

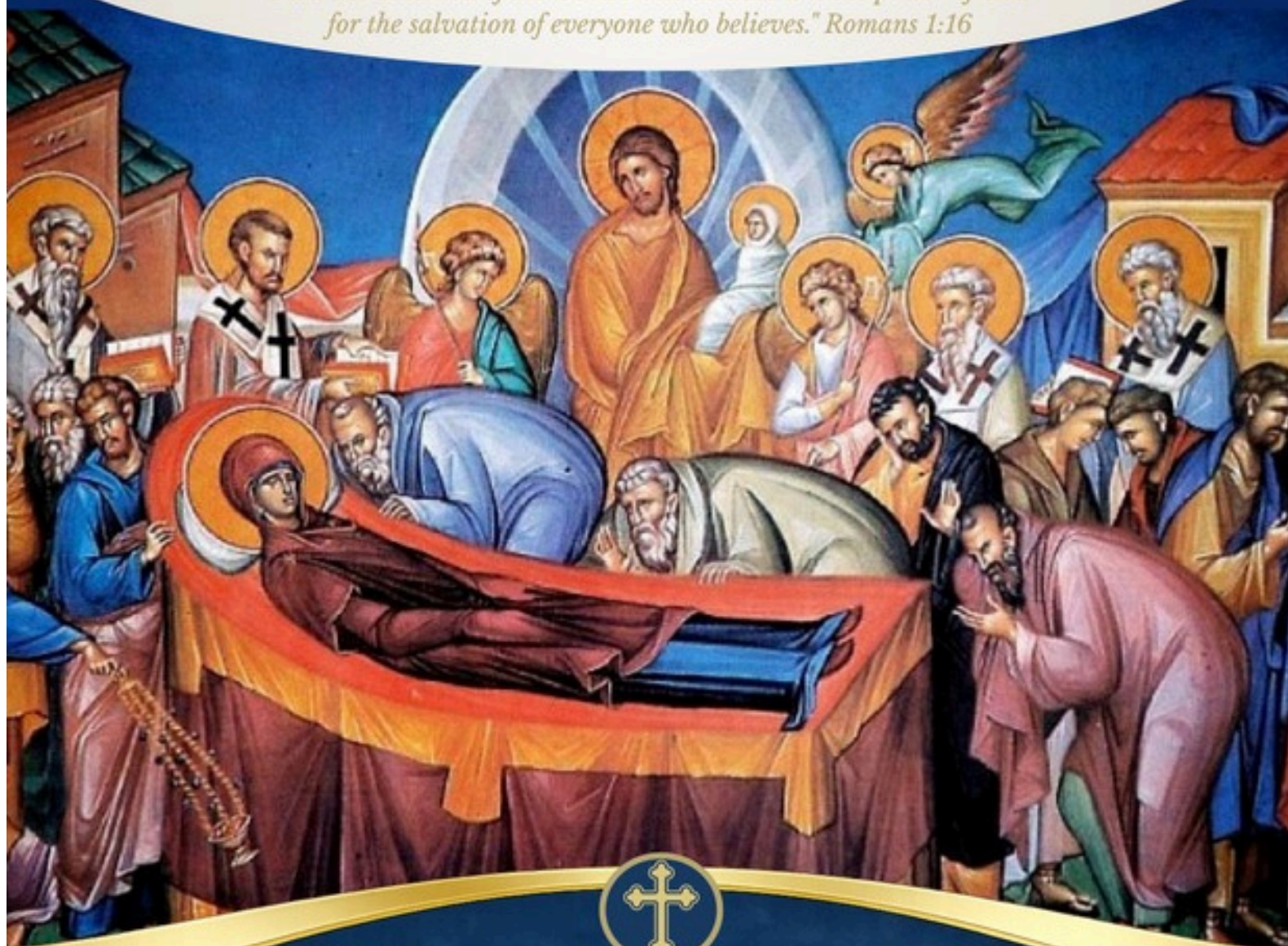


THE GOOD NEWS

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Monthly Bulletin | August 2026

*"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*



DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

AUGUST 15

*"Neither the tomb, nor death had power over the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her
intercessions and an unchanging hope in her protection. For as the Mother of Life, she was
translated into life by Him who dwelt in her ever-virginal womb." Kontakion of the Feast*



WORSHIP
TOGETHER



GROW
IN FAITH



LOVE
& SERVE

PARISH INFORMATION

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
4949 Alton Parkway Irvine, California 92604-8606

Office Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday – Friday

Office Telephone: (949) 733-2366

www.stpaulsirvine.org

Father Steven Tsichlis, Pastor

Father Justin Bosl, Associate Pastor

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

Ellen Peters, Office Administrator

Melanie Devlopoulos, Office Assistant and Denise Oller, Office Assistant

Scott Lee, Facilities Operations Manager

ORTHODOX CHURCH FATHERS



If God the Father chose Her, God the Holy Spirit descended upon Her, and God the Son dwelt in Her, submitted to Her in the days of His youth, was concerned for Her when hanging on the Cross - then should not everyone who confesses the Holy Trinity venerate Her?

St. John Maximovitch

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST ON MOUNT TABOR



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST ON MOUNT TABOR IS CELEBRATED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 6th

After six days, Jesus took Peter, James and John
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

There He was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun
and His clothes became as white as light..

And there appeared before them
Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

- (Matthew 17:1-3)

In the icon of Christ's transfiguration upon Mt. Tabor—as in the feast of light to which it is liturgically attached—the entire “logic” of Eastern Christian theology, devotion, worship, and mysticism is uniquely concentrated. This is not to say that the icon is either aesthetically or doctrinally more important than any number of other canonical Byzantine icons, such as that of the risen Lord liberating souls from Hades, or that of the Crucifixion, or that of the Mother of God with the infant Christ in her arms, and so on; but it is to say that, as an object of contemplation, the Transfiguration image comprises within itself the whole story of creation, incarnation, and salvation in a particular way, with a special harmony of elements, and with a singular intensity. It allows us, in one fixed instant of visionary clarity, to see and to reflect upon the entire mystery of the God-Man and of the divinization of our humanity in Him. The light that radiates from the figure of Christ is the eternal glory of His godhead shining through—and entirely pervading—His flesh. It is the visible beauty of the glory that entered the world to tabernacle among us in the Person of the eternal Son: the same glory that passed through the history of Israel, that transfigured the face of Moses, that dwelt in the Temple in Jerusalem, that rested upon the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant, that overshadowed Mary when the angel of God appeared to her, and that has at various times throughout the history of the Church revealed itself to and in the saints.

