

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, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Website: 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

Church School after Holy Communion



FEBRUARY 24TH, 2019

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

1st & 2nd Discovery of the Head of St. John the Baptist

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of 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 for St. John the Baptist in the Fourth Tone: The Forerunner's sacred head, having dawned forth from the earth, doth send incorruption's rays unto the faithful, whereby they find healings of their ills. From on high he gathereth the choirs of the Angels and on earth he summoneth the whole race of mankind, that they with one voice might send up glory to Christ our God.

Troparion of 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 Prodigal Son in the Third Tone: When I disobeyed in ignorance Thy Fatherly glory, I wasted in iniquities the riches that Thou gavest me. Wherefore, I cry to Thee with the voice of the prodigal son, saying, "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; receive me repentant, and make me one of Thy hired servants.

+++++

Prokeimenon (Psalm 63.10, 1) Tone 7: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Hear my prayer, O God.

The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (4: 6-15)

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 91.12, 13) Tone 4: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that

is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

++++
Holy Oblations are offered today by Lupe Allen for the soul of her cousin Elias Elhound, departed this life 40 days. Memory Eternal!

Coffee Hour is given today by Lupe Allen

++++
Please remember in your prayers: Michael Debbas, Edward Deeb, Eleanor Wackeen, Michael Joubran, Tarek Fakhouri, George Aldada (the elder), Adele Bahbah, Anton Turk, 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: Paul Habeeb & Jamal Sayegh

Ushers next week: Antiochian Women

Altar boys serving this week: Jay Skaff, Nour Youssef, George Aldada, Efsathios Geronikilaou, John Hanouneh.

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

Quote from the Saints

"Let your prayers be simple, for both the Publican and the Prodigal Son were reconciled to God by a single phrase." -- *St. John Climacus*

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

Please note that the church office hours have changed to M-F, 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

The 3rd & 4th Grades will participate in the Sacrament of Confession after the end of Divine Liturgy.

The rest of the Church School will do the same, according to the following schedule:

March 3, 1st & 2nd Grades

The 2019 Church Calendars are available at the information table in the hall.
Please, only one per family!

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 or (714) 904-2270.

This Week

Tuesday February 26, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

Wednesday February 27, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

Next week

Friday March 1st, 6:45 p.m. An Evening with St. Raphael

Upcoming Services & Events

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES & THE WEST 67TH ANNUAL PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY: ST. ANTHONY CHURCH, SAN DIEGO, CA SHERATON San Diego HOTEL & MARINA ~ JULY 3 - 7, 2019. For more information, go to <https://antiochianevents.com/la.html>

Our monthly Newsletter (and other important information) can be found at the parish website 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.**

1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist

The first finding came to pass during the middle years of the fourth century, through a revelation of the holy Forerunner to two monks, who came to Jerusalem to worship our Saviour's Tomb. One of them took the venerable head in a clay jar to Emesa in Syria. After his death it went from the hands of one person to another,

until it came into the possession of a certain priest-monk named Eustathius, an Arian. Because he ascribed to his own false belief the miracles wrought through the relic of the holy Baptist, he was driven from the cave in which he dwelt, and by dispensation forsook the holy head, which was again made known through a revelation of Saint John, and was found in a water jar, about the year 430, in the days of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger, when Uranius was Bishop of Emesa. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

SUPPORT ST MARK CHURCH

RALPHS CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM 5% EARNINGS

USE OUR NEW NPO #YX817

PLEASE CALL **800-443-4438** TO SIGN UP TODAY

FEB 24 2019

RESTAURANTS

CARL'S JR	(10'S)	\$30
CHEESECAKE FACTORY		\$100
CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL	(10'S)	\$40
DEL TACO		\$30
EL POLLO LOCO (\$10)		\$30
EL TORITO/ACAPULCO		\$50
MAGGIANO'S /CHILI'S / MACARONI GRILL (25'S)		\$175
MIMIS CAFÉ		\$100
OUTBACK STEAK HOUSE		\$100
PF CHANGS		\$100
OLIVE GARDEN		\$50
SMASHBURGER (\$10'S)		\$30
SUBWAY (10'S)		\$50
TACO BELL (\$10'S)		\$50

GAS STATIONS

ARCO		\$900
EXXON/MOBIL		\$600
SHELL		\$700
76 UNOCAL (\$100's)		\$300

CLOTHING DEPARTMENT STORES

BLOOMINGDALE'S	100's		\$100
EXPRESS CLOTHING STORES			\$100
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy	\$25	NEW	\$50
MACY'S	(\$25/\$100's)		\$100
MARSHALL/ TJ MAX			\$100
NORDSTROM	\$100'S		\$200
ROSS (\$25'S)			\$100
SAKS 5TH AVENUE	(\$50'S)		\$100
STEIN MART (\$25)			\$50
SEPHORA COSMETICS (\$25'S)	***NEW***		\$50
AMAZON.COM GIFT CARDS (\$25'S /100's)			\$250 <u>SHOP SMILE.AMAZON</u>
Visa® Five Back	(\$50/\$100)		\$200

FOOD MARKETS

ALBERTSON'S			\$300
SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET (\$25/\$50)	** NEW**		\$300
STATER BROTHERS			\$450
SMART N FINAL	(\$50'S ONLY)		\$150
SUPER KING MARKET	***NEW		\$500

