

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, Deacon Nicholas Mamey

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



JULY 1, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

HOLY UNMERCENARIES COSMAS AND DAMIAN OF ROME

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: Troparion of the Resurrection the Fourth Tone: Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of St. Cosmas and Damian in the Eighth Tone O ye silver-hating, wonderworking saints, Cosmas and Damian, visit our sicknesses. Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

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.

Kontakion of the Theotokos in the Second Tone: O undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cry to thee in faith, with assistance; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

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The Prokeimenon in Fourth Tone: (Psalm 15:3, 8), “Among the saints who are in the earth the Lord has been wondrous. I beheld the Lord ever before me.”

The Reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (12:27-13:8)

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong,

but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Alleluia Verses in the Fourth Tone: Draw your bow and prosper and reign, for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.”

Reading from the gospel according to St Matthew (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Salwa, Andy, Nicholas & Nora Bahbah for Joe on the occasion of his birthday 6/29, by Tariez, Grace & George Bahbah for Phillip on his birthday July 2, by the Bahbah family for the soul of their father Andrew Bahbah departed this life 17 years, and by Edna Deeb, Walid & Danice Najjar and family in loving memory of their beloved sister Caren Deeb Kouri.

Instead of Coffee Hour today, there is a luncheon to welcome Deacon Nicholas and Christina.

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Please remember in your prayers: Theo Whitehead, Michael Debbas, Eleanor Wackeen, Tarek Fakhouri, Seham Aldada, George Aldada (the elder), Adele Bahbah 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: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

Ushers next week: Sam Munayyer & Wael Kashou

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

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

Quote from the Saints

“The kingdom of heaven is not in word but in deed.” -- St. John of Damascus

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

We welcome to St. Mark Deacon Nicholas and Shemassy Christina Mamey. Dn. Nicholas has been assigned to St. Mark Church to serve at our Holy Altar and to assist Fr. Michael in pastoral care with an emphasis on College and Young Adult ministry. He will also be completing a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Biography of Deacon Nicholas Mamey

Dn. Nicholas Mamey was born in Newport Beach, California. Having grown up in the community of Saint Mark, Irvine he found joy in learning theology, serving in the altar, participating in SOYO, and attending Camp St. Nicholas each Summer. During his first two years of college he taught the high school Sunday school class at St. Mark, but soon after (2010) moved to Boston, Massachusetts in order to further his studies in theology and psychology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. There, Dn. Nicholas received a Bachelor's degree in religious studies and human development in 2012, a Master's degree in Divinity a year early in 2014, and a post-graduate Master's degree in Theology in 2016. In the summer of 2016 he married Christina Randol, whom he had met while in seminary. He published his first book "Building an Orthodox Marriage" through Saint Vladimir Seminary Press with Bishop John Abdalah of Worcester and New England in 2017. Later that same year he attended Boston College to obtain a Master's in Social Work, emphasizing in clinical mental health. On January 6th, 2018 (Theophany) Dn. Nicholas was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop John Abdalah and was assigned to serve as Bishop John's diocesan deacon prior to coming to St. Mark's. Throughout the past year, Dn. Nicholas has spent much of his time counseling and aiding adolescents in "the projects" of South Boston as part of his current academic program.

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!

Please check Lost N Found box at the church hall.

This Week

Wednesday July 4 – 8, 2018. 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.

Please see Registration Form on the table by the bulletin board in the church hall.

No Vespers on Wednesday July 4 due to PLC

Next week

Monday July 9, 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

July 9, 10, 11, & 12, (Monday through Thursday) FOCUS Summer Feeding Program. We need volunteers to prepare and serve lunch to needy school children. Meals will be prepared at St. Luke in Garden Grove from 9:00am - 11:00 and taken to the Westminster Family Resource Center where they will be served between 12:00pm - 1:00pm. Please see Roger Tierney at the coffee hour. You can volunteer to prepare the lunches OR serve them or both.

Wednesday July 11, Vespers 7:00 p.m.

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.

Upcoming Services & Events

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.

Saints of the Day, Cosmas and Damian Holy Unmercenary Healers and Martyrs (July 1)

Cosmas and Damian were unmercenary physicians and miracle-workers. These two saints were brothers, were born in Rome and as children were baptized and brought up in the Christian spirit. They possessed abundant grace from God to heal men and livestock from every disease and suffering, usually by the laying on of hands. They sought no reward for their efforts. They only required of the infirm to believe in Christ the Lord. Inheriting a large estate, they charitably distributed it to the needy and to those in want. At that time, Emperor Galerius reigned in Rome. As a persecutor of Christianity, he summoned these two holy brothers before him shackled in chains. After a prolonged interrogation the emperor ordered them to deny Christ and to offer sacrifices to the idols. Cosmas and Damian not only did not heed the emperor but also counseled him to abandon the dead idols and to recognize the One True God. "Our God is not created but He is the Creator of all, but your gods are the imaginations of man and the work of the hands of artists. If you did not have artists to make your gods, you would have no one to worship." After working a miracle upon the emperor himself –for they miraculously cured him from a grave infirmity –the emperor proclaimed his faith in Christ and released the holy brothers in peace. Cosmas and Damian continued to glorify God and to heal the sick and were themselves, glorified by the people on all sides. Envious of their glory, a certain doctor who, at one time was their teacher, and with the pretext to gather healing herbs, led them into the mountain and stoned them to death. They suffered honorably for the Faith of Christ in the year 284 A.D. Their memory remains eternal in the Church on earth and their souls took up habitation in the Kingdom of the Lord to live eternally in glory and in joy.