

St. Mark Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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V. Rev. Michael Laffoon, Pastor Emeritus

Subdeacon Athanasius Fakhouri, Subdeacon Elias Khamis

Choir Director: Barbara Scholl

Chanters: Jacob Bahbah, Mark Ellis, Karim Youssef

Teen Advisor: Fatin Fakhouri



September 14, 2025

Elevation (Exaltation) of the Holy Cross

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday 9/17	Daily Vespers 6:30pm
Saturday 9/20	Great Vespers 4:00pm
Sunday 9/21	Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

ENTRANCE HYMN:

Apolytikion of the Holy Cross in Tone 1: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

The Eisodion (Entrance Hymn) of the Feast: Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool; for He is holy. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

Apolytikion of the Holy Cross in Tone 1: Arabic.

Kontakion of the Elevation of the Holy Cross in Tone 4: Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1:18-24)

Brethren, the word of the Cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness

of the clever I will thwart.” Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35) At that time, the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. And they came to Pontius Pilate saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no crime in Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God.” When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where art Thou from?” But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, “Wilt Thou not speak to me? Knowest Thou not that I have power to release Thee, and power to crucify Thee?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above.

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called “The Pavement”, and in Hebrew, “Gabbatha.” Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus and led him away, and He went out, bearing His own Cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew “Golgotha.” There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the Cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

Now standing by the Cross of Jesus were His mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the Disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then He said to the Disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the Disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now fulfilled, said, “It is finished”; and He bowed His head and gave up the spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true.

BUILDING CAMPAIGN:

This is a very exciting moment for St. Mark! We have officially rolled out our building campaign to prepare Our Church for the beautiful growth we are witnessing!

The generosity of a few families in our community has opened the door for an amazing opportunity. They have committed \$1,000,000, per year, for the next 3 years, but have asked it to be matching funds. When we raise \$1,000,000 in 2025, we unlock another \$1,000,000 from the matching money, and so forth.

Please take your time and prayerfully discern what that amount should be before filling out your commitment. We will need the help and participation from everyone. Let us give back to God what is already His for the Glory of His Holy Church.

Please make your Building Campaign commitment by scanning the QR Code below.



HOLY OBLATION: is offered in memory of May Dabbah (3 years) by John and Basimah Farsoun, Jane Karkus, and James and Matthew Dabbah. May her memory be eternal.

HOLY OBLATION: is offered for Alex Munayyer on the occasion of his birthday, by the Munayyer family. God grant him many years!

HOLY OBLATION: is offered for Ethan and Elizabeth El- Hinn in celebration of their baptism, by the El- Hinn and Rodriguez families. God grant them many years!

Upcoming Events:

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Church School begins on Sunday September 21st. Every child needs to be registered beforehand. Scan the QR code to register your children.



TEEN SOYO MEETING & ELECTIONS: After Divine Liturgy today in the conference room. All teens plan on attending.

CHANT/READER CLASS: Interested in learning to chant? Starting Sept 21 after Communion with Reader Mark Ellis. Open to everyone!

LADIES MEETING: Antiochian Women kick off meeting! This Wednesday September 17th at 6:30pm. Kh. Miray is our guest speaker!

TEEN SOYO POOL PARTY: Save the date. Sunday September 28 after Divine Liturgy. See Fatin Fakhouri to sign up.

MENS NIGHT: Come hangout on Thursday October 2nd at 6:00pm with dinner, games, and football! See Claude Chalouhi with questions.

TINY SAINTS WHATSAPP GROUP: Signup to join this new ministry for young families and children (ages2-8).



ONLINE ST. MARK DIRECTORY: We have begun our process of collecting data of all our parishioners for an online church directory! We need 100% participation! Scan the QR code below to be a part of the director





Diocese of Los Angeles & the West

Fall Gathering

in the Redwoods.

Hosted by
Ss. Peter & Paul, Ben Lomond, CA

October
10-12, 2025

Presiding:
His Grace Bishop
ANTHONY

Registration &
Hotel Information:



www.SsPeterandPaulOrthodox.com



Friday, October 10:
5:00 PM - Registration
5:30 PM - Vespers
6:30 PM - Dinner

Saturday, October 11:
8 AM - Registration & Continental Breakfast
9 AM - Morning Prayers & Opening Address
9:30 AM to 1 PM - Organizational Meetings
1:00 PM - Lunch
2:00 PM Music Workshop, Hiking,
- Games, Service Project
5:00 PM - or varied activities
5:30 PM - Great Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul
6:30 PM - Dinner



