

# **St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church**

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

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Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**NOVEMBER 21, 2021**

**FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS  
INTO THE TEMPLE**

## **During the Little Entrance**

**Troparion of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple in the Fourth Tone:** Today is the prelude of the good-will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

### **HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE**

**Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Fifth Tone:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple in the Fourth Tone (Arabic)**

**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 (Luke 1:46, 48)** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For he has regarded the humility of his servant

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (9:1-7)**

Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary.

For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the

cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

**Alleluia Verses:** Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear. The rich among the people will entreat your favor.

**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:38-42; 11:27-28)**

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

As Jesus said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!"

But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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### **Special Hymns for the Feast**

**Instead of "It is truly meet..." today's Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) is:**

*The angels beholding the entrance of the all-pure one were overtaken by surprise; how hath the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies? Since thou art a living temple of God, O Theotokos, no impure hand shall touch thee. But the lips of believers, let them ceaselessly laud thee, crying unto*

*thee joyfully with the voice of the angels, Verily, O undefiled Virgin, thou art more exalted than all creatures.*

Instead of “Praise ye the Lord...” we sing today: *I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.*

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**Holy Oblations are given today by Emilie Laffoon & family for the soul of her father, Samuel Simon, departed this life 22 years and by David and Nevine Alrafidi for the soul of David’s newly-departed mother Soadd. We also remember Michael and Paige (Nicola) Danov, who are to be uncrowned today.**

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

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*Please remember in your prayers: Yuri Sidorenko, Therese Joubran, May Dabbah, Sylvia Saba, 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**

**Feast of Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple. Blessed Feast!**

**Our New Six Day Candle Stands** were commissioned by the Turk family in memory Anton Turk and built by Protodeacon George Moubayed. Memory Eternal!

**St Mark's Annual Christmas Gift Drive** is underway and starts November 21st. The Giving Tree, with gift tags, is in the Narthex. It will benefit the ladies of Grandma’s House of Hope and will be given during their Christmas party. For those who would like to support this great cause, please purchase your gift card of \$25 (Target, Walmart, K mart) from our scrip lady, Saeda Turk (it will benefit our Church as well).

Please return your gift card to Afifa Artoul or Kristin Chala no later than Sunday, December 12th.

### *This Week*

**The Advent (the Christmas Fast) began last Monday.** This fast, which lasts exactly 40 days, prepares us to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity (Birth) of Jesus Christ, commonly known as Christmas. During this season we are reminded that the Christian lifestyle must include alms giving (acts of charity), prayer and fasting. Therefore, we are asked to intensify these efforts. During Advent we should be praying more, giving more time and resources to those in need, eat less and more simply, and above all, seek to fast from sin. **As usual, Wednesdays and Fridays are strict fasting days (abstention from all meat, poultry, dairy & egg products, alcohol and olive oil). Until December 20, the other days of the week the fasting discipline is slightly relaxed, with wine and olive oil allowed.** The only way to combat the commercialization and vaguely sentimental observance of the Birth of the Savior is to prepare for a Holy Feast Day by participating in some meaningful way in the Fast! This includes the Sacrament of Confession.

*Regarding the fast and the Thanksgiving Holiday: For most of us, Thanksgiving Day without turkey and all that goes with it is hard to imagine, yet we are in the Christmas Fast. My pastoral advice is this: Enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving dinner this Thursday, keep the fast on Friday (as we should almost any Friday!). Eat left-overs on Saturday and freeze the left-overs until after December 25. By all means resume the fast by Monday!*

### **Tuesday November 23, Adult Education**

**Funeral Service of Jamal Sayegh** will held this coming Wednesday November 24 at 12 noon, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park 21300 E Via Verde St, Covina. The graveside Trisagion will follow. The Meal of Mercy will be afterwards at the Palace Restaurant, 1276 W. 17th Street, Upland. The Meal of Mercy will be afterwards at the Palace Restaurant, 1276 W. 17th Street, Upland.

**Wednesday November 24, 7:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Akathist**

**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.

*Next week*

**Tuesday November 30, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education**

**No services on Wednesday November 24**

*Upcoming Services & Events*

**Sunday December 5 St. Nicholas Sunday**

**Friday December 31, St. Mark Men's Club New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance.** Space is limited. See flyer included.

**Quote from the Saints**

"When you counsel me to deny Christ the true God, you are no longer my parents or my sisters. I have the Lord Jesus Christ as my father, the Theotokos as my mother, and the saints as my brothers and sisters."

-- *St. Zlata of Meglin*

**Today's Feast  
Presentation of the Theotokos into  
The Temple**

According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

**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 LFA187LD11116***