

# **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](http://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 Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade



**SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**MARTYR MAMAS AND HIS PARENTS**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**All: All: Troparion of the Resurrection the Fifth Tone:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion of St. Mamas in the Fourth Tone:** Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

**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 Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone:** By thy holy nativity, O immaculate one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death; thy people celebrate it, having been saved from the penalty of their transgressions, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of life.

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**Prokeimenon (Psalm 11.7, 1) Tone 5:** You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

### **Reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (1:21-2:1-4)**

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

But I call God to witness against me -- it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 17:48, 50) “It is God who avenges me. God magnifies the salvation of his king; and deals mercifully with his anointed.”

**Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (22:2-14)**

The Lord spoke this parable, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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**Holy Oblations are offered by** Roni Hanouneh and family for the soul of his mother Amalia, departed this life one year

Today’s Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Hanouneh family in memory of Amalia.

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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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<p><b>Ushers this week:</b> Paul Habeeb &amp; Jamal Sayegh</p> <p><b>Ushers next week:</b> Ghassan Awayjan &amp; Sami Nino</p> <p><b>Altar boys serving this week:</b> Jay Skaff, Nour Youssef, George Aldada, Efstahios Geronikilaou, John Hanouneh.</p>
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**Altar boys serving next week:** George Bahbah, Andrew Azzam, Richard Tierney, Youssef Youssef, Andrew Bahbah, Andrew Hanounch.

### **Quote from the Saints**

Through repentance the filth of our foul actions is washed away. After this, we participate in the Holy Spirit, not automatically, but according to the faith, humility and inner disposition of the repentance in which our soul is engaged. For this reason it is good to repent each day as the act of repentance is unending.

*St. Simeon the New Theologian*

### **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 Sunday (August (26th) this community showed its overwhelming support and desire to cultivate a Young Adult Ministry** here at Saint Mark, Irvine. After Liturgy, 24 of Saint Mark’s young adults came together for lunch at IHOP where they were given the opportunity to converse, engage, and eat with one another. During this time Deacon Nicholas Mamey engaged all present to understand their interests as well as their hopes for developing this ministry as a team. The 24 meals were completely paid for by individual donors. In fact, financial support for this particular event was so great that donations had surpassed expenses. We thank all who came forward. The large and enthusiastic group young adults as well as the amazing support from this community shows great promise for the future of this holy ministry.

#### **St. Mark Church School Announcements**

Church School term begins on Sunday, September 23, 2018 with registration on September 16th. We’re very excited about the upcoming new Church School Year.

In Christ,

Kristin Chala, Co-Director

Tammy Qutami, Co-Director

Please check Lost N Found box at the church hall.

#### This Week

**Monday September 2**, Labor Day Holiday, Church office closed.

**Wednesday September 5**, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

**Friday September 7**, 7:00 p.m. Vespers of the Feast

**Saturday September 8**, Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Othros 9:00 a.m.,  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

*Next week*

**Monday September 10**, Parish Council at 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday September 12**, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

**Thursday September 13**, Evening Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday September 15, noon:** Antiochian Woman Friendship Tea.

*Upcoming Services & Events*

**Saturday September 22, DUELING PIANOS DINNER & SHOW**, from 6-10 pm. Join us for our annual fundraising dinner at San Juan Hills Golf Club as we host a Dinner and Sing-Along Show! First enjoy a delicious dinner and then you'll enjoy a high energy, all request, sing along clap along, Rock N Roll comedy piano show where the audience is just as much part of the show as the entertainers. Don't forget to bring your song requests!! There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and all proceeds benefit St. Mark Orthodox Church. The first 100 tickets sold receive a box of Girl Scout Cookies! Tickets are \$60 per ticket if paid before 9/9 and \$70 per ticket if paid after 9/9. VIP sponsorship packages available, see Nelson Mamey. Contact anyone from the event committee for more information: Barbara Khamis, Jerri Mamey, Kyra Pelachik, Paula Rodriguez, Barbara Scholl or Rima Tarzi. Don't miss out on this one of a kind, fun sing along night!

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS WANTED!** We're looking for auctions items to use in the Silent Auction for the Dueling Pianos Dinner & Show in September. Some items were looking for are sports tickets, bottles of wine, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, movie tickets, overnight hotel stays, etc. We'll even take your small items and help create a bigger basket with other items, so no item is too small. See Rima Tarazi or Kyra Pelachik for more information.

