

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



MARCH 7, 2021

JUDGMENT SUNDAY (SUNDAY OF MEAT FARE)

**THE HIEROMARTYRS OF CHERSON: BASIL, EPHRAIM, EUGENE, KAPITON,
ELPIDIOS, AGATHODOROS AND AETHERIOS; VENERABLE FRIDOLIN; VENERABLE
LAURENCE; AND VENERABLE PAUL THE SIMPLE, DISCIPLE OF VENERABLE
ANTHONY THE GREAT,**

HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Sixth Tone: When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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.

Clergy: Kontakion of Meat Fare Sunday in the First Tone: When thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before thy judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things made public; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 117. 14, 18) The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses: (Psalm 19. 1, 9) The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep

from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Saeda Turk and family for the soul of her father Elias Khoury, departed this life 40 days ,by Tammy Qutami for the soul of her dear friend Wanda McDowell; by Arij Artoul for the soul of her departed father Nadim and for the health and salvation of her family and by Michael and Charlotte Khoury and family for their daughter Amanda on the occasion of her 18th birthday.

Until further notice, there is no Coffee Hour.

Please remember in your prayers: 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

March 8 to 14 Cheese Fare Week. This last week before Great Lent, we prepare by giving up all meat and meat products. All fish and dairy, however, are allowed (evening Wednesday and Friday)

Tuesday March 9, 7:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

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>

Wednesday March 10, 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 or call 949-8518933)

Next Week

Sunday March 14, Forgiveness Sunday

Monday March 15, First Day of Great Lent

Schedule for First Week of Lent

Monday March 15, Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday March 16, Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 17, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:30 p.m.

Thursday March 18, Great Compline 7:00 p.m.

Friday March 19, Little Compline with Akathist Hymn

Upcoming Services and Events

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.

On Judgment

God's judgment is nothing else than our coming into contact with truth and light. ...Our hearts will be opened by the penetrating light of God, and what is in these hearts will be revealed. If in those hearts there is love for God, those hearts will rejoice seeing God's light. If, on the contrary, there is hatred for God in those hearts, these men will suffer by receiving on their opened hearts this penetrating light of truth which they detested all their life.

Alexander Kalomiros from: "River of Fire"

Sunday of Judgment

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

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

02/07/2021

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