

THE GOOD NEWS

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church - Monthly Bulletin

"I am not ashamed of the Good News because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (*Romans 1:16*)

February, 2024



The Presentation of the Lord Jesus to the Temple
is celebrated in the life of the Church on Friday, February 2nd

*This event in the life of Christ forms the basis for
the 40-day Blessing of new mothers and their children in the life of the Church*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

Morning Prayer 8:30am

Divine Liturgy 9:30am



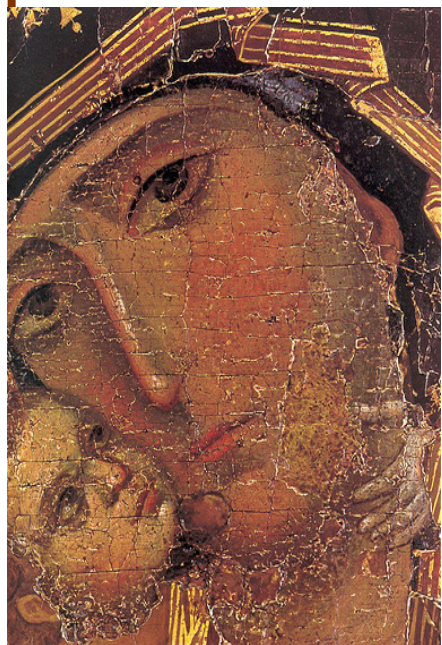
Friday, February 2nd

*The Presentation of Christ
to the Temple
in Jerusalem*

Morning Prayer 9am

Divine Liturgy 10am

The Christmas/Epiphany season in the Orthodox Church liturgically comes to an end on Friday, February 2nd, 40 days after our celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas, with the celebration of the feast of "The Presentation of Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem." This event in the life of Christ also forms the basis for the 40-day blessing of mothers with their newborn children.



Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, California 92604-8606

Office Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

Office Telephone: (949) 733-2366

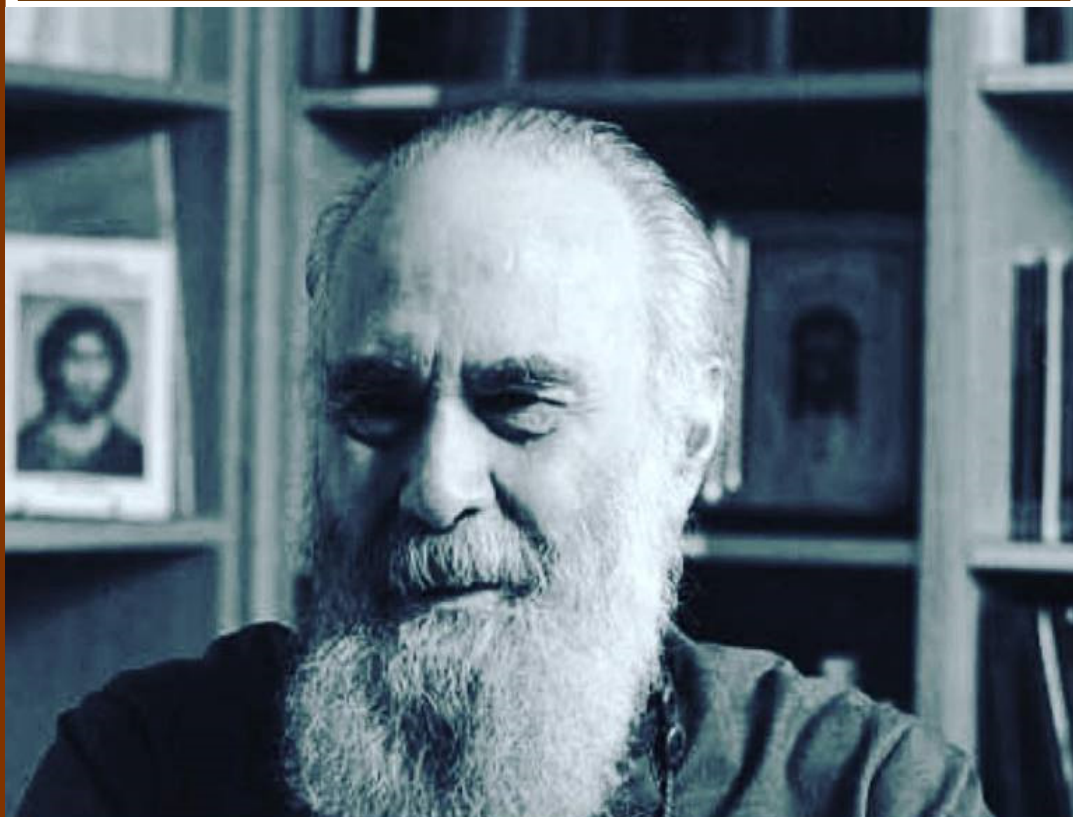
<http://www.stpaulsirvine.org>

Father Steven Tsichlis, Pastor — Father Theofanis J. Degaitas, Assistant Priest

Deacon Daniel Cunningham, Parish Deacon — Dean Langis, Pastoral Assistant

Carolyn Kouracos, Office Administrator — Denise Oller, Office Assistant

Alex Gorbenko, Facilities Operations Manager



UNLESS WE LOOK AT A PERSON AND SEE THE BEAUTY THERE IS IN THIS PERSON, WE CAN CONTRIBUTE NOTHING TO HIM. ONE DOES NOT HELP A PERSON BY DISCERNING WHAT IS WRONG, WHAT IS UGLY, WHAT IS DISTORTED. CHRIST LOOKED AT EVERYONE HE MET, AT THE PROSTITUTE, AT THE THIEF, AND SAW THE BEAUTY HIDDEN THERE. PERHAPS IT WAS DISTORTED, PERHAPS DAMAGED, BUT IT WAS BEAUTY NONE THE LESS, AND WHAT HE DID WAS TO CALL OUT THIS BEAUTY.

