

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

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL IN COLOSSAE

**ARCHIPPOS OF HIERAPOLIS; MARTYRS EUDOXIOS, ZENO, ROMULUS AND
MAKARIOS AT MELITENE IN ARMENIA**

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for 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 of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael in the Fourth Tone: Michael, Prince of the armies of heaven, thou didst overshadow the Church like a cloud raining waters of immortality. Thou didst preserve it as another ark and turn rivers aside with thy spear, to the glory of the Faith and the rejoicing of the faithful.

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 of the Nativity of the Theotokos in the Fourth Tone:

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee, The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 103.24,1) Tone 4: O Lord, how marvelous are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:13-24)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 44.4,7) Tone 4: Draw your bow and prosper and reign, for the cause of truth and meekness and justice. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

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Holy oblations are given today by Emilie Laffoon and family for the soul of her father, Samuel G. Simon, departed this life 23 years. Memory Eternal!

Please note that we can donate for disaster relief for Lebanon via the Archdiocese at <https://antiochian.networkforgood.com/projects/106179-financial-aid-following-beirut-explosion>

Until further notice, there is no Coffee Hour.

Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Yuri Sidorenko, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Paul Qaqundah, Gloria Mamey, Ibrahim Yaghnan, 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.



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

Note: As of August 7, Lydia Wakileh is no longer working in our church office. We thank her for her 24 years of dedicated service to St. Mark Church, and when conditions allow, we hope to honor her after Sunday Liturgy with all of the parish present.

Lydia continues to be a beloved sister in our community and we ask God to bless her with every good thing.

Volunteers will take on some of the many duties she performed. If you have additions to the bulletin (e.g. Oblations, Trisagion services) please call Fr Michael at the church office number (949) 851-8933.

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

Tuesday evening Orthros 9:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Wednesday Vespers 6:00 p.m.

Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Quote from the Saints

"In the beginning there is struggle and a lot of work for those who come near to God. But after that there is indescribable joy. It is just like building a fire: at first it is smoky and your eyes water, but later you get the desired result. Thus we ought to light the divine fire in ourselves with tears and effort." -- St. Amma Syncletica

Today's Saint

The feast today in honor of the Archangel Michael commemorates the great miracle he wrought when he delivered from destruction a church and holy spring named for him. The pagans, moved by malice, sought to destroy the aforesaid church and holy spring by turning the course of two rivers against them. But the Archangel appeared and, by means of the Cross and a great earthquake that shook the entire area, diverted the waters into an underground course. Henceforth, the name of that place changed from Colossae to Chonae, which means "funnels" in Greek.

Regarding Church Attendance

We have enabling parish members to sign up for purposes of attending Sunday Divine Liturgy. There is a limited total number of attendees (60). 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>

We are implementing this partial re-opening using the guidelines from the State of California and from our Metropolitan. These are summarized below. Please read these guidelines carefully and follow them.

We will continue to live stream all services until we all can be together again. 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.

There is a great deal of joy in bringing our community back together again even though we are still doing this slowly. All attendees must practice self-distancing, excepting those who live in the same household (no less than 6 ft. separation).

Every other row 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.

The “stay at home” order went into effect in mid-Lent. Holy Confession therefore, is overdue for many. These can be scheduled with Fr. Michael on Wednesday or Saturday after Vespers. For the time being Confessions will not be heard on Sunday mornings. The weekly Vespers services are open to all (up to our 81 person limit).

Points of contact in the Narthex and Church will be cleaned/disinfected after each service. Hand sanitizer will be available in the Narthex (please help us by bringing your own, if possible). Please use sanitizer or soap and water to wash your hands upon entering the church building. Clergy will cleanse their hands periodically during holy services.

Regarding the distribution of Holy Communion, I quote from the directive of our Metropolitan, “we will continue to offer Communion according to our Tradition, but all should allow the priest to pour the Body and Blood by opening their mouths wide and not closing their lips on the spoon. If the spoon does touch the mouth of the communicant, it should be wiped on the kalima [communion cloth].”