The icon also, however, offers us a glimpse of the eschatological horizon of salvation; for the same light that the three disciples were permitted to see break forth from the body of Christ will, in the fullness of time, enter into and transform all of creation, with that glory that the Son had with the Father before the world began (John 17:5), and that the whole of creation awaits with groans of longing and travail (Romans 8: 19-23). Then, to use an image favored by a host of Orthodox spiritual writers, the entire universe will be like the burning bush seen by Moses: radiant with the fire of God's holiness, but not consumed. And the Christian who prayerfully turns his gaze to the Transfiguration icon, and holds it there, should see himself taken up into the incarnate God, and refashioned after the ancient beauty of the divine image. For, just as it is Christ's humanity that is transfigured in the light of his divinity, without thereby ceasing to be human, so too our human nature is called to an intimate union with the divine nature; we are created, that we may be deified in Christ. And so, the icon is at once a revelation of God made man, and of all of us made gods in Him. In it, we see how the kenosis of the eternal Son—His self-outpouring in the poverty and frailty of infancy, manhood, weariness, sorrow, suffering and death—is also simultaneously our plerosis, our fulfillment—the filling of our nature with the imperishable splendor of divine beauty and limitless life, the light of rebirth and of resurrection.

In a very profound sense, the entire life of the Christian should be an ascent of Mt. Tabor, a penitent yet joyous approach to the Christ who is Himself the Temple of the Glory, from whom the Shekinah that resided in the Holy of Holies is now shed forth upon all of creation, and into whose presence we are now able to enter without being slain. The icon of the Transfiguration should draw us into an ever-deeper contemplation of who Christ is, what light comes with Him into the world, how we are to see and be seen in that light, and how we are to be changed by it. To gaze at the icon in the correct attitude of devotion, and momentarily removed from all profane concerns, is to acquire the proper orientation of our vision, thought, desire, and will: the face of God, the splendor of the Kingdom, the divine destiny that is the vocation of the living soul. The icon of the Transfiguration is one visible aspect of an infinite summons, calling us to a God of inexhaustible goodness, in whom we always live, move, and have our being, and into whom we are meant to venture forever, into an ever-greater embrace of His beauty, passing from glory to glory, eternally.

In a sense, every iconographer is always engaged, in some sense, in depicting the Transfiguration, no matter which image he or she is "writing." Byzantine iconography, as scarcely needs be said, is an extraordinarily stylized form of art, and this is so for a very particular reason: the figures of the icon are not meant to be seen in a natural light, or even in natural perspective. They are, rather, images in which we see the events and persons of scripture and of ecclesial history as, on the one hand, concrete and earthly and, on the other, ethereal, and heavenly. The icon is—at least, according to the piety of the Eastern Christian world—a window upon eternity, mediating between the present and the Kingdom that is to come. And, through this window, not only do we look from this world into the Kingdom; our gaze is met by the eyes of another, who looks out from the Kingdom and holds us in his or her gaze in turn (for every icon, according to the theology of the East, is somehow a true "face" of the person it portrays). Every icon, therefore, is already a transfiguration, a dreamlike marriage between the terrestrial and the celestial, and between the temporal and the eternal. The Transfiguration icon itself, therefore, is in a sense the most "transparent" of icons—even, one might suggest, the icon par excellence.

- David Bentley Hart

Author of *Atheist Delusions* and *The Beauty of the Infinite*

THE AUGUST FAST TO HONOR THE THEOTOKOS

Father Alexander Schmemmann (1921-1983) has written: "In August the Church celebrates the end of Mary's earthly life, her death, known in our Tradition as her "Falling Asleep" - a Biblical phrase used by the Lord Jesus Himself to describe death - in which dream, peace, calm, blessedness and joy are all united. On the feast of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, the Church's commemoration and love are centered on the essence and meaning of her death, commemorating the death of the woman whose Son, according to our faith, conquered death, was raised from the dead and promised us final resurrection and the victory of undying and immortal life. For centuries the Church has looked upon, reflected on and been inspired by the death of the One who was the mother of Jesus, who gave life to our Savior and Lord, who gave herself totally to Him to the very end and stood by Him at the Cross. And in contemplating her death the Church discovered and experienced death as neither fear, nor horror, nor finality, but radiant and authentic Resurrection joy. So, we sing of her death: "What spiritual songs shall we now offer you, O most holy Theotokos? For by your deathless falling asleep you have sanctified the whole world..." Here, in one of the first hymns of the feast we immediately find expressed the very essence of its joy as a "deathless falling asleep," a deathless death. But what is the meaning of the contradictory, apparently absurd conjunction of these words? In the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, the whole joyful mystery of her death (and ours) is revealed to us and becomes our joy, for Mary the Virgin Mother, is one of us. If death is the horror of separation, of descent into terrible loneliness and darkness, then none of this is present in the death of the Virgin Mary, since her death, like her entire life, is all encounter, all love, all continuous movement toward the unfading, never-setting Light of eternity and her entrance into it. With the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, death is no longer death. Death radiates with eternity and immortality. Death is not separation but union. Not sorrow but joy. Not defeat, but victory—the victory of the risen Christ. This is then what we celebrate on the day of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, the most pure, blessed and Ever-Virgin Mother of Christ: the victory over death given in Christ, the Son of God, who in the Holy Scriptures is also described as the Word, Icon, Wisdom, and Power of the one, true and living God."

THE FAST: From August 1st to the 14th the Church prescribes the following fast: we abstain from all meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, fish, wine, alcoholic beverages and oil. Shellfish may be eaten throughout the fast. Wine and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays only. On the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ on Wednesday, August 6th, because it is such a great celebration in the liturgical life of our Church, fish, wine and oil are permitted. Please make every effort to fast according to the best of your ability and to increase your prayer life, practice kindness, do good works and come to the Sacrament of Holy Confession during this holy season of rededicating ourselves to Christ and the victory of His Resurrection!

