

المسيح قام! حقاً قام!

THE APOSTLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2015

SAINT MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF IRVINE

Christ is Risen, Truly He is risen!

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Very Rev. Father Michael Laffoon, Pastor

Residence phone: (949) 559-6133

Rev Fr. Patrick Irish, Attached

Rev. Protodeacon George Moubayed

Sub-deacon: Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director: Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran, Karim

Youssef, & Mark Ellis & Jake Bahbah

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh

2014-2015 PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - Nelson Mamey {15} (949) 673-7400

Vice Chairman - Randy Dabbah {17} (949) 293-7732

Secretary - Mark Ellis {15} (949) 458-1604

Treasurer - Fouad Tarazi {16} (949) 276-2923

Assistant Treasurer-Richard Jirjis {16} (949) 552-7424

Ghassan Awayjan {17} (951) 454-5429

Afifa Artoul {16} (949) 215-2305

Issa Bahbah {15} (714) 685-8841

Joe Daruty {17} (949) 612-7939

Penny Skaff {15} (949) 713-7411

[Number in brackets is the member's last year of his or her current term]

Church School Director: Eileen Ellis (949) 458-1604

Men's Club President: Austin Turk (949) 581-2060

Ladies Guild President: Julie Bahbah (714) 335-9166

Teen SOYO President: Grace Bahbah (714) 401-2094

Pastor's Column

Pastoral Message for Great and Holy Pascha

April 12, 2015

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, as it meet; and let the whole world, visible and invisible, feast; for Christ hath risen to everlasting joy.
(from the 1st Ode of the Paschal Canon)

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

We greet you with great joy and love as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. We are reminded by the hymn quoted above that the entire universe rejoices in this singular event which brings new life to all creation. Even the current state of violence and hatred which plagues this world is shattered to pieces by the Lord's descent into Hades and his resurrection from the dead. We ask all of the faithful to continue to pray for the two abducted bishops, Metropolitan Paul, and Archbishop Youhanna, and the victims of violence around the world, especially in Syria and in the entire region. The victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of death, and the hope of new life are indeed our only consolation during these troubled times. The triumph of this Paschal season strengthens our faith and renews our hope. Let us therefore rejoice with the heavens and celebrate with the entire universe on this, the Feast of Feasts!

Praying that the Light of the Empty Tomb will bring us the joy and peace that can only come from above, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

SPECIAL SERVICES/EVENTS IN MAY 2015

Sunday May 10, Mother's Day – Luncheon sponsored by Men's Club

Sunday May 17, Mother/Daughter Tea (see flyer for details)

Wednesday May 20, Evening Liturgy, Feast of Ascension, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday May 31, Holy Pentecost

Advanced Calendar of Services & Events in June

June 7, Last Day of Church School

June 14, Church School Awards, Presentation, Picnic

June 21, Father's Day Luncheon sponsored by Ladies Guild

June 29, Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

WEEKLY SERVICES

Wednesday Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m. Confessions heard after service.

Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Confessions heard from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Selected Saints of the Month
Parish & Organizations News**

May 2nd

**SAINT MICHAEL (BORIS), THE
BULGARIAN TSAR**

Boris was born and educated as a pagan and was baptized under the influence of his uncle Bojan and his sister. At baptism, he was given the name Michael. Patriarch Photius sent him priests who gradually baptized all the Bulgarian people. Many Bulgarian noblemen opposed this new Faith but the new Faith conquered and the Cross glistened on

many churches built by the devout Tsar Michael. The Faith among the Bulgarians, as among the Serbs, was especially established by the Five Followers, the disciples of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, who preached to the people the knowledge of Christ in the vernacular: the Slavonic language.

