

## **St. Mark Orthodox Church**

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese,  
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America**

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.*

*Church School after Holy Communion*



**January 14, 2018**

**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY  
HOLY FATHERS SLAIN AT SINAI AND RAITHU**

## SPECIAL REFRAIN OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, who was baptized by John in the Jordan, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

During the Entrance: All: **Troparion of Epiphany in the First Tone:** When Thou O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee his beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ, our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, Glory to Thee

### Entrance Hymn

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us O Son of God, who **art risen from the dead**. Who sing to thee: Alleluia

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion for 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 Epiphany in the First Tone:** When Thou O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee his beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ, our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, Glory to Thee.

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 Theophany in the Fourth Tone:** Today thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord; and thy light hath been signed upon us, who praise thee with knowledge, saying: Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

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**Prokeimenon:** (Psalm 32:22, 1) Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

**Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**Alleluia Verses:** (Psalm 88:1, 2) I will sing of you mercies, O Lord, forever. For you have said: "Mercy shall be built up forever."

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12-17)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles --the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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**Hymn to the Theotokos** (instead of "It is truly meet...") in Tone 2

Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse. O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we indite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.

**Instead of "Praise ye the Lord..."** we sing "The grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men."

**Instead of "We have seen the true light..."** we sing the Troparion of Theophany.

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by Tania and Paul Habeeb for the soul of Nagib Zakhem (Tania's father), departed this life 40 days, by Fr Michael & Kh. Donna for Matthew and Sophia Whitacre on the occasion of their wedding anniversary**

(January 11), by the Daruty, Wilde and Bidwell families for Goldie Daruty and Susan Wilde on the occasion of their birthdays, by the Najjar family for their son Anthony on his name day (January 16) and by Mark & Eileen Ellis for Paula, Thomas, John Joseph, Jennifer, Jonathon, Elizabeth and for the soul of Elias.

**A Luncheon** in memory of Nagib Zakhem is given by the Habeeb family today.

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*Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Nuha Qushair, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, June Anter, Kh. Katherine Tsichlis, Khouria Joanne Townsend, 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.*

**Ushers serving this week:** Marwan Dabit & Gabriel Attallah

**Ushers serving next week:** Sleiman Aldada & Sam Kishek

### **Epiphany Water**

Every year for the Feast of Epiphany, we celebrate the Great Blessing of Waters. The faithful are encouraged to take some of this water home. The water may be drunk when someone is ill or used to sanctify rooms or items if no priest is available to do so. Please remember that this is Holy Water and should be stored and handled with due respect. Previous years' Holy Water should be emptied into one garden in a spot where there is no foot traffic.

### **House Blessings**

House blessing season has begun. Please use the form at that back of this bulletin to request a home or business blessing. Please also remember that Wednesdays and Fridays are fasting days. The home blessings will last about 40 minutes per home. When Fr. Michael arrives, all televisions, stereos, and radios should be turned off. If there is an icon corner in the home, the prayers will take place there, if not, an icon and a lit candle should be set up on a suitable table. A list of all those living in the home and others you would like to be included in the prayers should also be placed on the table.

### **Quote from the Saints**

“Have you sinned? Come to Church. Tell God. ‘I have sinned’...Admit the sin to annul it...How toilsome is this? I do not require of you anything more than to mourn the sin. I am not telling you to cleave the oceans, or to navigate safely into port from the high seas, or to march, or to depart on an endless journey, or to pay money, or to create safe passage through treacherous waves. Then what? Mourn the sin.” *St. John Chrysostom, On Repentance*

## **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 make sure to pick up your 2018 calendar from the table by the bookstore. Please one calendar per family.**

**2018 St. Mark Stewardship Pledge Update!**

Thank you to all who have pledged so far. To date, we've had 51 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$94,882 which is 46% of our goal of reaching \$205,000. Please take the time to fill out your pledge cards today! We appreciate your prayers and support. Additional pledge cards are available in the back of the church and can be dropped off in the white box between the church and the hall. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask a parish council member. In Christ, *St. Mark Stewardship Committee*

**Please remember to take your Sunday Bulletin 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 January 16, 6:30 p.m.** Adult Education series: A Journey to Fullness continues. Our program: Pot-luck dinner, video presentation and discussion.

**Wednesday January 17, Vespers 7:00 p.m.**

**Next week**

**Sunday January 21, Antiochian Women of St. Mark meeting after Church, St. Mark Church Blood Drive, January 21, 2018.** Please save the date, invite family and friends. Thanks for saving lives. Please see flyers for more information

**Tuesday January 23, 6:30 p.m.** Adult Education series: A Journey to Fullness continues.

**Wednesday January 24, Vespers 7:00 p.m.**

**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Sunday January 28, Antiochian Women Holiday Luncheon at Hanna Restaurant.** 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please see flyer on the table for more details

**Sunday February 4, 3:00 pm Super Bowl viewing Party** at the church hall. Please see the signup sheet at the hall for the Potluck. For more information see Austin Turk.

**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 Face book group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/OrangeCountyForum> for a list of scheduled events and more information.

## **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 Holy Monastic Fathers Slain at Sinai and Raithu (January 14)**


There were two occasions when the monks and hermits were murdered by the barbarians. The first took place in the fourth century when forty Fathers were killed at Mt. Sinai, and thirty-nine were slain at Raithu on the same day.

Mount Sinai, where the Ten Commandments had been given to Moses, was also the site of another miracle. Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the murder of the forty holy Fathers at Sinai. He tells of how the Saracens attacked the monastery and would have killed them all, if God had not intervened. A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them.

That day, the Blemmyes (an Arab tribe) killed thirty-nine Fathers at Raithu (on the shores of the Red Sea). Igumen Paul of Raithu exhorted his monks to endure their suffering with courage and a pure heart.

The second massacres occurred nearly a hundred years later, and was also recorded by an eyewitness who miraculously escaped: Saint Nilus the Faster (November 12). The Arabs permitted some of the monks run for their lives. They crossed the valley and climbed up a mountain. From this vantage point, they saw the Bedouin kill the monks and ransack their cells.

The Sinai and Raithu ascetics lived a particularly strict life: they spent the whole week at prayer in their cells. On Saturday they gathered for the all-night Vigil, and on Sunday they received the Holy Mysteries. Their only food was dates and water. Many of the ascetics of the desert were glorified by the gift of wonderworking: the Elders Moses, Joseph and others. Mentioned in the service to these monastic Fathers are: Isaiah, Sava, Moses and his disciple Moses, Jeremiah, Paul, Adam, Sergius, Domnus, Proclus, Hypatius, Isaac, Macarius, Mark, Benjamin, Eusebius and Elias.



*St. Mark Church invites you to join us for our annual*

## *Valentine Dinner Dance*

*Place: St. Mark Church Hall  
17840 Sky Park Circle  
Irvine, CA 92614*

*Date: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*Time: 7:00 PM - Midnight*

*Come and join us for a Romantic Evening  
and Dance to the beautiful rhythms of  
The DJ Charlie Toubehi*

*Arabic Dinner and Mazza  
The Olive Tree Restaurants  
Eight Middle Eastern Appetizers hot and cold  
And full Arabic Dinner*

*Complimentary bottle of El Massaya Arak!!!!*

### *Dessert Buffet*

### *Silent Auction and Great Prizes*

*Please feel free to bring your beverage of choice*

*Tickets are \$65.00 per person*

*For reservations call or Text Denise Nassif at (949) 500-8318  
Or Lydia Wakileh (Church Office) - 949-851-8933*