

# **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.*



**September 3, 2017**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**HIEROMARTYR ANTHIMOS OF NICOMEDIA & THEOKTISTOS**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: **Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fourth Tone:** Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

**Troparion for St. Anthimos in the First Tone:** O godly-minded Anthimos, as a staunch defender of thy flock, thou eagerly sheddest thy blood for its protection. Unbending and wholly unafraid of all thine adversaries' fearful threats, thou rejoicest now in Heaven, standing before the throne of the Three-Sun Godhead. Glory to Christ Who hath given thee strength. Glory to thy manly bravery. Glory to thy patient endurance in martyrdom.

**Troparion for St. Theoktistos in the Third Tone:** The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Theoktistos, intercede with Christ God to save 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 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 life.

**Prokeimenon (Psalm 103.24, 1) Tone 4:** O Lord, how marvelous are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

### **Reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:13-24)**

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the

coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Alleluia Verses (Psalm 44.4, 7) Tone 4:** Draw your bow and prosper and reign, for the cause of truth and meekness and justice. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by** Emilie Laffoon and family for the soul of her parents Samuel Simon (20 years) and Jessie Simon (45 years). Memory Eternal!

**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.*

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**Ushers this week:** Paul Habeeb & Don Nassif

**Ushers next week:** Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

**Altar boys serving this week:** James Bahbah, Peter Williams, Nicholas Bahou, Youssef Youssef

**Altar boys serving next week:** James Dabbah, Nadim Youssef, Nour Youssef, Matthew Dabbah

### **Quote from the Saints**

A brother asked Abba Poemen, "If I see my brother sin, is it right to say nothing about it?" The old man replied, "whenever we cover our brother's sin, God will cover ours; whenever we tell people about our brother's guilt, God will do the same about ours.

*Abba Poemen*

### **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

**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

**Monday September 4, Labor Day Holiday; Church Office is closed**

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

**Thursday September 7, 6:30 p.m.** Evening Liturgy, Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Orthros at 5:30 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 steps 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. Tickets are \$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](http://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: <http://tiny.cc/bootsbling> you'll have a 'yee-haw' good time!

**Next week**

**Sunday September 10**, Church School teachers meeting

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

**Thursday September 14**, Liturgy, Elevation of the Holy Cross, 6:30 p.m.

**Ladies, Save the Date! On 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, 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

**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Sunday September 17**, Church School student 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)**

**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.antiochiandiocese.org](http://www.antiochiandiocese.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](mailto: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](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 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.

### **St. Anthimos of Nicomedia (September 3)**

After the death of the 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia, their Bishop Anthimus fled to a certain village to care for his remaining flock. The Emperor Maximian sent men in search of him. When they found him, he promised to show Anthimus to them, but first took them in as guests, fed them, and only then made himself known to them. Amazed at his kindness, the soldiers promised him to tell Maximian that they had not found him. But Anthimus went willingly with them, and converting them by his admonitions, baptized them on the way. He boldly confessed his Faith before Maximian, and after frightful tortures was beheaded in the year 303 or 304.





*You Are Invited  
To The 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:ctassos7304@gmail.com)**

**Denise Nassif -- [pearlgirdn@aol.com](mailto:pearlgirdn@aol.com)**

**C. Sue Braun -- [c.suebraun@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Self-Governing Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America  
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

4593 Central Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94534  
www.StTimothy.org  
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 6<sup>th</sup> to ensure guaranteed rates. This is peak tourist season in Napa and the hotels will release the rooms after Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> due to demand.

You will find all the needed information for this year's Fall Gathering online at [www.antiochianarchdiocese.org](http://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](mailto:StTimothyFallGathering@gmail.com) or call our Fall Gathering Chairwoman, Kh. Barbara Christianson at 851-818-7772. We look forward to seeing you in October!

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

1/14/17

