

# ***THE APOSTLE***

## **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

### **MAY 2019**

#### **SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF IRVINE**

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America  
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America  
17840 Sky Park Circle  
Irvine, CA 92614-6407  
Tel: (949) 851-8933  
Fax: (949) 851-0010  
Email: [frmlaffoon@yahoo.com](mailto:frmlaffoon@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.st-mark-church.org](http://www.st-mark-church.org)

**Very Rev. Father Michael Laffoon, Pastor**  
Residence phone: (949) 559-6133  
**Rev Fr. Patrick Irish, Attached**  
**Rev. Protodeacon George Moubayed**  
**Rev. Deacon Nicholas Mamey**  
**Sub-deacon: Athanasius Fakhouri**  
**Choir Director: Barbara Scholl**  
**Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Karim  
Youssef, & Mark Ellis**  
**Church Secretary: Lydia Wakileh**  
**Teen's Advisors: Fatin Fakhouri**

#### **2018-2019 PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman Austin Turk {19}** (949) 922-2350  
**Vice Chairman – Lew Malouf {21}** (818) 842-0458  
**Secretary – Jerri Lynn Mamey {21}** (949) 831-5776  
**Treasurer – Marwan Dabit {20}** (626)665-1096  
**Assistant Treasurers- Melad Hanna {20}** (949) 433-  
1698 & **Richard Jirjis {20}** (714) 404-9002- **Michael  
Khoury {21}** (714) 717 - 2349  
**Mark Ellis {19}**(949) 458-1604  
**Lori Nour {19}** (949) 370-6224  
**Dana Chade {21}** (949) 939-8243

[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his or  
her current term]

**Church School Co-Directors:** Tammy Qutami (714)  
449-9680 and Kristin Chala (909) 217-2317

**Men's Club President:** Ghassan Awayjan (951) 454-  
5429

**Antiochian Women of St. Mark President:** Denise  
Nassiff (949)

**Teen SOYO President:** Jillian Goson

*CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!*

*As we peer with our noetic eyes into the  
Empty Tomb, let us rejoice at  
the triumph of Our Great God and Savior,  
Jesus Christ, over sin and  
death. May we proclaim this good news to  
our broken world with the joy  
and zeal of the Myrrh-Bearing running in  
haste to tell their brethren:  
Christ is risen!*

*With heartfelt prayers to God that you may  
be granted a grace-filled  
and joyous celebration of Pascha, I remain,*

*Yours in the Risen Lord,  
+JOSEPH*

*Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan  
of all North America*

<p><b>SPECIAL SERVICES/EVENTS IN MAY 2019</b> <b>Wednesday May 1, 6:30 p.m. Evening Liturgy for St. Mark and St. George</b> <b>Sunday May 12, Mother's Day Luncheon</b> <b>Sunday May 19, Mother/Daughter Tea Spring Party.</b> <b>Tuesday May 21, Adult Education Resumes 6:45 p.m.</b></p>
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**Note: Per the decision of the Holy Synod of  
Antioch in 1997, the entire forty days between  
Pascha Sunday and Ascension are observed as  
fast-free.**

## **Advanced Calendar of Services & Events in June**

June 25 through June 28, Apostles Fast

June 2, Last Day of Church School

June 9 Church School Awards Presentation

June 16 Father's Day Luncheon sponsored by the Antiochian Women

June 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 29, Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

### **WEEKLY SERVICES**

Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Confessions heard from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Vespers 7:00 p.m.

## **Selected Saints of the Month**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **The Holy Prophet Isaiah**

This great prophet was of royal birth. He was born in Jerusalem of Amoz the brother of Amaziah, King of the Jews. By the great grace of God that was within him, Isaiah was made worthy to see the Lord of Sabaoth on His heavenly throne, surrounded by six-winged seraphim which cried unceasingly: 'Holy, holy, holy Lord of Sabaoth' (Is. 6). Isaiah prophesied many things, both to individuals and to nations. Once he walked for three days naked through the streets of Jerusalem, prophesying the imminent fall of the city to the Assyrian king, Sennacherib, and warning the King and the leaders of the people not to seek help from Egypt and Ethiopia, because they too would shortly be overrun by the same Sennacherib, but to seek the aid of the all-seeing God. And this prophecy, like all the rest, was literally fulfilled (37:31-35). But his most important prophecies were on the incarnation of God, on the conception of the most pure Mother of God, on John the Baptist and on many events in the life of Christ. This seer, because of his pure heart and zeal for God, also received the gift of working miracles. Thus, when the besieged city of Jerusalem was suffering from thirst, he prayed to God and water flowed out from beneath the hill of