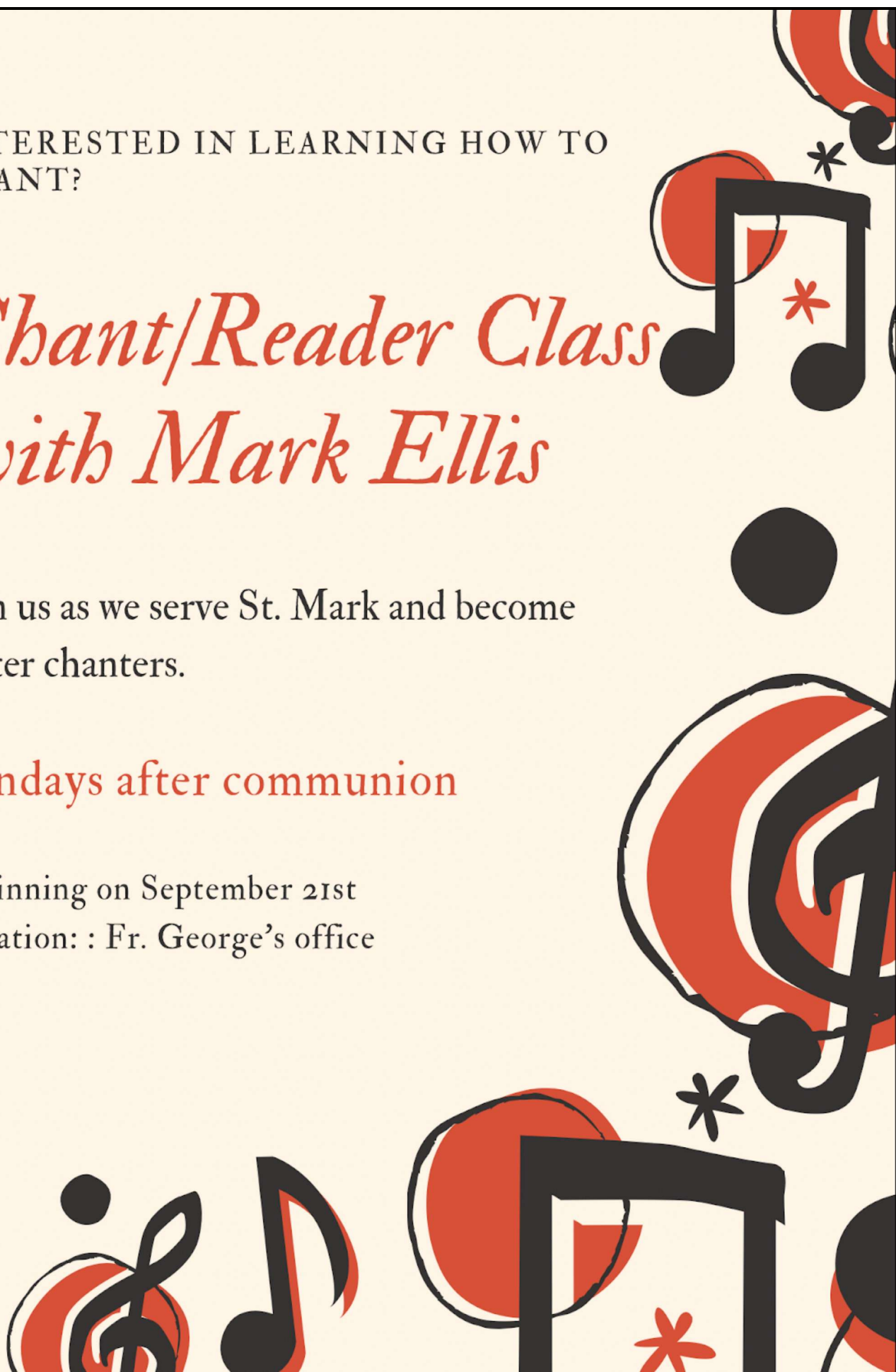
INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO
CHANT?

Chant/Reader Class with Mark Ellis

Join us as we serve St. Mark and become
better chanters.

Sundays after communion

Beginning on September 21st
Location: : Fr. George's office





ST. MARK CHURCH SCHOOL FOCUS PROGRAM

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor" Proverbs 22:9

LET US TEACH OUR CHILDREN THE
IMPORTANCE OF ALMSGIVING
ONE CAN AT A TIME!

Help Us Build the FOCUS Food Pantry!

Each Sunday, bring your favorite **non-perishable food item** to class to support those in need. Your donations will go directly to the FOCUS pantry to help feed local families.

Teachers will keep track of your contributions, and students who participate regularly will have a chance to **win a prize at the end of the school year!**

FOCUS

+ ORANGE COUNTY +

