

# **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

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**THE HIEROMARTYR HIEROTHEOS, BISHOP OF ATHENS; HIEROMARTYR PETER OF CAPITOLIA  
IN SYRIA; MARTYRS DOMNINA AND HER DAUGHTERS OF SYRIA; GURIOS, FIRST ARCHBISHOP  
OF KAZAN AND BARSANOUPHIOS, BISHOP OF TVER; AND MARTYRS STEPHEN  
(STILJANOVICH) AND ELIZABETH OF SERBIA**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion for the Resurrection in the Eighth Tone:** From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**All: Troparion to 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 Theotokos in the Second Tone:** O undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cries to thee in faith, with assistance; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

+++++

**Prokeimenon (Psalm 75:11, 1) Tone 8:** Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. //God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

**The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter Corinthians (6:16- 18, 7:1)**

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**Alleluia Verses(Psalm 94:1, 2) Tone 8:** O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to God our Savior. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

**The Reading from the gospel according to St. Luke (6:31-36)**

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in

return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”

+++++

**Holy oblations are given today by Edna Deeb, the Najjar, Aitouaskri and Kouri families for the soul of their beloved mother Marion Deeb, departed this life 10 years, by Nuha Qushair for the health and salvation of her children Ann and Gregory on the occasion of their birthdays and by Austin and Saeda, Alex, Stephanie Turk for Anthony Turk on the occasion of his birthday, for his health and salvation; by Dorothy Hanna, Steven, Dave & Marta and families, and George Baba, Nick, Danny, Tom, Larry & Vicky and families, Gwen, Jimmy and families, June, Phil, Fr. Paul and Goddaughter Eileen and families, for the soul of their dear sister, aunt, great & great-grand aunt and Godmother Lenore (Lennie) Baba, departed this life 40 days, May her Memory be Eternal, and with prayers in loving memory of Richard Hanna and by the Michael and Charlotte Khoury family for their niece/cousin Ghina and in memory of Michael’s brother Elias and Charolotte’s brother Yousef. Memory Eternal!**

Please note that we can donate for disaster relief for Lebanon via the Archdiocese at <https://antiochian.networkforgood.com/projects/106179-financial-aid-following-beirut-explosion>

**Until further notice, there is no Coffee Hour.**

*Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Yuri Sidorenko, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Gloria Mamey, Ibrahim Yaghnam, 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.*

+++++

**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 go to our new parish web page [www.st-mark-church.org](http://www.st-mark-church.org) and click on “Donate” We are working to keep our expenditures as low as possible until things return to a more normal state.

**This Week**

**Wednesday Vespers 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.**

**Upcoming Events**

**Parish Annual Meeting**

Next Sunday, October 11, we will hold our 2020 Annual Parish Meeting. All Members of St. Mark's should plan to participate. Only adult Orthodox Christians who have made a 2020 Regular Pledge to the parish of St. Mark may vote.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, this year's meeting will be conducted online. The link for this is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88604703060?pwd=MjRaMkNYamM4KzFIUjZSbDBKaWc2dz09> (password 344370) and at our web site ([www.st-mark-church.org](http://www.st-mark-church.org))

The approval of a 2021 Budget will be done during the online meeting. The election of three new members to the Parish Council will be done electronically. The voting will commence at the close of the online Meeting and will end by Thursday October 8. An email will be sent to each Voting Member with a link to an online voting site. This will allow people to vote anonymously. Our candidates for the three seats (with three year terms) are:

**Gisele Awayjan**

**Imad Chammas**

**Elias Khoury**

**Osama Kishek**

**Quote from the Saints**

The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by force, but gradually, not all at once. This occurs through constant vigilance, self-denial, patience, guarding of the senses, repentance, self-reproach and above all quietude, silence and prayer.

*Elder Michael II of Valaam*

**Hieromartyr Hierotheus of Athens (October 4)**

According to some, Hierotheus, like Saint Dionysius, was a member of the court of Mars Hill. Having first been instructed in the Faith of Christ by Paul, he became Bishop of Athens. He, in turn, initiated the divine Dionysius more perfectly into the mysteries of Christ; the latter, on his part, elaborated more clearly and

distinctly Hierotheus' concise and summary teachings concerning the Faith. He too was brought miraculously by the power of the Holy Spirit to be present at the Dormition of the Theotokos, when, together with the sacred Apostles, he became a leader of the divine hymnody. "He was wholly transported, wholly outside himself and was so deeply absorbed in communion with the sacred things he celebrated in hymnology, that to all who heard him and saw him and knew him, and yet knew him not, he seemed to be inspired of God, a divine hymnographer," as Dionysius says (On the Divine Names, 3:2). Having lived in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord.

### **Regarding Church Attendance**

We have enabling parish members to sign up for purposes of attending Sunday Divine Liturgy. There is a limited total number of attendees (60). To sign up, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CABAB29A4FF2-sunday>. 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 (except young children). Choir members will not be wearing masks, but will practice 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 services 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)

**SUPPORT ST MARK CHURCH  
PLEASE CALL RALPHS & JOIN THE CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM  
5% EARNINGS**

**USE OUR NEW NPO #YX817  
800-443-4438 RALPHS SIGN UP**

09/20/2020

**RESTAURANTS**

CHEESECAKE FACTORY	\$100
EL POLLO LOCO (\$10)	\$30
MIMIS CAFÉ	\$100
MAGGIANO'S/MACARONI GRILL/ CHILI'S / (25'S)	\$175
OLIVE GARDEN	\$50
SMASHBURGER (\$10'S)	\$30
TACO BELL (\$10'S)	\$30

**GAS STATIONS**

ARCO	\$100
CHEVRON	\$650
EXXON/MOBIL	\$0
SHELL	\$800
76 UNOCAL (\$100's)	\$0

**CLOTHING DEPARTMENT STORES**

BLOOMINGDALE'S 100's	\$100
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy \$25	\$50
MACY'S (\$100's)	\$400
MARSHALL/ TJ MAX	\$50
ROSS (\$25'S)	\$100
SAKS 5TH AVENUE (\$50'S)	\$100
ULTA BEAUTY \$25'S	\$50
AMAZON.COM GIFT CARDS (\$25'S /100's)	\$0 <u>SHOP SMILE.AMAZON</u>
Visa® Five Back (\$50' & \$100)	\$100

**FOOD MARKETS**

SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET (\$50)	\$50
STATER BROTHERS	\$300
SMART N FINAL (\$50'S ONLY)	\$100

**SPECIALTY RETAIL STORES**

BED BATH & BEYOND	\$50
DISNEY STORES	\$150
HOME DEPOT	\$75
HONEYBAKED HAM	\$50
STARBUCKS (\$10 and \$25)	\$40
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S	\$300

**SHOP SMILE.AMAZON.COM & CHOOSE ST.MARK Antiochian Orthodox Church  
FOR YOUR CHARITY ORGANIZATION**