

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 9, 2018

SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone: Thy Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection in the Sixth Tone: When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone
(see above)

Troparion of the Ancestors in the Second Tone: As we celebrate the memory of Thy righteous Ancestors, O Lord our God, through them we beseech thee to save our souls.

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.

++++
Prokeimenon (Psalm 27:9,1) O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. To you O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Section from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which

the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.

Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren, Amen.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 88:19, 21) I have exalted one chosen from my people. For my hand will support him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17) The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

+++++

Holy Oblations are offered by the Qushair family for the soul of Photine Qushair Fanous, departed this life 40 days (Memory Eternal!)

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored the Qushair family in memory of Photine.

+++++

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.

+++++

Ushers this week: Ghassan Awayjan & Sami Nino

Ushers next week: Sam Munayyer & Wael Kahsou

Altar boys serving this week: George Bahbah, Andrew Azzam, Richard Tierney, Youssef Youssef, Andrew Bahbah, Andrew Hanouneh.

Altar boys serving next week: Paul Rodriguez, Paul Habeeb, Nicholas Habeeb, Jeries Hanna, Anthony Saaderh, Dave Tax Jr.

Quote from the Saints

"Reverence with all the powers of your soul all the sacraments, and say to yourself in respect to every sacrament before the celebration or the communion of it: 'This is God's mystery. I myself am only the unworthy witness or partaker of it.'" –

St. John of Kronstadt

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 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 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. (Orthros 5:30 pm)

Saturday September 15, noon: Antiochian Woman Friendship Tea.

Next week

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.

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.

Saints of the Day

Sts. Joachim and Anna (September 9)

Righteous Saint Joachim, son of Barpathir, was a descendant of King David, to whom God had revealed that from the descendants of his line would be born the Savior of the world. **Righteous Saint Anna** was the daughter of Matthan and through her father she was of the tribe of Levi, and through her mother -- of the tribe of Judah. The spouses lived at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and all their life they grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. But they never grumbled and only but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting on His will. Once during the time of a great feast, the gifts which Righteous Joachim took to Jerusalem for offering to God were not accepted by the priest Ruben, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained the old man very much, and he, regarding himself the most sinful of people, decided not to return home, but to settle in solitude in a desolate place. His righteous spouse Anna, having learned, what sort of humiliation her husband had endured, in prayer and fasting began sorrowfully to pray to God for granting her a child. In his desolate solitude and with fasting Righteous Joachim also besought God for this. And the prayer of the saintly couple was heard: to both of them an Angel announced, that there would be born of them a Daughter, Who would bless all the race of mankind. By order of this Heavenly Messenger, Righteous Joachim and Anna met at Jerusalem, where through the promise of God was born to them the Daughter, named Mary.

Saint Joachim died a few years later after the Entry into the Temple of his Blessed Daughter, at about age 80. Saint Anna died at age 70, two years after him, spending the time in the Temple alongside her Daughter.