THE PARAKLESIS/SUPPLICATION SERVICES TO THE THEOTOKOS

Plan to attend the beautiful Paraklesis/Supplication services to the blessed Virgin Mary during the August Fast to honor her this year. In this service we ask the Theotokos to pray for us, to intercede for us—and our loved ones. Thus, we print the names of our loved ones (living) and bring them to these services for the priest to pray for them. The Supplication Services to the Theotokos are at 6pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Monday, August 3rd through Wednesday, the 12th.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO KENYA

Our 2026 Missionary Trip to Kenya
By Linda Gorbenko

Late on the night on February 15th, 2026, my husband, Alex, and I arrived at the Nairobi airport and met Adam Mwesigwa, who flew in from Uganda. The purpose of our trip was to meet with the clergy in Kenya and to visit the villages in the Turkana region where we have developed four solar-powered water wells. The next edition of the Good News will feature an article on that portion of our trip in the Turkana region, but first this story deserves a narrative on the extraordinary background of His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios of Kenya and history of the Orthodox Diocese and Seminary in Nairobi.

Before arriving in Nairobi, we had been granted permission to stay at the Orthodox Diocese by Archbishop Makarios. Upon arriving, after 1am in the morning, we were surprised to be greeted at such a late hour by Archbishop Makarios himself, who is 81 years old and recently suffered a serious, extended illness. As customary, Alex and I asked for his blessing. Adam also asked for his blessing only to have His Eminence give Adam a big hug and exclaimed, "welcome home my seminarian!" I was shocked, since at the time, I didn't know, our own Adam Mwesigwa was a graduate of the second class at the Orthodox Seminary in Nairobi.

His Eminence was born in 1945 as Andreas Tyllrides in Limassol, Cyprus. He studied Theology at the Orthodox Theological Institute of St. Sergius in Paris, graduating in 1972. During this time he also studied Theology at the Sorbonne in Paris. He continued his post graduate studies in Church History under His Eminence, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, and received his PHD from Oxford University in 1976.

In 1977, as a layperson professor, Andreas was sent by the late Archbishop Makarios III of Cyprus to Riruta in Nairobi Kenya to help establish the Orthodox Seminary. He stayed in this position until 1997 helping to build the Seminary in Riruta, a residential neighborhood about 6 miles west of the Nairobi city center. At the time it was considered the slums of Nairobi.

Andreas, who was also a gifted concert pianist and speaks Greek, English, French, Russian and Italian fluently, had intended to pursue a career as a Professor of Theology. Instead, Andreas was obedient to his spiritual father, St. Sophrony the Athonite of Essex. St. Sophrony, knowing that he was going to pass from this life and was about to have his final confession with Andreas, said to him, "Andreas, they are going to ask you to become a bishop in Africa, don't say no". Naturally, this took Andreas by surprise. He replied, "how can this be? I am a lay person; I don't even have a beard".



St. Sophrony of Essex, with his spiritual son, Andreas Tyllrides, today Archbishop Makarios of Kenya.

On July 19, 1992, Professor Andreas was tonsured a monk with the name Makarios and ordained a deacon. The next day, July 20, 1992, he was ordained into the Holy Priesthood. Five days later, on July 25, 1992, the Holy Synod agreed, and he was consecrated Bishop of Riruta. In 1998, he was elected Bishop of Zimbabwe and Exarch of South Africa which at the time included Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and Malawi. In 2001, he returned to Kenya and was consecrated Archbishop of Kenya on February 22nd of that year.



Andreas Tyllrides (Archbishop Makarios) in 1984 with members from the 2nd class of the Orthodox Seminary in Nairobi. The Seminarians are preparing for their first missionary trip. Adam Mwsigwa, is far right, wearing a brown coat.

Under the leadership of Archbishop Makarios, the Orthodox community of Kenya is the most numerous on the African continent and consists of about a million parishioners out of a population of 35 million. The Seminary in Nairobi has 225 Catechists from all over Africa for a rigorous 3-year program in Orthodox Theology. It is a perfect example of our Lord's command "to make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 29:19).

In addition to the Seminary, the vast Diocese campus contains the Cathedral of Saints Cosmas and Damian, a Health Center, the Orthodox College for Africa Teacher Training and an elementary and middle school. The elementary and middle school educates over 450 of the most impoverish children in the area, many of whom are refugees of war. Here they receive a free education, including uniforms and books and two meals a day. For many of the children, this is their main or only source of daily food. The diocese grounds also contains a Technical College, which is operated by the Kenyan government. The diocese also houses the OCMC team translating the Divine Liturgy to many African languages.

His Eminence's love, care and unwavering devotion to the African people is truly inspiring and a perfect example of God's command to love and care for one another. He has dedicated his life to sharing the Gospel with a countless number of people who have converted to Orthodoxy because of his being a living witness to God's love. In addition to the five European languages Archbishop Makarios speaks, he also speaks more than a dozen local African languages. Spending time with him was an absolute blessing and an immense honor. Seeing firsthand what it truly means to live as an Orthodox Christian is something I will always cherish.



From right to left, Father Evangelos, Adam Mwsigwa, Archbishop Makarios, Alex Gorbenko, and Linda Gorbenko at Orthodox Diocese, Nairobi, February 2026.

I am very excited to announce that St. Paul's will have the honor to host Father Evangelos, the Deputy Dean and a Senior Lecturer and Professor, at the Orthodox Seminary in Nairobi. Father Evangelos is a graduate of the Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline MA with a Master of Theology and earned a Doctorate Degree in Theology from the University of Eastern Finland. He will attend vespers at St. Paul's on Saturday, August 29th and the Divine Liturgy on August 30th. There will be a luncheon following Liturgy in his honor!

Please join us and learn more about the remarkable growth of the Orthodox Church in Africa.

**FOCUS
FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

Sign up for St. Paul's Feeding the Hungry!



