

# **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, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri**

**Choir Director Barbara Scholl**

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

**Karim Youssef**

**Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri**



**OCTOBER 24, 2021**

**Great-martyr Arethas (al-Haarith) & companions in Arabia**

**Martyr Sebastian of Heraclea; Righteous Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia**

## **HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE**

**Troparion for the Resurrection, in the First Tone:** While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

**Troparion of St. Arethas (Al-Harith) in the First Tone:** Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Friend of man.

**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 for the Theotokos in the Second Tone:** O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

**Prokeimenon** (Psalm 33:22, 1) Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians** (9:6-11) Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor, his righteousness endures for ever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food

will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

**Alleluia Verses** (Psalm 17.48, 50) It is God who avenges me. God magnifies the salvation of his king; and deals mercifully with his anointed.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:26-39)**

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, “What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me.” For Jesus had after Pentecost commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed.

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you.” And

he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

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**Holy Oblations are offered by Kristin Chala & family for her husband George on the occasion of his birthday and by the Mamey, Bederov and Nader families for the soul of Gloria Mamey, departed this life one year.**

**Coffee Hour is offered by the Coffee Hour committee.**

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***Please remember in your prayers: Yuri Sidorenko, Therese Joubran, May Dabbah, Jamal El-Sayegh, Tarek Fakhouri, Adib and Nabila Zabaneh, and the suffering people of Haiti, India, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Palestine, Venezuela, Ukraine, and all people afflicted by violence and disease, especially those affected by the Coronavirus.***

Note: According to the recent CDC guidelines, if you are fully vaccinated, you need not wear a mask in church or in the hall. If you are not, you should wear a mask. A social distancing area has been set aside in the church on the left side (as one faces the altar).

### **Today**

**An Altar Servers Workshop** will be held after Liturgy. Pizza lunch will be provided for the participants.

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### **October is Youth Month!**

October each year in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is celebrated as Youth Month. During this month teens help in the Church by singing in the choir, chanting, reading the epistles, taking the collections, hosting the coffee hours, etc.

To learn more about Antiochian Teen SOYO please visit  
[www.teensoyo.org](http://www.teensoyo.org).

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### **This Week**

**Tuesday October 26, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education**

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

**Next week**

**Tuesday November 2, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education**

**Wednesday November 3, 6:00 p.m. Vespers**

**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Saturday November 27, The 57<sup>th</sup> Sweetheart Ball** hosted by the St. Nicholas Cathedral Ladies Society: Universal City Hotel, Universal City. For details see the enclosed flyer.

**Quote from the Saints**

Nevertheless, besides the action of God's Grace for salvation, the personal efforts of man himself are also necessary. Man's personal efforts alone are insufficient for his salvation -but they are necessary, for without them, God's Grace will not begin to work out the matter of his salvation.

*Metropolitan Philaret*

**Great-martyr Arethas (al-Haarith) & companions in Arabia**

**(October 24)**

These Martyrs contested for piety's sake in the year 524 in Najran, a city of Arabia Felix (present-day Yemen). When Dhu Nuwas, ruler of the Himyarite tribe in south Arabia, and a Judaizer, took power, he sought to blot out Christianity, especially at Najran, a Christian city. Against the counsels of Arethas, chief man of Najran, the city surrendered to Dhu Nuwas, who immediately broke the word he had given and sought to compel the city to renounce Christ. Led by Saint Arethas, hundreds of martyrs, including women, children, and babes, valiantly withstood his threats, and were beheaded and burned. After the men had been slain, all the free-born Christian women of Najran were brought before the tyrant and commanded to abjure Christ or die; yet they rebuked the persecutor with such boldness that he said even the men had not insulted him so contemptuously. So great was their faith that not one woman was found to deny Christ in all Najran, although some of them suffered torments

more bitter than most of the men. In alliance with Byzantium, the Ethiopian King Elesbaan liberated Najran from Dhu Nuwas soon after and raised up churches in honour of the Martyrs. Najran became a place of pilgrimage until the rise of Islam a century later. At the end of his life King Elesbaan, who was also called Caleb, retired into solitude as a hermit; he sent his crown to Jerusalem as an offering to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He also is commemorated on this day as a saint. Saint Arethas' name in Arabic, Harith, means "plowman, tiller," much the same as "George" does in Greek.

## BUY SCRIP

*Our Ladies Guild buys scrip from many and various stores and restaurants (see list included in this bulletin) at a 3 to 10% discount. When you buy the scrip, which is accepted just like cash at the issuing store, the parish benefits. You pay no more for these goods and services and are making a donation to our parish. You can purchase this scrip from Saeda Turk on Sundays or use the new mobile app, RaiseRight by ShopWithScrip, is simply the right way to fundraise. Just make sure to choose "E-Gift Card" and you will have it in your email in less than a minute. Let's start shopping and earning money for your favorite church, St Mark Irvine! Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/> USE THE ENROLLMENT CODE LFA187LD1116*