

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

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



DECEMBER 12, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST & SPYRIDON, BISHOP OF TRIMYTHOUS, THE WONDERWORKER JOHN, METROPOLITAN OF ZICHNON; HIEROMARTYR ALEXANDER, ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Eighth Tone: From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Forefathers Second Tone: Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of St. Spyridon in First Tone: Thou wast shown forth as a champion of the First Council and a wonderworker, O Spyridon, our God-bearing Father. Wherefore, thou didst speak unto one dead in the grave, and didst change a serpent to gold. And while chanting thy holy prayers, thou hadst Angels serving with thee, O most sacred one. Glory to Him that hath glorified thee. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

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.

+++++

Prokeimenon (Psalm 149:5,1) The saints will rejoice in glory. Sing to the Lord a new song.

The reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (5:8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 131:9,13) Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed in righteousness, and your saints shall rejoice. For the Lord has chosen Zion.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

+++++

Holy Oblations are given today by the Ibtisam (Armoush) Betar for the soul of her father Hanin Armoush departed this life 40 days (Memory Eternal!) and by June Anter and Tony and Paula Rodriguez for the health and salvation of Fuad and Mary (Romley) Faraj who will be undergoing surgery this month (kidney transplant).

Coffee Hour is sponsored today by the family of Hanin Armoush.

+++++

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

Ladies Guild (Antiochian Women) meeting during coffee hour.

Bake Sale Pre-Order Deadline is today.

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 on November 15. 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.

Monday December 13, 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday December 15, 7:00 p.m., Little Compline

Friday December 17, Advent Paraklesis

Next week

Sunday December 19, Church School Christmas Program

Tuesday evening December 21 Teen SOYO Christmas Party

Wednesday December 22, 7:00 p.m., Pre-Feast Vespers

Thursday December 23, 7:00 p.m., Pre-Feast Vespers

CHRISTMAS (NATIVITY OF OUR LORD) ORTHROS AND DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 8:00 P.M. DECEMBER 24.

Upcoming Services & Events

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

Sunday January 9, SOYO sponsored trip to LA Clippers game. See Fatim Fakhouri to reserve tickets.

Quote from the Saints

"There is one God Who created man from dust. He has ordered all things, both visible and invisible, by His Word and His Spirit. The Word is the Son of God, Who came down upon the earth on account of our sins. He

was born of a Virgin, He lived among men, and suffered and died for our salvation, and then He arose from the dead, and He has resurrected the human race with Him. We believe that He is One in Essence with the Father, and equal to Him in authority and honor. We believe this without any sly rationalizations, for it is impossible to grasp this mystery by human reason." -- *St. Spiridon*

Saint of the Day

St. Spyridon the Wonder-worker (December 12)

Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythus, and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname "Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

About the middle of the seventh century, because of the incursions made by the barbarians at that time, his sacred relics were taken to Constantinople, where they remained, being honoured by the emperors themselves. But before the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, a certain priest named George Kalokhairetes, the parish priest of the church where the Saint's sacred relics, as well as those of Saint Theodora the Empress, were kept, took them away on account of the impending peril. Travelling by way of Serbia, he came as far as Arta in Epirus, a region in Western Greece opposite to the isle of Corfu. From there, while the misfortunes of the Christian people were increasing with every day, he passed over to Corfu about the year 1460. The relics of Saint Theodora were given to the people of Corfu; but those of Saint Spyridon remain to this day, according to the rights of inheritance, the most precious treasure of the priest's own descendants, and they continue to be a staff for the faithful in Orthodoxy, and a supernatural wonder for those that behold him; for even after the passage of 1,500 years, they have remained

incorrupt, and even the flexibility of his flesh has been preserved. Truly wondrous is God in His Saints! (Ps. 67:3 5)

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***