WHEN / WHERE? Sunday, August 23

11:30 am - 1:30 pm cooking

at St. Paul's Event Center kitchen
after Divine Liturgy

2 pm - 4pm set-up & meal service

at Christ Pacific Church
20112 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach

To sign up to cook and/or serve
the meal, scan here... or go to

<https://tinyurl.com/ap8jbup9>



MENU: Greek pasta (makaronatha),
salad, rolls & butter, fresh fruit, and
an ice cream sundae bar for 60 people

Food Items Needed

(to donate, email Poita Cernius, pcernius@twc.com)

2 - 3lb. bags mixed salad greens	seasoning mix (ask)
2 - 10 oz. bags shredded carrots	3 packages, 24 rolls each, of Kings Hawaiian Savory Rolls
8 tomatoes	3 gallons ice cream-any flavor
2 large watermelons	5 dozen brownies
12 lbs. ground beef	1 bag mini marshmallows
8 lbs rigatoni pasta	2 jars maraschino cherries
8 onions	1 - 13 oz cannister whipped cream
2 bunches parsley	chocolate sauce & sprinkles
48 oz. tomato paste	
28 oz. grated parmesan	

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I pray that everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Summer is a wonderful opportunity to take time away from our fast-paced lives and find the time to spend with loved ones and slow down, relax and make lasting memories. During these quiet times over the summer, reflect and be thankful for all of our blessings including the importance of faith in our lives, the importance of our health & well-being, the importance of spending quality time with family and friends and the realization that God is with us in everything we do.

As I mentioned last month, our festival was absolutely fantastic on all fronts. While we are still finalizing some of our expenses, it is clear that the festival was successful financially and is on track to surpass our budgeted profit of \$95k. In addition, I wanted to emphasize that we had a record number of festival attendees and a record number of those attending Church tours which is an equally amazing outcome. Last but certainly not least, thank you to all of our volunteers who worked very hard and through it all were happy, helpful and welcoming to all of our guests. Thank you to everyone that made Irvine Greek Fest such an incredible event.

We have a number of activities this month and I want to specifically highlight our annual St. Paul's Golf Tournament on Friday, August 21st at Tijeras Creek Golf Club in Rancho Santa Margarita. Please join us for golf or come for dinner and enjoy a night out with our Parish family. Thank you to Ron Matthews and his team for leading our Golf Tournament and providing us the opportunity to make new memories.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer and thank you for your continued love and support of St. Paul's.

In His Service,
George A. Theodorou
President, Parish Council

YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE

SAINT PAUL'S YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE ✝

A ministry serving adults ages 18-35

THERE IS A HOME FOR YOU IN OUR COMMUNITY



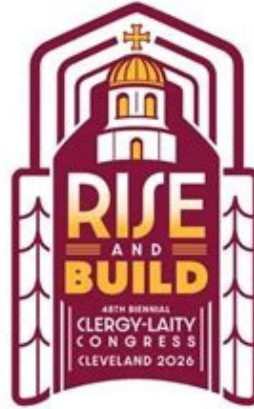
LEARN ABOUT GATHERINGS & KEEP IN TOUCH

Join our WhatsApp chat to learn about upcoming events & more!

Irvine Orthodox Young Adult League



2026 CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS



The 2026 Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland by Megan Bonyngé

"Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." - 1 Peter 4:9-10

Being elected by our parish general assembly to represent St. Paul's at the biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Archdiocese of America was a humbling and unexpected honor. Although I had already planned to attend as an exhibitor with Agape Wellness Collective, being asked, as a newer member and a convert, to attend to represent a parish as well-known and as respected as St. Paul's, was truly a gift. Being able to see how the Church comes together in the 21st Century, same as she did in the 1st Century (just with better coffee and modern restrooms!), offers a profound witness to the synodal method of discussion, government, and decision-making.

Although Fr. Steve likes to say that "we are not an organized religion!", the Plenary Session presented information on the financial recovery, stability, and growth of the Archdiocese, its many ministries, and future endeavors, including increasing our hard-working clergies' pensions. Although there were some "spirited discussions" regarding the Archdiocesan budget, what I eventually saw unfold before my own eyes was a modern-day mini-manifestation of the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15. Eventually, hearts were softened, minds were turned, eyes were opened, and votes were unified.

During the Hierarchical Liturgy, hundreds of our clergy, including Fr. Justin, served together as brothers, with our Bishops being presented with matching epigonation for the feast of the Synaxis of the 12 Apostles. Although I could not attend as much as I'd have liked, the Congress was packed full of rich information related to new curriculum for Church Schools, disability ministries, Byzantine Chant, the church at home, and much, much more.

The other thing that stood out to me was that each person I spoke with who asked where I was from immediately and visibly brightened when they learned I was from Irvine; Father Steve, Father Justin, Steve & Eve Tibbs, Presvytera Elaine, Joanne Lovejoy, and countless others are so beloved by so many across our archdiocese that they cannot help but love anyone who is connected with them. And who are we without Love? Just noise, something to be silenced (c.f. 1 Corinthians 13:1). Connecting with, learning from, being surrounded by so many beautiful people of faith, so many Christocentric ministries, has inspired and strengthened me for my own journey ahead. And I think this is the point of Clergy-Laity; as the Body of Christ, although we are physically separated by geography, time zones, sometimes language or tradition, we cannot be separated due to our Love. This is why we chose the name "Agape" for our nonprofit mental health ministry - simply meeting the needs of our neighbor, seeing Christ in each other, bringing Christ to each other. If we use our gifts for each others' benefit, if we care for our neighbor without regard for personal cost, we are the good stewards who have hope to be worthy of the blessed words: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:23).



HIKE WITH FATHER JUSTIN!



HIKE *with Fr. Justin*



AUGUST 1, 2026



9:00 AM



CRYSTAL COVE BLUFF TRAIL

(EASY, OCEAN VIEW)

PARKING AT LOT 4

CRYSTAL COVE STATE BEACH

(\$20.00)



THE AKATHIST HYMN

GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS



COFFEE AFTERWARD

AT PARAKEET CAFE

IN CRYSTAL COVE

SHOPPING CENTER



RSVP REQUIRED!

visit: stpaulsirvine.org/hike



*Faith, Fellowship, and the Beauty
of God's Creation*





Pan-Orthodox Backpack Packing & Pizza Party!

