

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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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



NOVEMBER 15, 2020

MARTYRS GURIA, SHAMUNA AND HABIB THE DEACON OF EDESSA

THOMAS THE NEW, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE;

VENERABLE PAISIOS VELICHKOVSKY

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: Troparion of the Resurrection 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 for Sts. Gourias, Samonas and Habib in the Fifth Tone: Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs Gourias, Samonas and Habib as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

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 Theotokos in the Fourth Tone: The most pure temple of the Savior, the very precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She bringeth with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

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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.

The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 91.1, 2.) Tone 7: It is good to give thanks to the Lord. To proclaim your mercy in the morning and your truth by night.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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Holy oblations are given today by June Anter for her granddaughter Leilah Rodriguez on the occasion of her birthday and by Patrick and Susan Wilde for their daughter Courtney and her husband Justin, who were married last Saturday and will be uncrowned today.

Until further notice, there is no Coffee Hour.

Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Yuri Sidorenko, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, Adele Bahbah, Adib and Nabila Zabaneh, 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 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 November 21, Feast of Entrance of the Theotokos Orthros 8:45 a.m.,
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 p.m.

Quote from the Saints

"If one becomes used to fleeing or escaping sorrows, or goes from place to place, or chooses only a particular time to begin to labor and to struggle, such a one – all the days of his life – will not find a place and a time for receiving benefit."

— *St. Paisios Velichkovsky*

Gourias, Samonas and Habib, Martyrs & Confessors of Edessa

Of these most illustrious Martyrs of the city of Edessa in Syria, Gourias and Samonas contested during the reign of Diocletian, in 288; after many tortures, they were cast into prison, then beheaded. Saint Habib, a deacon, contested in the days of Licinius, in the year 316, and was burned alive; he was buried with Saints Gourias and Samonas. The three have one common feast, and it is always together that they are portrayed in icons and invoked by the faithful. On account of a renowned miracle they worked, they are invoked for help in marital difficulties. A certain Goth had come with the Roman army to Edessa and was quartered in the house of a pious widow named Sophia. The Goth asked Sophia for the hand of her daughter, Euphemia; after resisting for a long time, Sophia at last agreed. When it

was time for the army to return home, Sophia made the Goth vow by the power in the holy Martyrs Samonas, Gourias, and Habib, to keep Euphemia as the apple of his eye. As he was nearing his home, however, the treacherous man revealed to Euphemia that he already had a wife. Euphemia was compelled to serve the Goth's wife, who dealt with her mercilessly. After extreme sufferings, which included being sealed alive in a tomb and left there to die, Euphemia was miraculously conveyed to Edessa, to the very shrine of the holy Martyrs whose surety they had taken, and was reunited with her mother through their holy prayers.

