

THE APOSTLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 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
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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 Secretary: Lydia Wakileh
Teen's Advisors: Fatin Fakhouri & Muna Rizkallah

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: Denise
Nassiff (949)

Teen SOYO Co-Presidents: Christina Habeeb,
Marianne Hanounch

Raising Godly Children

*These notes are from a presentation by His Grace
Bishop THOMAS at Orthodox Institute
2009, Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning
Center, Bolivar, Pa.,*

Parents, take the initiative to find out what your
children are learning in Church School. Build upon
the weekly lessons at home with supplemental
teaching.

Also, build upon the Scripture readings, hymns, and
commemorations of Saints and feasts that the
children encounter in the Divine Services of the
Church. Explain to your children what the readings
and hymns mean and tell them the stories of the
Saints and feasts commemorated.

Educating your children means that you must be
educated in the Faith yourself. This is the parents'
responsibility. Immerse yourself in the life of the
Church. Worship and pray in as many of the Divine
Services as possible, attend adult education classes,
read the Holy Scripture, and consult the
commentaries and sermons on the Scripture by the
Holy Fathers.

In the home, set up a family altar or icon corner.
Read the Scripture readings and lives of the Saints
daily. Pray together as a family every day, at least
in the morning and/or evening.

Make a big deal of feast days. Take the kids to the
Divine Liturgy and enjoy a special meal to celebrate
the day.

Celebrate the Name Day of the children with a
celebration. Tell the story of the patron Saint's life
and explain how to emulate his or her life as an
Orthodox Christian. At the family icon corner/altar

make sure to have an icon of the child's patron Saint alongside the icons of the parents' patron Saints.

Ask the clergy to visit your home, to bless it, and to explain to the family the significance of this event.

Encourage the clergy to develop an outreach program involving visitations to homes in order to teach families how to practically live the Faith in the home as a "domestic church."

Strive to be a holy example within the home, as well as in public, for your children to follow.

Elder Porphyrios on Nurturing Children:

"What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. They need to become saints in their relations to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children. And the joy that will come to them, the holiness that will visit them, will shower grace on their children. Generally the parents are to blame for the bad behavior of the children. And their behavior is not improved by reprimands, disciplining, or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness and if they don't engage in spiritual struggle, they make great mistakes and transmit the faults they have within them. If the parents do not live a holy life and do not display love towards each other, the devil torments the parents with the reactions of the children. Love, harmony and understanding between parents are what are required for the children. This provides a great sense of security and certainty."

Feasts, Special Services and Events for October

October 14 - Annual Parish Meeting
October 12 to 14 –Annual Diocesan Fall Gathering, St. Peter Church, Pomona CA

November 2017 Advanced Calendar

November 3, Annual Wine and Food Tasting
November 8, Synaxis of the Archangels
November 9, St. Nectarios the wonder-worker
November 14, Holy Apostle Philip
November 15, Beginning of the Advent (Christmas) Fast
November 16, Holy Apostle Matthew
November 21, Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos
November 25, Thanksgiving Day
November 30, Holy Apostle Andrew

Metropolitan Joseph's Schedule

In October, His Eminence attends the Holy Synod Meeting in Lebanon

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

October 1

THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

From time immemorial, the Church has celebrated the Most-holy Theotokos as the patroness and protectress of the Christian people, who, by her intercessory prayers, implores God's mercy for us sinners. The help of the Most-holy Mother of God has been clearly shown numerous times, to individuals and to nations, in peace and in war, in monastic deserts and in densely populated cities. The event that the Church commemorates and celebrates today confirms the Theotokos' consistent protection of Christian people. On October 1, 911, during the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise, there was an All-night Vigil in the Blachernae Church of the Mother of God in Constantinople. The church was full of people. St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ was standing in the rear of the church with his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Most-holy Theotokos appeared above the people, holding her omophorion outstretched as a

protective covering for the faithful. She was clothed in gold-encrusted purple, and shone with an ineffable radiance, surrounded by apostles, saints, martyrs and virgins. St. Andrew said to Blessed Epiphanius: "Do you see, brother, the Queen and Lady of all praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius replied: "I see, Father, and am struck with amazement!" The Feast of the Protection was instituted to commemorate this event, and to remind us that we can prayerfully receive the unceasing protection of the Most-holy Theotokos in any time of difficulty.