On August 2nd at 2:00 PM, you are invited for a Pizza and Packing Party hosted at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA. As we aim to support the children in your city, we want to come together as one community, as the church to support the children in our area. We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions?
Contact
Father Justin
frjustin@stpaulsirvine.org

Date:

Sunday, August 2nd, 2:00 PM

Where:

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



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE

MOMS POPS AND TOTS

Starting August 8th our moms pops and tots will meet at 10am
in the community room at St Pauls Greek Orthodox Church

Moms, Pops & Tots

Join us for a joyful morning of fellowship, play, and
community at our Greek Orthodox Church!

Enjoy:

Snacks & refreshments

Playtime for little ones

Connection with other families

A special talk and encouragement from Father Justin
Whether you are looking to meet other parents, build
friendships, or simply enjoy a welcoming Christ centered
community, we would love to have you join us.

Come grow in faith, family, and fellowship together!

MOMS NIGHT OUT
AUGUST 17TH
7:00PM
PAINT AND SIP
LOCATION TBD

DADS NIGHT OUT
AUGUST 27TH
7PM
HANGER 24 IN IRVINE

TOTS PLAY DATE
AUGUST 14TH
12 PM
OSO PARK

TEXT NIKI WILLIAM WITH
QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION
214-514-7379

46TH ANNUAL IRVINE GREEK FESTIVAL

With another Irvine Greek Festival now behind us, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on what our parish family accomplished together. On behalf of the Irvine Greek Festival Committee, thank you to every volunteer, donor, sponsor, and parishioner whose time, talent, and generosity made our 46th annual festival such a wonderful success.

Throughout the three-day weekend, more than 8,800 guests joined us, many visiting St. Paul's for the very first time. While they came to enjoy authentic Greek food, music, dancing, and fellowship, they also experienced something far more meaningful – the welcoming spirit of our parish. Every smile, conversation, and helping hand demonstrated the love and hospitality that are at the heart of our Orthodox Christian faith.

Our festival is much more than a community celebration. It is an opportunity to open our doors, welcome our neighbors, and share Christ's love through service. Whether preparing meals, greeting guests, performing with our dance groups, leading church tours, or working behind the scenes, each volunteer played a role in reflecting Christ's light. These simple acts of kindness often become the most lasting memories our visitors take home and serve as a powerful witness to our faith.

This year, we continued to enhance the festival experience by introducing online ticket sales, expanding our menu with the addition of falafel, welcoming Christopher Bangos on the bouzouki to entertain guests waiting in the dinner line, and offering two additional Greek cooking demonstrations. These improvements were only possible because of the countless hours our dedicated volunteers invested before and throughout the festival.

Thank you again to our entire St. Paul's family for your unwavering commitment and servant's heart. May God continue to bless our parish, strengthen our fellowship, and guide us as we share His love with all who enter our doors. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful Irvine Greek Festival next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Markis'.

Andrew Markis
Festival Chairman

POTLUCK FOLLOWING
SATURDAY VESPERS



Church Potluck Following 5:30 pm Vespers

Saturdays in August, Parish Hall

AMBASSADORS



ST. PAUL'S AMBASSADORS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE DIVINE LITURGY OF THE TRANFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AT 10 AM (MATINS, 9 AM) ON **THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH** TO BE FOLLOWED BY OUR LENTEN LUNCH AT THE CALIFORNIA FISH GRILL IN IRVINE!

Our St. Paul's Ambassadors invite all our parishioners and all our friends from our sister parishes to please join us at St. Paul's for the Divine Liturgy of the Transfiguration of our Lord—one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church Year after Pascha—at 10 am (Matins, 9 am) on **Thursday, August 6th**.



After Church we plan to go for our Lenten luncheon at around 11:45 am near St. Paul's at the delightful California Fish Grill at 3988 Barranca Pkwy, Irvine, CA 92606; [949- 654-3838](tel:949-654-3838); [949- 654-3838](tel:949-654-3838) <https://www.cattfishgrill.com/>. You may see all the wonderful reviews on the California Fish Grill in Irvine by clicking onto <https://www.yelp.com/biz/california-fish-grill-irvine-7>. We can all meet there for lunch and order whatever we wish from their inexpensive menu so that can we each pay our own bill separately. Kindly RSVP to Dean Langis at [949-733-2366](tel:949-733-2366) or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org .
Thank you. Please come and bring a friend for a great day!

AMBASSADORS



ST. PAUL'S TRIP TO THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL FOR THEIR DELIGHTFUL PROGRAM OF "GERSHWIN, BERNSTEIN AND MORE" ON **TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH** AT 8 PM!

Please join us for a marvelous evening at the Hollywood Bowl's program of "Gershwin, Bernstein and More" on **Tuesday, August 18th** at 8 pm featuring Peter Boyer's "American Mosaic," Leonard Bernstein's "Overture to Candide," George Gershwin's "An American in Paris," and Leonard Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances from West Side Story" with Gianandrea Noseda conducting the National Symphony Orchestra. You may either drive directly to the Hollywood Bowl and park at the Hollywood Bowl itself or at one of the shuttle bus parking lots ("Bowl Shuttle") near the Bowl. Or if you do not wish to drive to the Hollywood Bowl you may take one of the "Park and Ride" buses from numerous locations—please visit <https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/visit/getting-here#> for all these various options. I suggest that you simply purchase your tickets that evening at one of the ticket windows at the Hollywood Bowl itself since the tickets will definitely be available—there should be no fear of the Hollywood Bowl selling out on a Tuesday evening. But if you do wish to pre-purchase your tickets (and pay the astronomical fee for doing so!), you may do so by clicking onto <https://my.hollywoodbowl.com/en/syos2/performance/11387>. Please be sure to purchase your \$12 tickets in Section Q1, Row 9 so that all of us may sit together in the same row. For any further information please contact Dean Langis at [949-733-2366](tel:949-733-2366) or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org. Please bring the whole family for a lovely evening!



