

# **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](http://www.st-mark-church.org)

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Protodeacon George Moubayed, Deacon Nicholas Mamey

Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Parish Council Chairman: Austin Turk

Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis,

Karim Youssef

Church Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**JANUARY 6, 2019**

**HOLY THEOPHANY**

**(BAPTISM OF OUR LORD)**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

**Priest:** Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. **Choir and People:** Save us, O Son of God, who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, who sung to thee: Alleluia.

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of Theophany** Tone 1: When thou O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bear witness to thee, and called thee his beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to thee.

**Kontakion of Theophany** Tone 4: Today thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord; and thy light hath been signed upon us, who praise thee with knowledge, saying: Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

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*Instead of "Holy God." Sing "As many as have been baptized...."*

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**Prokeimenon** (Psalm 117:26,1) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

### **The reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Titus (2:11-14; 3:4-7)**

Titus, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs of eternal life.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 28:1,3) Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (3:13-17)**

At that time, Jesus came up from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying "I need to be baptized by you, and do

you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and, a voice from heaven, saying this my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”

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Instead of “It is truly meet...” the following hymn will be sung in both English and Arabic: *Magnify, O my soul her who is more honorable, and more exalted than the heavenly hosts. Verily, all tongues are at a loss to praise thee properly; and every mind, even though transcending the world, is distracted in thy praise, O Theotokos. But because thou art good, accept our faith, having known our divine longing. Wherefore, since thou art the aider of Christians, we do magnify thee.*

The Communion hymn (instead of “Praise ye the Lord...”) we sing *The grace of God that bringeth salvation unto all men hath appeared.*

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**Holy Oblations are offered today** by Barbara Scholl and family on the occasion of her husband Steve’s birthday (January 6); by Edna Deeb and Danice and Walid Najjar on the occasion of the one year wedding anniversary of Nicole and Mustapha Aitouaskri, for Anthony Najjar in honor of his patronal feast (January 17) and to celebrate his engagement to Rachel Wachtfogel, and in memory of their father Edward Deeb (1997) and Baby Omari (1996), and by Fr. Michael, Fr. Patrick and Dn. Nicholas for Protodeacon Deacon George on the occasion of his birthday (January 7), and by Anton, Austin, Osama, Anees, Jamie and Juliana and their families for wife, mother and grandmother Keitie Turk on the occasion of her birthday and for the speedy recovery and healing of Anees Turk (broken leg).

**Today’s Coffee Hour is given by Coffee Committee.**

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*Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Edward Deeb, Eleanor Wackeen, Michael Joubran, Tarek Fakhouri, 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:** Sleiman 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 Yaghnam, Sebastian Skaff, Matthew Kalache, Adam Erdkamp, Dominic Benjamin.

### **Quote from the Saints**

"Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility." -- **St. John of the Ladder**

### **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.

### **A NOTE TO OUR VISTORS**

Welcome to St. Mark's! We are pleased to have you here with us today. Please be informed that only those Orthodox Christians who are prepared through prayer, fasting, and the sacrament of confession should approach the Chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" or intercommunion with other churches (non-Orthodox). If you have any questions concerning this, please talk to Father Michael before taking communion. Visitors are welcome to venerate the cross at the end of the service and to receive some of the blessed bread, if they so desire.

For Orthodox Christians to receive Holy Communion:

- You must be spiritually prepared and uphold the beliefs and moral teachings of the Church.
- You must keep the fast (Wednesday & Friday, and other fasting seasons)
- If married, your marriage must have been consecrated in the Orthodox Church.
- If (unfortunately) divorced, you must be formally restored to communion by the Church by confession and Episcopal decision.

**If an Orthodox Christian has left the church, or has been absent from services for a long period, and is returning, he or she must see the priest prior to receiving the sacraments of the Church.**

### Today

**Feast of Theophany** and Antiochian Women's Zalabieh Coffee Hour.

**Sunday Church Ushers** are needed at St. Mark. Both men and women are invited to serve as ushers on Sunday, please contact Isa Khamis [ijk53@yahoo.com](mailto:ijk53@yahoo.com) or (714) 904-2270.

### This Week

**Wednesday January 9**, Vespers, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday January 12**, Antiochian Women's Holiday Luncheon at Darya Restaurant. Please see flyer included for more details.

### Next week

**Tuesday January 15**, Adult Education 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday January 15**, 6:30 p.m. Evening Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Anthony (Orthros at 5:30 p.m.)

### Upcoming Services & Events

*Our monthly Newsletter (and other important information) can be found at the parish website [www.st-mark-church.org](http://www.st-mark-church.org)*

### **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. **And.... Do you use Amazon.com? You can have a percentage of your purchase go to St. Mark Church. All you need to do is go to smile.amazon.com and sign in with your existing account. On the home screen, click on "Supporting" and when asked to choose a charity type"St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church" and select that as your designated charity. When you shop on Amazon, be sure you are on the smile.amazon.com web page to start. One half of one percent of what you spend will be given to our parish.**

### **Theophany – The Baptism of Jesus Christ**

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.