Sion. This water was named Siloam (Sent), and it was to that water that, later, the Lord sent the man born blind, to wash himself and receive his sight (Is. 8:6; Jn 9:7). In the time of the King Manasseh, when Isaiah thundered against the pagan practices of the king and the leaders of the people, comparing that generation with Sodom and Gomorrah, the anger of the leaders and the people was lifted up against this great prophet, and he was seized, taken to Jerusalem and sawn in half. He lived and prophesied seven hundred years before Christ.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **The Holy Emperor Constantine and the Empress Helena.**

Constantine's parents were the emperor Constantius Chlorus and the Empress Helena. Chlorus had further children by another wife, but by Helena he had only the one, Constantine. Constantine fought two great battles when he came to the throne: one against Maxentius, a tyrant in Rome, and the other against Licinius not far from Byzantium. At the battle against Maxentius, when Constantine was in great anxiety an uncertainty about his chances of success, a shining cross, surrounded by stars, appeared to him in the sky in full daylight. On the cross were written the words; "In this sign, conquer!" The wondering Emperor ordered that a great cross be put together, like the one that had appeared, and be carried before the army. By the power of the Cross, he gained a glorious victory over enemies greatly superior in number. Maxentius drowned himself in the Tiber. Immediately after this, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan, in 313, to put an end to the persecution of Christians. Conquering Byzantium, he built a beautiful capital city on the Bosphorus, which from that time was named Constantinople. At this time, Constantine fell ill with leprosy. The pagan priests and doctors advised him to bathe in the blood of slaughtered children, which he refused to do. Then the Apostles Peter and Paul appeared to him and told him to seek out a bishop, Sylvester, who would heal him of the disease. The bishop instructed him in the Christian faith and baptized him, and the leprosy vanished from the Emperor's body. When there was discord in the Church about the troublesome heretic Arius, the Emperor summoned the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea,

in 325, where the heresy was condemned and Orthodoxy confirmed.

St. Helena, the Emperor's devout mother, was very zealous for the Christian faith. She visited Jerusalem and found the Precious Cross of the Lord, and built the Church of the Resurrection over Golgotha and many other churches in the Holy Land. This holy woman went to the Lord in 327, at the age of eighty. The Emperor Constantine outlived his mother by ten years and entered into rest at the age of about sixty in 337, in the city of Nicomedia. His body was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople.

### **May 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Our Holy Father Isaac the Confessor.**

In the time of the Emperor Valens, the Arians persecuted Orthodoxy fiercely with the Emperor's encouragement. Isaac, a hermit somewhere in the East, heard of the persecution, left his desert and went to Constantinople to encourage the faithful and denounce the heretics. Valens arrived in the north at that very time with his army, to meet the Goths who had come down from the Danube into Thrace. Isaac went out and stood before him, saying: 'Open the churches to those of the true Faith, O Emperor, and God will bless thy path', but the emperor turned a deaf ear to the elder and went on his way. Isaac spoke out before the Emperor on the next day also, repeating his warning, and the Emperor almost hearkened to him, but one of his advisors, a follower of the Arian heresy, thwarted him. Isaac spoke before the Emperor again on the third day, seizing the Emperor's horse by the reins and pleading with him to grant freedom to the Church of God and to escape divine punishment by acceding to his request. The enraged Emperor ordered that the elder be thrown into a waste place full of thorns and mud, but three angels appeared and pulled him out of the swamp. St. Isaac appeared before the Emperor on the fourth day, and foretold a terrible death if he did not give the Orthodox freedom: 'I tell thee, my Emperor, that thou shalt lead thy troops out upon the Barbarians, but thou shalt not be able to withstand them. Thou shalt flee before them, but shalt thyself be taken captive and burned alive.' And so it all came to pass. The barbarians mowed the Greek force down like grass, and the Emperor fled with his Arian counselor, and hid in a hamper. The barbarians