October 13

THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR ZLATA OF MEGLIN

Zlata was born of poor peasant parents (who also had three other daughters) in the village of Slatina, in the province of Meglin. She was a meek and devout girl, wise in the wisdom of Christ and golden, not only in name but also in her God-fearing heart. Once when Zlata went out to get water, some shameless Turks seized her and took her to their home. When one of them urged her to become a Moslem and be his wife, Zlata fearlessly replied: "I believe in Christ and Him alone do I know as my Bridegroom. I will never deny Him, even though you subject me to a thousand tortures and cut me into pieces." When her parents and sisters found her, her parents said to her: "O daughter, have mercy on yourself and on us, your parents and sisters; deny Christ in words only, so that we can all be happy, for Christ is merciful. He would forgive such a sin, committed due to the necessities of life." Her poor parents, sisters and relatives wept bitterly. However, the noble soul of St. Zlata resisted such diabolical snares. She answered them: "When you counsel me to deny Christ the true God, you are no longer my parents or my sisters. I have the Lord Jesus Christ as my father, the Theotokos as my mother, and the saints as my brothers and sisters." The Turks then cast her into prison for three months, flogging her every day until her blood soaked the ground. Finally, they suspended her upside down and lit a fire, to suffocate her with the smoke; but God was with Zlata, and gave her strength in suffering. At last they hanged her from a tree and cut her into small pieces. Thus, this brave virgin gave her soul up to God, and went to dwell in Paradise in the year 1796. Pieces of her relics were taken by Christians to their homes for a blessing.

October 19

THE HOLY PROPHET JOEL

Joel is second in the line of the minor prophets. St. Joel was the son of Phanuel, from the tribe of Reuben. He lived eight hundred years before Christ. Joel prophesied the misfortunes of the people of Israel, and the Babylonian Captivity because of the sins they had committed in the sight of God. He called the people to fasting and the priests to tearful penitential prayer, that God would have mercy on them: Sanctify ye a fast ... and cry unto the Lord (Joel 1:14); Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar (Joel 2:17). Joel also foretold the Descent of the Spirit of God upon the apostles and the pouring out of the grace of the Spirit of God upon all Christians: Then afterward I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28). He prophesied and described the Dread Judgment of God, and also prophesied the glory of God's Holy Church.

October 30

THE HIEROMARTYR ZENOBIUS AND HIS SISTER ZENOBIA

They were from the town of Aegea in Cilicia. They inherited the true Faith and great material wealth from their parents. Working zealously for the Faith and with great love, they distributed all their wealth to the poor. Because their hands were so generous, the hand of God shielded them from every evil intent of men and demons. The generous hands of Zenobius, which gave to the poor, were endowed by God with the gift of miracle-working, and Zenobius healed the sick of every kind of infirmity merely by touching them. Zenobius was appointed Bishop of Aegea. During a persecution, the Prefect Lysias arrested him and said: "I offer you two choices: life or death; life if you worship the gods, or death if you do not." St. Zenobius replied: "Life without Christ is not life but death, whereas death for the sake of Christ is not death but life." When Zenobius was subjected to cruel tortures, Zenobia came to the judge and said: "I also want to drink from this cup of suffering, and be crowned with that wreath." After being tortured in fire and in boiling pitch, both were beheaded with the sword in about the year 285. Thus this brother and sister took up their habitation in the Kingdom of the Immortal Christ the King.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Bahbah 10/15
Ibtisam Betar 10/13
Lana Chami 10/23
George Chala 10/24
Sue Dabbah 10/29
Sara Fortuna 10/27
Trevor Fortuna 10/13
Jillian Goson 10/7
Ehab Hanna 10/24
Kathrina Khamis 10/27
Jabra Khamis 10/12
Elyas Khury 10/7
Lewis Malouf 10/7
Elizabeth Mamey 10/3
Joseph Munayyer 10/16
Joanna Novac 10/5
Joseph Richards 10/19
Souad Saadeh 10/10
Sylvia Saba 10/10
Angelika Schorr 10/14
Kathy Skaff 10/9
Mireille Moubayed 10/26
Maria Toubbeh 10/1
Anthony Turk 10/3
Courtney Wilde 10/29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Saad & Samar Elsayegh 10/13
Spiro & Samira Fasheh 10/10
Paul & Susan Qaqundah 10/29
Robert & Kimla Ranney 10/13
Manuel & Georgette Salameh 10/8
Theodore & Kathy Skaff 10/16

Parish & Organizations News

Antiochian Women of St. Mark

Our Annual Friendship Tea was held this year at the hall of St. Mark Church on Saturday September 15th, at 12:00 p.m. We introduced the new 2018-2019 officers along with a brief meeting.

The 2018-2019 officers are as following:

Denise Nassif-President

Marty Morrison-Vice-President

Tania Maalouly-Secretary

Gisele Awayjan-Treasurer

Adele Munayyer-Assistant Treasurer

Our annual Breast Cancer Awareness walk is set for Saturday, October 27th from 9-11 at Lake Mission Viejo and a luncheon fundraiser on Sunday, October 28th in the Church Hall.

Denise Nassif, President

Antiochian Women of St. Mark

Teen SOYO

The Teens will be holding their “Kidnap” meeting in October (date/time/place a surprise). On Saturday October 20 we will hold an “Ask Abouna” with Fr. Michael. On Sunday October 28, we will hold elections for our officers for the New Year.

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 15th of the month to the Church office (949-851-8933)

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