ST. PAUL'S CLASSICAL MUSIC MATINÉE WITH MOZART'S MASTERPIECE, THE QUINTET FOR PIANO AND WINDS, K. 452, AND AARON COPLAND'S CLARINET CONCERTO, AND FRANCIS POULENC'S SEXTET FOR PIANO AND WINDS WITH OUR FREE SPINACH AND FETA PIZZA (AND MORE!) LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW ON **THURSDAY, AUGUST 20** AT 11 AM!

We invite all our parishioners of all ages and also our friends from our sister parishes to join us on **Thursday, August 20th** at 11 am at St. Paul's for a beautiful program of Classical Musical Masterworks on the big screen at St. Paul's. The beautiful works to be played include what Mozart considered his masterpiece, the Quintet for Piano & Winds, K. 452 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwxOnz9TYAA>. Then we plan to hear the powerful Clarinet Concerto by Aaron Copland that Benny Goodman commissioned as played in its original (and extremely difficult!) version by the superb Norwegian clarinetist Martin Fröst together with the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GnjBLwOjFo>. The first movement alone is heartbreaking in its melancholy eloquence! Then we plan to finish our program with Francis Poulenc's delightful Sextet for Piano and Winds at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-655cmbYA8>. After the concert we plan to have our free pizza luncheon also in the St. Paul's Parish Hall. **If you are able to come, kindly RSVP to me only by calling me and/or leaving me a phone message at [949-733-2366](tel:949-733-2366) so that I can know how many pizzas, etc. to order.** If for any reason you cannot come to St. Paul's in person to this lovely concert, you can listen at home to any or all three of these beautiful musical masterpieces by clicking onto the blue links above. Please come and bring a friend for a lovely day—thank you!

SAINT PAUL'S GOLF CLASSIC

St. Paul's Golf Classic

Register at:
www.stpaulsirvine.org/golf

Sponsorship Opportunities

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

35th Annual St. Paul's Golf Classic

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

TIJERAS CREEK GOLF COURSE
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA

ENJOY A DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

EVENT BEGINS AT 11:00 AM
SHOT GUN START AT 12:30 PM

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BY 7/12/26
RECEIVES 5 FREE GOLF BALL DROPS!

Golf and Dinner \$260 per person

Dinner only \$65 per person

Competition Package \$50 per person

Helicopter Ball Drop \$10 per ball



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Diamond Sponsors - \$10,000

Eagle Sponsors - \$5,000

Birdie Sponsors - \$2,500

Par Sponsors - \$1,000

Event Sponsors - \$500

For full registration and sponsorship details contact:
Ron Matthews or Victor Santana at stpaulsgolftourney@gmail.com

St. Paul's Golf Classic

Register at:
www.stpaulsirvine.org/golf

Sponsorship Opportunities

35th Annual St. Paul's Golf Classic

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026
TIJERAS CREEK GOLF COURSE
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA

Diamond Sponsor - \$10,000

- 2 Foursomes
- 8 Additional Guests for dinner
- 100 balls for the helicopter ball drop
- Tee box signage
- Event recognition in the program

Eagle Sponsor - \$5,000

- 1 Foursome
- 4 Additional Guests for dinner
- 50 balls for the helicopter ball drop
- Tee box signage
- Event recognition in the program

Birdie Sponsor - \$2,500

- 1 Foursome
- 2 Additional Guests for dinner
- 25 balls for the helicopter ball drop
- Tee box signage
- Event recognition in the program

Par Sponsor - \$1,000

- 2 Golfers
- 2 Additional Guests for dinner
- 10 balls for the helicopter ball drop
- Tee box signage
- Event recognition in the program

Event Sponsor - \$500

- 1 Additional Guest for dinner
- 5 balls for the helicopter ball drop
- Tee box signage
- Event recognition in the program



For full registration and sponsorship details contact:
Ron Matthews or Victor Santana at stpaulsgolftourney@gmail.com

Have you ever watched children debate ownership? “It’s mine!” I usually smile at this and find it endearing. Yet on reflection, the exchange means more: it marks the beginning of a child’s understanding of worldly boundaries. Over time, that instinct develops into the secular adult view that what we earn, receive, or accumulate is truly ours. The problem is that this view leaves out God’s providence.

Fr. Thomas Hopko’s “On Stewardship and Philanthropy: Forty Sentences” makes a profound distinction about this idea of “ours”. He argues wonderfully that the foundation of Christian life is the truth that everything belongs to God as Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. All creation, possessions, talents, time, and even our very lives are gifts entrusted to us—not owned by us. Humans, made in God’s image, are called to exercise dominion as stewards, servants, and slaves of Christ, returning to Him. Our roles are that of stewards in Christ’s service and we must embrace this vision and live accordingly.

Both Old and New Testaments confirm this vision: God’s generosity in creation, the tithes and offerings in Israel, Christ’s teachings on the poor, the widow sharing her poverty, the parables of the talents emphasizing the import of thoughtful stewardship and the rich fool who allowed greed to cloud his perspective on blessings and salvation. Giving from our blessings mirrors God’s own self-giving nature.

The lasting message is freedom from attachment. When we acknowledge God’s sovereignty, we are freed from greed, anxiety, and the idolatry of wealth. Stewardship becomes a joyful participation in divine life: caring for creation, supporting the Church’s liturgy and mission, serving those in need, and preparing for the final accounting. Through stewardship we move beyond secular limits and joyfully recognize that we are not owners, but caretakers of God’s grace. I humbly encourage you to embrace this vision by making a pledge or contribution to St. Paul’s stewardship campaign.

Mark Hudoff, St. Paul’s Stewardship Team

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Saint Paul's has shaped your life.

Now you have the opportunity
to shape its future.

A legacy gift ensures that future
generations experience the same
faith, community, and blessings.



Scan the QR Code to learn
how your legacy can live on.



SAINT PAUL'S
ENDOWMENT FUND



2026 Philoptochos: Become a Member of Our Army of Agape...

Have you joined Philoptochos?? Your Membership helps fund the many charities we support at the National, Metropolis, and Chapter levels. Help Philoptochos spread the Light of Christ to all those in need by sharing the love and blessings of our Lord and Savior with others!

