

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



February 11, 2018

JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE) SUNDAY

HIEROMARTYR BLAISE OF SEBASTIA

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for 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.

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 Meat Fare Sunday, in the First Tone: When Thou comest, O God, to the earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 117:14, 18) Tone 2: The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 19:1, 9) Tone 2: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble. O Lord, save the king, and hear us when we call upon you.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the

sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Melad & Wafa Hanna for the health and salvation of Mikhail, Salma, Michael, Amanda & Samir, for the soul of uncle Mousa Hanna departed this life on 2/1 in Syria, and for the souls of Suleiman, Tanous, Jack & George, by Steve & Barbara Scholl and family for the 40 days memorial of Steve's mother Bernadine Scholl, by Elizabeth Nassar and family for the 40 days memorial of her father Dr. Jamil Nassar, and by Mary Dibs & family for the soul of Darlyne Dibs, departed this life 40 days.

Coffee Hour is given today by The Nassar family in loving memory of Dr. Jamil Nassar.

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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.

<p>Ushers serving this week: Austin Turk & Roger Tierney Ushers serving next week: Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi</p>

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

“We must always remember that we are not condemned for the multitude of our evils, but because we do not want to repent and learn. And those who have sinned must not despair. Let that never be.”

St. Mark the Ascetic

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

Blessing and Thanks to Denise Nassif and her committee for our beautiful Valentine's Day Dinner Dance last night.

Meat Fare Sunday (last day to eat meat)

Please make sure to pick up your 2018 calendar from the table at the Narthex. Please one calendar per family.

Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy

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

This Sunday February 11, Grades 1, 2, 3 &4.

2018 St. Mark Stewardship Pledge Update!

Thank you to all who have pledged so far! To date, we've had 90 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$1510,051 which is 73% of our goal of reaching \$205,000. If you haven't yet, please take the time to fill out your pledge cards today! We appreciate your prayers and support.

Thank you to our newest 10 pledging families: Issa & Julie Bahbah, Ghassan & Geny Bahou, Steven & Lisa Beyrooty, Scott & Diane Daruty, Mitri Khamis, Olga Manneh, Don & Denise Nassif, Yacoub Saba, Mufid & Salam Samara and Kendall & Ronda Schorr.

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

The week following the Sunday of the Judgment is Cheese week. We are to abstain from all meat and meat products all week. All other foods are allowed, even on Wednesday and Friday.

Tuesday February 13, 6:30 p.m. Adult Education series: A Journey to Fullness continues. Our program: Pot-luck dinner, video presentation and discussion.

February Wednesday 14, Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Next week

Sunday February 18, Forgiveness Sunday

Monday February 19, First Day of Great Lent. Holy Services each night:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Pres-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m., followed by Pot-luck dinner (Lenten)

Friday: Little Compline with Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Services & Events

February 25, 4:00 p.m. First Sunday of Lent, Pan-Orthodox Triumph of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. Stephen Serbian Cathedral in Alhambra

Regular Lenten Schedule:

Monday: Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Friday: Little Compline with Akathist Hymn

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.

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.

Sunday of Judgment

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.