

# **St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

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

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

**Website: [www.st-mark-church.org](http://www.st-mark-church.org)**

**Archpriest Michael Laffoon, Priest Patrick Irish**

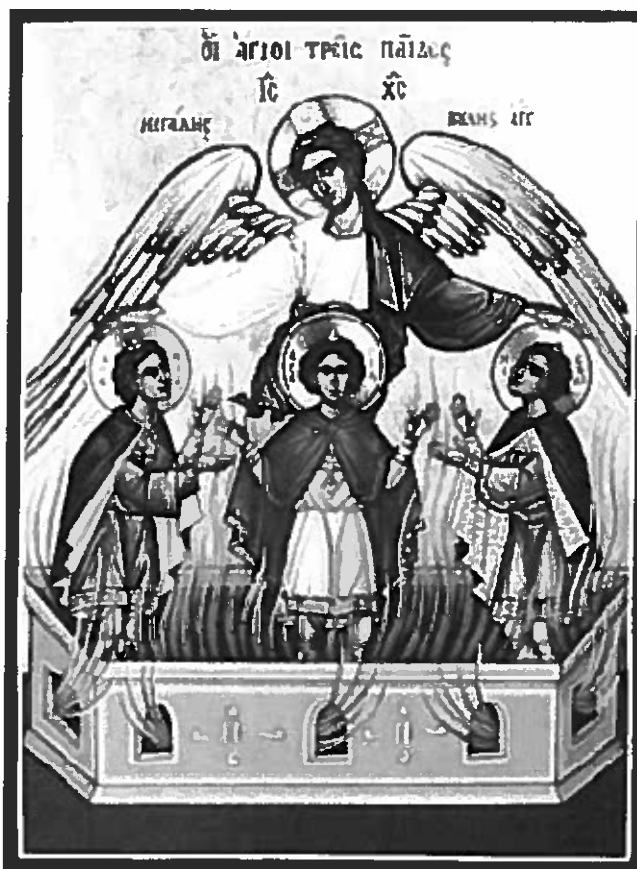
**Protodeacon George Moubayed, Dn. Nicholas Mamey, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri**

**Choir Director Barbara Scholl**

**Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa Joubran,**

**Karim Youssef**

**Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri**



**DECEMBER 13, 2020**

**FIRST DAY OF THE FOREFEAST OF &**

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)**

**NEW-MARTYR JOHN THE TAILOR OF THASOS; DANIEL II, ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA**

## Entrance Hymns

**Troparion for the Resurrection in the Third Tone:** Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**Troparion of the Forefeast in the Fourth Tone:** Make ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a supersensual paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old

**Troparion of Sunday Before the Nativity in the Second Tone:** Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Troparion of St. Ignatius in the Fourth Tone:** By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Holy Martyr among bishops Ignatius. Entreat the Lord our God to 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 of Preparation for the Nativity of Christ in the Third Tone:** Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.

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**Prokeimenon** Tone 4 (Daniel 3.26, 27) Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For you are just in all you have done.

**The reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews: 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**Alleluia Verses** Tone 4 (Psalms 43.1; 33.17) O God, we have heard with our ears. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them.

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25)**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of

Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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**Holy oblations are given today** by the family of Adele Bahbah departed this life 9 day; by June Anter for the souls of Vadney Baroody and Adele Bahbah, and by the Wakileh family on the occasion of Charlie Wakileh's birthday (12/17).

**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.*



### **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**

**We are now in the last few days of Advent (the Christmas Fast). December 20 through December 24.** These are strict fasting days (abstention from all meat, poultry, dairy & egg products, alcohol and olive oil).

**This Sunday is St. Ignatius Sunday. A member of the Order of St. Ignatius will deliver short message at the end of Liturgy.**

**2021 Wall Calendars are here.** Please pick on up from the information table in the Hall.

*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**

#### **Christmas week Services**

**Sunday December 20, 6:00 p.m. Pre- Feast Vespers**

**Monday December 21, 6:00 p.m. Pre- Feast Vespers**

**Tuesday December 22, 6:00 p.m. Pre- Feast Vespers**

**Wednesday December 23, 6:00 p.m. Pre- Feast Vespers**

**Thursday December 24, - Royal hours 9:30 a.m.**

**Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ; Orthros 8:00 p.m. and Divine Liturgy 9:00 p.m. No Services Christmas Day**

### Next Week

**Thursday December 31, Feast of our Lord's Circumcision, and St. Basil Day**  
Othros 5:30 p.m. and Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

### **Quote from the Saints**

The Lord, before His Incarnation, let mankind experience all the bitterness of sin, all their powerlessness to eradicate it; and when all longed for a Deliverer, then He appeared, the most wise, all-powerful Physician and Helper. When men hungered and thirsted after righteousness, as it grew weaker, then the everlasting righteousness came. *St. John of Kronstadt*

**Sunday of the Genealogy (Sunday before the Nativity)** On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.

### **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.

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PLACE ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS**  
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Orthodox Church FOR THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION

11/30/2020

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

**CLOTHING DEPARTMENT STORES**

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MACY'S (\$100's)	\$300
MARSHALL/ TJ MAX	\$0
ROSS (\$25'S)	\$0
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)	\$0
STATER BROTHERS	\$275
SMART N FINAL (\$50'S ONLY)	\$0

**SPECIALTY RETAIL STORES**

BED BATH & BEYOND	\$50
DISNEY STORES	\$150
HOME DEPOT	\$75
HONEYBAKED HAM	\$0
STARBUCKS (\$10 and \$25)	\$30
TARGET	\$0
WALMART \$25' AND 100'S	\$200

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