

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, Mark Ellis,

Karim Youssef

Church Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Church School after Holy Communion



SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which were Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

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Holy Oblations are offered by the Khury family for their daughter Elena, who is to be married this coming Saturday to Akash Patel of St. Andrew Church Riverside.

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the coffee committee.

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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: Marwan Dabit & Gabriel Attallah
Ushers next week: Slieman Aldada & Sam Kishek
Altar boys serving this week: Paul Youssef, Chadi Tarazi, Salim Elsayegh, Joseph Haffty, Alex Haffty, Seth Skaff, John Jirjis
Altar boys serving next week: Andrew Khamis, Michael Yagham, Sebastian Skaff, Matthew Kalache, Adam Erdkamp, Dominic Benjamin.

Quote from the Saints

What salt is for any food, humility is for every virtue. To acquire it, a man must always think of himself with contrition, self-belittlement and painful self-judgment. But if we acquire it, it will make us sons of God.

St. Isaac the Syrian

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

We install the newly elected officer of the Antiochian Orthodox Women of St. Mark:, President Denise Nassif, Vice-President Marty Morrison, Secretary Tanya Maalouli, Treasurer Gisele Awayjan and Assistant Treasurer Adel Munayyer.

Last night's Dueling Pianos event a great success. Blessings on the Event Committee.

Our Ladies Friendship Tea was held last Saturday and was well attended. Blessings on Tammy Qutami and Kristen Chala and their committee, who chaired the event.

St. Mark Church School Instruction begins today.

Please check Lost N Found box at the church hall.

This Week

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

Next week

Wednesday October 3, 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.

Saint of the Day

The Conception of St. John the Baptist (September 23) This came to pass fifteen months before the birth of Christ, after the vision of the Angel that Zacharias, the father of the Forerunner, saw in the Temple while he executed the priest's office in

the order of his course during the feast of the Tabernacles, as tradition bears witness. In this vision, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias and said to him, "Thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John" (Luke 1:13). Knowing that Elizabeth was barren, and that both he and she were elderly, Zacharias did not believe what the Angel told him, although he had before him the example of Abraham and Sarah, of Hannah, mother of the Prophet Samuel, and of other barren women in Israel who gave birth by the power of God. Hence, he was condemned by the Archangel to remain speechless until the fulfilment of these words in their season, which also came to pass (Luke 1:7-24).