

# **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

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Choir Director Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Theresa Joubran,

Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



**NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

**VENERABLE-MARTYR STEPHEN**

**THE NEW MARTYR IRINARCHOS OF SEBASTIA AND THOSE WITH HIM**

## HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Troparion for 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 St. Stephen the New in the Fourth Tone:** Trained on the mountain in ascetical-labors, with the whole armor of the Cross thou didst vanquish the spiritual arrays of unseen enemies; and when thou hadst stripped thyself with great courage for contest, thou didst slay Copronymus with the sword of the true Faith. For both these things hast thou been crowned by God, O righteous Martyr, blest Stephen of great renown

**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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**Prokeimenon** (Psalm 28.11,1) Tone 7: The Lord will give strength to his people. Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

**The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22**

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to

God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (18:18-27)**

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: `Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

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**Holy Oblations are given today by** Esperance Hadshiti for her daughter Heba, on the occasion of her birthday, for the health and salvation of her family and for the soul of Andrew Bahbah for his Name day (November 30). We also remember Michael and Paige Danova on the occasion of their uncrowning 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**

**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 November 30, Adult Education**

**Wednesday December 1, 7:00 p.m., Little Compline**

**Friday December 3, Advent Paraklesis**

**Next week**

**Sunday December 5 St. Nicholas Sunday**

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

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

**Friday December 10, Advent Paraklesis**

**Upcoming Services & Events**

**Sunday December 19, Church School Christmas Program**

**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**

Do not be surprised if you fall every day and do not surrender. Stand your ground bravely. And you may be sure that your guardian angel will respect your endurance. A fresh, warm wound is easier to heal than those that are old, neglected, and festering, and that need extensive treatment, surgery, bandaging, and cauterization. Long neglect can render many incurable. However, all things are possible with God.

*St. John Climacus*

**Saint of the Day**

**The New Martyr Irinarchos of Sebastia and those with him**

Saint Irenarchos, who was from Sebastia, lived during the reign of Diocletian. In his youth he ministered to the holy Martyrs during the time of their punishment in prison. Once, on beholding seven women being tormented in behalf of Christ, and marvelling at their courage, and seeing how, although they were weak in body, they nonetheless became like men before the tyrant and put him to shame, the Saint was enlightened by divine

grace and confessed Christ with boldness. Tried by fire and water, he was beheaded together with the holy women in the year 298.

### **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***