arrived at the spot and realized where the Emperor was hiding. They surrounded the hamper and set fire to it, burning both the Emperor and his counselor. The Emperor Theodosius the Great then came to the throne. He heard of Isaac and of the prophecy that had been fulfilled, and, sending for him, prostrated himself before him. And so peace came to reign in the Church and the Arians were banished. Isaac desired to return to his desert, but he was persuaded to remain in the Constantinople. A certain influential citizen, Saturninus, built him a monastery where the elder labored in asceticism until his death, performing many wonders. The community overflowed with monks and became a great monastery. Before his death, Isaac appointed a pupil of his, Dalmatus (after whom the monastery was named), as abbot. The elder Isaac, who had found such favor with God, entered into eternity in the year 383, to rejoice forever in the vision of the face of God.

### **May 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **The Holy Apostle Hermas**

One of the Seventy, he is mentioned in the Epistle of St Paul to the Romans (16:14). A Greek by birth, he spent a long time in Rome. He was bishop in Philippoupolis, and finished his life a martyr. He compiled the very instructive book 'The Shepherd' through revelations from the angels of God. Hermas were a rich man, but fell into extreme poverty through his own sins and those of his sons. A man appeared to him, clad in white and with a staff in his hand, and told him that he was the angel of repentance, sent to him before the end of his life. The angel gave him twelve commandments:

1. To believe in God.
2. To live in simplicity and innocence.
3. To love truth and flee from falsehood.
4. To guard his thoughts in chastity
5. To learn patience and magnanimity of soul.
6. To know that a good and an evil spirit attend every man.
7. To fear God, but not the devil.
8. To perform every good deed and to restrain himself from every evil one.

9. To pray to God in faith from the depths of his heart, so that his prayer might be heard
10. To preserve himself from melancholy, the daughter of doubt, and from anger.
11. To try {test} true and false prophecies.

To preserve himself from every evil desire.

## Parish & Organizations News

### Entered Eternal Life

On April 1, 2019 Michel Joubran husband of Theresa Joubran of our church. Viewing was on Thursday April 4, at St. Mark at 11.00 a. m. followed by the Funeral Service at 12.00 p.m. Interment was at The Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange followed by meal of mercy at St. Mark Church Hall. May his memory be Eternal!

### Antiochian Women of St. Mark

The Ladies had their monthly meeting on April 7th after Liturgy in where 14 ladies were present.

The ladies discussed the upcoming Palm Sunday Bake Sale and on April 22 we held our Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale. We thank Lydia and her committee for baking the kaaek & maamoul on April 11 & 12. Thanks to all the ladies who came and helped with baking and thank you to all the ladies who donated their baked goodies.

The Ladies also discussed the Pascha Breakfast at the meeting and we had a great Pascha breakfast after Pascha evening liturgy. We thank all the families who donated and helped at this event.

The annual Mother Daughter Tea will be held on May 19.

The ladies also donated \$1000 to Theresa Joubran to help with her husband's funeral costs.

The Ladies also asked Fr Michael if they can plan a Ladies trip to the monastery and that will be further discussed at a later time.

Our next meeting to be announced

*Antiochian Women's secretary*

**Tania Maalouli**

### Men's Club

A \$750.00 check was issued and given to the Treasurer to be donated to the Samaritan Fund.

