

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Church

Self-ruled 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

Deacon George Moubayed, Sub Deacon Athanasius Fakhouri

Choir Director Barbara Scholl; Chanters: Dionysius Ingraham,

Theresa Joubran, Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, & Elia Qushair

Church Office Administrator: Lydia Wakileh; Youth Director: Juliana Turk

Saturday evening Great Vespers 4:00 p.m. (Confessions after)

Sunday Schedule: Orthros (Matins) & Confessions 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 1, 2012

FEAST OF BASIL THE GREAT, CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

SPECIAL REFRAIN OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, circumcised in the flesh, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(For a usual Sunday)

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ: Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Fourth Tone: Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion for the Circumcision in the First Tone: Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

Troparion of St. Basil in the First Tone: Thy sound hath forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hadst adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Troparion of Saint 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 for the Circumcision in the Third Tone: Today the Lord of all endureth circumcision, cutting off the transgressions of mortals; for he is good and granteth salvation to the world. And in the heights the high priest of the Creator, Basil the light-bearer, the divine initiate of Christ, rejoiceth.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 48:3,1): My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. Hear this all ye nations; give ear, all yet that inhabit the world

The reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Colossians (2:8-12)

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Alleluia Verses (Psalms 79:1, 36:30) Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. The mouth of the righteous will meditate wisdom.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:20-21, 40-52)

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

+++++

Instead of "It is truly meet..." the Megalynarion of St. Basil's is sung: "***All creation rejoices in thee...***"

Communion Verse: "Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest."
Instead of "We have seen the true light" sing the Troparion of the Circumcision.
(See above)

+++++

Holy Oblations are offered today by Fr. Michael and family for the soul of his cousin Michelle Simon, departed this life six years.

Coffee Hour is given today by the Coffee Hour Co coordinator.

We need two volunteers' for Coffee Committee to take care of the coffee hour for January and February.

+++++

Please remember in your prayers: Irene Zogob, Genevieve Saba, Pamela Sanbar, Fr. Alexander Atty, Najwa Moubayed, Ken Habeeb, Paul Anter, Christopher Chala, Amal Hakim, Jerri Mamey and Eleanor Wackeen.

+++++

Ushers serving this week Dimitri Kort & Randy Dabbah.

Ushers serving next week: Don Skaff & Melad Hanna

Altar boys serving this week: James Bahbah, Alex Turk, Nicholas Bahou.

Altar boys serving next week: James Bahbah, Jordan Qutami, Matthew Dabbah.

Quote from the Saints

"If you see your neighbor sinning, take care not to dwell exclusively on his faults. Try to think of the many good things he has done and continues to do. Many times when we do this, we come to the conclusion that our neighbor is a far better person than we are." -- St. Basil the Great

December 25 through January 4 is a fast-free period.

NOTE TO OUR VISTORS

Welcome to St. Mark's! We are pleased to have you here with us today. Please be informed that only those Orthodox Christians who are prepared through prayer, fasting, and the sacrament of confession should approach the Chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice "open communion" or

intercommunion with other churches (non-Orthodox). If you have any questions concerning this, please talk to Father Michael before taking communion. Visitors are welcome to venerate the cross at the end of the service and to receive some of the blessed bread, if they so desire.

For Orthodox Christians to receive Holy Communion:

- You must be spiritually prepared and uphold the beliefs and moral teachings of the Church.
- You must keep the fast (Wednesday & Friday, and other fasting seasons)
- If married, your marriage must have been consecrated in the Orthodox Church.
- If (unfortunately) divorced, you must be formally restored to communion by the Church by confession and Episcopal decision.
- If an Orthodox Christian has left the church, or has been absent from services for a long period, and is returning, he or she must see the priest prior to receiving the sacraments of the Church.

Today

Very Urgent

The Church still missing 4 red round table cloths, 7 new white round table cloths, and 9 old white round table cloths. If you have them or know who has them, or who has used them lately from the Church, please bring them back! Thanks!!

Please pick up your Offering Envelopes if you ordered one on your pledge card, from the table at the Church Hall by the Bulletin Board.

The 2012 Calendars are here. Please pick up one Calendar per family from the table at the hall by the bulletin board.

This week

Wednesday January 4, 6:30 p.m., Vespers

Thursday January 5th, 6:30 p.m. Evening Liturgy and Great Blessing of Waters, Feast of Theophany (Orthros at 5:30 p.m.).

Saturday January 7th, 6:00 p.m. Ladies & Men's joint Christmas Dinner at the Church Hall. Please see flyer included in this bulletin for more information.

Next week

Monday January 9th, 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting.

Wednesday January 11th, 6:30 p.m., Vespers

Friday January 13th, 7:00 p.m. Parish Education.

Upcoming services & events

Sunday January 15th, Ladies Guild Zalabiah Lunch and Dessert.

Monday February 6th, St. Mark 23rd Golf Tournament at Aliso Viejo Country Club. Please see flyer included for more information

Used books needed. Both St. Herman's Orthodox Seminary of Alaska and St. Barbara Monastery of Santa Paula, CA are collecting used books. The Seminary is trying to build up their school library and St. Barbara Monastery has a used book store. Both theological and general interest books (especially children's book) are being accepted. See Mary Dibs to Donate.

St. Mark 2012 Stewardship Pledge Drive Progress Report

Happy New Year! Thanks, again, to those who have made their 2012 Pledge Commitment to St. Mark. As of December 29th, we have achieved 60% of our goal. This represents 84 pledges from our goal of 180 total pledges. We only need 40% more pledges to come in to reach our goal!

If you haven't made your pledge commitment yet then please take a few minutes today during Coffee Hour to fill out and return your green pledge form (extra forms are next to our pledge box in the Hall).

A message from your Stewardship Committee:

Life that is truly life belongs to those who are unselfish givers. Giving is an indicator of your unselfishness and an outward litmus test of the inner condition of your heart. "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Saint of the Day

Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesaria

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, he spent fifteen years in Athens, where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and

all the other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues there were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the Jordan River along with Ebulios, his former teacher. Him as Bishop of Caesaria in Cappadocia for almost ten years and complete his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, and a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. His Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten Times during the year, including the Sunday of Lent, and of course on his Name day, January 1.

St. Mark Church Cook Book

Our St. Mark Cook Book has arrived. We would like to thank the cook book committee; Samira Atallah, Samar Elsayegh, May & Randy Dabbah and all the people that contributed their recipes. The cook book is for sale in the Church during coffee hour for \$20.

Good Samaritan Fund

Several years ago, St. Mark Church established a fund for assisting those in need, both within our parish and in the general community. From time to time we ask for contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund, and this is one of those times. If you are in need of assistance or you are aware of someone in our parish that needs financial assistance, please speak with Fr. Michael.

Entering the Sanctuary

It should go without saying that all parishioners should plan their day so that they arrive at church **before the commencement of the Liturgy**. Additionally, if you are an Altar Boy or Usher, you will want to arrive at least 15 minutes early. We all know that the time to arrive to church is before the service starts, but for some unknown reason, it has become custom—or rather a bad habit—for some to come to church late. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy begins, enter the church quietly—and observe what is happening. If the Epistle or Gospel is being read or the Little or Great Entrance is taking place, or if the Consecration of the Gifts is taking place, wait until it is finished to enter the sanctuary and then, quickly find a seat. If Father is giving the sermon, stay in the back until he has concluded. If in doubt, check with one of the ushers to see if it is a good time to seat yourself. By the way, the best way to avoid this problem is to arrive on time—then you don't have to wonder if it's OK to come in or not.

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 & Barbara Khamis at the coffee hour.