

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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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



NOVEMBER 22, 2020

After-feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

**APOSTLES PHILEMON, APPHIA, ARCHIPPOS AND ONESIMOS OF THE SEVENTY; CLEMENT,
BISHOP OF OCHRID AND ENLIGHTENER OF BULGARIA; MARTYR CECILIA OF ROME AND THOSE
WITH HER; VENERABLE KALLISTOS XANTHOPOULOS OF ATHOS; MARTYR MICHAEL, PRINCE
OF TVER; VENERABLE IAKOVOS OF EVIA**

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Presentation in the Fourth Tone: Today is the prelude of the good-will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: Troparion of the Resurrection the Seventh Tone: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Presentation in the Fourth Tone (Repeat)

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 Entrance of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone: The most pure temple of the Savior, the very precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She bringeth with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 75:11,1) 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 St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians (4:1-7)

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 94:1,2) 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 Saint Luke (12:16 -21)

The Lord spoke this parable, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And

he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

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

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Holy oblations are given today by Robert Mokbel for the souls of his parents, George (7 years) and Samira (5 years); by Samir Billeh and family for the soul of his newly-departed brother Suhail Yusef Billeh and by Ibrahim and Taghreed Yagham for the soul of their daughter Nour departed this life 12 years. Memory Eternal! Oblations are also offered today by Philip and Tareiz Bahbah for the health and salvation of their family and by Michael and Charlotte Khoury for their daughter Grace on the occasion of her birthday.

Until further notice, there is no Coffee Hour.

Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Yuri Sidorenko, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Adib and Nabila Zabaneh, 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

Is the Second Sunday of the Christmas Fast (Advent). This fast, which lasts exactly 40 days, prepares us to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity (Birth) of Jesus Christ, commonly known as Christmas. During this season we are reminded that the Christian life style must include alms giving (acts of charity), prayer and fasting. Therefore, we are asked to intensify these efforts. During Advent we should be praying more, giving more time and resources to those in need, eat less and more simply, and above all, seek to fast from sin. As usual, Wednesdays and Fridays are strict fasting days (abstention from all meat, poultry, dairy & egg products, alcohol

and olive oil). Until December 20, the other days of the week we are to fast from all meat and meat products, with wine and olive oil allowed. As part of our Advent effort Orthodox Christians should also participate in the Sacrament of Confession. The only way to combat the commercialization and vaguely sentimental observance of the Birth of the Savior is to prepare for a Holy Feast Day by participating in some meaningful way in the Fast. **Regarding the fast and the Thanksgiving Holiday: For most of us, Thanksgiving Day without turkey and all that goes with it is hard to imagine, yet we are in the Christmas Fast. My pastoral advice is this: Enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving dinner this Thursday, keep the fast on Friday (as we should almost any Friday!). Eat left-overs on Saturday and freeze the left-overs until after December 25. By all means resume the fast by Monday!**

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 and click on "Donate" We are working to keep our expenditures as low as possible until things return to a more normal state.

Message forwarded from our Scrip Coordinator Saeda Turk:

Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that St Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church (EIN: 33-0500812) has been issued a \$43.11 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2020.

The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before November 12, 2020. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.

Thank you,

Your AmazonSmile Team

This Week

Wednesday Vespers 6:00 p.m.

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Quote from the Saints

“A small thing is not small when it leads to something great, nor indeed is it a thing of no matter to give up the ancient tradition of the Church held by our forefathers, whose conduct we should observe, and whose faith we should imitate.”

-- *St. John of Damascus*

Archippus the Apostles, Philemon the Apostle & his wife, Apphia, Onesimos the Disciple of Paul (November 22)

Philemon, who was from Colossae, a city of Phrygia, was a man both wealthy and noble; Apphia was his wife. Archippus became Bishop of the Church in Colossae. All three were disciples of the Apostle Paul. Onesimus, who was formerly an unbeliever and slave of Philemon, stole certain of his vessels and fled to Rome. However, on finding him there, the Apostle Paul guided him onto the path of virtue and the knowledge of the truth, and sent him back to his master Philemon, to whom he wrote an epistle (this is one of the fourteen epistles of Saint Paul). In this epistle, Paul commended Onesimus to his master and reconciled the two. Onesimus was later made a bishop; in Greece he is honoured as the patron Saint of the imprisoned. All these Saints received their end by martyrdom, when they were stoned to death by the idolaters. Saint Onesimus is also commemorated on February 15.

Regarding Church Attendance

We have been 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.

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.