

# **St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

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

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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: Mark Ellis, Jacob Bahbah, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**JANUARY 10, 2021**

**SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

**ST GREGORY OF NYSSA**

**MARCIAN THE PRIEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE; DOMETIAN, BISHOP OF MELITENE; VENERABLE  
PAUL OF OBNORA AND MAKARIOS OF PISMA; BISHOP THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE**

**REFRAINS OF THE SECOND ANTIPHONS**

Save us, O Son of God, **who was baptized by John in the Jordan**, who sing to thee.

### **During the Entrance**

**Troparion of the Theophany of Christ in the First Tone:** When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, **who art risen from the dead**, who sing to thee. Alleluia.

### **HYMNS AFTER THE ENTRANCE**

**Troparion of 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 Theophany of Christ in the First Tone (Repeat)**

**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 Theophany of Christ in the Fourth Tone:** Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise Thee with knowledge, saying, Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

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**Prokeimenon:** (Psalm 32:22,1) Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts

were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**Alleluia Verses:** (Psalm 88:1,2) I will sing of your mercies, O Lord, forever. For you have said: “Mercy shall be built up forever.”

**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

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**Holy Oblations are offered today** by the Khoury Family for his wife Charlotte on the occasion of her birthday and for the soul of Charlotte’s sister Salwa, departed this life 4 years; by Fr. Michael and Kh. Donna for their daughter Sophia and her husband Matthew for their wedding anniversary (January 11), and by the Chala for Protodeacon George on the occasion of his birthday (January 7)

**Until further notice, there is no Coffee Hour.**

*Please remember in your prayers: Eleanor Wackeen, Yuri Sidorenko, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, 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**

**2021 Wall Calendars are here.** Please pick one 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**

Monday, 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers

***House blessings this year:*** *Our Metropolitan has written to the clergy re House Blessings this year. We have been told that we may visit homes for this blessing but with common sense restrictions, to quote his letter, “limit your time to the blessing itself - not staying for dinner or coffee.” If you wish to postpone your House Blessing, we will be glad to schedule them later this year.*

*Please contact me if you would like your home or business blessed ([frmlaffoon@gmail.com](mailto:frmlaffoon@gmail.com) or call 949-8518933)*

**Next Week**

Wednesday January 20, 6:00 p.m. Daily Vespers

**Quote from the Saints**

“A greedy appetite for food is terminated by satiety and the pleasure of drinking ends when our thirst is quenched. And so it is with the other things ... But the possession of virtue, once it is solidly achieved, cannot be measured by time nor limited by satiety. Rather, to those who are its disciples it always appears as something ever new and fresh..” -- *St. Gregory of Nyssa*

**Gregory of Nyssa, Commemorated on January 10**

Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, was a younger brother of St Basil the Great (January 1). His birth and upbringing came at a time when the Arian disputes were

at their height. Having received an excellent education, he was at one time a teacher of rhetoric. In the year 372, he was consecrated by St Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia.

St Gregory was an ardent advocate for Orthodoxy, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother St Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper use of church property, and thereby deprived of his See and sent to Ancyra.

In the year 381 St Gregory was one of the chief figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius, who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this Council, on the initiative of St Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed.

In the year 383, St Gregory of Nyssa participated in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In 386, he was again at Constantinople, and he was asked to speak the funeral oration in memory of the empress Placilla. Again in 394 St Gregory was present in Constantinople at a local Council, convened to resolve church matters in Arabia.

St Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of Orthodox dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a kind and compassionate father to his spiritual children, and their intercessor before the courts. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace.

Having reached old age, St Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Sts Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, St Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time

St Gregory left behind many remarkable works of dogmatic character, as well as sermons and discourses. He has been called "the Father of Fathers."

### **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 (80, including clergy and singers). 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>

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). Several rows 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.