MET. ANTHONY BLOOM
ORTHODOX CHURCH FATHERS

A MEDITATION ON RECEIVING COMMUNION

by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

Many of us receive Holy Communion; this is something we should do thoughtfully and in the full knowledge of what we are doing, what we are asking for, and what we are entering into. When we take Holy Communion we are calling upon the Lord to become one with

us in such a way that His life becomes our life and our life becomes His life, not only in our souls but in our very flesh. Therefore

when we have received Holy Communion, whenever we commit deeds of darkness it is as if we are cruelly forcing the Lord to travel with us the very path along which He himself was led during the days of his Passion, to crucifixion, to suffering, to desecration – this we must remember. On the other hand, from the Lord we seek life, a new life, a life of abundance, and this life is given to us, because when the Lord comes to us and makes us one with Him, eternal life conquers us and enters into us. But we do not accept the life which is given to us; we want to rejoice in it but we do not want to assume its burden – for in this eternal life on earth there is a burden, and there is a tragic side, and not only triumphant joy. **On the one hand we begin to live the life of a future age, but that life only takes hold in us**

“We should try to live in such a way that if the Gospels were lost, they could be rewritten by looking at us”

– Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

when we desist from evil deeds, from a life of darkness, decay and death, when we move away from them consciously, by an effort of will, by showing no mercy to ourselves, to our weakness, and, life within ourselves as an evangelical life, that is, by means of deeds which are not a desecration of life, and by prayer.

There is another aspect: we pray to the Lord to become one with us and to take upon Himself all the burden of our life and to bear that burden together with us, but at the same time we must be ready to take upon ourselves the fate of the Son of God incarnate on earth, to belong to heaven, to God, to the truth, with all the consequences which may ensue: firstly, the internal struggle with falsehood and death which are within us; then the willingness to stand up for the truth of the Lord, for the mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven, the love of God on earth in His relations with mankind, even when this means making some kind of sacrifice, sacrificing ourselves; and, finally, the duty to be willing in the name of God and His truth to be cast out, cut off, to be alienated from all those who – consciously or otherwise – rise up against that truth.

Therefore in taking Holy Communion we will prepare ourselves carefully and intently, and we will prepare ourselves so that we may come knowingly to confession, to renounce the falsehood within us, to turn away from everything which could hold sway over us, but we will also prepare ourselves so that after confession and becoming one with Christ we can begin to live a new life, whatever it may cost us. If we act in this way, then the gift of Holy Communion, becoming one with Christ, the entering into us of the grace of the Holy Spirit, those new indescribable relations which are created between us and the Father, and in God with everyone, will bear fruit. Otherwise we will be downcast because when we turn to God we remain helpless and powerless – not because God does not help, and not because we have no strength, but because that which God gives to us we squander in life's wilderness.

Therefore let us now come to a new life with joy, both those who have received Communion and those for whom this indescribable triumph and joy still await, and we will live in such a way that through us heaven will be with us here on earth. The Kingdom of God within us will conquer everything around us, from the smallest to the greatest.

Amen.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

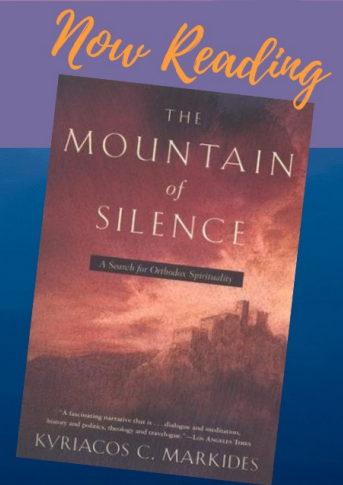
CATHOLIC ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB

MEETS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING
February 13, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Conference Room
in the Church Administration Building

*Learn more &
Register*



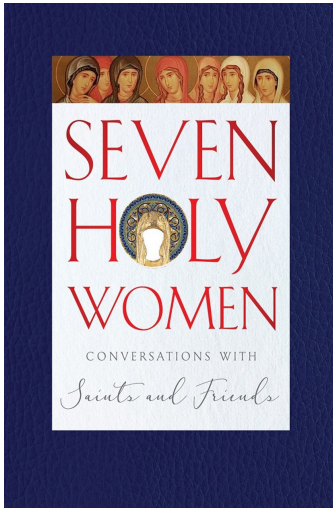
THE ORTHODOX KOINONIA BIBLE STUDY
ON PSALMS, PROVERBS AND THE WISDOM LITERATURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
MEETS ON THURSDAYS IN FEBRUARY AT 7:30 PM!



Please join us on Thursdays at 7:30 pm for our Bible Study on the beautiful Old Testament Books of Psalms and Proverbs. We are exploring how the Psalms and Proverbs are used liturgically by our Holy Church and how they both apply to our day-to-day life as Christians. If you cannot come in person, you may phone in to the Bible Study! According to Fr. Thomas Hopko of blessed memory, "Virtually all states of man's soul before God are found expressed in the psalms: praising, thanking, blessing, rejoicing, petitioning, repenting, lamenting, questioning and even complaining. . . In the Orthodox Church all of the psalms are understood as having their deepest and most genuine spiritual meaning in terms of Christ and His mission of eternal salvation. . . . The Proverbs are short sayings concerning the proper conduct of wise and righteous persons. They are read in their entirety at the weekday Vesper services of the Church during Great Lent. Selections from the Proverbs are also read at the vigils of a number of feasts of the Church since for Christians the Wisdom of God is personified and embodied in Christ." To call in for the Bible Study at St. Paul's all you need to do is to dial **518-992-1141** and then the access code of **835497#** . **Please bring a friend—drop-ins are welcome!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

**THE WOMEN'S STUDY FELLOWSHIP WILL MEET AT 11AM
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th and FEBRUARY 26th!**



