

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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Website: 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, Pericles Ioannides

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

VENERABLE TIMOTHY OF SYMBOLA; EUSTATHIOS, ARCHBISHOP OF ANTIOCH;
ZACHARIAH, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM; GEORGE, BISHOP OF AMASTRIS

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fourth Tone: Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

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 Publican and Pharisee in the Fourth Tone: Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn the heights of humility from the publican's words. Let us cry out in repentance: O Savior of the world, be gracious to thy servants.

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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 to Timothy (3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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 (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust,

adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Nuha Qushair for the health and salvation of her family and by the Bahbah and Turk families for the souls of the newly-departed Hanna Bahbah (2/16) and Anton Turk (2/17). May their memory be eternal!

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 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

The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is a fast-free week.

Tuesday February 23, Evening Services for Feast of the First and Second Discoveries of The Head of John the Baptism. Orthros 5:30 p.m. Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday February 24, 6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers

Thursday February 25, 11:00 a.m. Funeral of Anton Turk at St Mark Church. Attendance is family only. The Funeral will be live streamed at <https://livestream.com/accounts/13863088>

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 or call 949-8518933)

Next Week

Wednesday March 3, 6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers

Upcoming Services and Events

Wednesday March 10, 11:00 a.m. Funeral of Hanna Bahbah. Attendance is family only. The Funeral will be live streamed at <https://livestream.com/accounts/13863088>

The 2021 Western Diocese Parish Life Conference will held be online (i.e. not in person) this summer. All the PLCs in the Archdiocese will be held this way, per the directive of Metropolitan Joseph. Details of the online PLC will be forthcoming.

Quote from the Saints

Try to fill your soul with Christ so as not to have it empty. Your soul is like a cistern full of water. If you channel the water to the flowers, that is, to the virtues,

you will experience true joy and all the thorns of evil will wither away. But if you channel the water to the weeds, these will grow and choke you and all the flowers will wither.

Elder Porphyrios

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.