

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

Jesus appears to the

Myrrh-bearing Women



APRIL 22, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

PIOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, RIGHTEOUS NICODEMUS

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 qam 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

All: **Troparion of the Resurrection in the Second Tone**: When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee, O Christ Thou giver of Life glory to Thee. *(Repeated in Arabic)*

Choir: **Troparia of the Myrrh-bearers in the Second Tone**: The pious Joseph, having brought down thy pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen, embalmed it with ointment, provided for it, and laid it in a new tomb. But thou didst verily rise, after three days, O Lord, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Verily, the angel came to the tomb and said to the ointment-bearing women: The ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ is shown to be remote from corruption. But cry ye: The Lord is risen, granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion to 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 of Pascha in the Eighth Tone: 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 117:14,18) The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-7)

In those days, the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 19:1, 9) 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 Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (15:43-47 16:1-8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid.

And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; -- it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the

place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

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OTHER CHANGES FOR SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN
Instead of "It is truly meet...", the choir will sing: The Megalynarion of Pascha, "The Angel cried to the Lady..."

Communion Hymn: "Receive ye the body of Christ and taste and see him that is found deathless." replaces "Praise ye the Lord..."

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

Note: During the Paschal season, for the Communion of the people, we sing the Troparion of Pascha in various languages.

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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 for all Georges especially to our Protodeacon George Moubayed, and George Aldada (the elder), who is recovering from surgery.

Parish Council is holding a Parish Picnic after Liturgy on the green belt

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Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Eleanor Wackeen, Tarek Fakhouri, Seham Aldada, George Aldada (the elder). 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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<p>Ushers this week: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino</p> <p>Ushers next week: Sam Munayyer & Wael Kashou</p> <p>Altar boys serving this week: George Bahbah, Andrew Azzam, Richard Tierney, Youssef Youssef, Andrew Bahbah, Andrew Hanouneh.</p>

Altar boys serving next week: Paul Rodriquez, Paul Habeeb, Nicholas Habeeb, Jeries Hanna, Anthony Saadeh, Dave Tax Jr.

Quote from the saints

Blessed is Christ Who promised life and resurrection to Adam's children in the day of His coming. We too shall arise and exalt Him long with the saints who have been pleasing to Him.

St. Ephraim the Syrian

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

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

Meeting of Antiochian Women after Liturgy.

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!

2018 Stewardship Pledge Campaign!

Thank you to all who have pledged so far! To date, we've had 132 families turn in their 2018 pledge cards and have raised \$199,187 which is 97% of our goal of reaching \$205,000. We're less than \$6,000 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 3 pledging families: Jerald Donovan, Johnny & Sonia Liquete and Jamal & Hiam Sayegh.

Additional pledge cards are available in the back of the church and can be dropped off in the white box at the church hall. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask a parish council member.

In Christ,

St. Mark Stewardship Committee

This Week & Next week

No Wednesday Vespers April 25, May 2 or May 9 (Fr Michael will be traveling)

Saturday April 28, 11:00 – 12:00- p.m. Grief Support Group led by Tammy Qutami. For more information please call Tammy Qutami at (714) 499-9680.

Upcoming Services & Events

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

Sunday May 20th, Mother/Daughter has been cancelled this year.

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.

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulchre,

bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matt 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41. Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Savior, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Savior's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counselors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).

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)