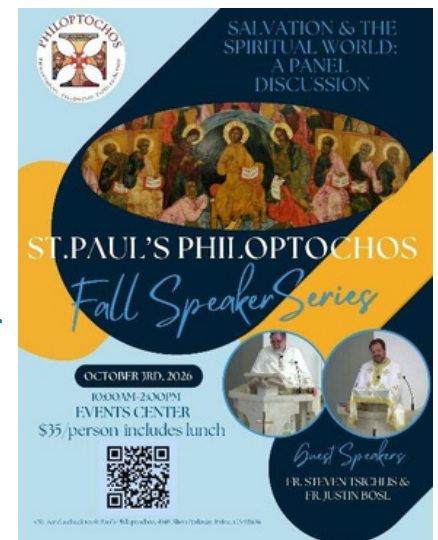
Get Inspired! Get involved! Give from your heart!



Happening soon...we're busy planning for Fall! Starting September 6th, our annual **Belt, Bag & Accessories Drive** begins! Bring your new or gently used handbags, wallets, briefcases, belts, shoes, neckties and scarves to donate to **Working Wardrobes**. We will have 3 large bins in the Parish Hall area throughout the month. Working Wardrobes helps the underserved and homeless prepare for job interviews and provides them with career counseling. Your donations will help support these efforts.

Also... Save this Date: October 3, 2026- Fr. Steve and Fr. Justin will be the featured speakers for our Fall Speaker Series!

They will be discussing the topic "Salvation & the Spiritual World". Don't miss this special event – all are welcome!!



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 LOVE...

Philoptochos IS GIVING...

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 Ladies Philoptochos Society



ST PAUL'S PHILOPTOCHOS' FALL CHARITY PROJECT

BELT, BAG & ACCESSORIES DRIVE

SEPTEMBER 6-SEPTEMBER 27

WHAT TO DONATE

ADULT ITEMS ONLY

GOOD CONDITION and CLEAN

- Business Belts for Men and Women
- Handbags/Briefcases/Wallets
- Neckties/Scarves
- Watches & Dress Shoes



Please help support Working Wardrobes efforts to provide assistance to underserved and homeless in need of career counseling. Your donations will be used to help these individuals prepare for job interviews and future employment

Donate your new or gently used professional accessories and help Working Wardrobes to provide professional wardrobing services to their clients

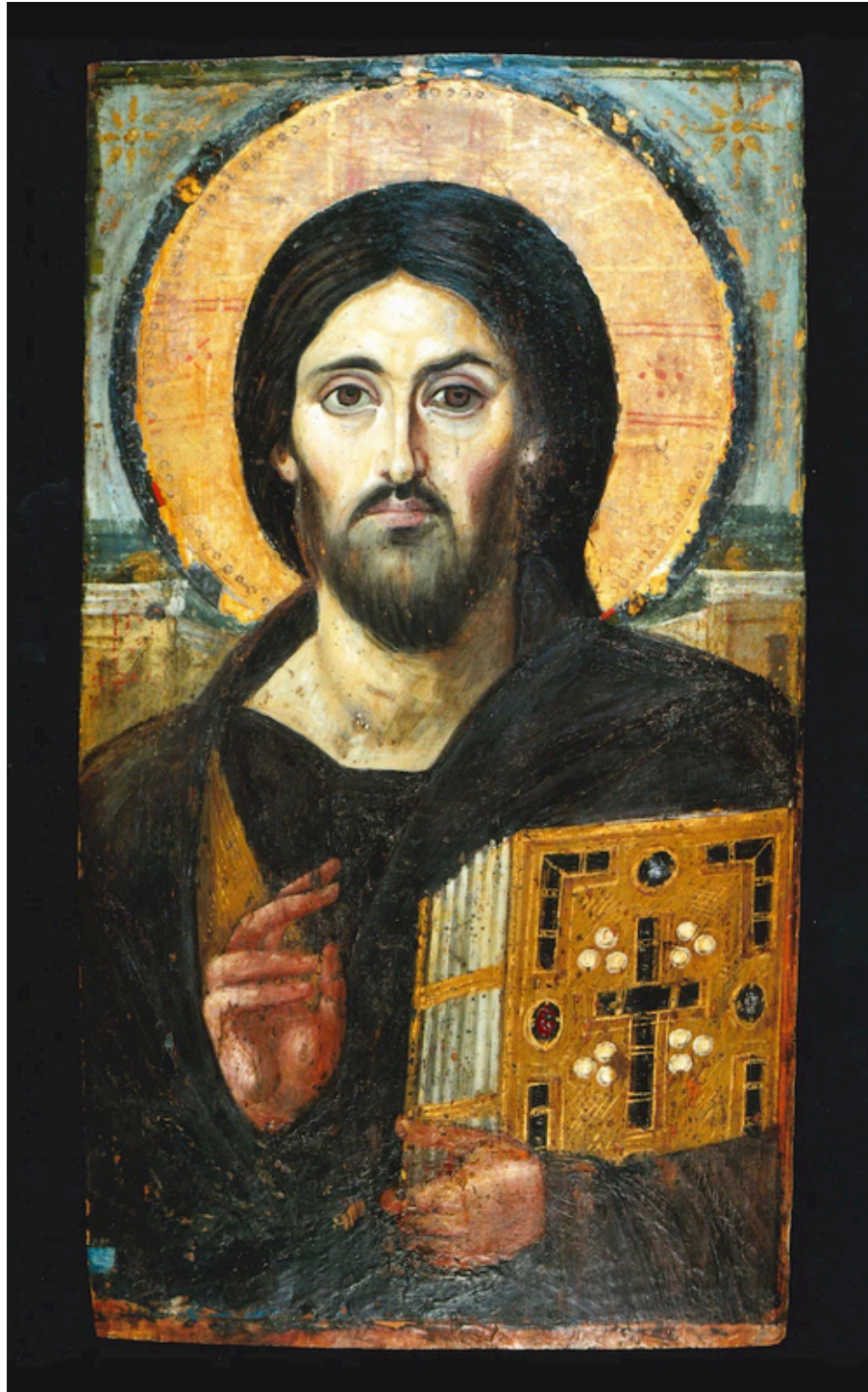
Drop off Donations to the Parish Hall and place in bins provided
REMEMBER-All donations need to be in good condition and clean!