The Women's Study Fellowship is discussing a new book: *Seven Holy Women: Conversations with Saints and Friends* that introduces the reader to the lives of seven female saints: Saints Morwenna of Cornwall, Kassiane of Constantinople, Ia of Cornwall, Nino the Enlightener of Georgia, Piama, Margaret and Casilda of Toledo. Each section of the book includes a story from one saint's life, told vividly and imaginatively in the second person; additional information about the saint to give her context; a reflection on ways the writer, reader, and saint intersect on their journeys; personal surveys for the reader and a friend to complete; and a journal prompt that encourages the reader to explore and document her encounter with themes from the saint's life. Created as both a deeply personal and enriching communal experience, *Seven Holy Women* speaks directly to the reader, drawing her into the lives of seven saints as it invites the reader to look more closely and lovingly at her own spiritual journey and her friendship with the cloud of witnesses. **For more in-**

formation, please contact Dorothea Love at doroelvis@cox.net or Georgia Theodor at gateodp@gmail.com

**NEW STUDY
JOIN US ON ZOOM**

**SAINT PAUL'S
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**MONDAY
Bible Study
NIGHT**

**A BIBLE STUDY CLASS FOR EVERYONE!
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

Monday evenings | 7:30-8:30 pm

Led by Dr. Eve Tibbs

**THE EPISTLE OF
ST. JAMES**

zoom STUDY

**THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WILL MEET ON
THURSDAY MORNINGS IN FEBRUARY AT 10AM**

The Women's Bible Study is studying the Acts of the Apostles! St. Luke the Evangelist was a close friend and travel companion of the apostle Paul on his second and third great missionary journeys throughout the Mediterranean world, a Gentile probably born in the city of Antioch, and a medical doctor by profession. He is also the author of two books in the New Testament: the Gospel that bears his name and is focused on the life of Christ and the Acts of the Apostles, the companion volume to his Gospel, which outlines the history of the earliest apostolic Churches beginning in Jerusalem and then spreading throughout the ancient Roman Empire. Imprisoned in Rome, near the end of his life, the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy that "Luke is my only companion." Luke also emphasizes the activity of the Holy Spirit, who is active both in the life of Christ and in the earliest Christian communities as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, beginning with the day of Pentecost. Luke is also known in the Christian tradition as one of the first painters of icons and was martyred at the age of 84 near Thebes, Greece.

This class is also led by Eve Tibbs. Please join us!



PHILOPTOCHOS MEANS "LOVE FOR THE POOR"

2024 has started and our Philoptochos members have been busy!



I would like to thank our Baking Committee Chairs **Catherine Abatjoglou** and **Georgia Halkia** for all their hard work to organize the baking of the Vasilopita breads for our annual Vasilopita Sunday celebration. A very special thank you goes to **Tony Abatjoglou** for his tireless help to make sure the breads came out perfectly. The breads were delicious and we sold over 70 to help raise funds for St Basil Academy in New York.

Our Membership Drive is ongoing...On Sunday, February 4th, we present our annual **Membership Luncheon** event, "Membership and Merlot". We have an amazing afternoon planned with delicious food, fun festivities and great fellowship for all! Please remember to sign up online or in person at Church at the Membership table after liturgy. Meanwhile, our Membership drive continues throughout this month. All of those members who have not renewed, please do so online or at the Membership table located outside Church after Liturgy every Sunday. **Never been a member??** Now is the time to join and be a part of *Philoptochos*. We are working hard to help those in need so they can thrive- join us to help make a difference in others' lives!

WHAT IS PHILOPTOCHOS and WHY YOU SHOULD BE A MEMBER!

Our mission? *"To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach; to preserve the sanctity of life and family; to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions".* Simply put, *Philoptochos* is constantly working to serve wherever there is a need. It is an **organization of women** who remain steadfast and driven to give to those who are suffering, who respond to the call of need. Being a member brings you one step closer to fulfilling the call within you to help your brothers and sisters in need.

Philoptochos IS LIGHT...

Philoptochos continues to spread the Light of Christ by supporting the work and education of Clergy, Seminarians and students of all ages through donations to the following organizations: Holy Cross Hellenic College, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Tanzania Priest Support, Retired Clergy Association, St Photius Shrine and Saint Basil Academy. Orthodoxy and our traditions are the foundation of our lives as Christians and *Philoptochos* promotes these as part of our Charter. Being a member brings you closer to helping promote your Faith and traditions.

Philoptochos IS LOVE...

Philoptochos continues to spread the Love of Christ by supporting several local and international charities which do the work of love for others in need: FOCUS So Cal, Families Forward, Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape, Project Mexico, Autism Assistance Fund, Children's Medical Fund, UNICEF, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, and International Orthodox Christian Charities. Being a member brings you closer to spreading the Love of Christ to those who suffer.

Philoptochos IS GIVING...

Philoptochos gives from the heart to meet the needs of the community by offering support to these outreach issues: Private requests for help and Funeral/Makaria assistance for Orthodox families. Our Chapter sends aid to National *Philoptochos* for Veterans Support, Human Trafficking, International Disaster Relief, Educational Initiatives and Social Services as well. Being a member brings you closer to helping bring the gifts of aid to those in need both here and abroad.

Philoptochos IS FELLOWSHIP...

What can be better than working together to spread the Light of Christ to others? Follow our campaign to add every woman 18 or older in our Parish to the *Philoptochos* juggernaut!

Join the Fun + Make A Difference + Women Changing Lives

In His Service,

Priscilla Tedesco

President, St Paul's *Philoptochos* Society





ST PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PHILOPTOCHOS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the Fun + Make a Difference + Women Changing Lives

☐

2024 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

☐

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP
(MEN / NON-VOTING)

☐

GIFT 2024 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

FULL NAME:

Last

First

M.I.

ADDRESS:

Street Address

Apartment / Unit #

City

State

Zip

HOME PHONE:

CELL PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

GIFT 2024 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

FULL NAME:

Last

First

M.I.