In his old age Michael retreated to a monastery and was tonsured a monk. When his son Vladimir began to destroy his father's work and to exterminate Christianity, Michael again donned his military uniform, girded himself with a sword, ousted Vladimir from the throne and installed Simeon, his younger son, as Tsar. After that, he again clothed himself in the monastic habit and retreated in silence where, in mortification and prayer, he completed his earthly life "in the good faith; in the correct confession of our Lord Jesus Christ; great, honorable and devout," and took up habitation in the heavenly life on May 2, 906 A.D.

May 13th

THE HOLY MARTYR ALEXANDER

Alexander was a Slav. As an eighteen year old soldier in the army of Emperor Maximilian, he refused the order of the emperor to give honor to the Roman idols and for that which he was handed over to Captain Tiberian, to either counsel Alexander to deny Christ or else torture and kill him. Since all the counseling was in vain, Tiberian took Alexander with him across Macedonia to Constantinople where he traveled for duty. In every town along the way, the young Alexander was cruelly tortured but, in every town, Christians came out before him and begged him for a blessing and they encouraged him in his mortification. Pimenia, his mother, followed after him. During the course of this travel, an angel of God appeared many times to Alexander soothing his pains and encouraging him. In one place, Carasura, the martyr performed a miracle through prayer: when thirst overcame him and the soldiers who escorted him, he brought forth a well of cold water from an arid place. On the shore of the Ergina river, Tiberian ordered the executioner to behead Alexander and to toss his body into the

water. When the executioner swung at the martyr's head, he saw radiant angels of God around Alexander and became frightened and his hand dropped. Alexander asked him why his hand dropped and the executioner replied that he sees some radiant young men around him. Yearning death and union with the Lord, Alexander prayed to God to withdraw the angels from him so that the executioner would not be frightened. And thus, the executioner carried out his work in the year 298 A.D. Pimenia removed the body of her son and honorably buried him. Many healings occurred at the grave of the martyr. After death, the martyr appeared to his mother and informed her of her imminent translation to the other world

May 21st

THE SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

This Council was called during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Great in Constantinople in the year 381 A.D. Its goal was to confirm the Orthodox teaching concerning the Holy Spirit about Whom the Patriarch Macedonius of Constantinople erroneously taught. He erroneously taught that the Holy Spirit is God's creature and not a divine person [Hypostasis] equal to the Father and Son and One in essence with Them in the Holy Trinity. Macedonius was condemned by this Council and the teaching about the Holy Spirit was added to the Nicæan Symbol of Faith [the Nicene Creed].

May 31st

THE HOLY APOSTLE HERMAS

Hermas was one of the Seventy Apostles. He is mentioned in the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. "Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes and the brethren which are with them" (Romans 16:14). Hermas was a Greek by birth but lived in Rome for a long time. He was a bishop in Philippopolis and ended his life as a martyr. He compiled a very instructive book called "The Shepherd" according to revelations from an angel of God. Hermas was a wealthy man but because of his sins and the sins of his sons, he fell into extreme poverty. Once while in prayer, a man appeared to him in white raiment with a staff in his hand and told him that he is an angel of repentance who was

sent to be with him until the end of his life. The angel gave him twelve mandates:

1. Believe in God;
2. To live in simplicity and innocence; do not speak evil and give alms to all who beg;
3. Love truth and avoid falsehood;
4. Preserve chastity in your thoughts;
5. Learn patience and generosity;
6. To know that with every man, there is a good and an evil spirit;
7. To fear God and not to fear the devil;
8. To do every good and to refrain from every evil deed;
9. To pray to God from the depth of the soul with faith that our prayer will be fulfilled;
10. To guard against melancholy as the sister of doubt and anger;
11. To question true and false prophecies;
12. To guard against every evil desire.

Ladies Guild

Our Ladies Guild had their monthly meeting on 4/16/15, which started after a Pascal Office service at church at 6:30 p.m.

The Ladies enjoyed the meeting and the potluck dinner.

Sunshine Report by Khoria Donna Laffoon: get well cards were sent to Michael Asaly, Georgette Salameh.

