you to try something. If someone grieves you, or dishonors you, or takes something of yours, then pray like this: “Lord, we are all your creatures. Pity your servants, and turn them to repentance,” and then you will perceptibly bear grace in your soul. Induce your heart to love your enemies, and the Lord, seeing your good will, shall help you in all things, and will Himself show you experience. But whoever thinks evil of his enemies does not have love for God and has not known God.” *St. Silouan the Athonite*

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

Church School Classes begin. For the rest of the Church School Year, we will ask that the instructors and student come forward first for Holy Communion so that they can maximize their instruction time. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.

Congratulations to our Ladies, the Antiochian Women of St. Mark, on yesterday's Friendship Tea, hosted by Denise Nassif.

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

Tuesday September 26, Becoming Truly Human 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 27, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Next week

Sunday October 1, Teen SOYO meeting after church

Tuesday October 3, Becoming Truly Human 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday October 4, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Services & Events

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)

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.

Proto-martyr Thekla, Equal-to-the-Apostles (September 24)

Thecla was born in Iconium of eminent but pagan parents. As a girl of eighteen, she was betrothed to a young man at the same time that the Apostle Paul arrived in Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Hearing Paul's testimony for three days and nights, Thecla converted to the Christian Faith, and vowed to live in virginity. Her mother, seeing that she was now ignoring her betrothed and no longer thought of marriage, tried to dissuade her, and then beat her and tortured her by starvation. Finally, this wicked mother turned Thecla over to the judge and demanded that Thecla be burned. The judge threw her into the fire, but God preserved her unharmed. Then, Thecla followed the Apostle Paul, and went to Antioch with him. Attracted by Thecla's external beauty, a certain elder of the city wanted to take her for himself by force, but Thecla escaped his grasp. The pagan elder accused her to the eparch as a Christian who disdained marriage. The eparch condemned her to death, and had her thrown to wild beasts, but the wild beasts did not touch the body of this holy virgin. Amazed by this, the eparch asked her: "Who are you and what kind of power is in you, that nothing can harm you?" Thecla replied: "I am a servant of the Living God." The eparch then released her, and she departed to preach the Gospel. She succeeded in converting many to the true Faith, among whom was Tryphena, a prominent and honorable widow. Then, having received the blessing of the Apostle Paul to do so, Thecla withdrew to a secluded place near Seleucia. There she lived a life of asceticism for a long time and, by healing the sick with wonderworking power, she converted many to Christianity. The doctors and soothsayers in Seleucia were envious of her, and sent some young

men to defile her, hoping that the loss of her virginity would also mean the loss of her miraculous power. Thecla fled from these arrogant young men, but as they were about to catch her, she prayed to God for help. A large rock opened up and hid this holy virgin and bride of Christ. This rock was her refuge and her tomb. St. John Chrysostom says of this wonderful Christian heroine and saint: ``It seems to me that as I see this blessed virgin, in one hand she offers Christ virginity, and in the other hand, martyrdom."`