ADDRESS:

Street Address

Apartment / Unit #

EMAIL ADDRESS:

☒ National \$15 + Metropolis \$15 + St. Paul's Philoptochos \$20 *per capita required*

☒ Your \$50 supports local, regional, national & international philanthropy

\$

☒ St Paul's Philoptochos Stewardship Donation. Select amount below:

☐

\$30

☐

\$50

☐

\$75

☐

\$125

☐

\$250+

Philoptochos

☐

other

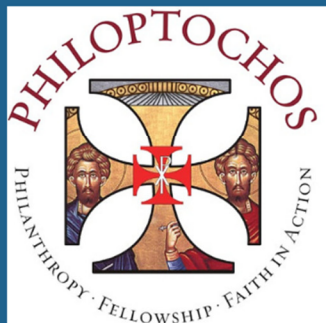
\$

Angel

2024 TOTAL STEWARDSHIP

\$

2024 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Your continued generosity allows Philoptochos to provide financial assistance and outreach to those in need. We invite you to **renew your membership** or **become a new member** as we endeavor to do our philanthropic work. Join us as we strive to fulfill the words of Christ:

"...whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did for me."

- Matthew 25:30

Mail your form to **St. Paul's Philoptochos** at
4949 Alton Prkwy, Irvine, CA 92604

OR SCAN TO JOIN ONLINE





2024

Philoptochos

Membership Drive

Join us in 2024 by renewing or becoming a member of Philoptochos!

Join the Fun + Make a Difference + Women Changing Lives

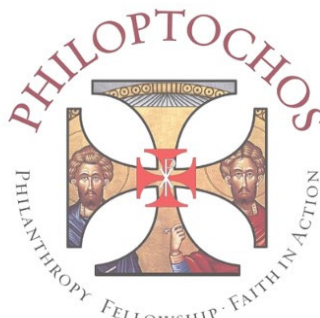
Our mission is both simple and profound: to serve those in need, provide comfort to the afflicted, and uplift those facing hardships.

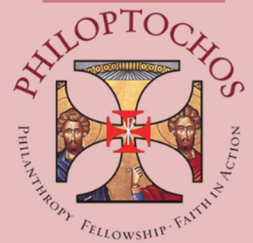
Your membership plays an essential role in our faith in action, translating into real support that makes a genuine impact in our community.

.....
*Please consider the gift of membership
for the young women over 18 in your life*
.....

Registration

Visit the Membership Booth each Sunday starting January 7th after the Divine Liturgy to enroll in the 2024 Membership year or scan the QR Code below to register online.





JOIN THE FUN!

MEMBERSHIP & MERLOT

A PHILOPTOCHOS
CELEBRATION EXTRAVAGANZA

February 4, 2024
Following Divine Liturgy



Stop by the
Membership
desk or Scan
the QR Code
to Register

Location: St. Paul's Event Center
Join us for a delicious lunch and wine
tasting, fellowship with our
Philoptochos community and learn
more about our philanthropic efforts



Registration \$25 per person

Join the Fun + Make a Difference + Women Changing Lives

STEWARDSHIP—GIVING TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

On February 19, 2024, we observe Presidents' Day when we remember all those who served as presidents of the United States. As Orthodox Christians we are asked to do far more. ***The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom tells us to pray for "our country, the president, all those in public service."*** This call to prayer is based on 1 Timothy 2:1-4 where the Apostle Paul exhorts "...first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." When this letter was written, people could not vote. Christians were



subjected to whomever was in charge and life was often difficult as Christians faced persecution. And yet the writer reminds them of what they can do: pray for their leaders so that the community of Christians could live their lives reverently. They are not to lose focus of God's desire: to see salvation come to all and that all may "come to the knowledge of the truth."

While our situation today is not anywhere close to what Christians in the first century faced, we are subject to leaders such as presidents, governors, and mayors, all of whom can make decisions that affect the world both in favorable and unfavorable ways. We must therefore, like the first century Christians, pray for our leaders as well so that we too may live our lives reverently and not lose our focus on God's desire to see the message of salvation be made known to all people today. ***As members of St. Paul's we have an important role in making God's message known to others. Through our ministries within our parish and through ministries that operate throughout the world and by making love our aim, people hear about the love of Jesus Christ. Your giving of your time, your abilities, and your financial contributions help make this happen.*** Our Stewardship Team is grateful for



all of the ways in which you contribute. If you haven't already done so, we ask that you consider making a pledge to St. Paul's. You can do so by filling out a pledge card or online at our website. And above that, please pray for the world and our leaders.

Thank you for being part of St. Paul's!

Jeff (Raphael) Levine

Stewardship Team



PARISHIONER ENGAGEMENT MINISTRIES

You're Invited to An Engagement!

Location: St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Time: 9:30 A.M.
Attire: Sunday Best
Frequency: Every Sunday
RSVP'S: Not Necessary
Attendance: Required

So, who's getting engaged? Guess who? You are! To whom? To everyone in attendance! The only gift required is to just show up!

At St. Paul's engagement is everything! The Parishioner Engagement Team (PET), one of four vision teams, spearheaded by the Strategic Planning committee, is truly excited and prepared to take parishioner engagement to the next level. Our team has been meeting twice monthly, since last March, and is ready to roll out our action plans this year. In order to set the wheels in motion, we need your participation in the following four areas:

PARISHIONER ENGAGEMENT

As brothers and sisters in Christ, it is our role to welcome & love one another, unconditionally, as Christ welcomes & loves us. It starts with our love of Jesus Christ, our passion to grow St. Paul's and the opportunity to share the treasures of Orthodoxy to whoever we come in contact with. It is not just the Welcome Team's responsibility; it's everyone's responsibility.

PARISHIONER ENGAGEMENT

GUEST TABLE

Beginning in February, we will be setting up a guest table in the Fellowship Hall, reserved for visitors and guests. This is the time for us to connect with them by introducing ourselves, making them feel right at home and sharing our St Paul's experience.

