

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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

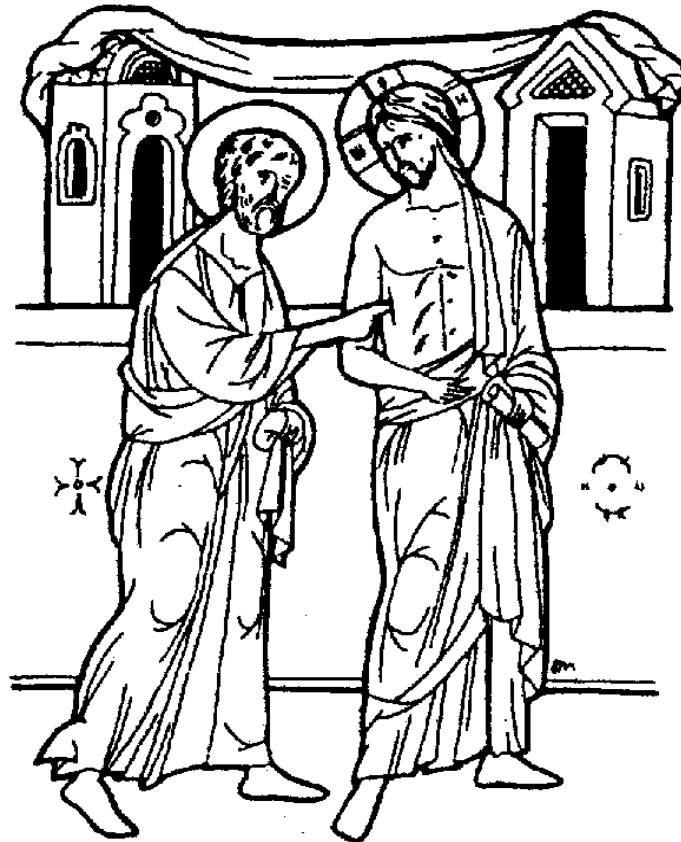
Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

CHRIST IS RISEN

· THE DOUBTING THOMAS ·



APRIL 15, 2018
THOMAS SUNDAY

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Feast Tone 5: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.

Arabic: Al-ma-sih gam min bai-ni l-am-wat, wa-wa-ti-a l-mowt bil-mowt, wa-wa-ha-ba l-hayah, lil-la-dhi-na fi l-qu-bur (sung alternately with Psalm verses in between).

THE PASCHAL ENTRANCE HYMN

Priest: In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel.

People: Save us O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of St. Thomas Sunday in the Seventh Tone: While the tomb was sealed, thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. While the doors were closed, thou didst come in to thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of thy mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha Tone 8: Down to the grave though thou wentest immortal Lord. Yet didst thou there hurl down death by thy throne of might and art risen with vict'ry crowned, O Christ our true God; And hast hailed with glad greeting the women that came with myrrh; And unto thine Apostles hast graciously sent thy peace, O Lord that grantest the fallen to rise with thee.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 18:14,1) Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

Reading from the First Universal Letter of St. John (1:1-7)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life -- the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us -- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk

in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Alleluia Verses Psalm 101:13, 19. You O Lord, shall rise and have mercy on Zion. The Lord has looked upon the earth from heaven.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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OTHER CHANGES FOR THOMAS SUNDAY

Instead of "The angel cried...", the chanters will sing: "**O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee**".

Communion Hymn: "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, O Praise Thy God, O Zion, Alleluia".

Instead of "We have seen the true light...", we sing "Christ is risen..."

At the end of the Liturgy, instead of “Through the prayers...” the priest and people exchange the Paschal greeting, and the following dialogue.

Priest: Glory to his third day Resurrection!

People: We adore his third day Resurrection!

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PLEASE NOTE: TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY for the Departed may not be said as a 9th day, 40th day, 6th month, or an anniversary memorial from Lazarus Saturday through Thomas Sunday. The only Trisagion Prayers of Mercy permitted during that period are those said for the faithful who pass from this life in these holy days. Thus the next Sunday at which the Trisagion Prayers of Mercy can be sung will be May 20.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Mark & Eileen Ellis for the health and salvation of their family.

Coffee Hour is given today by the Coffee Hour Committee.

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Eleanor Wackeen, Tarek Fakhouri, Seham Aldada and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted with disease and violence.

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Ushers this week: Paul Habeeb & Jamal Sayegh

Ushers next week: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

Altar boys serving this week: Jay Skaff, Nour Youssef, George Aldada, Efsthathios Geronikolaou, John Hanouneh.

Altar boys serving next week: George Bahbah, Andrew Azzam, Richard Tierney, Youssef Youssef, Andrew Bahbah, Andrew Hanouneh.

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/christened 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 remember to take your Sunday Bulletin with you 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!

2018 Stewardship Pledge Campaign!

Thank you to all who have pledged so far! To date, we've had 129 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$195,087 which is 95% of our goal of reaching \$205,000. We're less than \$9,913 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 7 pledging families: May Asaly, Rick & Sandra Dudum, Majed & Bunia Fasheh, Ibrahim & Diana Khamis, Isa & Barbara Khamis, Robert Mokbel, Shawki & Majida Souri.

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

This Week

Wednesday April 18, 6:30 p.m. Vespers, followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Next week

Sunday April 22

Parish Picnic after Liturgy on the green belt with food provided by the Parish Council.

Meeting of Antiochian Women after Liturgy.

Upcoming Services & Events

No Wednesday Vespers April 29 or May 9 (Fr Michael will be traveling)

Sunday May 13, Mother's Day Luncheon by the Men's Club

Sunday May 20th, Mother/Daughter Tea after Liturgy

St. Nichols Summer Camp sign-ups are now open!

Session 1: July 15 - 21

Session 2: July 22 - 28

Session 3: July 29 - Aug 4

All parents with children from 8-18 years of age are encouraged to sign them up at Campstnicholas.com to sign your kids up! The kids make friends and memories that will last a lifetime while learning about their faith!

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 Orthodox Christian greeting of Pascha

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

AL-MASSIH QAM! HAKKAN QAM! (Arabic)

CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI! (Greek)

CHRISTOS A INVIAT! ADEVERAT A INVIAT! (Romanian)

CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINU VOSKRESE! (Slavonic)

CRISTO HA RESUCITADO! EN VERDAD HA RESUCITADO! (Spanish)
