

# **St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West**

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

Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish

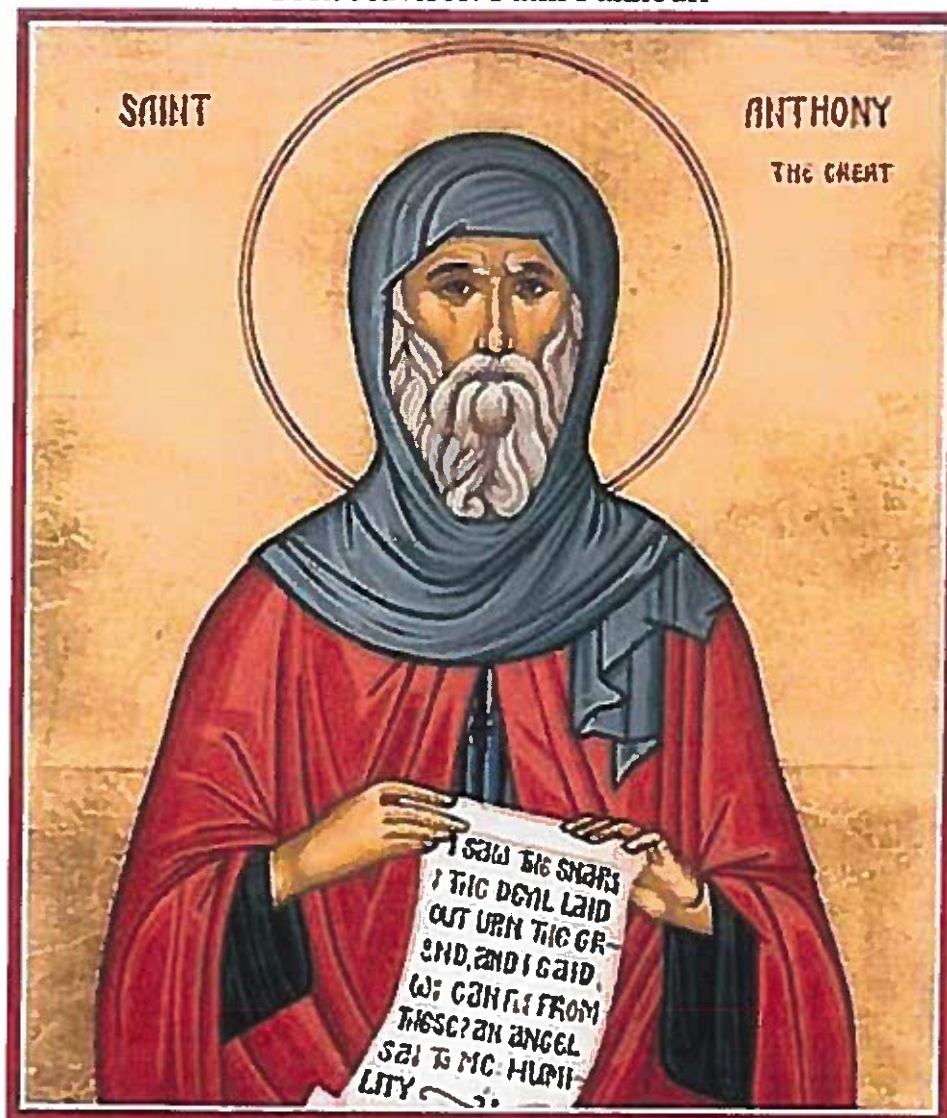
Protodeacon George Moubayed, Dn. Nicholas Mamey, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Mark Ellis, Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**JANUARY 17, 2021**

**VENERABLE AND GOD-BEARING FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT**

**ST GREGORY OF NYSSA**

**ANTHONY THE NEW, ASCETIC OF BERREA IN MACEDONIA;**

**NEW-MARTYR GEORGE OF IOANNINA**



**The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (17:12-19)**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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**Holy Oblations are offered today** by the Sleiman Family for the health and salvation of Omar (Son) and Sammer John (grandson) on the occasion of their birthdays.

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

*Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Yuri Sidorenko, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, 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**

**2021 Wall Calendars are here.** Please pick one up from the information table in the Hall.

*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.

We are in the midst of our 2021 Pledge Drive. As of this writing we have received 57 pledges totaling \$109,010. This puts us about halfway to our budget goal for this year. Blessing and thanks to those who have already pledged. You can pledge online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9YLY88>. Paper pledge forms are also available in the church hall.

**This Week**

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers

*House blessings this year: Our Metropolitan has written to the clergy re House Blessings this year. We have been told that we may visit homes for this blessing but with common sense restrictions, to quote his letter, "limit your time to the blessing itself - not staying for dinner or coffee." If you wish to postpone your House Blessing, we will be glad to schedule them later this year.*

*Please contact me if you would like your home or business blessed ([frmlaffoon@gmail.com](mailto:frmlaffoon@gmail.com) or call 949-8518933)*

**Next Week**

Wednesday January 27, 6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers

Saturday January 30, Feast of Three Holy Hierarchs: Orthros 9:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Upcoming Services and Events**

Monday February 1, **Evening Divine Liturgy for Feast of Presentation of our Lord in the Temple:** Orthros 5:30 p.m., Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

**Quote from the Saints**

"Be fearful that you do not become famous because of some work that you do. If they begin to praise you because of your work, do not rejoice or take delight in it, but keep your works secret as much as you can, and do not allow anyone to speak about them." -- St. Anthony

**Anthony the Great (January 17)**



Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God." Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

### **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 (80, including clergy and singers). 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>

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). Several rows 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.

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**ORGANIZATION**

**01/17/2021**

**RESTAURANTS**

CHEESECAKE FACTORY	\$100
MIMIS CAFÉ	\$100
MAGGIANO'S/MACARONI GRILL/ CHILI'S / (25'S)	\$175
OLIVE GARDEN	\$50
SMASHBURGER (\$10'S)	\$30
TACO BELL (\$10'S)	\$0

**GAS STATIONS**

ARCO	\$0
CHEVRON	\$600
EXXON/MOBIL	\$500
SHELL	\$800
76 UNOCAL (\$100's)	\$200

**CLOTHING DEPARTMENT STORES**

BLOOMINGDALE'S 100's	\$100
MACY'S (\$100's)	\$300
MARSHALL/ TJ MAX	\$100
OLD NAY/GAP	\$50
SAKS 5TH AVENUE (\$50'S)	\$100

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**Visa® Five Back (\$50' & \$100 )** **\$0 SHOP SMILE.AMAZON**

**\$0**

**FOOD MARKETS**

SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET (\$50)	\$0
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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)	\$0
TARGET	\$375
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S	\$100

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