WELCOME PACKETS

Over the past six months, the PET members have been developing a welcome packet, which has finally come to fruition. This packet will be available at the beginning of February and will not only be handed out by the Welcome Team members, but will be available to our congregation to give to friends and family, as well.

PEW PALS

So what's a Pew Pal? When new visitors, that are not Orthodox, come to St. Paul's, they have no idea of what to expect. A Welcome Team member or usher currently gives a brief orientation. If we, however, allow them to enter the sanctuary unattended, they will feel lost and, therefore, may not return. In recent months, we have experimented with "Pew Pals" by asking church members to sit with new attendees and help guide them through the service.



Now that we're engaged, let's build a lasting relationship with one another!

In His Service,

George Ekizian

Parishioner Engagement Team Co-Chair

PARISH ORGANIATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

ST. PAUL'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE LIFE-GIVING SPRING WOMEN'S MONASTERY AT ST. NICHOLAS RANCH ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th AND 11th!

Please join us on our pilgrimage to the magnificent Life-Giving Spring Women's Monastery located near Dunlap at St. Nicholas Ranch at 38526 Dunlap Road, Squaw Valley, CA 93675; phone: 559-338-2103; <https://stnicholasranch.org/>. We plan to carpool from St. Paul's at 9 am on Saturday morning, February 10th and return on Sunday evening, February 11th. Dean Langis will be driving our rented van to get there and back. We plan to stay overnight at St. Nicholas Ranch where the rooms are only \$50 for Saturday night—there are usually two beds per room so if you wish to have a roommate, it is only \$25 per person for the one night! Please contact Dean Langis at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org or at 949-733-2366 for further information and/or to R.S.V.P. as soon as possible! Please come for a spiritually uplifting pilgrimage!



"THE LIFE-GIVING SPRING MONASTERY" BY OUR ST. PAUL'S PARISHIONER RITA DEBBANEH WHEN SHE WAS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD!

In a world where simple things, like an iPhone or what celebrities are up to, can easily become a time-consuming idol, it's hard to focus on the more important things in life, like God and prayer. It's not that difficult to be caught up in the new gadgets and fads of this generation. However, at the Life-Giving Spring Monastery, staying in touch with our Christian Orthodoxy is much simpler. Whenever I go to the Monastery, there are lots of families, with their children, in search of a closer connection to God. The nuns are kind-hearted and patient, and often invite us to dine with them after Orthros or Vespers. During the day, my sister and I like to help them with their chores, or sit and chat with them. The Chapel and Church are gorgeous and one feels at peace when listening to their services. There is a feeling of serenity that simply can't be achieved with our ordinary lives. The Monastery is a great place for families to reconnect with God and Christianity. I encourage my friends and their families at St. Paul's to visit and enjoy the peacefulness of nature, the nuns, and most importantly, the simplicity of connecting with our faith.



ST. PAUL'S CLASSICAL MUSIC MATINÉE ON THE BIG SCREEN WITH MOZART'S "HAFFNER" SYMPHONY NO. 35 AND DVOŘÁK'S CELLO CONCERTO AND TCHAIKOVSKY'S POWERFUL 4TH SYMPHONY AT 11 AM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 TO BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT NORTH ITALIA IN IRVINE!

We invite our parishioners and all our friends from our sister parishes to please join us at St. Paul's for Mozart's exquisite "Haffner" Symphony No. 35 and Dvořák's superb Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's powerful 4th Symphony all on the big screen! Then after the concert we plan to go for lunch at the delightful North Italia Irvine at 2957 Michelson Dr (just east of Jamboree), Irvine, CA 92612; 949-629-7060; <https://www.northitalia.com/locations/irvine-ca/>. You may see the wonderful reviews on "North Italia Irvine" by clicking onto <https://www.yelp.com/biz/north-italia-irvine>. We can all meet there for lunch and order whatever we from their excellent menu—their pizza is excellent. Kindly R.S.V.P. to Dean Langis at 949-733-2366 or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org so that we can have a headcount for the restaurant. **Thank you! Please come and bring a friend for a great day!**

PARISH ORGANIATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

ST. PAUL'S AMBASSADORS' FREE VAN RIDE TO THE TOUR OF OUR SISTER PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ANAHEIM WITH LUNCH TO FOLLOW NEARBY AT THE WONDERFUL PORTO'S CAFÉ AND BAKERY IN BUENA PARK ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH AT 11 AM!

St. Paul's Ambassadors invite all our parishioners and friends to join us at St. Paul's at 11 am on Thursday, February 15th for our **FREE VAN RIDE** to our tour of our beautiful sister parish of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church at 405 N. Dale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; phone: 714-827-0181; <https://www.stjohnanaheim.org/> . We then plan to drive with our rented van to have lunch nearby at the delightful Porto's Café and Bakery at 7640 Beach Blvd, Buena Park, CA 90620; phone: 714-367-2030; <https://www.portosbakery.com/> . You can see the wonderful reviews about Porto's at <https://www.yelp.com/biz/portos-bakery-and-cafe-buena-park-7> . **Dean Langis plans to rent and drive a van for our group to St. John's that day, so R.S.V.P. to Dean at 949-733-2366 or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org so that we can have an accurate headcount for our van for our trip. Thank you. Please come and bring a friend for a lovely day!**



ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101 MEETS ON WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY AT 7PM!