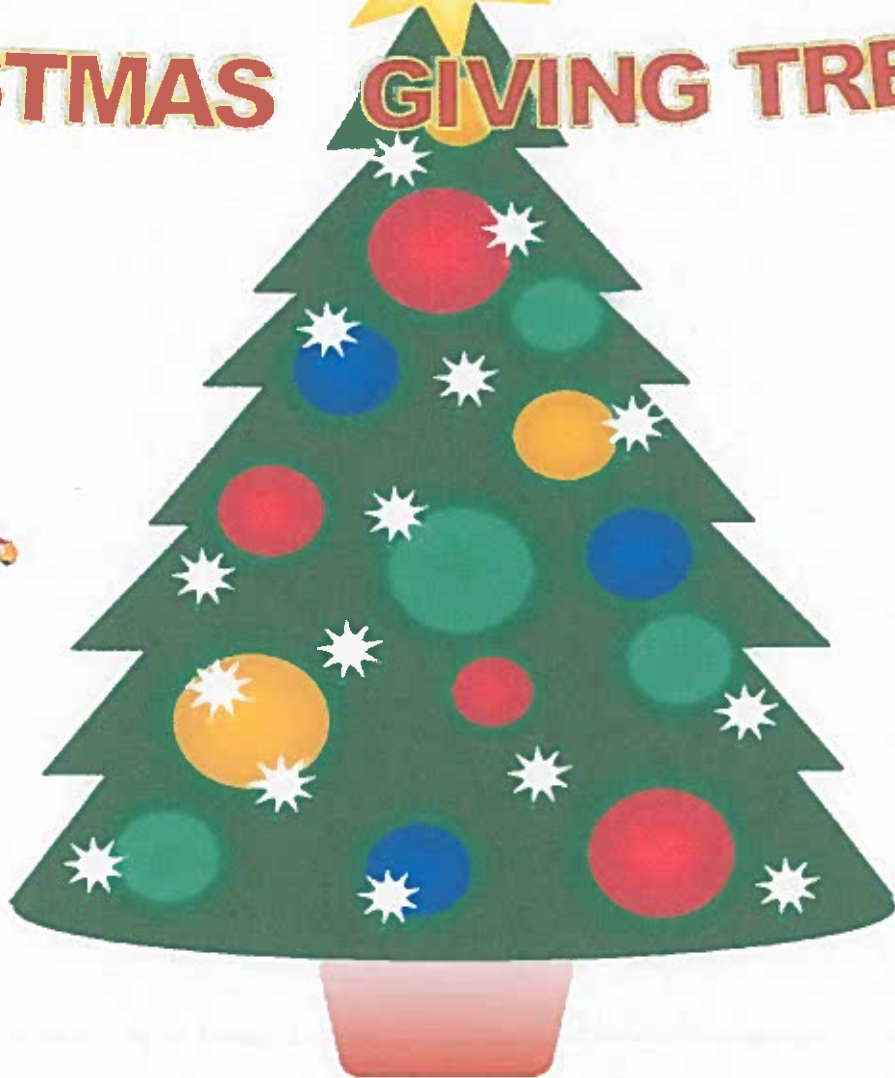
Regarding Church Attendance

We have been 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.

- 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.

ST. MARK CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Please support the ladies at the shelter of
Grandma's House of Hope.

We are looking for gift cards from Target, Walmart, could be
purchased from Saeda Turk at church

Contact Afifa Artoul at 949-600-3876

Return gift cards to Afifa Artoul, Kristin Chala or Saeda Turk.

Please return by December 13, 2020

Sponsored by The Antiochian women of St. Mark

Greetings St Mark Parish, here is an update on the status of our St Mark Scrip Program.

Since March 2020, due to the pandemic situation, the activity of the scrip program has been very minimal. As a support to the fundraising program, we introduced the E-Scrip opportunity to parishioners. E-Scrip allows members to access gift cards instantly and pay directly thru the smart phone app. The contribution from each retailer remains the same, whether purchased as a physical card or E-Scrip.

Thus far we have had minimal participation on the E-Scrip program, only 7 parishioners have enrolled, with unfortunately no activity from any of the 7 parishioners.

The Smile.Amazon program has been ongoing and we have had participation there. The last quarterly contribution we received from Amazon was 08/13/2020, for the amount of \$42.65, and prior to that, 05/21 \$37.74; 02/20 \$44.49. We would love to encourage more and more members to use Smile.Amazon and select St Mark as the recipient.

The Ralphps/Food4Less Contribution Program is going strong. As of Oct 6, the Ralphps Program has 9 households enrolled, and Food4Less has 18 HH enrolled. The most recent contributions received for the last quarter (06/01-08/31), was received Sept 15 2020: Ralphps Rewards contribution was \$36.56 and Food4Less was \$221.

Current On Hand Inventory of Physical Cards at Church as of 10/06:
\$4130 in Value

Current Wells Fargo Account Balance as of 10/06: \$5169.18.

Your Support is Appreciated!

Respectfully Submitted By

Saeda Turk

St Mark Scrip Coordinator

SUPPORT ST MARK CHURCH
PLEASE CALL RALPHS & JOIN THE CONTRIBUTION
PROGRAM 5% EARNINGS
USE OUR NEW NPO #YX817
800-443-4438 RALPHS SIGN UP
11/08/2020

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	\$800
CHEVRON	\$650
EXXON/MOBIL	\$500
SHELL	\$800
76 UNOCAL (\$100's)	\$200

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)	\$50
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
TARGET	\$0
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S	\$300

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