

# **THE APOSTLE**

## **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

### **SEPTEMBER 2018**

#### **SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

#### **OF IRVINE**

#### **Pastor's Column**

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America  
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America  
17840 Sky Park Circle  
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**Very Rev. Father Michael Laffoon, Pastor**  
Residence phone: (949) 559-6133  
**Rev Fr. Patrick Irish, Attached**  
**Rev. Protodeacon George Moubayed**  
**Rev. Deacon Nicholas Mamey**  
**Sub-deacon: Athanasius Fakhouri**  
**Choir Director: Barbara Scholl**  
**Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Karim**  
**Youssef, & Mark Ellis**  
**Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh**  
**Teen's Advisors: Paula Rodriquez & Dana Chade**

#### **2017-2018 PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman - Barbara Scholl {18}** (949) 533-4634  
**Vice Chairman – Kyra Pelachik {18}** (714) 906-9231  
**Secretary – Jerri Lynn Mamey {18}** (949) 831-5776  
**Treasurer – Marwan Dabit {20}** (626)665-1096  
**Assistant Treasurers- Melad Hanna {20}** (949) 433-1698 & **Richard Jirjis {20}** (714) 404-9002  
**Dimitri Kort {18}** (909) 529-3671  
**Mark Ellis {19}** (949) 458-1604  
**Lori Nour {19}** (949) 370-6224  
**Austin Turk {19}** (949) 922-2350

[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his or her current term]

**Church School Co-Directors:** Tammy Qutami (714) 449-9680 and Kristin Chala (909) 662-9131  
**Men's Club Acting President:** Ghassan Awayjan (951) 454-5429  
**Antiochian Women of St. Mark President:** Kristin Chala (909) 217-2317  
**Teen SOYO Co-Presidents:** Christina Habeeb, Marianne Hanounch

#### **Met Ephrem (Kyriakos) on Corruption**

Today we hear a lot of people talk about corruption, competing in research and efforts to combat this corruption, while it nevertheless continues to be prevalent in society.

What is corruption? And how do we treat it?

In his discussion of ancestral sin, Saint Athanasius the Great says that this sin has corrupted human nature. We inherit such a nature from our birth. In this sense we say, "In sins did my mother beget me." Of course, we do not inherit Adam's sin, but rather its consequences, and we add to this our personal sins. All of this brings us to bodily death and our sin brings us to spiritual death.

The Lord Jesus gave Himself over to death, so that He might deliver us through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

He has sent us the grace of the Holy Spirit so that we may be saved, since baptism, from natural corruption and afterwards, by way of our death to our passions and lusts, we may be saved from spiritual death. So then there is a corruption that comes about due to our attachment to the lusts of this world: money, authority and wicked pleasure.

The Gospel points out such wicked lusts when it says, "You cannot serve two masters, God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

"Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom

you have from God, and you are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Bodily purity, integrity in interactions involving money, renunciation of selfishness and dedication to serving others-- all of this is necessary in order to treat all sorts of corruption in society. Naturally, this requires struggle [literally, jihad] in practicing one's profession: in law, in medicine, in education especially, in commerce and in politics. In the language of the Church, we call this struggle "asceticism", renunciation of the love of money and the love of appearances.

Last but not least, we will cite the prayer that we offer to the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, to be freed from corruption:

"O Virgin, entreat your Lord and your Son, who by surrendering Himself to death saved our nature, dominated by corruption, from death and corruption... we constantly implore you to save us from the corruption of our passions... to raise us up from the corruption of sicknesses" (the Small Paraklesis).

+Ephrem

Metropolitan of Tripoli, al-Koura and their Dependencies

### **Feasts and Special Events for September 2018**

Saturday September 8, Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Orthros 9:00 a.m.).

Thursday September 13, 6:30 p.m. Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy (Orthros 5:30 p.m.).

Tuesday September 18, Parish Education series begins.

Saturday September 15, 12:00 p.m. Ladies Friendship Tea at St. Mark Church Hall.

Saturday September 22, Dueling Pianos Dinner & Show at San Juan Hills Golf Club 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday September 23, Church School term begins (registration on September 16)

### **Advance Calendar for October 2018**

October 12, 13, 14, Fall Diocesan Gathering, Pomona CA

October 14, Annual Parish Meeting

October 21, Special Olympics Awareness Day

### **Metropolitan Joseph's Schedule**

September 21-24

Holy Resurrection Church of Tucson, AZ

Hierarchical Visit

### **WEEKLY SERVICES**

Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Confessions heard from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Vespers, 7:00 p.m.

## **Selected Saints of the Month**

### **September 2nd**

#### **The Holy Martyr Mamas**

He was born in Paphlagonia of renowned Christian parents, Theodotus and Rufina. His parents were cast into prison for Christ's name. His father died first in prison, and as soon as Rufina bore Mamas, she also died. Thus the newborn child was left alone between the dead bodies of his parents. However, God the Provider sent an angel to a noble widow, Ammia. Ammia saw the angel in a dream: he told her to go to the prison and take the child in. The local eparch granted Ammia permission to bury the dead and to take the child to her home. When Mamas reached his fifth year, he began to talk and his first word was "Mama!"-for which he received the name "Mamas." In school, Mamas displayed unusual intelligence, and as he had been reared in a Christian spirit, he did not hide his faith, but confessed it to the other children and laughed at the idols. During the reign of Aurelian there was a bitter persecution of Christians. The pagans did not even spare the Christian children. Mamas was fifteen years old when he was brought before the emperor. The emperor told him that he needed only to deny

Christ verbally. Mamas replied: "Neither in my heart nor with my lips will I renounce my God and King, Jesus Christ." The emperor ordered him to be beaten, burned with torches, and finally thrown into the sea. But an angel of God saved him, and took him to a high mountain near Caesarea. There he lived in solitude and prayer. Even the wild beasts were tamed by his sanctity. He was finally discovered by his persecutors and subjected to torture again. When he had overcome torture both by fire and by wild beasts, St. Mamas was run through with a trident by a pagan priest. Thus he gave his holy soul to God, to Whom he had been faithful during all of his tortures. From his relics many healings of the sick have taken place.

