

# **St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

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

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

Protodeacon George Moubayed, Dn. Nicholas Mamey, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

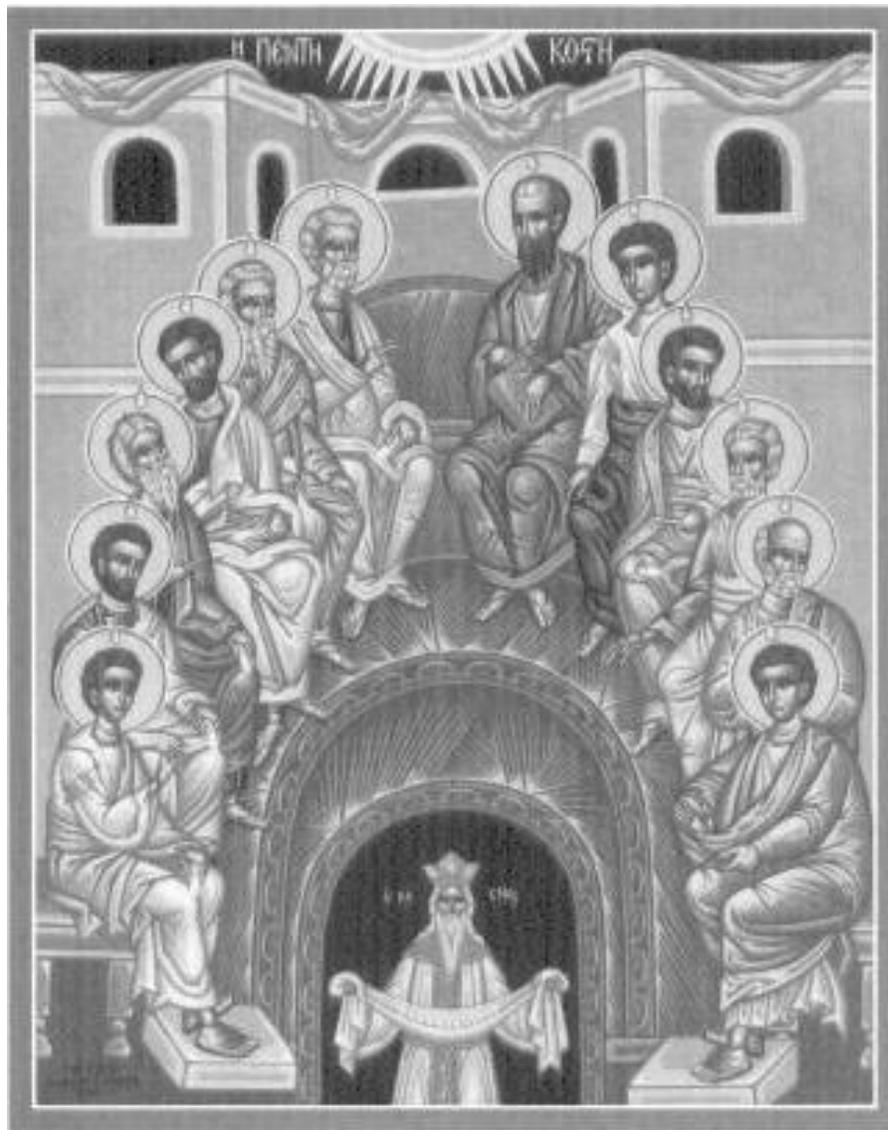
Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Church Office Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**JUNE 7, 2020**  
**HOLY PENTECOST**

## REFRAIN OF SECOND ANTIPHON FOR PENTECOST

O Good Comforter, save us who sing to thee. Alleluia.

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Priest:* Be thou exalted, O Lord, in thine own strength. We will sing and praise thy power.

*People:* Save us, O Good Comforter, who sing to thee. Alleluia.

**Choir: Troparion of Pentecost in the Eighth Tone:** Blessed art thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise, having sent upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them thou hast fished the universe, O Lover of mankind, glory to thee.

**Priest: Kontakion of Pentecost in the Eighth Tone:** When the high One descended, confusing tongues, he divided the nations. And when he distributed the fiery tongues he called all to one unity. Wherefore, in unison we glorify the most Holy Spirit.

*Instead of "Holy God..." we sing "As many as have been baptized into Christ ..."*

**Prokeimenon** (18:4, 1) Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God

### **Section from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11)**

And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 32: 613) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. The Lord looks down upon the earth from heaven.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (7:37-52, 8:12)**

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee."

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

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**OTHER CHANGES FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing "*O Mother that hath known no man, thou didst conceive, not experiencing corruption, lending a body to the Word, the Creator of all, becoming a receptacle to thine insupportable Creator, a dwelling place to thine incomprehensible Maker. Wherefore, O virgin Theotokos, thee do we magnify.*" (Tone 7)

Communion hymn: "Thy good Spirit shall lead me into the right land. Alleluia."

Instead of "We have seen the true light..." we sing the Troparion of Pentecost.

