

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



JUNE 3, 2018

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection in the Eighth Tone: From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate one, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Saints in the Fourth Tone: Thy Church, O Christ our God, hath regaled herself in the blood of thy Martyrs throughout all the world, as in purple and fine linen. Through them she lifteth her voice, crying, turn with thy compassion to thy people, and grant peace to thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

All: **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.

Priest: **Kontakion of All Saints in the Eighth Tone:** Unto thee, O Lord, the Author of creation, the universe doth offer the God-bearing martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By whose prayers, through the Theotokos, do thou preserve in the profoundest peace thy Church, O most merciful One.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 67:35, 26) God is wonderful among his saints. Bless God in the congregations.

Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:33-12:2)

Brethren, all the saints 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.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 33:17, 19) The righteous cried and the Lord heard them. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver them from them all.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew (10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30)

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

"He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, the last first.

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Communion hymn: "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just: Praise is meet for the upright."
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Holy Oblations are offered today by Anees Turk & family for his daughter Angelina on the occasion of her 11th birthday, by May, Sarah & Amber Asaly for the remembrances of Michael's birthday June 4th (Memory Eternal), and by Anita Batshoun and family, Majed Fasheh and family for the soul of Majed's brother-in-law Samir Batshoun departed this life 40 days. May his memory be eternal!

Coffee Hour is given today by the Batshoun and Fasheh families for the 40 days memorial of Samir Batshoun.

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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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Ushers this week: Austin Turk & Don Skaff

Ushers next week: Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi

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

Altar boys serving next week: Paul Youssef, Chadi Tarazi, Salim Elsayegh, Joseph Haffty, Alex Haffty, Seth Skaff, John Jirjis

Quote from the Saints

The saints were people of this kind. They were totally severed from the ways of the world, and by keeping the vision of heaven unsullied in themselves they made its light shine by observing the divine laws. And having mortified their earthly aspects through self-control and through awe and love for God, they were radiant with holy words and actions. For through unceasing prayer and the study of the divine Scriptures the soul's noetic eyes are opened, and they see the King of the celestial powers, and great joy and fierce longing burn intensely in the soul.

A Discourse of Abba Philimon

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

Last Day of Church School

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!

Church Directory 2018, is available on the table by the bulletin board for the families who didn't get one. Your free will donation is appreciated.

Lost and Found: Please check the box of lost and found in the hall. We have big black jackets and other items.

This Week

Monday June 4, Apostles fast starts. *The Fast of the Holy Apostles is not as strict as the Fasts of Pascha and the Nativity of Christ; rather it is more lenient in its duration and rules. The current rules of fasting, during the Apostles' Fast, were established first for the monks of the Monastery of the Kiev Caves by Metropolitan George of Kiev (1069-1072). These rules are still practiced today amongst most Orthodox Christians with minor variations, depending on the jurisdiction.*

The rules are:

1- Red meat, poultry, and dairy products are not allowed during the entire fasting period in all weekdays.

2- Fish, wine, and oil are allowed on all days except on Wednesdays and Fridays

Tuesday June 5, 6:30 pm Journey to Fullness

Wednesday June 6, Vespers 7:00 pm

Next week

Sunday June 10, Church School Awards Program

Tuesday June 12, 6:30 pm Journey to Fullness

Wednesday June 13, Vespers 6:30 pm; 7:15 p.m. Focus Planning Meeting.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday June 17, Father's Day Luncheon served by St. Mark Antiochian Women.

Wednesday June 20, Vespers at 6:30 p.m. and Parish Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Saturday June 30, Antiochian Women's Brunch

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 on the table by the bulletin board in the church hall.

We are trying to form a **Grief Support Group** for adults dealing with loss. The proposed meeting day/time is Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to Noon. Please contact Tammy Qutami if you would like to participate, or have questions: (714) 322-2954 or tammyrq3@gmail.com.

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 8-18years 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.

On the Sunday of All Saints:

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood. Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are

keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers). In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.