OC101, taught by Father Steve and Mark Nauroth, meets at 7PM in the Education Building in the Father George Stephanides Library. The purpose of this class is to provide a broad overview of the Church's faith and life, beginning with our worship. In February, we're studying the history of the Church, looking specifically at the question: where did all the many thousands of different denominations come from? We'll also explore the Bible and look closely at the New Testament and the Lord Jesus. We'll discuss repentance, personal spiritual disciplines like prayer and fasting, stewardship, Christian moral values, dealing with our sins, the development of the virtues and living faithfully. **And the most important question of all: what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?** St. Paul's is a good place to explore what it means to be a believer, committed to Christ. **This class is intended for those who wish to explore Orthodoxy; for those who wish to become members of the Church here at St. Paul's; and for those members of our parish family but interested in broadening and deepening their faith. Please join us!**

PARISH COUNCIL MINISTRIES

PARISH COUNCIL

I hope each of you had a blessed Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to a wonderful year. It is my honor and privilege to have been elected President of the Parish Council for 2024. I look forward to serving all of you and working with the Council to address the needs of our community and ensure that we keep Jesus at the forefront of our efforts. I ask that you keep the Council in your prayers.

At our first Council meeting a couple of weeks ago, we began by focusing on why each of us calls St. Paul's our home. There were many reasons, but two consistently emerged: our common purpose in serving Jesus and His Church and the welcoming nature and love we show in

our community. In addition, we discussed and reminded ourselves of the Parish Council's guiding principles that are our "north star".

We wanted to share these guiding principles so that you are aware of what drives our ministry:

It is an honor to serve on St. Paul's Parish Council and we are committed to doing the work of our Lord Jesus.

We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit within our Parish Council and in our meetings, so that our decisions and actions reflect our love and commitment to our Lord, one another and His Church.

We support and encourage one another as well as each member of the St. Paul's Parish Family, to become more engaged in the life and work of the Parish, serving our Lord Jesus.

We respect all who worship with us and value and support all parishioners who give of their time and efforts to our Parish.

We will embrace our approved St. Paul's Strategic Plan and work to implement it in the coming years.

We accept the responsibility to effectively and wisely manage the financial, human, and physical resources of St. Paul's, as established within the operating budget and approved by the Parish General Assembly.

We value and support the need to provide on-going Christian education and spiritual formation to all parishioners and other individuals within Southern California by providing seminars, lectures, study groups and Church school programs.

We actively support St. Paul's mission of outreach by providing programs, ministries, services, and facilities to local, regional, and international communities.

We support the direction of our Metropolis and the Archdiocese of America, inclusive of their respective programs and Parish operating guidelines, and help them to meet their challenges as well as support their growth.

We recognize that in order to best serve our Parish, we commit to being attentive and responsive to issues as they arise and to communicate in a responsible and transparent manner.



We have many things to be grateful for at St. Paul's and I encourage all of you to look for ways to get involved and become part of the active life of our Church.

In His Service,

George A. Theodorou

President, Parish Council

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH MUSIC



NEWS FLASH

You already know that nearly the entire Divine Liturgy is sung. But did you know that the responsibility for singing the hymns and responses is everyone's — not just the choir's? We are blessed at Saint Paul's, to have Church Musicians who lead the congregation in singing the responses ("Lord have mercy", "To You O Lord", etc.) as well as the hymns with familiar melodies such as "Save Us O Son of God." As Frederica Mathewes-Green reminds us, however, everyone should sing, because "the prayers are the prayers of everybody." You are hereby cordially invited to add your voice to the hymns and responses of the Divine Liturgy, so that "in unity you may sing with one voice through Jesus Christ to God the Father" (St. Ignatius of Antioch).

"The tradition of the ancient church was that everybody would sing. The prayers are the prayers of everybody. Follow the lead of the choir, and don't sing louder than your neighbor—but sing."

-Frederica Mathewes-Green

Greek Dance Preview Luncheon

Hosted by St. Paul's Greek Dance Ministry

Omorfi Zoi
will preview their
FDF competition dances

Sunday, February 11th
Event Center



DONATE HERE



Donations are appreciated
and will support
Greek Dance Program



YOUTH *fellowship*

Saint Paul's Youth

HOPE and JOY (Kinder to 5th grade)

**Sunday, February 25th
11:30am to 1pm**

Please join us after Sunday school at the youth room
for snacks and fun activities with our
Youth Leader Hannah Manneh

Please RSVP by 2/21 - Georgia Theodorou
youryeea1@yahoo.com

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

St. Paul's Young Adult League

Get to know other Young Adults!

Event Details and RSVP
Instagram and Calendar
Plants & Pillars WhatsApp
General Info + More



Scan here



Our Planning Committee:

Kevin & Maria Gallagher, Kenny Jenkins,
Eleni Katelari, Cassiani Kateyiannis,
Selene Lawrence, Claire Pearson,
Ben Rausch, and Spiro Sun

Feb 4th B2F Podcast Forum

AFR: Person to Person - Paul Karos & Dr Harry Boosalis
11:45am-12:30pm St. Paul's Fireside Room

Feb 9th Board Game Night

7pm Ben Rausch's Home

Feb 11th Basketball & Bible Study

Biweekly on Sunday
12-2:30pm St. Paul's Gym

Feb 18th & 25th B2F Podcast Forum

AFR: Parish Life Conference
11:45am-12:30pm St. Paul's Fireside Room

OUR TEEN BIBLE STUDY "FROM RUIN TO REDEMPTION" WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH AT 5PM!