**October 14, Parish Annual Meeting**, All communing adult Orthodox Christians, pledged to St. Mark for the current year are eligible to vote. We need your participation in this meeting! Plan to be there. We will vote on a 2019 Budget, hear organization reports and elect three new Council Members. If you would like to run for a Council seat, or suggest another member for nomination, please see Fr. Michael or one of the out-going Council members: Barbara Scholl, Kyra Pelachick, or Dimitri Kort. The list of nominees will be printed in the October 7 bulletin. In accordance with our Parish Constitution, no nominations are allowed from the floor.

## **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.

### **Saint of the Day**

#### **Holy Martyr Mamas**

The Holy Great Martyr Mamas was born in Paphlagonia, Asia Minor in the third century of pious and illustrious parents, the Christians Theodotus and Rufina. The parents of the saint were arrested by the pagans for their open confession of their faith and locked up in prison in Caesarea in Cappadocia.

Knowing his own bodily weakness, Theodotus prayed that the Lord would take him before being subjected to tortures. The Lord heard his prayer and he died in prison. Saint Rufina died also after him, after giving birth to a premature son. She entrusted him to God, beseeching Him to be the Protector and Defender of the orphaned infant.

God heard the dying prayer of Saint Rufina: a rich Christian widow named Ammia reverently buried the bodies of Saints Theodotus and Rufina, and she took the boy into her own home and raised him as her own son. Saint Mamas grew up in the Christian Faith. His foster mother concerned herself with the developing of his natural abilities, and early on she sent him off to study his grammar.

The boy learned easily and willingly. He was not of an age of mature judgment but distinguished himself by maturity of mind and of heart. By means of prudent conversations and personal example young Mamas converted many of his own peers to Christianity.

The governor, Democritus, was informed of this, and the fifteen-year-old Mamas was arrested and brought to trial. In deference to his illustrious parentage, Democritus decided not to subject him to torture, but instead sent him off to the emperor Aurelian (270-275). The emperor tried at first kindly, but then with threats to turn Saint Mamas back to the pagan faith, but all in vain. The saint

bravely confessed himself a Christian and pointed out the madness of the pagans in their worship of lifeless idols.

Infuriated, the emperor subjected the youth to cruel tortures. They tried to drown the saint, but an angel of the Lord saved Saint Mamas and bade him live on a high mountain in the wilderness, not far from Caesarea. Bowing to the will of God, the saint built a small church there and began to lead a life of strict temperance, in exploits of fasting and prayer.

Soon he received a remarkable power over the forces of nature: wild beasts inhabiting the surrounding wilderness gathered at his abode and listened to the reading of the Holy Gospel. Saint Mamas nourished himself on the milk of wild goats and deer.

The saint did not ignore the needs of his neighbors. Preparing cheese from this milk, he gave it away freely to the poor. Soon the fame of Saint Mamas's life spread throughout all of Caesarea.

The governor sent a detachment of soldiers to arrest him. When they encountered Saint Mamas on the mountain, the soldiers did not recognize him, and mistook him for a simple shepherd. The saint then invited them to his dwelling, gave them a drink of milk and then told them his name, knowing that death for Christ awaited him. The servant of God told the servant of the Emperor to go on ahead of him into Caesaria, promising that he would soon follow. The soldiers waited for him at the gates of the city, and Saint Mamas, accompanied by a lion, met them there.

Surrendering himself into the hands of the torturers, Saint Mamas was brought to trial under a deputy governor named Alexander, who subjected him to intense and prolonged tortures. They did not break the saint's will, however. He was strengthened by the words addressed to him from above: "Be strong and take courage, Mamas."

When they threw Saint Mamas to the wild beasts, these creatures would not touch him. Finally, one of the pagan priests struck him with a trident. Mortally wounded, Saint Mamas went out beyond the city limits. There, in a small stone cave, he gave up his spirit to God, Who in the hearing of all summoned the holy Martyr Mamas into His heavenly habitation. He was buried by believers at the place of his death.

Christians soon began to receive help from him in their afflictions and sorrows. Saint Basil the Great speaks thus about the holy Martyr Mamas in a sermon to the people: "Remember the holy martyr, you who live here and have him as a helper. You who call on his name have been helped by him. Those in error he has guided into life. Those whom he has healed of infirmity, those whose children were dead he has restored to life, those whose life he has prolonged: let us all come together as one, and praise the martyr!"