

# THE APOSTLE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021 SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF IRVINE

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America  
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of all North America  
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Very Rev. Father Michael Laffoon, Pastor  
Residence phone: (949) 559-6133  
Rev Fr. Patrick Irish, Attached  
Rev. Protodeacon George Moubayed  
Rev. Deacon Nicholas Mamey  
Sub-deacon: Athanasius Fakhouri  
Choir Director: Barbara Scholl  
Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa  
Joubran, Karim Youssef, Perry Ioannides  
Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri

## 2020 – 2021 PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Kristin Chala {22}  
Vice Chairman – Penny Skaff {22}  
Secretary – Jerri Lynn Mamey {21}  
Treasurer – Osama Kishek {23}  
Assistant Treasurers- Michael Khoury {21} &  
Imad Alchammas {23}  
Gisele Awayjan {23}  
Lew Malouf {21}  
Barbara Scholl {22}  
Tammy Qutami {21}  
[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his  
or her current term]  
Church School Co-Directors: Tammy Qutami and  
Kristin Chala  
Men's Club President: Ghassan Awayjan  
Antiochian Women of St. Mark President: Vera  
Bahbah  
Teen SOYO President: Nadim Youssef

## Pastor's Corner

Why is the pre-Pascha fast called "Great?"

I believe it's not so much because of its forty-day duration as it is because of its importance in the life of the disciples of Christ.

What is the purpose of fasting as a commandment of God? Its purpose is our unity with the great and Omnipotent God.

"Great art Thou, O Lord, Who workest wonders!"

Entering in upon the field of the springtime *Quadragesima*, ["40 days"] we expect to receive the necessary wondrous and grace-filled help from our Savior to gain victory over ourselves.

THE FIRST GIFT of the Redeemer to a man who fasts with reason is the ceaseless **attention of the mind** to all that is happening in his soul. As long as a Christian is scattered, he will never be able to recognize the intrigues of the evil spirit or take note of the activity of the ruinous passions of pride, lust, and anger.

THE SECOND GIFT of the Lord to His attentive disciple is **heartfelt prayer**. Like a sharpened sword, it easily severs all mental pretexts and external temptations, making Christians invulnerable to the attacks of the enemy of mankind.

THE THIRD GIFT of the Resurrected Savior is **humility and thanksgiving**. Indeed, the realization of our infirmity attracts grace to the heart. And receiving the plentiful help of God impels the soul to pour itself out in unceasing thanksgiving to our Almighty and merciful Heavenly Father.

Having received these gifts from the generous right hand of the Lord as a reward for our meager but sincere zeal, let us take special care not to thoughtlessly lose them, but to joyfully lay them at the feet of the Victor over death on the day of the Bright Resurrection of Christ, and He will undoubtedly manifest to us all the unfathomable fullness of His love!

*Archpriest Artemy Vladimirov: Living Word*  
3/22/2021

*Translation by Jesse Dominick*

**THE LENTEN FAST** (Lent began on March 15)  
*During Great Lent, the rules of the dietary fast are thus: All of Lent and Holy Week we are to abstain from all meat and animal products (including eggs, milk, animal fats, etc.) The only exceptions are shellfish. In addition, Mondays through Fridays, we are to abstain from wine and other alcoholic drinks and olive oil. This is the "letter of the law." It is important for you and your family to participate in the "spirit of the law", working out this Lenten effort within your household in ways pleasing to God and beneficial for the soul. We all must be reminded that the purpose of the dietary fast is to help us to fast from sin and ungodliness! If you have questions regarding Lenten discipline, please see Fr. Michael.*

**Feasts, Special Services and Events for  
April 2021**

**Weekly Lenten Schedule**

**Monday Great Compline 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m. (no meal afterwards)**

**Friday Little Compline with Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday April 15, 7:00 p.m. Little Compline with Great Canon of Repentance**

**Sunday April 25, Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)**

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Sunday, Monday, Tuesday evenings:  
Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 p.m.**

**Holy Wednesday Uction, 7:00 p.m.**

**Holy Thursday**

**Divine Liturgy, Institution of Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m.**

**Service of the 12 Passion Gospels**

**Holy Friday**

**Royal Hours, 9:30 a.m.**

**Vespers of Taking Down of the Lord's Body  
from the Cross 3:30 p.m.**

**Service of Lamentations 7:00 p.m.**

**May 2021 Advanced Calendar**

**Holy Saturday May 1, Vesperal Divine Liturgy  
10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday night May 1/ May 2: PASCHA Rush,  
Procession, Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:00  
p.m. Pascha Breakfast following.**

**May 2, Great and Holy PASCHA, Agape  
Vespers, 1:00 p.m.**

***Selected Saint of the Month***

**The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark**

Mark was an idolater from Cyrene of Pentapolis, which is near Libya. Having come to the Faith of Christ through the Apostle Peter, he followed him to Rome. While there, at the prompting of Peter himself and at the request of the Christians living there, he wrote his Gospel in Greek, and it is second in order after Matthew's. Afterwards, travelling to Egypt, he preached the Gospel there and was the first to establish the Church in Alexandria. The idolaters, unable to bear his preaching, seized him, bound him with ropes, and dragged him through the streets until he, cut to pieces on rocks, gave up his soul. It is said that he completed his life in martyrdom about the year 68. He is depicted in holy icons with a lion next

to him, one of the living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), and a symbol of Christ's royal office, as Saint Irenaeus of Lyons writes.