When lining up for Holy Communion, please maintain 6 ft. distancing. Antidoron [holy bread] will be handed out by the priest, or an altar server wearing a plastic glove.

Collection trays will not be passed as usual. Instead one tray in the Narthex will be designated for collections.

The latest medical evidence tells us that COVID-19 is mainly spread via “respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).” (CDC website).

Gathering to celebrate the Lord’s Day is essential to Christian life. At the same time the last thing we want to see happen is for our gatherings to enable any serious illness. This is why the practices listed above are necessary.

Please continue to pray that our decisions and actions in the process of re-opening our church (and indeed our society) are guided by God’s wisdom. No plan is perfect so I apologize for any inconveniences ours may cause. If you have questions, please contact me via email (frmlaffoon@gmail.com) or call the Church Office (949-851-8933)

Since we can't be together this year,
St. Mark announces its First Virtual Fundraiser

THE ST. MARK'S FUNDEMIC

ST. MARK NEEDS YOUR HELP & SUPPORT AS A SPONSOR
AS WE CONTINUE THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SPONSORSHIPS:

\$250

(virtual book ad)

\$500

(virtual book ad & dinner for 4 from SAJJ Restaurant delivered to your home)

\$1000

(virtual book ad & dinner for 12 from SAJJ Restaurant delivered to your home)

SPONSORSHIPS MUST BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 20TH
TO APPEAR IN THE VIRTUAL AD BOOK

DINNERS WILL BE DELIVERED ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

**THIS IS ST. MARK'S MAIN FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR
SO PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!!**

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FOR CREDIT CARD CHARGES PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[ST-MARK-CHURCH.ORG/DONATE/ BUILDING FUND](http://ST-MARK-CHURCH.ORG/DONATE/BUILDING_FUND)

AND EMAIL FORM TO: NELSON@MAMEY.NET

OR SEND CHECK AND FORM TO: ST. MARK ORTHODOX CHURCH

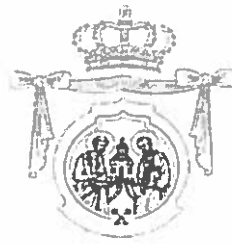
c/o Mamey Investment Corporation, 4 Corporate Plaza Drive, Ste. 150, Newport Beach, CA 92660

__ \$1,000 __ \$500 __ \$250 \$ _____ OTHER

Dedication for ad book:

PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR MORE INFO:
RIMA TARAZI, BARBARA SCHOLL, KYRA PELACHIK, PAULA RODRIGUEZ
JERRI LYNN & NELSON MAMEY

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

September 1, 2020

Beloved Faithful in Christ,

Greetings and blessings to you and your loved ones in the Name of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we begin a new ecclesiastical year, I write to offer my heartfelt and fervent prayers to our Lord, that He will bless us all abundantly with His grace and love for mankind: healing the sick, comforting the afflicted, guiding those in spiritual and civil authority, strengthening those ministering unto others, pacifying the nations, and bringing unity to our fractured society.

Although this past year has presented us with many difficulties, we have also seen countless acts of heroism and self-sacrifice, kindness and generosity. When we needed to limit the numbers of faithful in our churches, our parishes responded with using technology to broadcast the services as well as making creative use of the space available and increasing the number of services to accommodate more people.

When we needed to close the camping programs this summer, the staffs of our camps did an unprecedented and excellent job reaching the youth through virtual programs – this year I even heard much positive feedback from parents who got to experience a taste of what their children do at camp through this medium. I also learned that our Antiochian Village counselors, realizing the financial difficulties the camp faced this summer, took the initiative to donate and fundraise – bringing in \$35,000! These situations have been far from ideal, but I am proud of the clergy and faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese!

We do see some hopeful signs that the surge in case numbers we saw during the summer is subsiding, but we should continue with common sense precautions as we enter the fall months. We ask our pastors and parish councils to do their due diligence in remaining up to date on all the local health guidelines and regulations. Our previous directives remain in force in this Archdiocese, and they must be applied and interpreted within the framework of your local conditions.

