

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

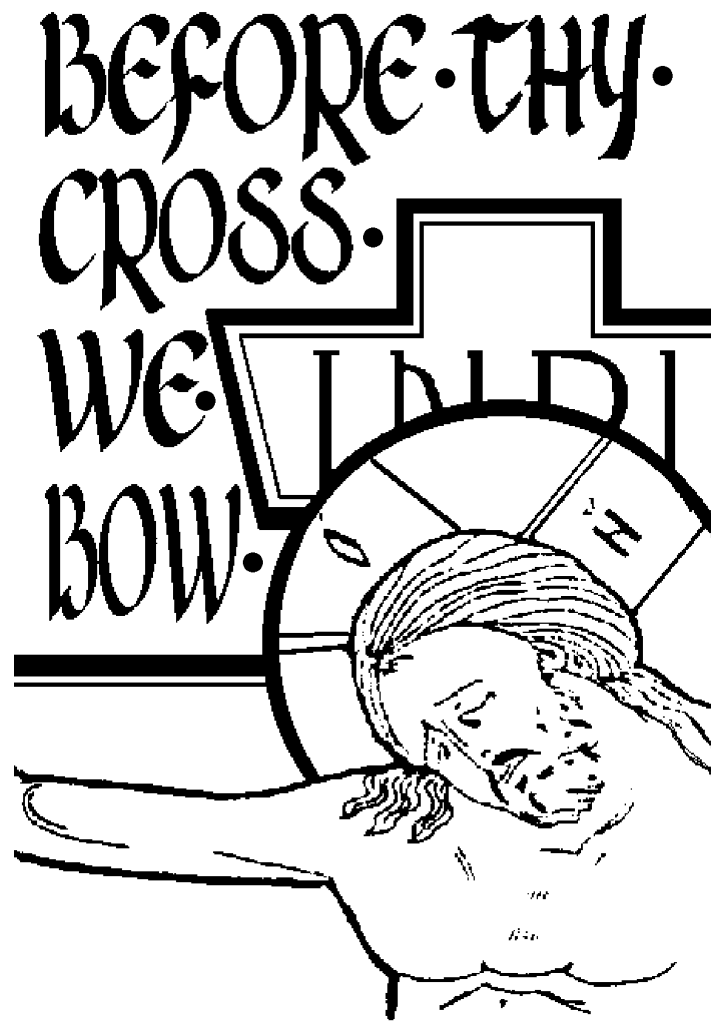
Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Mark Ellis,

Karim Youssef

Church Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisors: Paula Rodriguez and Dana Chade



SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

SUNDAY AFTER ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

GREAT MARTYR EUPHEMIA

Refrain of the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing to thee. Alleluia.

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Holy Cross, in the First Tone: O Lord save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Come, let us worship... Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee. Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection in the Seventh Tone: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Holy Cross, in the First Tone: (see above)

Troparion of St. Euphemia in the Fourth Tone: O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in 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.

Kontakion of the Holy Cross, in the Fourth Tone: As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 103.24, 1) Tone 4: O Lord, how magnificent are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified

by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 44.4, 7) Tone 4: Draw your bow and prosper and reign, for the cause of truth and meekness and justice. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

The Reading from the gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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Holy Oblations are offered by Constantine Geronikolau for the soul of his parents Efstathios Eleni, and Ioannis (Godfather of Constantine's son) and by Mufid and Salam Samara, and Sam and Adel Munayyer for the health and salvation of their dear friend Seham Aldada, and by the Laffoon and Whitacre families for Sophia Whitacre on the occasion of her Name Day (September 17)

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Samara and Munayyer families in honor of Seham Aldada.

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Please remember in your prayers: 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>Ushers this week: Sam Munayyer & Wael Kahsou Ushers next week: Marwan Dabit & Gabriel Attallah.</p>
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Altar boys serving this week: Paul Rodriguez, Paul Habeeb, Nicholas Habeeb, Jeries Hanna, Anthony Saaderh, 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

As a man whose head is under water cannot inhale pure air, so a man whose thoughts are plunged into the cares of this world cannot absorb the sensations of that new world. *St. Isaac of Syria*

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

St. Mark Church School Announcements

Church School term begins on Sunday, September 23, 2018. **Registration is today 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

Tuesday September 18, Adult Education: Pot-luck dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday September 19, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

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.

Next week

Tuesday September 25, Adult Education: Pot-luck dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday September 26, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

Upcoming Services & Events

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.

Dear St. Mark Church (YX817),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to go beyond being a part of the community to also helping create a stronger community. We appreciate your participation in our Community Rewards program to help accomplish that mission!

We have recently upgraded our Community Rewards system, and as a result, your Non-Profit Organization (NPO) has a new account number. (YX817) Please reference the new number when contacting us for assistance. While the previous number will continue to be associated with your organization, it will not be visible to your members when enrolling. New members can enroll online as always or if you do not have access to the online sign-up method, **please call 1-800-443-4438** we will be happy to register for you by using the **new number** or the **name of your organization**.

If you have any questions, please email community.programs@ralphs.com or visit our website at <https://www.ralphs.com> .

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,
Community Rewards Staff.

FOCUS OC 2017-2018 Summary

FOCUS Orange County continues to grow.

We have increased our Orthodox involvement from two to five churches and the monastery of St. Macarius

This summer we fed approximately 2600 meals to needy school children, families and neighbors in Westminster. We were blessed with volunteers from Churches, and thankful for cooking support from St. Luke in Garden Grove.

We've started distributing food baskets for our own needy families through the assistance of the Orange County Food Bank on a monthly/bi-weekly basis.

