

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, Diocese of the West

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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

Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



JUNE 5, 2022

**SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL; HIEROMARTYR DOROTHEOS, BISHOP OF TYRE; MARTYR
NICANDER OF EGYPT; NEW-MARTYR MARK OF SMYRNA; THEODORE
YAROSLAVICH; PETER KORISHKI; HIEROMARTYR BONIFACE,
ENLIGHTENER OF GERMANY**

Refrain of the Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God who didst rise from us in glory to the heavens.
Alleluia.

DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Ascension in the Fourth Tone: Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

All: **Troparion of 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 the Ascension in the Fourth Tone (Repeated)

Troparion of the Holy Fathers in the Eight Tone: Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

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 Ascension in the Sixth Tone: When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

Prokeimenon (Daniel 3:26-27) Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For you art just in all you have done.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Alleluia Verses (Psalm 49:1, 5) The God of gods, the Lord, has spoken and has called the earth. Gather his saints to him.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which

Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

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OTHER CHANGES FOR SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

Instead of "We have seen the true light...", we sing the Troparion of Ascension

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Holy Oblations are offered today by Svetlana Nasrawi for the soul of her husband Elias, departed this life one year and by Joanna Novac Chendler for the soul of her father, Timtotei (9 years). Memory Eternal!

Coffee Hour today is sponsored by the Coffee Hour Committee.

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Please remember in your prayers: Yuri Sidorenko, May Dabbah, Sylvia Saba, Tarek Fakhouri, Adib and Nabila Zabaneh, Laura Anter (brain 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.

This Week

No Adult Education or Little Compline this week (Fr. Michael out of town)

Funeral services for Fr. Stephanos Farahat, pastor of St. James Orthodox Church:

-Wednesday, June 8, 2022 Viewing at St. James Church 925 So. Melrose Street; Placentia, CA 92870) from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. *Trisagion at 7 p.m.*

Thursday, June 9, 2022 — Funeral Service at St. Luke Church (13261 Dunklee Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840) at 10:30 a.m.;

Graveside Trisagion at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery (7845 E. Santiago Canyon Road; Orange, CA 92869) at 1 p.m., immediately followed by a Meal of Mercy at St. Luke Church Fellowship Hall. Memory Eternal!

Next Week

Tuesday June 14, Adult Education 6:45 p.m.

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

Upcoming Events

The 2022 Western Diocese Parish Life Conference will be held in Santa Clara, CA at the Santa Clara Marriott, and hosted by the Orthodox Church of the Redeemer of Los Altos. The dates of the PLC are **June 29 to July 3**. To make hotel reservations and sign up for the PLC, please go to <https://www.laplpc.org/la>

Fr. Michael's Retirement Luncheon

After 36 years of service at St. Mark Church, Father Michael Laffoon is retiring! Attached is the invitation for the Retirement Luncheon which will be held on Sunday, July 31 at 2:30 PM at St. Paul's Orthodox Church Hall in Irvine. There is only seating for 300 people in the hall therefore, you are encouraged to purchase your tickets early. The \$55 luncheon ticket is not a fundraiser, this is the cost of the luncheon. We cannot guarantee seating assignments. If you are interested in being seated with family and friends, please consider purchasing a table of 10. Children are welcome but you would need to buy a ticket for each seat and there is no children's pricing.

Additionally, we are collecting donations to gift a check to Fr. Michael on the occasion of his retirement. The list of donors will be in the event program. Our goal is to raise \$36,000 to honor the 36 years that Fr. Michael has served our community.

Reservations will be accepted in two ways:

1. By Check made out to St. Mark Church

2. Online at the following secure

link: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/5512011

*Very important: In the notes/memo, please indicate how many tickets you are purchasing, as well as the actual amount of your donation to go towards a retirement gift for Fr. Michael.

We look forward to honoring our beloved priest with you at this special occasion!

In His name,

Your Retirement Committee

Nelson and Jerri Mamey, Rima Tarazi, Paula Rodriguez, Kristin Chala and Barbara Scholl

Quote of the Day

[Our Lord Jesus Christ] was separated from [the disciples] in the body (though as God He was with them) and, as He had promised them, He was taken up and sat at the right hand of the Father with our human flesh. As He lived, died, rose and ascended, so we live, die and are resurrected. Not all of us, however, will attain to the ascension, but only those for whom to live is Christ, and to die for Him is gain (Phil. 1:21), those who, before they died, crucified sin through repentance and a way of life according to the Gospel. After the Resurrection of all, they alone will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (cf. I Thess. 4:17).

St. Gregory Palamas

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his

Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honour, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.