

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



March 25, 2018

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Feast in the Fourth Tone: Today is the beginning of our salvation. The revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Priest: Proclaim from day unto day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

People: 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 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.

Troparion of the Feast in the Fourth Tone (repeat)

Kontakion for the Sundays in Lent, in the Eighth 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 in tone 4 (Luke 1:46, 48): My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has regarded the humility of his handmaiden.

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (2:11-18)

Brethren, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy Name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share in flesh and blood, he Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 71:6, 17): He shall come down like rain upon a fleece of wool, even as the rain-drops that moisten the earth. His name shall be blessed unto ages of ages.

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (1:24-38)

At that time, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, “Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.” In the sixth month the archangel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the archangel came to her and said, “Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the archangel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou wilt conceive in thy womb and bear a son, and you shall call his Name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the archangel, “How shall this be, since I have known no man?” And the archangel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power of the Most High will overshadow thee; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the archangel departed from her.

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Instead of “It is truly meet...” we sing: *Proclaim, O earth, the good tidings of great joy; praise, O ye Heavens, the glory of God. The Theotokos, being the living tabernacle of God, shall never be touched by an unclean hand. But the lips of*

believers shall sing unto her ceaselessly with the voice of angels, crying joyfully, Hail, O full of grace. The Lord is with thee.

Communion Hymn for today: *The Lord hath elected Zion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself.*

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Ibrahim, Charlie & Christopher Wakileh for Lydia & Michael on the occasion of their birthdays March 25 & 23, by Melad, Wafa, Michael Hanna & family for Amanda and Sameer on the occasion of their birthdays, and by Nadia Karkar and family for her husband Maurice on his birthday today.

Fish luncheon is served today by the Antiochian Women of St. Mark for Feast Annunciation. Donations \$8 adults & \$ 5 children under 10 years old. Profit of this luncheon will go to the Antiochian Women Project for 2018 (Vocations).

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Reham Turk, Nuha Qushair, Eleanor Wackeen, Georgette Salameh, June Anter, Seham Aldada, 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.

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

This week ushers: Carol Tierney & Tarize Bahbah

English Epistle reader: Mary Dibs

Arabic Epistle reader: Lilian Kassicieh

Next week ushers: Palm Sunday special team

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

O Good Mother of the All-good God: look upon the prayer of thine unworthy servant with thy merciful eye and grant me the contrition, quietness of thoughts, constancy of mind, chaste reason, sobriety of soul, humble thinking, radiance of spirit, prudent disposition, and spiritual peace that the Lord granted his disciples.
St. Ephraim the Syrian, A prayer to the Theotokos

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

The Women of St. Mark are sponsoring a fish luncheon for the Feast, \$8 adults & \$5 kids under 10 years old, and Fr. Wayne Wilson of St. Barnabas Church will speak during the luncheon on “The Theotokos, Our Model for Receiving the Grace of God.”

Easter Candles are offered for sale in the Church hall for \$8.00 each.

The red dye for Easter Eggs is for sale in our bookstore for \$1.50 each envelope.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale orders dead line is March 30, containers will be given to the ladies who are baking. All baked Goods should be brought to Church by Friday March 30. Thank you!

Our Pascha Breakfast signup sheet is posted in the church hall, please make sure you sign up for your donation. For more information, please see Denise Nassif.

If you think you may wish to rent our hall for graduation celebrations in the month of June, we ask you to reserve by the end of March. After that we will release any open dates to our caterer.

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 122 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$187,087 which is 91% of our goal of reaching \$205,000. We're less than \$18,000 away from our goal!! 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 2 pledging families: Ghassan & Giselle Awayjan and Joe & Salwa Bahbah.

Additional pledge cards are available in the back of the church and can be dropped off in the white box in the church 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: 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 March 26: Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 28: Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m., **presided over by Metropolitan Joseph**, followed by Pot-luck dinner (Lenten).

Friday March 30: Little Compline with Canon of St. Lazarus 7:00 p.m.

Saturday March 31: Orthros (9:00 a.m.) and Divine Liturgy (10:00 a.m.) of Lazarus Saturday

Next week

Sunday April 1, Feast of the Entrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday). Orthros 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. and Ladies Bake Sale after.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday April 1, Bridegroom Orthros, 7:00 p.m.

Monday April 2, Bridegroom Orthros, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday April 3, Bridegroom Orthros, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 4, Service of Holy Unction, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday April 5,

Divine Liturgy (Institution of Holy Communion) 10:00 a.m. (Orthros at 9:00 a.m.)

Service of 12 Passion Gospels, 7:00 p.m.

Friday April 6

Royal Hours 9:30 a.m.

Vespers of Taking the Lord's Body down from the Cross, 3:30 p.m.

Lamentations Service 7:00 p.m.

Teen SOYO Vigil at the Tomb of Christ

Saturday April 7

Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Vigil of Great and Holy Pascha 11:00 p.m.

Followed by Pascha Breakfast

Sunday April 8, Agape Vespers of Pascha 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Services & Events

Diocese Of Los Angeles & The West 66th Annual Parish Life Conference

Hosted by: St. George Church; Portland, OR Red Lion on the River, Jantzen Beach – July 4 – 8, 2018. Please see Registration Form and Souvenir Journal Order Form included in this Bulletin

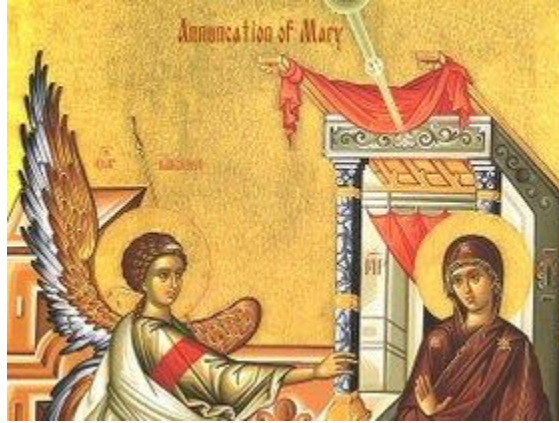
Orange County Forum

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.

Feast of the Annunciation



Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).