Our partnership with the Westminster Family Resource Center (W-FRC) continues to grow.

St. Mark church donated 25 backpacks full of school supplies for the needy children.

We provide a Food Pantry on the last Sunday of each month at the Valencia Inn in Anaheim.

We were selected by St. Basil Church to receive ½ of the proceeds from their summer Hoe-Down.

Saints of the Day

Holy Great Martyr Euphemia (September 16)

Euphemia was born in Chalcedon. Her father Philophronus, a senator, and her mother Theodoris were devout Christians. Euphemia was a beautiful virgin and body and soul. When the Proconsul Priscus held a feast and offered sacrifices to Ares in Chalcedon, forty-nine Christians avoided the foul sacrificial offering and hid themselves. However, they were discovered and brought before Priscus. Among them was St. Euphemia. When the arrogant Priscus asked them why defied the imperial decree, she replied: "Both the emperor's and your command should be obeyed, if they are not contrary to the God heaven; but if they are contrary to God they should not only be disobeyed but should be opposed." For nineteen consecutive days, Priscus imposed various tortures on them. On the twentieth day he separated Euphemia from the other and began to flatter her for her beauty, attempting to win her over to idolatry. As his flattery was in vain, he ordered that the virgin be tortured again. First, he tortured her on the wheel, but an angel of God appeared to Euphemia and shattered the wheel. Then they threw her into a fiery furnace, but she was preserved by power of God. Upon seeing this, two soldiers, Victor and Sosthenes, came to believe in Christ, for which they were thrown to the wild beasts, and thus gloriously ended their earthly lives. Euphemia was then thrown into a pit filled with water and every kind of poisonous vermin; but she made the sign of the Cross over the water and remained unharmed. She was finally thrown to the wild beasts and, with a prayer of thanksgiving to God, gave up her spirit. Her parents buried her body honorably. Euphemia suffered in the year 304 and entered into eternal joy. She is also commemorated on July 11 in relation to a miracle God worked through her at the 4th Ecumenical Council.

The Holy Great Martyr Euphemia the All-Praised was the daughter of Christians, the senator Philophronos and Theodosia. She suffered for Christ in the year 304 in the city of Chalcedon, on the banks of the Bosphorus opposite Constantinople.

The Chalcedon governor Priscus circulated an order to all the inhabitants of Chalcedon and its surroundings to appear at a pagan festival to worship and offer

sacrifice to an idol of Ares, threatening grave torments for anyone who failed to appear. During this impious festival, 49 Christians were hidden in one house, where they secretly attended services to the True God.

The young maiden Euphemia was also among those praying there. Soon the hiding place of the Christians was discovered, and they were brought before Priscus to answer for themselves. For nineteen days the martyrs were subjected to various tortures and torments, but none of them wavered in their faith nor consented to offer sacrifice to the idol. The governor, beside himself with rage and not knowing any other way of forcing the Christians to abandon their faith, sent them for trial to the emperor Diocletian. He kept the youngest, the virgin Euphemia, hoping that she would not remain strong if she were all alone.

Saint Euphemia, separated from her brethren in faith, fervently prayed the Lord Jesus Christ, that He strengthen her in her impending ordeal. Priscus at first urged the saint to recant, promising her earthly blessings, but then he gave the order to torture her.

The martyr was tied to a wheel with sharp knives, which cut her body. The saint prayed aloud, and as it happened, the wheel stopped by itself and would not move even with all the efforts of the executioners. An angel of the Lord, came down from Heaven, removed Euphemia from the wheel and healed her of her wounds. The saint gave thanks unto the Lord with gladness.

Not perceiving the miracle that had occurred, the torturer ordered the soldiers Victor and Sosthenes to take the saint to a red-hot oven. But the soldiers, seeing two fearsome angels in the midst of the flames, refused to carry out the order of the governor and became believers in the God Whom Euphemia worshipped. Boldly proclaiming that they too were Christians, Victor and Sosthenes bravely went to suffering. They were sent to be eaten by wild beasts. During their execution, they cried out for mercy to God, asking that the Lord would receive them into the Heavenly Kingdom. A heavenly Voice answered their cries, and they entered into eternal life. The beasts, however, did not even touch their bodies.

Saint Euphemia, cast into the fire by other soldiers, remained unharmed. With the help of God she emerged unharmed after many other tortures and torments. Ascribing this to sorcery, the governor gave orders to dig out a new pit, and filling it with knives, he had it covered over with earth and grass, so that the martyr would not notice the preparation for her execution.

Here also Saint Euphemia remained safe, easily passing over the pit. Finally, they sentenced her to be devoured by wild beasts at the circus. Before execution the saint began to implore that the Lord deem her worthy to die a violent death. But none of the beasts, set loose at her in the arena, attacked her. Finally, one of the she-bears gave her a small wound on the leg, from which came blood, and immediately the holy Great Martyr Euphemia died. During this time there was an earthquake, and both the guards and the spectators ran in terror, so that the parents of the saint were able to take up her body and reverently bury it not far from Chalcedon.

A majestic church was afterwards built over the grave of the Great Martyr Euphemia. At this temple the sessions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council took place in the year 451. At that time, the holy Great Martyr Euphemia confirmed the Orthodox confession in a miraculous manner, and exposed the Monophysite heresy. Details of this miracle are related under July 11.

With the taking of Chalcedon by the Persians in the year 617, the relics of the holy Great Martyr Euphemia were transferred to Constantinople (in about the year 620). During the Iconoclast heresy, the reliquary with the relics of Saint Euphemia appears to have been thrown into the sea. Pious sailors recovered them. They were afterwards taken to the Island of Lemnos, and in the year 796 they were returned to Constantinople