Regarding our Sunday schools, our preference is to remain cautious about in-person gatherings. If a parish is in an area where there is limited transmission and the schools

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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have opened, we grant our blessing to open if the parish can abide strictly to the CDC guidelines for schools and any relevant local regulations. We would recommend waiting to begin in-person instruction until the end of September to gauge the success of the local schools in reopening. All our parishes, however, have our blessing to continue with online instruction for the youth.

Parishes may continue to have in-person parish council and organizational meetings, Bible studies, etc. of small groups with appropriate precautions. Again, parishes should be mindful of their local conditions and policies in making these decisions. Any fundraisers, coffee hours, or food service should continue to be curbside pick-up and individual serving containers, following the public health guidelines in your area. We also recommend using the fall months to plan your gatherings outdoors as much as practicable.

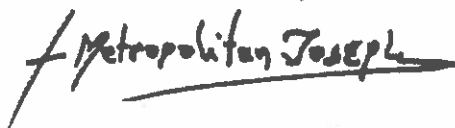
We will not be able to have annual parish meeting in-person this fall. These meetings can be held virtually, and we encourage parishes that have their elections during their fall meetings to explore online or mail-in methods of voting. Any questions may be sent to our chancellor, Archdeacon Emile Sayegh - emile@sayeghandsayeghlaw.com

I would like to remind our faithful that we are continuing to collect donations to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ affected by the explosion in Beirut. We are working in close cooperation with His Eminence Metropolitan Elias of Beirut and Dean Triantafilou of IOCC to ensure all the donations are distributed quickly and effectively to those in need. If you have not yet contributed to this worthy cause, please do so as soon as possible by visiting our website [here](#).

Our church year ends in celebration of the falling asleep of our All-Holy Lady, the Theotokos, and the new one begins with the celebration of her nativity. I call on all of our faithful to offer fervent intercessions to the Theotokos as we close this difficult year marked by pandemic, tension, and violence. May she, as the Joy of All Who Sorrow and Champion Leader, bring spiritual joy in the midst of these worldly tribulations and lead us to days of peace, health, salvation, visitation and furtherance in all good things.

With prayerful best wishes for a blessed and grace-filled new year, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature, extending from the left side of the signature towards the right.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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5% EARNINGS**

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800-443-4438 RALPHS SIGN UP**

08/30/2020

RESTAURANTS

CHEESECAKE FACTORY	\$100
EL POLLO LOCO (\$10)	\$30
MIMIS CAFÉ	\$100
MAGGIANO'S/MACARONI GRILL/ CHILI'S / (25'S)	\$175
OLIVE GARDEN	\$50
SMASHBURGER (\$10'S)	\$30
TACO BELL (\$10'S)	\$30

GAS STATIONS

ARCO	\$100
CHEVRON	\$650
EXXON/MOBIL	\$0
SHELL	\$800
76 UNOCAL (\$100's)	\$0

CLOTHING DEPARTMENT STORES

BLOOMINGDALE'S 100's	\$100
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy \$25	\$50
MACY'S (\$100's)	\$400
MARSHALL/ TJ MAX	\$50
ROSS (\$25'S)	\$100
SAKS 5TH AVENUE (\$50'S)	\$100
ULTA BEAUTY \$25'S	\$50
AMAZON.COM GIFT CARDS (\$25'S /100's)	\$25 <u>SHOP SMILE.AMAZON</u>
Visa® Five Back (\$50' & \$100)	\$150

FOOD MARKETS

SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET (\$50)	\$50
STATER BROTHERS	\$300
SMART N FINAL (\$50'S ONLY)	\$100

SPECIALTY RETAIL STORES

BED BATH & BEYOND	\$50
DISNEY STORES	\$150
HOME DEPOT	\$75
HONEYBAKED HAM	\$50
STARBUCKS (\$10 and \$25)	\$40
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S	\$300

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