*If April 25 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of St. Mark is translated to Bright Tuesday.*

### Parish & Organization News

All of our Organization activities are suspended until the State restrictions on gatherings is lifted.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sarah Ammari 4/24  
Jessica Azzam 4/28  
Andrew Azzam 4/17  
George Bahbah 4/8  
Grace Bahbah 4/8  
Julie Bahbah 4/11  
Peter Batarseh 4/25  
Rita Bayouk 4/20  
Nicholas Benjamin 4/29  
Christopher Chala 4/28  
Matthew Daruty 4/25  
Liana Debbas 4/16  
Mary Dibs 4/27  
Samar Elsayegh 4/30  
Elaina Fakhouri 4/11  
Fatin Fakhouri 4/11  
Ian Fortuna 4/27  
Marianne Hanounch 4/9  
Theresa Joubran 4/1  
Juliette Khamis 4/4  
Mary Ann Khamis 4/1  
Aida Khamis 4/21  
Malvina Kumar 4/2  
Sophia Liqueste 4/25  
Nathaniel Liqueste 4/25  
Jean Nasrawi 4/26  
Jason Nino 4/15  
Sammy Nino 4/7  
Emily Nour 4/26  
Jeries Qoborsi 4/12  
Daniel Qoborsi 4/24  
Paul Rodriguez 4/13  
Alexander Saadeh 4/17  
Aaron Scholl 4/11  
Jay Skaff 4/8  
Charlie Tarazi 4/7

Carol Tierney 4/24  
Stephanie Toubbeh 4/30  
Gina Turk 4/26

## Happy Anniversary

Maurice & Nadia Karkar 4/17  
Robert & Linda Mokbel 4/23  
Sam & Adel Munayyer 4/29  
Mufid & Salam Samara 4/27

**BUYSCRIP!** Our Ladies Guild buys scrip from many and various stores and restaurants (see list included in this bulletin) at a 3 to 10% discount. When you buy the scrip, which is accepted just like cash at the issuing store, the parish benefits. You pay no more for these goods and services and are making a donation to our parish. You can purchase this scrip from Saeda Turk on Sundays or go to

*The Apostle is a monthly newsletter of St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church. Parish Organizations are to submit articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Church office (949-851-8933)*

**The new mobile app, RaiseRight by ShopWithScrip, is simply the right way to fundraise. Just make sure to choose "E-Gift Card" and you will have it in your email in less than a minute. Let's start shopping and earning money for your favorite church, St Mark Irvine!**

**Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/> USE THE ENROLLMENT CODE LFA187LD11116 Turn your shopping list into fundraising**

- **Discover new earning opportunities every day**
- **Narrow your search with categories that fit your everyday shopping needs**
- **Easily browse brands offering bonus earnings**
- **Add brands you love to your Favorites for faster shopping**

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March '21

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

St. Mark Orthodox Church of Irvine CA

# April 2021

May '21

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Passover 4 Western Easter Sunday of the Cross	<b>29</b> 5 Great Compline 7:00 p.m.	<b>30</b> 6 Parish Council 7:00 p.m.	<b>31</b> 7 Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.	<b>1</b> April Fool's Day 8	<b>2</b> Little Compline with Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.	<b>3</b> Vespers 4:00 p.m.
<b>11</b> St. John of the Ladder	<b>12</b> Great Compline 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> Little Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew 7:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> Little Compline with Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.	<b>17</b> Vespers 4:00 p.m.
<b>18</b> St. Mary of Egypt	<b>19</b> Great Compline 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.	<b>22</b> Little Compline with Canon of Lazarus 7:00 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Vespers 4:00 p.m.
<b>25</b> Palm Sunday	<b>26</b> Holy Monday Great Compline 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b> Holy Tuesday	<b>28</b> Holy Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.	<b>29</b> Holy Thursday Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	<b>30</b> Holy Friday Royal Hours 9:30 a.m. Holy Friday Vespers 3:30 p.m.	<b>1</b> Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. <b>PASCHA VIGIL 11:00 P.M.</b>
<b>2</b> <b>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</b> <b>PASCHA</b> Agape Vespers 1:00 p.m.	<b>3</b> Bridgroom Matins 7:00 p.m.	<b>Notes</b> Bridgroom Matins 7:00 p.m.	Holy Unction 7:00 p.m.	12 Passion Gospels 7:00 p.m.	amentations Service 7:00 p.m.	



**SAINT MARK ANTIOCHIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
17840 SKY PARK CIRCLE  
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