

# **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

Church School after Holy Communion



**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2019**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

**STS. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER AND ANNA THE PROPHETESS**

Note: The refrain of the Second Antiphon today is “Save us, O Son of God, who was borne in the arms of righteous Simeon...”

but in the Entrance Hymns we sing “Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead...”

#### DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Choir: Troparion of the Presentation of the Christ in the First Tone:** Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection.

#### HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion of the Resurrection in the Third Tone:** Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**Chanters: Troparion of the Presentation of the Christ in the First Tone**

**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 Presentation of Christ in the First Tone:** Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

**Prokeimenon** (Psalm 28.11,1) Tone 7: The Lord will give strength to his people. Bring to the Lord honor and glory.

**The reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6.1-10):** Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge,

forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet will known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 19:1, 9) Tone 2: May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble. O Lord, save the king, and hear us when we call upon Thee.

**The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:14-30)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

As He said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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**Holy Oblations are offered today by Fr. Michael and Kh. Donna for Fr. Patrick and Kh. Nina Patrick on the occasion of their wedding anniversary (February 6), and by Tammy Qutami for her son Jordan/Wahid Qutami on the occasion of his birthday.**

**Coffee Hour is given today by Coffee Hour 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:** Austin Turk & Roger Tierney

**Ushers next week:** Phillip Bahbah & Elias Nasrawi

**Altar boys serving this week:** Paul Rodriguez, Paul Habeeb, Nicholas Habeeb, Jeries Hanna, Anthony Saadeh, 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**

"Faith and hope are not merely casual or theoretical matters. Faith requires a steadfast soul, while hope needs a firm will and an honest heart." *St. Theognostos*

### **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**

**The High School class 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:**

**February 10, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**February 17, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**February 24, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**March 3, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades**

**Super Bowl Viewing Party after church today**

**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](mailto:ijk53@yahoo.com) or (714) 904-2270.

**This Week**

**Tuesday February 5**, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

**Wednesday February 6**, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

**Saturday February 9**, Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. Please see flyer included for more details.

**Next week**

**No vespers on Wednesday due to Father being away for Diocese Clergy Seminar**

**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Monday February 18**, 6:30p.m. Parish Council meeting

**Tuesday February 19**, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

**Wednesday February 20**, 7:00 p.m. Vespers

**Friday February 22**, 6:45 p.m. an evening with St. Raphael

*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.**

## **Presentation (or Meeting) of our Lord in the Temple (February 2)**

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.