**Thank you for your generosity
and support of this amazing
charity!**



ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101
CLASS



Orthodox Christianity 101
Wednesdays 7:00 pm
www.stpaulsirvine.org

CLASS BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

2026 MINISTRY LEADERS

THE PARISH COUNCIL

President: George Theodorou Vice President: Ron Tedesco
Treasurer: Jim Eckstaedt Secretary: John Leventis
Poita Cernius, Jim Dargavel, George Ekizian, William Fawzy,
Maria Gallagher, Greg Gerig, Mark Hudoff, Alexis Konopisos,
Andrew Markis, Ron Matthews, Steve Tibbs

ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION

President: Mark Hudoff Vice President: Hugo Aviles
Secretary: Bill Lekas Treasurer: Jim Eckstaedt, John Britigan,
Nick Davis, George Debbaneh, George Ekizian, Mona Fahmy,
William Fawzy, Wayne House, Alex Jianas, Anthony Kalomas,
Ted Konopisos, George Kookootsedes, Chris Koutures, Chris Louis,
Leo Lovato, Comas Lykos, Lou Machos, Tom Mallos, Mitri Manneh,
Ron Matthews, David Miller, Chen Sun, Ron Tedesco, George
Theodorou, Dennis Thomas, Steve Tibbs and Father Steven Tschlis

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Hudoff, Brenden Barrett, Jeff Levine, Lou Machos, Jennifer
Mitchell, Claire Pearson, Ron Tedesco

PHILOTOCHOS

(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: Ginny Farmer Tomich
Katia Abatjoglou, Samantha Barrett, Lucy Bataneant,
Megan Bonyng, Kia Davis, Rama Debbaneh, Laura Holland, Denise
Lekas, Helen Louis, Dianne Markis, Marcella Miller and Barbara Wood

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

PRAYER MINISTRIES

The Anchorites: Diane Elias
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. Justin & Mark Nauroth
Women's Study Fellowship: Dorothea Love and Georgia Theodor

GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT

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: Maria Cunningham
Youth Leader: Hannah Manneh
Acolytes: John Britigan, Dean Langis
Hope and Joy: Bea Dargavel
Young Adult Ministries: Spiro Sun, Claire Pearson,
Natalie Cernius, Anastasios Tasigeorgos

CHOIR/CHURCH MUSIC

Director: Eve Tibbs
President: Stacy Gentry
Vice-President: Steve Borchert
Treasurer: John Smith
Secretary: Georgia Theodor
Youth Choir Director: Andrea Fouts
Assistant Director: Jennifer Hampson

BREAD FOR THE LITURGY

Coordinator: Deacon Daniel Cunningham

WELCOME MINISTRY

Coordinators: Ara Derderian, George Ekizian

USHER MINISTRY

Coordinators: Geoff Boucher &
Nick Diamantopoulos

ARCHONS OF THE

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Ted Konopisos, Archon Ieronymos
Steve Tibbs, Archon Orphanotrophos

GREEK FOLKDANCE

Youth Coordinator: Georgia Theodorou
Instructors: Spiro Sun, and Katherine Canellos
Adults
Coordinator: Spiro Sun

GREEK SCHOOL

Coordinator: Maria Papaefthymiou

AUGUST CALENDAR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

9a Hike with Father Justin at
Crystal Cove Bluff Trail and afterward
11a Coffee at Parakeet Cafe
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy
2p-4p FOCUS Service Project -
Backpack Packing & Pizza Party

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Great Vespers

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

TRANSFIGURATION

9a Orthros
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Divine Liturgy followed by
The Blessing of the Grapes
7p Koinonia Bible Study
7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

10a Mom, Pop, Tots/[MEETING](#) Parish Hall
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis
7p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
6:30p Philoptochos Board Meeting
7p Koinonia Bible Study

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
12p Moms, Pops, & [Tots/PLAY DATE](#) at Oso Park
7p Great Vespers at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, Long Beach

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
7p Moms, Pops, & Tots/[MOMS](#) Night Out at Paint &
Sip
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6:30p Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

AUGUST CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
7p Koinonia Bible Study
7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
11a St. Paul's Golf Classic - Event Begins
12:30p St. Paul's Golf Classic Shotgun Start

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

CANCELLED: Vespers and Potluck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
11a Women's Study Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
7p Koinonia Bible Study
7p Moms, Pops, & Tots/[POPS](#) Night Out at Hanger 24, Irvine

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

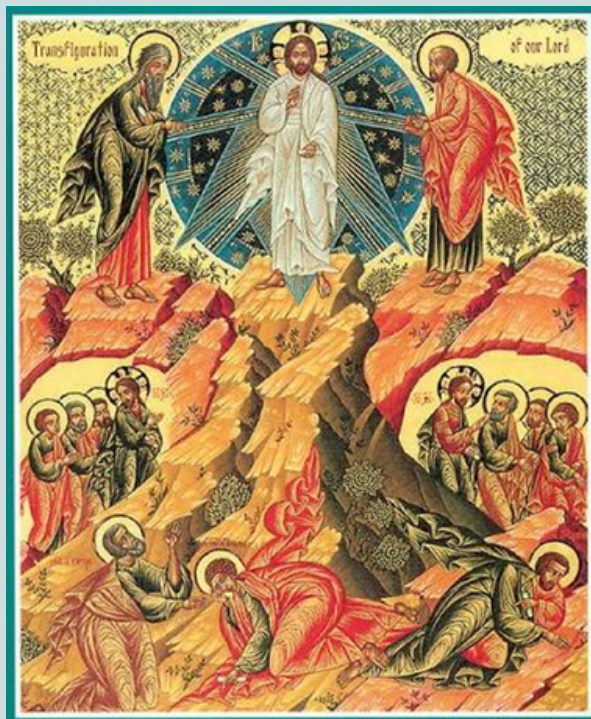
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy
11:30a Luncheon with Fr. Evangelos for the Water Wells in Kenya

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom





Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
4949 Alton Parkway • Irvine, CA 92604-8606

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The doors of caring do now open unto us,
O most blessed Theotokos,
So that hoping in you we shall not fail;
Through you we may be delivered from adversities,
For you are the salvation of the Christian faith.
(Theotokion from the Service of the Small Paraklesis)