

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 20, 2020

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

**THE GREAT-MARTYR EUSTATHIOS AND HIS FAMILY; VENERABLE-MARTYR HILARION OF ST.
ANNE SKETE ON ATHOS; VENERABLE JOHN OF CRETE; MARTYRS MICHAEL, PRINCE OF
CHERNIGOV, AND HIS COUNCILOR THEODORE**

Refrain of the Second Antiphon: Save us, O Son of God, crucified in the flesh...

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Holy Cross in the First Tone: O Lord save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by the virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

“Come let us worship...who art risen from the dead...”

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection in the Sixth Tone: When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Holy Cross in the First Tone: (Repeat in Arabic)

Troparion of St. Eustathios and His Family in the Fourth Tone: Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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 Cross in the Fourth Tone: Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new nation which is called by Thy Name. Make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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Prokeimenon (Psalm 103.24,1) Tone 4: O Lord, how magnificent are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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 from the gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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Holy oblations are given today by Goldie Daruty and the Daruty, Wilde, and Bidwell families for Joe Daruty on the occasion of his 90th birthday and by Constantine Geronikolaou for the souls of his father, Efstathios, mother Eleni and godfather Ioannis.

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, 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.



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 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

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.

Parish Annual Meeting

On Sunday, October 11, we will hold our 2020 Annual Parish Meeting. All Members of St. Mark's should plan to participate. Only adult Orthodox Christians who have made a 2020 Regular Pledge to the parish of St. Mark may vote. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, this year's meeting will be conducted online. The link for this will be printed in the weekly bulletin and at our web site (www.st-mark-church.org) soon. No later than one week prior to the meeting we will publish reports from the various organizations of the Church as well as from the Pastor and the Parish Council Chairman at the parish web page, so that all can read them

ahead of time. The approval of a 2021 Budget will be done during the online meeting. The election of three new members to the Parish Council will be done electronically also, with the details of that process soon to be announced.

Quote from the Saints

"As many times as the enemy attacks you either through passion or through sadness or despondency or despair, immediately grab the weapon of prayer, and you shall see how much it disappears and not even a trace of it remains."

-- *Father Philotheos Zervakos*

Today's Commemoration, The Holy Martyr Eustathius and His Family

The holy Martyr Eustathius before his baptism was an illustrious Roman general named Placidus in the days of the Emperor Trajan. While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice. Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a vision in which she was instructed to become a Christian. They sought out the Bishop of the Christians and were baptized, Placidus receiving the name Eustathius, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapius and Theopistus. The family was then subjected to such trials as Job endured. Their servants died, all their goods were stolen, and on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem they were scattered abroad, each not even knowing if the others were still alive. By the providence of God, they were united again after many years, and returned to Rome in glory. Nevertheless, when they refused to sacrifice to the idols—a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent—the Emperor Hadrian, who had succeeded Trajan, had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. They suffered martyrdom about the year 126.

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)

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

**USE OUR NEW NPO #YX817
800-443-4438 RALPHS SIGN UP**

09/20/2020

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)	\$0 <u>SHOP SMILE.AMAZON</u>
Visa® Five Back (\$50' & \$100)	\$100

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 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