

## 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*

**·RESTORATION OF THE ICONS·**



**February 25, 2018**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

**LITURGY OF ST. BASIL**  
**During the Entrance**

**Troparion of the First Sunday of Lent, in the Second Tone:** We reverence thine immaculate icon, O good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God; for of thine own good will thou wast pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh, that thou mightest deliver from bondage to the enemy those who thou has fashioned. Wherefore, we cry aloud unto thee with thanksgiving: Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, for thou didst come to save the world.

**HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE**

**Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Fifth Tone:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion of the First Sunday of Lent, in the Second Tone** (Repeat above)

**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 for the Sundays in Lent, in the Eight Tone:** To thee the Champion Leader do I offer thanks of Victory. O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone canst set me free; from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

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**Prokeimenon (Daniel 3.26,27) Tone 4:** Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our Fathers. For you are righteous in all things you have done for us.

**The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (11:24-26, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received

their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**Alleluia Verses (Psalm 98.6; 33.17) Tone 4:** Moses and Aaron are among his priests. They call on the Lord and he hears them.

**The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (1:43-51)**

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by the Dibs family for the soul of Arthur N. Dibs, departed this life 10 years.**

**Coffee Hour is given today by the Coffee Hour Committee.**

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*Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Nuha Qushair, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, June Anter, Kh. Katherine Tschlis, 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:** Nelson Mamey & Jimmy Goson.

**Next month March is Antiochian Women's Month**, the Ladies will participate in Ushering, Reading the Epistle and serving during the 4 weeks of March.

**Next week Ushers:** Kristin Chala & Tammy Qutami

**English Epistle reading:** Kh. Donna Laffoon

### **House Blessings**

**During Lent, Fr. Michael will continue to bless homes, please use the forms on the information table to request a visit.** 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**

"If someone turns with his spiritual world toward the spiritual world of another person, he encounters an awesome and inspiring mystery.... He comes into contact with the true image of God in man, with the very icon of God incarnate in the world, with a reflection of the mystery of God's incarnation and divine manhood. And he needs to accept this awesome revelation of God unconditionally, to venerate the image of God in his brother. Only when he senses, perceives and understands it will yet another mystery be revealed to him-one that will demand his most dedicated efforts.... He will perceive that the divine image is veiled, distorted and disfigured by the power of evil.... And he will want to engage in battle with the devil for the sake of the divine image."-- St. Maria (Skobtsova) of Paris

### **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

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

**Our new 2018 Church Photo Directory is here.** Please see Lydia at the coffee hour to pick up your directory today.

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

Thank you to all who have pledged so far! To date, we've had 104 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$170,191 which is 83% 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 pledging families: Christopher Bederov, Walid & Danice Najjar and Tony & Paula Rodriguez. 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 LENTEN FAST** has begun

**During Great Lent, the rules of the dietary fast are thus: All of Lent and Holy Week we are to abstain from all meat and animal products (including eggs, milk, animal fats, etc.) The only exceptions are shellfish. In addition, Mondays through Fridays, we are to abstain from wine and other alcoholic drinks and olive oil. This is the "letter of the law." It is important for you and your family to participate in the "spirit of the law", working out this Lenten effort within your household in ways pleasing to God and beneficial for the soul. We all must be reminded that the purpose of the dietary fast is to help us to fast from sin and ungodliness! If you have questions regarding Lenten discipline, please see Fr. Michael.**

**Monday:** 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.

### **Next week**

**Regular Lenten Schedule:**

**Monday:** Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Pre-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**

**Sunday March 11, An Evening with Jamie Farr**, 2:00 p.m. at the Arya Fine Arts Theater, Beverly Hills. Proceeds benefit the St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church, Van Nuys. Ticket prices start at \$30. Go to [stmichaelvannuys.org](http://stmichaelvannuys.org) to purchase tickets.

### **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.

### **The 1st Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy**

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.