

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



October 22, 2017

**AVERKIOS THE WONDERWORKER, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES AND BISHOP OF
HIERAPOLIS; THE SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS (“SEVEN SLEEPERS”)
MARTYRED IN EPHEBUS**

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Third Tone: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Averkios in the Fourth Tone: Thy works of justice did reveal thee to thy community as a canon of faith, the likeness of humility and teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Averkios. Wherefore, by humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and by thy meekness wealth. Intercede, therefore, with Christ God to save our souls.

Troparion of the Seven Ephesian Youths in the Fourth Tone: Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

All: **Troparion of 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 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 18) in Tone 8: His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and his words unto the ends of the world. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

The reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely

zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 88) in Tone 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints. God who is glorified in the council of the saints is great and terrible towards all that are round about Him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (8:26-39)

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gad'arenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gad'-arenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has

done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming through the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Emilie Laffoon and family for the soul of her aunt, Helen Simon, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 14. Memory Eternal!

In lieu of Coffee Hour, the Antiochian Women of St. Mark are offering a Pizza Luncheon to benefit Breast Cancer Awareness.

Donation for lunch is \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids under 10 years old.

Thank you to Rima & Fouad Tarazi for donating the Pizza in memory of Rima’s mother Genevieve Saba. May her Memory be Eternal!

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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 Tsuchlis, Tarek Fakhouri, Caren Deeb and the suffering people of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

October is Youth Month in our Archdiocese. During the Sundays of October, members of our Teen SOYO will read the Epistles, and assist in ushering.

This week’s Teen ushers:

Greeters: Jillian Goson, Amanda Khoury, Rachel Ranney

Collection: Nicholas Habeeb

Communion: Merolla Youssef, Nour Youssef

Dismissal: Nadim Youssef, Youssef Youssef

This week’s Epistle reader: Paul Habeeb Jr.

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.

Quote from the Saints

"Strive to be always prepared for death, for death is near to both the elderly and the young - to monks and laymen equally; and often it comes suddenly and unexpectedly. Let everyone consider what will happen with his soul."

-- *St. Barsanuphius of Optina*

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

From the church office

Please, we need your help next Sunday November 29th after church to bag all food, beverages, etc. in the kitchen before a fumigation that the church will have on Monday November 30.

The church will be closed for all day Monday and Tuesday and on Wednesday until 1:00 pm.

All food or chips in the class rooms need to be bagged, so church school teachers please make sure you bag any snacks you have in your class rooms.

The church office will take delivery of a new copy machine tomorrow to improve our printing and copying.

Flowers... add color and beauty to the church. When our iconostasis was designed we included flower boxes in front of the icons. Thank you to Leo Chade, Gisele Awayjan, Michael & Theresa Joubran, and others for bringing plants and cut flowers to place there. Perhaps you would consider donating flowers as well. Two rules of thumb: We do not want flowers or plants on the floor of the solea (the raised area in front of the iconostasis) and please keep the size of the flowers/plants reasonable so as not to obscure the holy icons.

Congratulations to our Antiochian Women officers for 2017-18; they are:

President Kristen Chala; Vice president Tammy Qutami; Secretary Vera Bahbah and assisted by Afifa Artoul; Treasurers Gisele Awayjan and Lydia Wakileh.

Congratulations to our new Teen SOYO officers for 2017-18:

Co-Presidents: Christina Habeeb, Marianne Hanouneh

Vice-Presidents: Jillian Goson, Nadim Youssef, Youssef Youssef

Treasurer: Diana Aldada

Secretary: Amanda Khoury

Public Relations: Rachel Mahshie

Historians: Yasmeen Rizkallah, Lylac Joellson, Merolla Youssef

8th Grade Representative: Andrew Hanouneh Rachel Ranney

7th Grade Representative: Nour Youssef, Nicholas Habeeb

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!

Life Touch Photo Directory
Need help connecting names and faces?

Good news, we are doing a new pictorial directory, our last one is 4 years old, a bit out of date. Photography will take place **November 5th (Sunday) & 6th (Monday)** and 7th (**Tuesday**) in our parish hall. You can **Sign up today** during the coffee hour with Lydia at the table set up at the hall, or you can go to our church website www.st-mark-church.org and schedule your appointment anytime.

Note: All the Sunday appointments have been filled. Please consider Monday or Tuesday if you who have not scheduled your appointment.

This Week

Tuesday October 24, Funeral Services for Helen Simon: At St. Mark Church Irvine: 10:30 a.m. Viewing & 11:00 a.m. Funeral Service. Interment following at Westminster Memorial Park (14801 Beach Blvd, Westminster, CA 92683-5314). Meal of Mercy at The Original Fish Company (11061 Los Alamitos Blvd, Los Alamitos, CA 90720). In lieu of flowers the family requests that donation be made to St. Mark Church or to relieve victims of the Sonoma County fires at <http://www.sonomacf.org/about-resilience-fund/>

Wednesday October 25, Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Next week

Sunday October 29, join the TEENS for a delicious Mexican Halloween luncheon! No "tricks...Just treats"! Cost: \$5.00 per person (Children 5 & under are free) After the luncheon is served we will have a Halloween piñata for the youngsters.

Wednesday November 1, 6:30 p.m. Vespers

Saturday November 4, Annual Food and Wine Tasting at our church hall. Please reserve with Gisele Awayjan today and see flyer for more information.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday November 5, Daylight Saving Time ends; The Church School is sponsoring the coffee hour that day to support our Mission Priest.

St. Mark Church Blood Drive, January 21, 2018. Please save the date, invite family and friends. Thanks for saving lives.

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. 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. Our next meeting is Tuesday November 7 at St. Mark Church.

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 Seven Holy Youths Martyred in Ephesus (October 22)

The Seven Youths hid themselves in a certain cave near Ephesus in the year 250, to escape the persecution of Decius. By divine grace, a sleep came upon them and they slept for 184 years, until the reign of Saint Theodosius the Younger, when the doctrine of the resurrection was being assailed by heretics. They then awoke, that is, were resurrected, confirming in the sight of all the bodily resurrection; and again after a short time, by divine command, they reposed in the Lord in the year 434.