

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



FEBRUARY 6, 2022

**AFTER-FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST;
THE MARTYR AND HEALER JULIAN OF HOMS BOUKOLOS, BISHOP OF
SMYRNA; PHOTIOS THE GREAT, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE
RIGHTEOUS MOTHERS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS
EMMELIA, NONA AND ANTHOUSA**

Refrain of the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

During the Little Entrance

Troparion of the Presentation in the First Tone: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection.

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 Presentation in the First Tone (Repeat above)

Troparion of St. Julian of Homs in the Third Tone: O holy passion-bearer and healing physician Julian, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of sins.

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.

Priest: **Kontakion of the Presentation in the First Tone:** Thou, O Christ God, who by thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom thou didst love; for thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 75:11,1) Tone 8: Make your vows to the Lord out God and perform them. //God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:16- 18,7:1)

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Alleluia verses (Psalm 94:1,2) Tone 8: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to God our Savior. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Keitie Turk and family for the soul of her husband Anton, departed this life one year; by Nuha Qushair & family for the health and salvation of her daughter Mae on the occasion of her birthday and for the soul of her husband John, departed this life 25 years; by Fr. Michael and family for Emilie

Laffoon on the occasion of her name day; for Fr. Patrick and Kh. Nina Irish on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and by June Anter for her daughter Paula on the occasion of her birthday and for the health and salvation of her cousin, Karen.

Coffee Hour today is given by Austin Turk and family.

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Please remember in your prayers: Yuri Sidorenko, Therese Joubran, May Dabbah, Sylvia Saba, Tarek Fakhouri, Adib and Nabila Zabaneh, Fouad and Mary Farraj (kidney transplant), Laura Anter (brain surgery), Tony Rodriguez (shoulder surgery) 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: To minimize the spread of the latest COVID variant the wearing of masks is recommended. In addition, a social distancing area has been set aside in the church on the left side (as one faces the altar).

Today

Confession for Church School grades 5 & 6 today after Liturgy.

Please make sure to pick up your 2022 calendar from the table by the bookstore.

House Blessings: If you would like your home blessed, please contact Fr Michael at frmlaffoon@gmail.com, or in person during coffee hour to make an appointment.

This Week

Fr. Michael is at the Diocese of the West Clergy Seminar this week (until Thursday). Therefore, there is no Adult Ed Class on Tuesday or Little Compline on Wednesday.

Next week

Sunday February 13, Confession for Church School grades 3 & 4.

Tuesday February 15, 6:45 p.m. Adult Education

Wednesday February 16, 7:00 p.m. Little Compline

Thursday February 17, 6:30 p.m. Antiochian Women Valentines Dinner. See attached flyer for details.

Quote from the Saints

But nothing is so harmonious as justice and impartiality. For this, as the comrade and ally of good-will, makes us love those whom we think to be like ourselves. Again, good-will contains also in itself fortitude. For when friendship springs from the fount of good-will it does not hesitate to endure the great dangers of life for a friend. "If evils come to me through him," it says, "I will bear them."

St. Ambrose of Milan

Today's Commemoration

St. Julian the Martyr and Unmercenary of Homs, protector of the city of Homs in Syria (February 6th)

Saint Martyr Julian, otherwise known as Elian, was born in the Koilis Syria city of Emesa (now Homs in Syria), and lived in the late 3rd century AD. He was distinguished for his reverence for God and for his love for his brothers. He practiced the profession of doctor and cared for the restoration of the physical and mental health of his fellow human beings, whether Christians or idolaters.

Saint Ellien is described by his biographers in this way: "Having set his hopes in Jesus Christ, he was not tempted by the glory of this ephemeral world. He prayed day and night, practiced fasting, visited prisoners and comforted them. He gave out large alms of what remained in excess in his father's house. Ellien studied and practiced medicine skillfully. He strived to cure the diseases of both the body and soul. He cured sick people by Christ's grace and the faith of the Apostles, while preaching God's Word and urging them to follow the path of virtue. 'It is not', he says, 'with medicines that you will be cured of your illness nor thanks to your idols which drive to perdition all those who kneel before them, but by the power of Jesus Christ's name who has been crucified by the Jews under Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem, who has been buried and resuscitated on the third day.'"

Because of his mastery of the healing arts and the fact that he not only effectively healed the body, but also the soul, he stirred up jealousy in the hearts of his fellow physicians who were not followers of Christ. There was a great persecution of Christians at that time and they used his Christian faith against him. First they appealed to his father who held a powerful position in the city. They asked him to force his son to stop what he was doing, to give up his practice of medicine and stop healing in the name of Jesus Christ. But St. Ellien refused to listen to these men or his father knowing that he would have to give an account before His Heavenly Master as to what he did with the many talents God had given him. When they found that he would not listen to them or his father, they appealed to the Governor of Homs to imprison St. Ellien along with the Bishop of Homs, Silvanus, the Deacon Luke, and the Reader Mocime.

Saint Ellien felt unworthy and overjoyed to be in their company and he kissed and revered the chains that bound them. When these men were about to be put to death, St. Ellien prayed to God and an angel appeared to him and said: "Do not be grieved, O Ellien, a crown has been prepared for you. You will conquer your enemies and the devil's tricks. Do not fear their torture for, I am with you!"

St. Ellien suffered through many hardships. He suffered imprisonment and tortures, all along preaching and healing those who were sick.

Then his father had him tied to a horse and dragged through the streets. He was imprisoned and tortured for months, but would not renounce the faith, instead he led all of the tormentors to Christ. Finally he was put to death at the hands of his own father who had twelve long nails driven into his head. St. Ellien was left for dead. He did not die there. When his executioners left, he managed to crawl to a cave owned by a potter. When the potter came to the cave and discovered the body of St. Ellien he took it by night to the church of the Apostles and St. Barbara where he was buried at the East of the Altar. He was martyred in AD 284.

Later, a church dedicated to St. Ellien was built on the spot of the cave where he died and his body was put in a marble coffin. Many miracles

attributed to St. Ellien's intercessions occurred after his death and they continue to occur to this day. Prior to his being put to death, St. Ellien himself blessed those who celebrate his Feast Day as he offered this prayer to God:

“O my Lord Jesus Christ, hear my prayer and accept my request on this hour. Give peace to whoever remembers me on the day of my martyrdom and forgive his sins. Protect him from his enemies' snares and break up the devil's power. Defend your lambs against the wolves!”

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