

St. Mark Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese,

**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of all North America**

17840 Sky Park Circle, Irvine CA 92614 [\(949\) 851-8933](tel:(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

Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Karim Youssef

Church Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri

Sunday Schedule: Orthros (Matins) & Confessions 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Church School after Holy Communion



MARCH 17TH, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF SUNDAY

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

During the Entrance

Troparion of the First Sunday of Lent, in the Second Tone: We reverence thine immaculate icon, O good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God; for of thine own good will thou wast pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh, that thou mightest deliver from bondage to the enemy those who thou has fashioned. Wherefore, we cry aloud unto thee with thanksgiving: Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, for thou didst come to save the world.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the First Tone: While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Troparion of the First Sunday of Lent, in the Second Tone (Repeat above)

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 for the Sundays in Lent, in the Eight Tone: To thee the Champion Leader do I offer thanks of Victory. O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone canst set me free; from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

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For the Liturgy of St. Basil, We sing, "All of creation rejoices in thee..." instead of "It is truly meet..."

Prokeimenon (Daniel 3.26,27) Tone 4: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our Fathers. For you are righteous in all things you have done for us.

The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they

should not be made perfect.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 98.6; 33.17) Tone 4: Moses and Aaron are among his priests. They call on the Lord and he hears them.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by the Turk family for Isabella and Osama Turk on the occasion of their birthdays and by Melad & Wafa Hanna for the health and salvation of their children Michael, for Amanda and Samir on the occasion of their birthdays and for the health of Melad's father Michael.

Coffee hour is given today by Melad & Wafa Hanna for Amanda and Samir's birthday.

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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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March is Antiochian Women's Month, the Ladies will participate in Ushering, Reading the Epistle and serving during the 5 Sundays of March.

This week ushers: Lydia Wakileh, Adele Munayyer, Louisa Kashou

English Epistle reader: Stephanie Turk

Next week Ushers: Wafa Hanna, Samira Attallah

Next week English reader: Carol Teirney

Arabic Epistle reader: Theresa Joubran

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, Mathew Kalache, Adam Erdkamp, Dominic Benjamin.

Quote from the Saints

"Love every man in spite of his falling into sin. Never mind the sins, but remember that the foundation of the man is the same - the image of God."

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.

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

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
VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Your Parish Council has approved some changes to the use of the St. Mark Facilities by members of the Parish and others. If you need to obtain details on the current policies, procedures and associated costs, please contact the Church Office.

Additionally, if you would like to reserve the Facilities for a graduation party or other event during the months of May, June and July, we suggest that you contact the Church Office immediately, as after April 1st, the reservations will only be taken on a first come first served basis and we have a full-time caterer that also reserves the Facilities for their events.

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

Thank to those for who donate their old clothes to the needy, we appreciate it but please don't just drop your old cloth donation or any canned food donations in random locations in the hall or the entrance of the church. If you have any donation please let the office know about it and they will let you know where to leave it. Thank you.

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.

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

This Week

THE LENTEN FAST has begun

During Great Lent, the rules of the dietary fast are thus: All of Lent and Holy Week we are to abstain from all meat and animal products (including eggs, milk, animal fats, etc.) The only exceptions are shellfish. In addition, Mondays through Fridays, we are to abstain from wine and other alcoholic drinks and olive oil. This is the "letter of the law." It is important for you and your family to participate in the "spirit of the law", working out this Lenten effort within your household in ways pleasing to God and beneficial for the soul. We all must be reminded that the purpose of the dietary fast is to help us to fast from sin and ungodliness! If you have questions regarding Lenten discipline, please see Fr. Michael.

Lenten Service Schedule for the Second Week of Lent:

- **Monday, Great Compline, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesdays Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m. (pot-luck meal afterwards)**
- **Friday, Akathist Service (Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday March 23 Young Adult Trip to St. Barbara Monastery**
- **Saturday March 23 Teen SOYO Holy Bread Baking Lesson**

Next week

Sunday March 24, Lenten Luncheon by the Antiochian Women

Monday March 25, Feast of Annunciation, Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Regular Lenten Service Schedule

- **Monday, Great Compline, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesdays Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts, 6:30 p.m. (pot-luck meal afterwards)**
- **Friday, Akathist Service (Madayeh) 7:00 p.m.**

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday April 21, Antiochian Women of St Mark Annual Palm Sunday Bake sale. Please see pre order form included.

Sunday May 12, Mother's Day Luncheon family celebration after Church.

Saturday June 1, Men's Club invites you to celebrate an Enchanted Evening with the famous singer Fidel Fayad.

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.

Let's Get it Done!! St. Mark 2019 Stewardship Pledge Drive!

Since we started the pledge drive, we've had a great response with 106 families turning in their 2019 Pledge cards! So far we've raised \$170,434 which is 79% of our goal of pledging \$205,000. But we still have some pledge cards out there and would like all the pledge cards turned in March 17th. So please take the time to fill them out today. Your financial pledge and commitment is important and supports the work of the church, the parish itself and those who work for St. Mark. We appreciate your prayers and support. Additional pledge cards are available in the back of the church and can be dropped off in the white box between the church and the hall. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask a parish council member.

In Christ,
St. Mark Stewardship Committee

The 1st Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.