SPECIALTY RETAIL STORES

BATH & BODY		\$50
BED BATH & BEYOND		\$50
DISNEY STORES		\$250
HOME DEPOT		\$75
HONEYBAKED HAM		\$50
I-TUNES (\$15 & 25'S)		\$55
SEE'S CANDIES \$20.50/LB		1 POUND
STARBUCKS (\$10 and \$25)		\$140
TARGET \$25		\$300
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S		\$300

SHOP @ SMILE.AMAZON.COM...CHOOSE ST.MARK Antiochian Orthodox Church

FOR YOUR CHARITY ORGANIZATION

February 21, 2019

Total pledge cards 78

Total pledge amount

\$137,454

Name
SLIEMAN & SEHAM ALDADA
SAMIR & AFIFA ARTOUL
MAY ASALY
ANAHD AZZOUNI
JACOB & VERA BAHBAH
CHRISTOPHER BEDEROV
LEILA BOU MANSOUR
EDWARD & DANA CHADE
LEO CHADE
GEORGE & KRISTIN CHALA
HABIB & HELEN CHALA
MARCIA CHALA
GEORGE & RANIA CHAMI
VLADIMIR & JOANNA CHENDLER
MARWAN & RULA DABIT
NUHA DAHER
JOE & GOLDIE DARUTY
SCOTT & DIANE DARUTY
MARY DIBS
SAMIRA EISSA
RICHARD & MARY LOU GALLADE
CONSTANTINE GERONIKOLAOU
SAMIR & CHRISTINE GIRGIS
SANDELLA GOSON
NORMAN & WETCKA HAFETY
SAMIRA HAJJAR

Name
EHAB & JAMIE HANNA
RICHARD & VERA JIRJIS
SHAWKI & DOHA JIRJIS
MICHAEL & LUCY JOELLSON
IMAD & LAMA KARAM
MAURICE & NADIA KARKAR
WAEEL & LOUISA KASHOU
LILIAN KASSICIEH
BACHIR & HELENE KASSIR
ANTOUNE & MAYSSOUN KHOURY
GHINA KHOURY
MICHAEL & CHARLOTTE KHOURY
ELYAS & NAJAT KHURY
SIMON & LOURICE KISHEK
MICHAEL & DONNA LAFFOON
FADI & TANIA MAALOULY
ZIAD & HELEN MAHSHI
LEW & JANA E MALOUF
NELSON & JERRI MAMEY
NABIL & ANNE MANSOUR
ROBERT & LINDA MOKBEL
SUSIE MOUBAYED
SAM & ADEL MUNAYYER
ELIAS & JEANN NASRAWI
NADIA NASRAWI
ELIZABETH NASSAR
DON & DENISE NASSIF
JASON NINO
SAMMY & LANA NINO
FRED & LORI NOUR
KYRA PELACHIK
PAUL & SUSAN QAQUNDAH
TAMMY QUTAMI
ROBERT & KIMLA RANNEY
JOSEPH & TANYA RICHARDS

Name
LEILAH RODRIGUEZ
FARAH & SYLVIA SABA
SIHAM SABA
STEVEN & BARBARA SCHOLL
THEODORE & KATHY SKAFF
FOUAD & RIMA TARAZI
DAVE & BRENDA TAX
ROGER & CAROL TIERNEY
AUSTIN & SAEDA TURK
EVE VOYDAT
MATTHEW & SOPHIA WHITACRE
ROBERT & THEODORA WHITEHEAD
PATRICK & SUSAN WILDE
GEORGE & PATRICIA YAGHNAM
IBRAHIM & TAGHREED YAGHNAM
HANY & MARYAN YOUSSEF
ADIB & NABILA ZABANEH

Women's Lenten Mini-Retreat
The Theotokos and Modern Women:
Realistic Role Model or Impossible Ideal?

with

Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, Ph.D.



Saturday, March 23, 2019

9:30 am -10:00 am Arrivals and Registration

10:15 am -11:30 am History and Mystery

How was the Theotokos important in the life of the early Church and why do we seem to know so little about her life?

11:30 am -12:45 pm Lenten Lunch

1:00 pm -2:30 pm Extraordinary Exemplar

Who was the Theotokos? A motherly model or an unattainable ideal? A driven perfectionist or passive conformist? The Theotokos was a REAL and COMPLEX person. How can she serve as an example for modern women? The answers will surprise you.

2:30 pm -3:00 pm Prayer Time

Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou earned her law degree from Pepperdine and has been a member of the California Bar since 1985; she also has two masters degrees in theology - one from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and the other from Harvard Divinity School as well as a Ph.D. from the Universite Laval in Quebec, Canada where her dissertation was on the Book of Revelation in the writings of the Fathers of the Church. She is the author of numerous articles and books and has a popular podcast on Ancient Faith Radio called "Search the Scriptures." She has been teaching Biblical Studies and Early Christianity at the University of San Diego since 2002 and has led retreats, seminars, and Bible studies in Orthodox parishes across the country for 30 years. Married to Father Costas Constantinou, they have a son, Christopher.



Hosted by:

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
4949 Alton Parkway • Irvine, CA 92604
Phone: 949-733-2366

Contact Barbara Les for more details: barbarales@aol.com
Register online: www.stpaulsirvine.org

Women's Lenten Mini-Retreat with Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, Ph.D. • March 23, 2019

Registration: \$25 per person due by March 20, 2019 to St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Register and pay online at www.stpaulsirvine.org or pre-register by Email to: denise@stpaulsirvine.org
Mail payment to: St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church • 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604