**St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

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

17840 Sky Park Circle, Irvine CA 92614 (949) 851-8933

Church Office Hours: M-F, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

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: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Church Office Secretary: Lydia Wakileh

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri

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**August 2, 2020**

**8th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Translation of Relics of Proto-martyr Stephen the Archdeacon**

**Venerable Photeini the wonderworker of Carpasia in Cyprus;**

**Blessed Basil the fool-for-Christ, wonderworker of Moscow**

**HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE**

### All: Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Seventh Tone: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

**Troparion of St. Stephen the Protomartyr in the Fourth Tone:** The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; for when thou hadst censured the Jews’ madness, thou sawest Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would save our souls

All: **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 for the Transfiguration, in the Seventh Tone: Thou wast transfigured on the mount O Christ God, and thy disciples beheld thy glory as far as they could bear it; so that when they would behold thee crucified they would understand that thy passion was voluntary and would proclaim to the world that thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

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**Prokeimenon (Psalm 28. 11, 1) Tone 7:** The Lord will give strength to his people. Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

**Reading from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (1:10-17)**

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissension among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

**Alleluia Verse** (Psalm 43:1,7) O God, we have heard with our ears. You have saved us from those who afflict us.

**Reading from the gospel according to St Matthew (14:14-22)**

 At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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**Holy oblations are given today by** by the Whitacre & Laffoon families for Luke Whitacre on the occasion of his 5th birthday (August 2)and for Joseph Laffoon on the occasion of his birthday (August 5).

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

***Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Paul Qaqundah, Theresa Joubran, Gloria Mamey 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***

**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 call the Church Office to set this up.** We are working to keep our expenditures as low as possible until things return to a more normal state.

**Dormition Fast for the Theotokos** began on August 1. During this Fastthe Church prescribes the following fast: we abstain from all meat, dairy products (including eggs), fish, wine and olive oil (in some traditions olive oil is allowed). Shellfish may be eaten throughout the fast. Wine and olive oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays only. Please make every effort to fast according to the best of your ability and to come to the Sacrament of Holy Confession during this holy season!

***This Week***

**Wednesday August 5, 6:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy, Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord.**

**Saturday August 8, 4:00 p.m. Vespers**

**Quote from the Saints**

..."How is it that I think and do things that I don't want or desire to think or do"?
I answered that everyone is that way, and so forth. Therefore, the more one conquers himself, the greater the reward that he will receive there in eternity. This is the Christian's most essential duty, and for this one needs God's help, which is received through prayer...
*St. Innocent of Alaska*

**Holy Martyr Paraskeve of Rome (July 26)**

Saint Paraskeve, who was from a certain village near Rome, was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskeve), she was given this name, which means "preparation" or "preparedness" (compare Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31, where 'Friday' is called "the day of the preparation"). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremias: "Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth" (Jer. 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.

**From our Council Chairwoman**

**Dear St. Mark Parishioners,**

**I hope that you and your family are doing well. With the resurgence of the COVID-19, I wanted to remind everyone that your health and safety are of upmost importance to the Parish Council. It has been brought to my attention that a few of our parishioners have tested positive for COVID-19. Our thoughts and prayers are with them for a speedy recovery. If you believe that you might have been exposed to the virus please get tested or self quarantine.**

**According to directives from His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, we are able to welcome back the faithful up to 25% of our seating capacity.  Please sign up in order to attend Divine Liturgy at** [**https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044cabab29a4ff2-sunday**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fst-mark-church.us19.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D7a6a4f2461f4fae970c407415%26id%3Db4b8195213%26e%3Dc0eeb076c7&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cb3de900398e248987d6608d82aa0632c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637306215627896779&sdata=zyghxeO06Oy0lOflVV5cFJQY1IxLoe8CdlLIJJdOvmY%3D&reserved=0)**. Services will continue to be live-streamed so that the faithful at home may still join in prayer.**

**If you or any member of your household are sick, have a fever, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, please stay home.    If you know that you have been exposed to someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19 and you have not been tested we kindly ask that, for the sake of our Saint Mark’s parishioners, you refrain from attending services for a period of 14 days and/or confirm that you recently tested negative for COVID-19.**

**If you and/or any member of your household who have attended divine services test positive for COVID-19, please contact the church immediately.**

**\*The wearing of protective masks is highly recommended when you are visiting our parish\***

**The above measures are necessary if we are to come together for holy services in a responsible and careful way, recognizing the highly contagious nature of COVID-19. This virus has claimed the lives of thousands of people around the world and gravely sickened thousands more. The elderly and those with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable and are encouraged to stay at home, following the guidance of the California Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.**

**We are all in this together. We can overcome this, but we must be cognizant of the consequences that our actions can have on our parish. Please keep in your prayers our health care workers who are on the frontlines and pray for a cure or vaccine that can be used to stop this disease.**

**In Christ,**

**Kristin Chala,**

**St. Mark Parish Council Chairwoman**