- Our next Men Club meeting will be Sunday May 5 after liturgy
- June first 2019: Fund raising Men Club dinner and entertainment event. Music and Dinner at the Church Hall. Flyers included for more information.
- September 2019: Tarneeb Tournament

*Men's Club Secretary*

**Don Skaff**

### Teen SOYO

**No report submitted**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Anter 5/20  
 Justine Bahbah 5/18  
 Ghassan Bahou 5/4  
 Steven Berooty 5/13  
 Ruth Conn 5/30  
 Maha Daher 5/25  
 Scott Daruty 5/19  
 May Dabbah 5/27  
 Natalie Debbas 5/9  
 Mirna Debbas 5/29  
 George Debbas 5/18  
 Omar Fakhouri 5/2  
 Sammi Faraj 5/15  
 Noah Fortuna 5/4  
 Josie Goson 5/28  
 Paul Habeeb 5/22  
 Sahar Hanna 5/25  
 Vera Jirjis 5/13  
 Michael Joellson 5/16  
 Bachir Kassir 5/30  
 Alexander Kashou 5/5  
 Michael Khoury 5/5  
 Maysoon Khoury 5/10  
 Kandy Kort 5/4  
 Elizabeth Kort 5/4  
 Emilie Laffoon 5/27  
 Ziad Mahshi 5/29  
 Anabella Mahshi 5/10  
 Richael Mahshi 5/11  
 Nelson Mamey 5/29  
 Alexander Mokbel 5/31  
 George Richards 5/2  
 Sophia Richards 5/2  
 Ramez Sayegh 5/20

Natalia Sourì 5/14  
Fouad Tarazi 5/31  
Richie Tierney 5/2  
Anees Turk 5/4  
Angelina Turk 5/29  
Sophia Whitacre 5/20  
Connor Wilde 5/8

## Happy Anniversary

Phillip & Tarize Bahbah 5/9  
Jacob & Vera Bahbah 5/13  
Samir & Lucy Billeh 5/2  
Mark & Eileen Ellis 5/22  
Kevin & Sara Fortuna 5/23  
Richard & Vera Jirjis 5/9  
Bachir & Helen Kassir 5/27  
Elias & Najat Khury 5/1  
Fr. Michael & Donna Laffoon 5/6  
Nelson & Jerri Mamey 5/30  
Tanya & Joseph Richards 5/29  
Najeeb & Heba Saadeh 5/15

*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.*

*The Apostle is a monthly newsletter of St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church. Parish Organizations are to submit articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Church office (949-851-8933)*

**SUPPORT ST**  
**RALPHS CONTRIBUTION F**

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APRIL 2

**RESTAURANTS**

CARL'S JR (11)  
CHEESECAKE FACTORY  
CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL (10'S)  
DEL TACO  
EL POLLO LOCO (\$10)  
EL TORITO/ACAPULCO  
MAGGIANO'S /CHILI'S / MACARONI GRILL (25'S)  
MIMIS CAFÉ  
OUTBACK STEAK HOUSE  
PF CHANGS  
OLIVE GARDEN  
SMASHBURGER (\$10'S)  
SUBWAY (10'S)  
TACO BELL (\$10'S)

**GAS STATIONS**

ARCO  
EXXON/MOBIL  
SHELL  
76 UNOCAL (\$100's)

