

# **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](http://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 13, 2020**

**FOREFEAST & SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

**CONSECRATION OF RESURRECTION CHURCH IN JERUSALEM**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion for the Resurrection in the Fifth Tone:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion of the Forefeast of the Holy Cross in the Second Tone:** We offer thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

**Troparion of the Holy Resurrection Church in the Fourth Tone:** Thou hast revealed the earthly majesty of the dwelling place of the holy glory, O Lord, as the brilliance of the firmament on high. Make firm its foundation unto ages of ages and receive our fervent supplications which are offered to thee therein; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Life and Resurrection of all.

**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 Holy Resurrection Church in the Fourth Tone:**

The Church is shown to be a many-lighted heaven that doth shine a guiding light upon all them that do believe; wherein while standing, we cry aloud: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

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**Prokeimenon** (Psalm 27:9,1) O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. To you O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all,

who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 88:19,21) I have exalted one chosen from my people. For my hand will support him.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)**

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

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**Holy oblations are given today by Michael and Charlotte Khoury on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and for the health and salvation of their loved ones, and by the Turk family for William, Jeries and Zaina on the occasion of their birthdays, and for the good health of Anton Turk.**

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 Yaghnam, 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 go to our new parish web page [www.st-mark-church.org](http://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

Monday morning, Orthros 9:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. for the **Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross.**

**Wednesday Vespers 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday Vespers 4:00 p.m.**

### Upcoming Events

*Our annual Fall Dinner Dance cannot be held this year. Instead we are holding a FUNdemic with sponsorships. Please see the flyer included for details. We appreciate your support to our parish as a sponsor.*

### **Quote from the Saints**

"We implore Thee, by the memory of Thy Cross's hallowed and most bitter anguish, make us fear Thee, make us love Thee, O Christ. Amen."  
--Prayer of Saint Brigid

### **Today's Commemoration, The Founding of the Church of the Holy Resurrection**

The church that is honoured far above all others is that of the Holy Resurrection, which Saint Constantine the Great constructed at the place of Golgotha, where our Saviour was crucified and buried. For a long time this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen; furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honour of Christ God's Resurrection-the Anastasis-was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Dracilian was Eparch of Palestine and Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. It was the latter, also, who exalted the venerable Cross and performed the consecration of this temple in the year 336.

## **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](mailto:frmlaffoon@gmail.com)) or call the Church Office (949-851-8933)

**SUPPORT ST MARK CHURCH  
PLEASE CALL RALPHS & JOIN THE CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM  
5% EARNINGS**

**USE OUR NEW NPO #YX817  
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

**SHOP SMILE.AMAZON.COM & CHOOSE ST.MARK Antiochian Orthodox Church  
FOR YOUR CHARITY ORGANIZATION**

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 20<sup>TH</sup>  
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/)

AND EMAIL FORM TO: [NELSON@MAMEY.NET](mailto: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:

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