**An abbreviated form of the Pentecost Kneeling Vespers will be prayed immediately after the Divine Liturgy.**

**Holy Oblations are offered today by Edna Deeb in memory of her sister Caren Kour, departed this life two years, and for the health and salvation of the Deeb, Najjar and Bastroun families.**

**Until further notice, both Coffee Hour and Church School are cancelled.**

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*After the exclamation of the Ektenia of Fervent Supplication, "For thou art a merciful God..." we add the following*

*Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.*

*Choir: Lord, have mercy.*

*Priest:*

*O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, thy people gathered in thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

*Choir: Amen.*

*We then continue with the Second Litany of the Faithful.*

*Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Jamal El-Sayegh, Francois & Maureen Maatouk, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Paul Qaqundah, Theresa Joubran, and the suffering people of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted by violence and disease, especially those affected by the Coronavirus.*

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### **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.

### Today

*Please remember that even in the midst of this difficult period, the expenses of the parish continue. It is important that we send in our donations and pledges via U.S. mail, or if you prefer to pay by credit card call the Church Office to set this up. We are working to keep our expenditures as low as possible until things return to a more normal state.*

### This Week

**Monday June 8, Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday June 10, 6:00 p.m. Vespers**

### **Regarding Church Attendance**

On May 25, Gov. Newsome announced relaxed guidelines for religious gatherings in the State of California. The guidelines specify that churches, synagogues, mosques, etc. may now gather for services with a limit of 25% of capacity, or 100 attendees whichever is less.

Based on the maximum number of people allowed in our sanctuary (324), we are now allowed up to 81 attendees.

This will be a partial re-opening of our services. This requires some kind of system to allow a larger number of people to start coming to holy services without going over our limit and allowing everyone a chance to attend, even though it can't all be on the same day.

Accordingly I have divided our parish into 4 groups. For the next few Sundays one of these groups will be designated for attendance. I have tried, using the parish roster to make the sizes of these group more or less the same in size. Here is the schedule:

Sunday June 7: Last names E-J

Sunday June 14: Last names K-Q

Sunday June 21: Last names R-Z

Every Sunday our Choir Director Barbara Scholl will ask a rotating small number of singers to also be present.

Holy Services will continue being live-streamed at <https://livestream.com/accounts/13863088/events/9076624?t=1586211820473>

We are implementing this partial re-opening using the guidelines from the State of California and from our Metropolitan. These are summarized below. Please read these guidelines carefully and follow them.

We will continue to live stream all services until we all can be together again. For those attending services, please work diligently to be at church on time. It is a gift to be able to come together again so let's start with "Blessed is the Kingdom" at 10 AM. You are also welcome to join us for Matins at 8:45 AM.

There is a great deal of joy in bringing our community back together again even though we are still doing this slowly.

All attendees must practice self-distancing, excepting those who live in the same household (no less than 6 ft. separation). Every other row of seats will be "blocked off" to facilitate distancing. Ushers may ask you to move if necessary to maintain prudent distancing.

The wearing of protective masks is highly recommended (young children excepted). Choir members will not be wearing masks, but will practice rigorous distancing).

If you have symptoms of illness, please stay home. These symptoms include:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

People with serious underlying conditions and the elderly should stay home. These people can schedule Confession and/or reception of Holy Communion by

appointment. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in holy services for 14 days.

The “stay at home” order went into effect in mid-Lent. Holy Confession therefore, is overdue for many. These can be scheduled with Fr. Michael on Wednesday or Saturday after Vespers. For the time being Confessions will not be heard on Sunday mornings. The weekly Vespers service are open to all (up to our 81 person limit).

Points of contact in the Narthex and Church will be cleaned/disinfected after each service. Hand sanitizer will be available in the Narthex (please help us by bringing your own, if possible).

Please use sanitizer or soap and water to wash your hands upon entering the church building.

Clergy will cleanse their hands periodically during holy services.

Regarding the distribution of Holy Communion, I quote from the directive of our Metropolitan, “we will continue to offer Communion according to our Tradition, but all should allow the priest to pour the Body and Blood by opening their mouths wide and not closing their lips on the spoon. If the spoon does touch the mouth of the communicant, it should be wiped on the kalima [communion cloth].”

When lining up for Holy Communion, please maintain 6 ft. distancing

Antidoron [holy bread] will be handed out by the priest, or an altar server wearing a plastic glove.

Collection trays will not be passed as usual. Instead one tray in the Narthex will be designated for collections.

The latest medical evidence tells us that COVID-19 is mainly spread via “respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).” (CDC website).

Gathering to celebrate the Lord's Day is essential to Christian life. At the same time the last thing we want to see happen is for our gatherings to enable any serious illness. This is why the practices listed above are necessary.

Please continue to pray that our decisions and actions in the process of re-opening our church (and indeed our society) are guided by God's wisdom. No plan is perfect so I apologize for any inconveniences ours may cause. If you have questions, please contact me via email ([frmlaffoon@gmail.com](mailto:frmlaffoon@gmail.com)) or call the Church Office (949-851-8933)