**CLOTHING DEPARTMENT STORES**

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

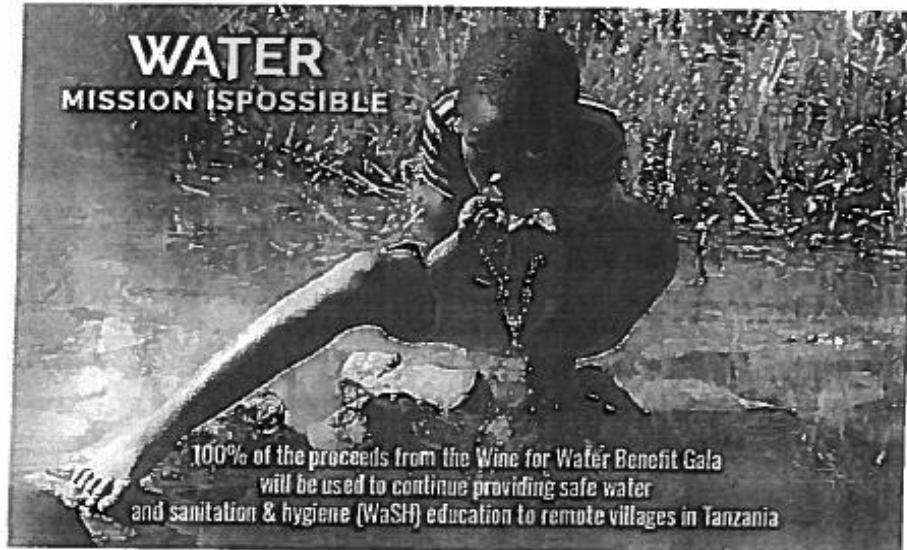
**FOOD MARKETS**

ALBERTSON'S  
SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET (\$25/\$100) \*\* NEW  
STATER BROTHERS  
SMART N FINAL (\$50'S ONLY)  
SUPER KING MARKET \*\*\*NEW

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BED BATH & BEYOND  
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HOME DEPOT  
HONEYBAKED HAM  
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STARBUCKS (\$10 and \$25)  
TARGET \$25  
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S

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## *Wine for Water Benefit Gala*

MAY 11, 2019 | 5:30 - 11PM

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Event Center

4949 Alton Pkwy, Irvine CA

Enjoy an evening of wine, dinner and dancing. Bring your family, invite your friends and help our brothers and sisters in need.

### OUR EVENING TOGETHER

5:30-7 | Wine Tasting + Cocktail Hour  
hors d'oeuvres, host bar,  
silent auction, live music

7-8 | Dinner

8-9 | Program

9-11 | Dancing

### TICKETS

1 Adult | \$100

Table for 10 | \$1,500

Table for 10 includes prominent preferred seating, three bottles of premium wine to share, professionally-arranged table centerpiece and special gift at each seat

### MUSICIANS

World-renowned band The Black Market Trust and guitarist Sergey Taranov

For more information visit us at [mission-ispossible.org](http://mission-ispossible.org)







The Antiochian Women  
of St. Marks  
present

# Tea at Tiffany's

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

## Annual Mother/Daughter Spring Tea Party and Little Ladies Diamond Tiara Fashion Show

GOURMET LUNCHEON, FABULOUS CANDY & DESSERT BUFFET,  
GENUINE PEARL EARRING GIVEAWAY  
NO HOST PINK CHAMPAGNE BAR

Sunday, May 19th  
12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

St. Marks Church Hall  
\$30 ADULTS  
\$10.00 CHILDREN (10 AND UNDER)

RSVP by May 12th

DENISE NASSIF 949.500.8318 OR PEARLGIRLDN@AOL.COM  
OR AFIFA ARTOUL 949.600.3876



PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. MARKS LADIES GUILD



**The Men's Club at  
Saint Mark Orthodox Church**

Is proud to invite you to celebrate with us  
An Enchanted Evening Featuring

**Fidel Fayad**



***And His Musical Band***

Middle Eastern Mezzeh and Dinner served by

**Wafa Kitchen, Glendora**

**Complimentary Bottle of Arak at each table**

*(Feel free to bring your own drink)*

The Event will be photographed by Chadi Maalouly

**Donation: \$ 75.00 per paid seat (Seating is very limited)**

**Location: Saint Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

**17840 Sky Park Cir, Irvine CA 92614**

**Date: Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 at 8:00 PM.**

**Reservation: Ghassan Awayjah, 951-454-5429**

**Fadi Maalouli, 949-547-4410**





# 2019 Parish Life Conference

July 3rd - 7th, 2019

Hosted by St. Anthony the Great



### Room Rates

\$169 King/Double.

\$219 Club Level.

\$239 Marina Suite

Rates Good 3 Days Before/After



### Discounts

Free WIFI

No Resort Fee

10% Discount at

Hotel Restaurants/

Food & Beverage

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## Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina

Great Family Vacation!

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4 Barge Fire Works Show!

For more information: [www.laplc.org](http://www.laplc.org)



### Amenities

Pools, Fitness Center,  
Spa, Boating Activities



**SAINT MARK ANTIOCHIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
17840 SKY PARK CIRCLE  
IRVINE, CA 92614  
MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER**