

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

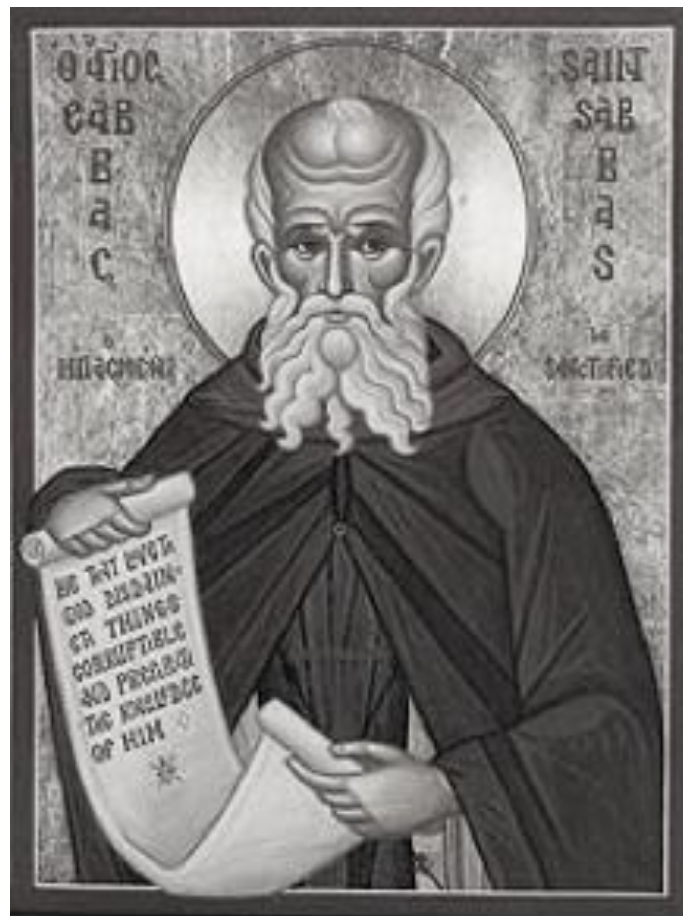
Protodeacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



DECEMBER 5, 2021

**GOD-BEARING FATHER SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED
MARTYR DIOGENES; VENERABLE NEKTARIOS OF YAGARIS KELLI AND
PHILOTHEOS OF KARYES ON ATHOS; GURIOS, MISSIONARY BISHOP OF KAZAN;
VENERABLE NEKTARIOS OF BITOL IN BULGARIA**

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for the Resurrection, in the Seventh Tone: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Sabbas in the Eighth Tone: With the streams of thy tears, thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert; and by thy sighings from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundredfold in labors; and thou becamest a luminary, shining with miracles upon the world, O Sabbas our righteous Father. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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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The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (5:22-26, 6:1-2)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Alleluia Verses: (Psalm 19:1, 9) May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble. O Lord, save the king, and hear us when we call upon you.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

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Holy Oblations are given today by the Bahbah, Wakileh, Turk, Hadshiti and Zadah families for the soul of beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Adele Bahbah departed this life one year (December 7); by Jean (Svetlana) Nasrawi for the soul of her husband Elias, departed this life 6 months and by Elias Souad for the soul of his mother Shahira, departed this life one year. Memory Eternal!

In lieu of Coffee Hour, Lunch is offered by Jean Nasrawi in memory of her husband, Elias, Dessert is offered by the Bahbah families.

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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

... **Is St. Nicholas Sunday** our church school lessons will include lessons regarding this beloved saint. Also since St. Barbara day was yesterday, the “burbara” wheat (offered by the Bahbah families) will be blessed at the end of Liturgy.

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.

Tuesday December 7, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

Wednesday December 8, 7:00 p.m., Little Compline

Friday December 10, Advent Paraklesis 7:00 p.m.

Next week

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

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

Friday December 17, Advent Paraklesis

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday December 19, Church School Christmas Program

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

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 Fatin Fakhouri to reserve tickets.

Quote from the Saints

"It is not necessary to roam heaven and earth after God or to send our mind to seek Him in different places. Purify your soul, O son of man, remove from yourself the thought of memories outside of nature; hang the veil of chastity and humility before your impulses. By means of these you will be able to find Him who is within you." -- *St. Isaac the Syrian*

Saint of the Day

St. Sabbas, the Sanctified (December 5)

This Saint was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life from childhood and was under that master trainer of monastics, Euthymius, the Great, the teacher of the desert. He became the spiritual Father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed leader (archimandrite) of the desert-dwellers of Palestine by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the

Council of Chalcedon. Having lived ninety-four years, he reposed in 533. The Typicon for the ecclesiastical services had its beginning in the monastery established by this righteous one.

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***