## **September 18**

### **The Holy Martyr Ariadna**

In the Phrygian town of Promisea, during the reign of Emperor Hadrian, there lived a pagan nobleman named Tertullus. The maiden Ariadna was his slave and a Christian. On the day of his son's birth, Tertullus prepared a great sacrificial offering to the idols, but the pious Ariadna did not attend, remaining at home to pray to the true God. Her master was enraged at this and tried to coerce her to deny Christ and to worship idols. When Ariadna refused, he tormented her with beatings and other cruel tortures and cast her into prison. When he released her from prison, he drove her away from the house. Soon afterward he regretted having released her, and sent servants to seize her and return her to him. By then, Ariadna was already a great distance from the town. She was passing by a huge rock when she saw her pursuers, and she prayed to God and the rock opened and hid her. The servants became confused by this and began to quarrel and fight among themselves, and killed each other.

## **September 21**

### **The Holy Apostle Quadratus**

Quadratus, one of the Seventy, was a disciple of the Great Apostles. He preached the Gospel in Athens and was at first bishop of Athens after St. Publius, and afterward bishop of Magnesia. Quadratus was highly educated in secular wisdom, and rich in the grace of the Holy Spirit. His biographer says of him:

*He was as the morning star among the clouds* (Sirach 50:6). The clouds were the darkness of Hellenic paganism, without the light of piety. The Holy Apostle Quadratus, through the word of God, shone upon the Hellenes as a great light, illuminating the darkness, destroying the foul sacrifices, crushing the idols, and destroying the demonic temples by his prayer. However, darkness always hates the light, and the pagans hated holy Quadratus. First they stoned him, as once the Jews did St. Stephen. Then they threw him into prison and gave him no bread until he gave up his holy soul, and went to dwell in the Kingdom of Christ, his God.

St. Quadratus wrote an Apologia for Christianity and gave it to Emperor Hadrian. This Apologia had such an effect on the pagan emperor that he ordered that Christians not be persecuted without specific cause. St. Quadratus suffered in about the year 130. He is buried in the city of Magnesia, where he suffered.

## **September 29**

### **Saint Mary of Palestine**

At first, Mary was a reader of the Psalter in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. Because she was of beautiful countenance, many who gazed upon her were tempted by lustful thoughts. So that she would no longer be a cause of temptation for men, Mary withdrew into the wilderness of Souka with a basket of beans and an earthenware jug of water. St. Mary lived in the wilderness for eighteen years. By God's power, neither the beans nor the water ran out. The disciples of St. Cyriacus found her during her lifetime, and later buried her.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

#### **Saint Mary of Palestine**

The beautiful Mary was born beautiful,  
And, faithful to Christ, she prayed to Him:  
"Help me, my Lord, a helpless woman;  
Show me, the lowly one, the path to salvation.  
With Thy help, I struggle not to sin,  
But my face is a temptation to the weakness of others."  
Mary bowed with tears to the Living God,  
And hid in the wilderness from the eyes of men.  
Mary conversed with God, and that was her reward.

Her soul shone brighter than pure gold.  
Her body withered with the passing years,  
And an angel raised the heavenly woman up to  
Paradise.  
She now rejoices, radiant among the angels,  
And Saint Mary prays to God for us.

## Parish & Organizations News

### 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

### Antiochian Women of St. Mark

The Antiochian Women had no meetings in July and August. On July 21st, some of the Antiochian Women attended the event on "Loss, Love, and Participating in Paradise" by Father Wayne which was hosted by our sister parish St. Barnabas.

Our Annual Friendship Tea will be held this year at the hall of St. Mark Church on Saturday September 15th, at 12:00 p.m. We will have a brief meeting and we will announce our new officers for 2018-19. Please see the flyer included for more details.

This last year, has truly been an honor to serve as your Antiochian Women President. I'm so proud of all the work that we had accomplished. Now, Tammy Qutami and I will be Co-Directors of St. Mark Church School. I look forward to assisting in the spiritual growth of your children.

*Prepared by Kristin Chala, President  
Antiochian Women of St. Mark*

### Teen SOYO

No report submitted

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Arij Alchammas 9/9  
Andy Bahbah 9/19  
Nora Bahbah 9/9

~~Joe Daruty 9/15~~  
Rania Debbas 9/19  
Nicholas Debbas 9/2  
Andrew Ellis 9/14  
Mark Hanna 9/15  
Jeries Hanna 9/8  
Zaina Hanna 9/11  
Nadia Karkar 9/16  
Abe Khamis 9/20  
Alex Munayyer 9/14  
Giselle Rizkallah 9/4  
Heba Saadeh 9/16  
Hiam Sayegh 9/24  
Alexander Turk 9/26  
Christy Wilde 9/13  
Theodora Whitehead 9/23

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Ghassan & Geny Bahou 9/6  
Scott & Diane Daruty 9/4  
Norman & Wetcka Haffty 9/2  
Haitham and Sahar Hanna 9/9  
Michael & Charlotte Khoury 9/11  
Nader & Suhair Qoborsi 9/16  
Farah & Silvia Saba 9/15  
Ibrahim & Lydia Wakileh 9/19  
Hani & Marian Youssef 9/5

*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 Apostle is a monthly newsletter of St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church. Parish Organizations are to submit articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Church office (949-851-8933)*

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ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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IRVINE, CA 92614  
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