Treasure report by Gisele Awayjan; total ending balance after all the expenses is \$9148.34

Our Ladies Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale was on April 5th, and it was a great success.

Thanks to Barbara Khamis, & Maryse Benjamin who chaired this event and to all the ladies who donated, baked and to all the people who helped in setting up, selling and cleaned up for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale.

The bake sale profit this year was a little over \$2100. Congratulations Ladies for breaking the record and for a job well done!

Our Ladies Guild held the Annual Pascha Breakfast on April 11th after our Paschal Divine Liturgy

Special thanks to the Ladies officers and to our Ladies Guild for the very well organized event that

was enjoyed by all the Parishioners. Thanks to all who contributed with food or money and to all who helped in setting up and cleaning up.

Bible Study by Fr. Michael is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the church at 10.30 am, please try to attend.

Our Ladies Guild next meeting will be on Sunday **May 3rd after** the church. Please Ladies join us.

Our upcoming important event is **Mother Daughter Spring Tea party** which is chaired by Denise Nassif and Lydia Wakileh, **on Sunday May 17th** at 12:30 p.m. at the church hall. Please see flyer included, and reserve with Denise or Lydia.

We would like to hear from you always so please take one of the **surveys** and tell us what other ideas and teaching you would like to see at the Ladies meetings.

Yours in Christ
Ladies Guild Secretaries
Lydia Wakileh & Wissam Farraj

Men's Club

Saturday May 2nd, First Annual Tarneeb Tournament, 10:00 A.m.

Sunday May 10th, Mother's Day Luncheon served by the Men's Club.

Respectfully submitted by
Don Skaff/Men's Club Secretary

Teen SOYO

The Teen SOYO held their annual Holy Friday Vigil at the tomb of Christ on April 10.

Teens will hold their car wash fund raising on Sunday May 3rd and they will serve lunch too. Profit from this fund will be donated to the Church building fund.

Jay Skaff
Teen's Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Anter 5/20
Justine Bahbah 5/18
Ghassan Bahou 5/4
Ruth Conn 5/30
Maha Daher 5/25
Scott Daruty 5/19
May Dabbah 5/27
Natalie Debbas 5/9
Mirna Debbas 5/29
George Debbas 5/18
Omar Fakhouri 5/2
Sammi Faraj 5/15
Noah Fortuna 5/4
Josie Goson 5/28
Tania Habeeb 5/21
Paul Habeeb 5/22
Sahar Hanna 5/25
Vera Jirjis 5/13
Michael Joellson 5/16
Bachir Kassir 5/30
Alexander Kashou 5/5
Michael Houry 5/5
Maysoon Houry 5/10
Kandy Kort 5/4
Elizabeth Kort 5/4
Emilie Laffoon 5/27
Nelson Mamey 5/29
Alexander Mokbel 5/31
George Richard 5/22
Sophia Richard 5/22
Ramez Sayegh 5/20
Natalia Soury 5/14
Fouad Tarazi 5/31
Richie Tierney 5/2
Anise Turk 5/4
Angelina Turk 5/29
Sophia Whitacre 5/20
Connor Wilde 5/8

Happy Anniversary

Phillip & Tarize Bahbah 5/9
Jacob & Vera Bahbah 5/13
Samir & Lucy Billeh 5/2
Mark & Eileen Ellis 5/22
Kevin & Sara Fortuna 5/23

Richard & Vera Jirjis 5/9
Michel & Theresa Joubran 5/17
Bachir & Helen Kassir 5/27
Elias & Najat Khury 5/1
Fr. Michael & Donna Laffoon 5/6
Nelson & Jeri Mamey 5/30
Tanya & Joseph Richards 5/29
Najeeb & Heba Saadeh 5/15
Robert & Sarah Smathers 5/10
Anees & Reham Turk 5/22
Anton & Keitie Turk 5/29
Patrick & Susan Wilde 5/25

*BUY SCRIP! 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 at the coffee hour.***

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

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