

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

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 21, 2018

VENERABLE MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR

ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Eighth Tone: From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of St. Maximos in the Eighth Tone: Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of Monastics, O wise Maximos, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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.

Priest: Kontakion of the Presentation in the First Tone: Thou, who didst sanctify the virginal womb by thy nativity, didst bless the hands of Simeon, and hast come to this day and saved us, O Christ God. Grant peace and strength to the Orthodox people whom thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 28.11,1) The Lord will give strength to his people. Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading from Saint Paul's First Letter Timothy (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 91.1, 2) It is good to give Praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto thy name, O Most High. To proclaim in the morning, Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who

Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Walid & Danice Najjar and family for the soul of Walid's mother Gladys Najjar passed away 40 days, by Edna Deeb for Caren, Nicole and Danielle Kouri, the Najjar Family and for Aunt Gladys Najjar, by Ibrahim Wakileh and family and the Haddad family for the soul of Ibrahim's aunt Marika Haddad departed this life 40 days, and by the Bahbah, Wakileh, Turk, Hadshiti and Zadah families for the soul of their brother-in law-Samir Hadshiti departed this life last week in Lebanon. May their Memory be Eternal.

A Luncheon is given today by the Najjar family in memory of Gladys Najjar.

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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: Sleiman Aldada & Sam Kishek

Ushers serving next week: Dimitri Kory & Randy Dabbah

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 the 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

"In the beginning, passion and pain were not created together with the body; nor forgetfulness and ignorance together with the soul; nor the ever-changing impressions in the shape of events with the mind. All these things were brought about in man by his disobedience."

— *St. Maximos the Confessor*

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.

Antiochian Women of St. Mark meeting after Church

St. Mark Church Blood Drive. Last minute sign ups are welcome!

Before Great Lent the children will have their confessions heard after Divine Liturgy on the following Sundays.

This Sunday January 21, Grades 9-12 are scheduled.

Remaining schedule:

January 28, - 7 & 8 grades

February 4, - 5 & 6 grades

February 11, - 3 & 4 grade, 1 & 2 grades

Please inform your children of the appropriate date and help them come to confession prepared.

2018 St. Mark Stewardship Pledge Update!

Thank you to all who have pledged so far! To date, we've had 61 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$112,082 which is 55% of our goal of reaching \$205,000. Please take the time to fill out your pledge cards today! We appreciate your prayers and support.

Thank you to our newest pledging families: Mary Dibs, Norman & Wetcka Haffty, Haitham & Sahar Hanna, Richard & Vera Jirjis, Maurice & Nadia Karkar, Bachir & Helene Kassir, Elizabeth Nassar, Rasha Salib, Dave & Brenda Tax and George & Patricia Yagham.

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 23, 6:30 p.m. Adult Education series: A Journey to Fullness continues. Our program: Pot-luck dinner, video presentation and discussion.

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

Saturday January 27, Please join the St. Barnabas Women's Fellowship and our Sister Parishes for a one day retreat. Please see flyer for more details.

Next week

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

Tuesday January 30, 6:30 p.m. Adult Education series: **A Journey to Fullness continues**. Pot-luck dinner, video presentation and discussion.

Wednesday January 31, Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Thursday February 1, **6:30 p.m. Evening Divine Liturgy Feast of our Lord's Presentation in the Temple.** (Orthros at 5:30 p.m.)

Upcoming Services & Events

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.

Saturday February 10, **Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance** at St. Mark Hall. Please see flyer on the table and reserve your tickets now.

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.

St. Maximos the Confessor (January 21)

The divine Maximos, who was from Constantinople, sprang from an illustrious family. He was a lover of wisdom and an eminent theologian. At first, he was the chief private secretary of the Emperor Heraclius and his grandson Constans. When the Monothelite heresy became predominant in the royal court, out of hatred for this error the Saint departed for the Monastery at Chrysopolis (Scutari), of which he later became the abbot. When Constans tried to constrain him either to accept the Monothelite teaching, or to stop speaking and writing against it - neither of which the Saint accepted to do - his tongue was uprooted and his right hand was cut off, and he was sent into exile where he reposed in 662. At the time only he and his few disciples were Orthodox in the East.