"From Ruin to Redemption" is an engaging, accessible, thematic Bible study which teaches younger generations of Orthodox Christians how to read the Bible within the Apostolic Tradition of the Church. At every meeting we'll dive into a key passage of the Bible and explore how it develops themes that run from creation and exile in the Old Testament to the Lord Jesus's incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension in the New Testament. We connect the biblical story to the daily lives that younger generations of Christians experience in 21st century America - a time where young people are acutely aware of the effects that a ruined social environment and a ruined natural environment have led to. By creating these connections we hope to recognize the fact that the Lord Jesus has entered into each one of our stories to redeem each one of us. **Please join us in learning to understand the Bible and getting closer to Christ!**



CHURCH SCHOOL PAGE

Exciting Parish News about the
Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for
Church School Students in grades 3-12



BOLDNESS
OF SPEECH

"Therefore, since we have such hope,
we use great boldness of speech" 2 Cor 3:12

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2024 | Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is an opportunity for our young people to learn more about their faith and to be able to articulate that understanding. The Oratorical Festival takes place yearly in Greek Orthodox parishes throughout the United States. At Saint Paul's, it has also become a tradition to include a non-competitive Elementary Division for 3rd-6th grades, joining our 7th-12th grade speakers. This year, our Parish Festival will take place on Sunday, March 31, at 11:30 in the Education Center Multipurpose Room. It is not too soon for our students to begin thinking about their presentations now. The topics and research helps for grades 7-12 are found on the metropolis Oratorical website: **<https://SForatorical.net>**. Students in the Elementary Division may speak on any topic of their choice, with a recommended length of 1 minute to 90 seconds. Junior and Senior division speakers will follow the guidelines on the oratorical website. Two speakers in each of the Junior and Senior divisions will represent Saint Paul's in the District Festival in April. From there, one Junior and Senior speaker will move on to the Metropolis festival which will take place in May. We ask parents to encourage their students to take part in a valuable component of our religious education program. It will involve a minimal amount of their time, but the rewards can last a lifetime! Teachers in our 3rd through 6th grade classes will be assisting their students with topics and prompts. Additional assistance with grammar and public speaking tips will be offered to students in grades 7-12 who express an interest in speaking at the Oratorical Festival. For questions or more information, please send an email to: info@stpaulsirvine.org

Visit the church school web page at www.stpaulsirvine.org/churchschool

ST. PAUL'S 2024 LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, March 2, 2024

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: St. Paul's Greek Orthodox
Church Event Center

.....
"Living A Crucified Life"

During the 6 hours in which Christ was on the Cross, He would share with all of us the 7 lifegiving principles we need when we face the crosses of our own lives. Come and learn more about these principles and how to apply them in your hour of need!

.....
Agenda:

First Session

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

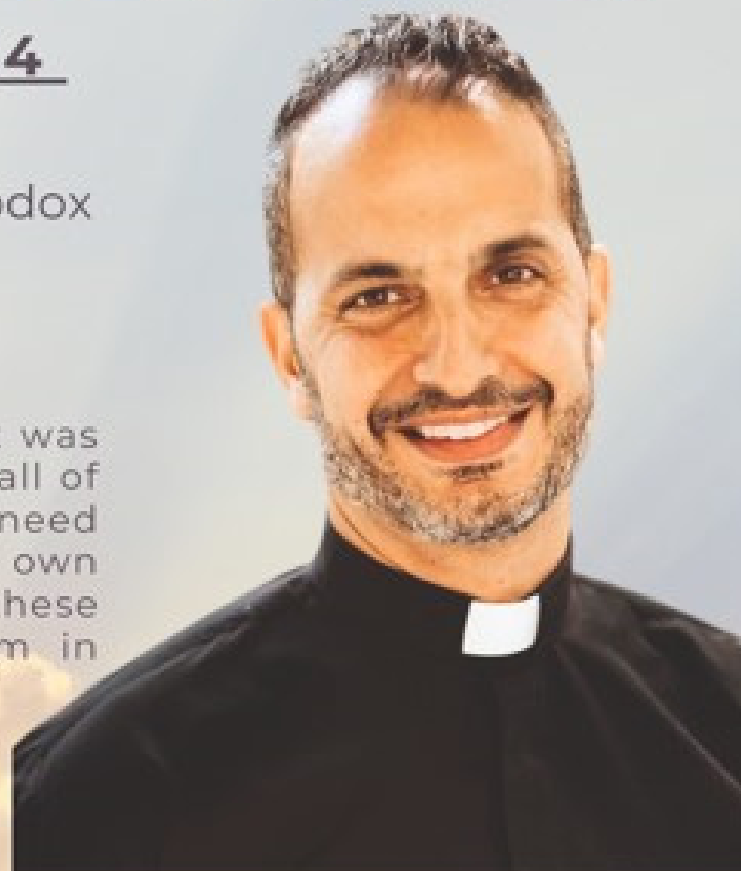
Luncheon and Book Signing

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Second Session

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

.....
Registration \$25



Guest Speaker:

Reverend Dr. Nicholas G. Louh

Senior Priest of St. John The Divine
Greek Orthodox Church in
Jacksonville, FL, Radio Co-Host of
"Live with the Louhs" and Co-
Author of "Renewing You- A Priest,
A Psychologist and A Plan"

www.Youtube.com/@TheLouhs



.....
Register online by scanning the QR Code above or visit:

<http://stpaulsirvine.org/living-a-crucified-life>

Or fill out form and send along with check to:

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City, State, Zipcode** _____

Email Address: _____ **Phone:** _____



SAVE

HUNGER
STRIKE

The

04.20.24
ST. PAUL'S

DATE

2023 MINISTRY LEADERS

THE PARISH COUNCIL

President: George Theodorou

Vice President: Ron Matthews

Treasurer: Jim Eckstaedt

Secretary: John Leventis

Jim Dargavel, George Ekizian, William Fawzy, Maria Gallagher,
Linda Gorbenko, Georgia Halkia, Alexis Konopisos,
Steve Kouracos, Andrew Markis, Ron Tedesco, Steve Tibbs

ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION

President: Mark Hudoff

Vice President: Hugo Aviles

Secretary: Bill Lekas *Treasurer:* Jim Eckstaedt

James Alexiou, John Britigan, Nick Davis, George Ekizian,
Wayne House, Alex Jianas, Anthony Kalomas,
Ted Konopisos, Chris Louis, Leo Lovato, Tom Mallos,
Ron Matthews, Steve Tibbs and Father Steven Tschlis

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Coordinator: Ron Tedesco

Mark Hudoff, Jeff Levine, Lou Machos, Dennis Thomas

PHILOPTOCHOS

(Love for the Poor)

