

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 28, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

STS. EPHRAIM AND ISAAC THE SYRIANS

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the First Tone: While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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 75.11, 1) Tone 8: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (3:10-15)

My child Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 94.1, 2) Tone 8: Come let us rejoice the Lord; Let us shout with jubilation to God our savior.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to

heaven, but beat his breast, saying, `God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by The Turk family for Anton Turk on the occasion of his birthday, and by the Daruty, Wilde and Bidwell families for Joe and Goldie Daruty on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

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 Tsiichlis, 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: Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah

Ushers serving next week: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

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

"Let us love silence till the world is made to die in our hearts. Let us always remember death, and in this thought draw near to God in our heart - and the pleasures of this world will have our scorn."

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 at the Narthex. Please one calendar per family.

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

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

This Sunday January 28, Grades 7 & 8.

Remaining schedule:

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 65 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$116,217 which is 57% 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: Edna Deeb, Fr. Patrick & Nina Irish, Osama & Rula Kishek and Tammy Qutami.

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 30, 6:30 p.m. Adult Education series: A Journey to Fullness continues. Our program: 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.)

The week following the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is a fast-free week.

Next week

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.

No Tuesday night Journey to Fullness and Wednesday evening Vespers on February 6 and 7 due to Western Diocese Clergy Seminar.

Upcoming Services & Events

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. Isaac the Syrian (January 28)

Saint Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah, lived during the sixth century. He and his brother entered the monastery of Mar Matthew near Ninevah and received the monastic tonsure. His learning, virtue, and ascetic manner of life attracted the notice of the brethren, and they proposed that he head the monastery. Saint Issac did not want this burden, preferring a life of silence, so he left the monastery to live alone in the desert.

His brother urged him more than once to return to the monastery, but he would not agree. However, when the fame of Saint Isaac's holy life had spread, he was made Bishop of Ninevah. Seeing the crude manners and disobedience of the inhabitants of the city, the saint felt that it was beyond his ability to guide them, and moreover, he yearned for solitude.

Once, two Christians came to him, asking him to settle a dispute. One man acknowledged that he owed money to the other, but asked for a short extension. The lender threatened to bring his debtor to court to force him to pay. Saint Isaac, citing the Gospel, asked him to be merciful and give the debtor more time to pay. The man said, "Leave your Gospel out of this!" Saint Isaac replied, "If you will not submit to Lord's commandments in the Gospel, then what remains for me to do here?" After only five months as bishop, Saint Isaac resigned his office and went into the mountains to live with the hermits. Later, he went to the monastery of Rabban Shabur, where he lived until his death, attaining a high degree of spiritual perfection.

From the early eighth century until the beginning of the eighteenth century, nothing was known about Saint Isaac of Syria in Europe except for his name and works. Only in 1719 was a biography of the saint published at Rome, compiled by an anonymous Arab author. In 1896, more information on Saint Isaac came to light. The learned French soteriologist Abbot Chabot published some eighth century

works on Syrian history by Iezudena, bishop of Barsa, where the account of Saint Isaac the Syrian was found.