President: Priscilla Tedesco *Advisor:* Barbara House

First V.P.: Hresula Hudoff *Second V.P.:* Cherise Matthews

Recording Secretary: Bea Dargavel

Corresponding Secretary: Monica Leontas

Treasurer: Laura Leventis *Assistant Treasurer:* Nada Gerig

Chaplain: Anita Der Kevorkian

Katia Abatjoglou, Katherine Boucher, Kia Davis, Rama
Debbaneh, Anita Der Kevorkian, Ginny Farmer-Tomich,
Georgia Halkia, Maria Koutures, Denise Leara, Linda Livadas,
Helen Louis, Dianne Markis, Kristin Santana, Carol Sekeris,
and Barbara Wood

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

(Mission is Possible)

Chairman: Alex Gorbenko

Secretary: Nadine Mwesigwa

Treasurer: Linda Gorbenko

St. Photini Well Project: Adam Mwesigwa

AMBASSADORS (AGES 55 AND UP)

Coordinated by: Dean Langis

ST. PAUL'S LIBRARY

Jennifer Mitchell

MEN'S PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Chris Koutures and Chris Stamos

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAMS

Monday Night Bible Study: Eve Tibbs

Women's Bible Study: Eve Tibbs

Orthodox Koinonia Bible Study: Dean Langis

ST. PAUL'S BOOKSTORE

Joanne Lorton and Denise Oller

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Orthodox Christianity 101: Fr. Steve & Mark Nauroth

Orthodox/Catholic Book Club: Fr. Steve

Women's Study Fellowship: Dorothea Love

GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Coordinator: Presvytera Elaine Stephanides

CHURCH CATECHETICAL SCHOOL

Executive Director: Eve Tibbs

Directors: Denise Canellos, Andrea Fouts, Jim Leontas,

Dorothea Love, Cherise Matthews, MaryAnne Smith,
and Steve Tibbs

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Georgia Theodorou

Youth Leader: Hannah Manneh

Acolytes: John Britigan, Dean Langis

Hope and Joy: Bea Dargavel

Young Adult Ministries: Kevin & Maria Gallagher, Ken Jenkins,
Eleni Katalari, Selene Lawrence, Claire Pearson, Ben Rausch,
Tim Vleisides

CHOIR/CHURCH MUSIC

Director: Eve Tibbs

President: Stacy Gentry

Vice-President: Steve Borchert

Treasurer: John Smith

Secretary: Nanette Bowman

Youth Choir Director: Andrea Fouts

Assistant Director: Jennifer Hampson

BREAD FOR THE LITURGY

Coordinator: Deacon Daniel Cunningham

WELCOME MINISTRY

Coordinators: George Ekizian and Dea Wemmer

USHER MINISTRY

Coordinator: Leo Lovato

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Ted Konopisos, Archon Ieronymos

Steve Tibbs, Archon Orphanotrophos

GREEK FOLKDANCE

Children

Coordinator: Georgia Theodorou






Instructors: Cassiani Kateyiannis & Spiro Sun

Adults

Coordinators: Georgia Halkia & Spiro Sun

February

In the Year of our Lord 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Bible Study, 10 am via Zoom Men's Prayer Fellowship, 7:30 pm Orthodox Koinonia Bible Study on Psalms & Proverbs, 7:30 pm	2  Presentation of the Lord to the Temple Morning Prayer, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom	3
4  15th Sunday of St. Matthew Morning Prayer, 8:30 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am Church School 11 am YA Podcast Forum, 11:45 am Philopochos Membership and Merlot Lunch	5 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Study Fellowship, 11 am Festival Meeting, 6 pm Monday Night Bible Study, 7:30 pm	6 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom	7 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Orthodox Christianity 101, 7 pm	8 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Bible Study, 10 am via Zoom Orthodox Koinonia Bible Study on Psalms & Proverbs, 7:30 pm	9 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom YA Board Game Night, 7 pm	10 St. Paul's Pilgrimage to the Life-Giving Spring Monastery at St. Nicholas Ranch, 8:15 am
11  16th Sunday of St. Matthew Morning Prayer, 8:30 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am Church School, 11 am YA Basketball & Bible Study after Church Greek Dance Preview Lunch after Church	12 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Monday Night Bible Study, 7:30 pm	13 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Catholic/Orthodox Book Club, 7 pm	14 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Orthodox Christianity 101, 7 pm	15 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Bible Study, 10 am via Zoom Ambassadors Tour of St. John's in Anaheim with Lunch at Porto's Café, 11 am Men's Prayer Fellowship, 7:30 pm Orthodox Koinonia Bible Study on Psalms & Proverbs, 7:30 pm	16 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom	17
18  Sunday of the Canaanite Woman Morning Prayer, 8:30 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am Church School, 11 am YA Podcast Forum, 11:45 am	19 Presidents Day Church Office Closed Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Monday Night Bible Study, 7:30 pm	20 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Study Fellowship, 11 am Choir Appreciation Dinner and Practice, 6 pm Parish Council, 6 pm	21 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Orthodox Christianity 101, 7 pm	22 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Bible Study, 10 am via Zoom Ambassadors Classical Music Matinée at St. Paul's with Lunch at North Italia, 11 am Orthodox Koinonia Bible Study on Psalms & Proverbs, 7:30 pm	23 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom	24
25  Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Morning Prayer, 8:30 am Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am Church School, 11 am Youth Fellowship, 11:30 YA Podcast Forum 11:30 YA Basketball & Bible Study after Church	26 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Monday Night Bible Study, 7:30 pm	27 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom "From Ruin to Redemption" Teen Bible Study, 5 pm	28 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Orthodox Christianity 101, 7 pm	29 Praying the Psalms 9 am via Zoom Women's Bible Study, 10 am via Zoom Orthodox Koinonia Bible Study on Psalms & Proverbs, 7:30 pm		



Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

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To find ourselves,
we must offer ourselves.

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania