



THE GOOD NEWS

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Monthly Bulletin | July 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*



SAINT MARIA OF PARIS

Commemorated July 20

*"No amount of thought will ever result in any greater formulation than the three words,
'Love one another,' so long as it is love to the end and without exceptions."*

— Saint Maria of Paris —



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

BAKING PROSFORA: THE BREAD OF OFFERING



BAKING THE BREAD OF OFFERING FOR THE LITURGY!

As Orthodox Christians we have a unique opportunity that most other Christians do not have. We can actually bake the bread that, by the descent and action of the Holy Spirit, becomes the very body of our Lord Jesus Christ. This vital and awesome ministry is open to all Orthodox Christians to participate in with the blessing of Father Steve and Father Justin!

Those who participate in baking the loaves of Prosfora that we use during the Liturgy not only gain a great sense of accomplishment, but also get a chance to practice their faith in a very concrete way. What an awe-inspiring experience! At St. Paul's we are fortunate to have a great team of bakers who take on the responsibility of providing Prosfora to our worship as a parish each week. You can help too! We would like to invite you to participate in this important ministry by getting yourself added to the Prosfora baking rotation. Typically, we ask bakers to provide two loaves of Prosfora every other month. With the right recipe and a little practice, this is only a two hour time commitment and most of that time is spent waiting for the bread to rise and bake.

How to get involved: Simply contact Deacon Dan Cunningham at 714-618-8935 to get added to the baking rotation. If you have never baked Prosfora before, please ask Deacon Dan to arrange a hands-on lesson. It is not nearly as complicated as you may think, and the sense of accomplishment is very rewarding!

THE SAINTS OF JULY AND THEIR RELICS AT ST. PAUL'S



THE SAINTS OF JULY AND THEIR RELICS AT ST. PAUL'S

DIVINE LITURGIES WITH THE VENERATION OF THE RELICS
OF ST. KYRIKOS THE MARTYR ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15th
AND ST. PANTELEIMON THE HEALER ON MONDAY, JULY 27th!

When St. Paul's was consecrated—set apart as a building dedicated only to the worship of the one true and living God—on October 30th, 1994, the relics of three saints were enclosed in the altar: St. Boniface, St. Kyrikos and St. Panteleimon. Father George Stephanides (1933-1996), the founding pastor of St. Paul's, requested from Archbishop Iakovos (1911-2005) that we might receive relics of these same three saints for public veneration on their feast days, and Archbishop Iakovos graciously granted St. Paul's this request. Thus, we invite you to come for the Divine Liturgies during which we commemorate St. Kyrikos the Martyr on Monday, July 15th and of St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr on Saturday, July 27th at both of which the relics of these holy martyrs will be set forth on the solea for public veneration.

St. Panteleimon was a medical doctor who dedicated his life to the sick and suffering, the poor and needy, treating everyone who came to him free of charge, always healing them in the Name of Jesus. He was martyred during the persecution of Christians under the Roman emperor Diocletian in 305AD. His icon adorns the narthex of St. Paul's.

St. Kyrikos was a young child, a toddler, who was martyred together with his mother, St. Julita, for being Christians in 304AD, during the same Empire-wide persecution of Christians under Diocletian that would later claim the life of St. Panteleimon.

Why do we Orthodox Christians have the custom of venerating the relics of the saints? In the Bible, the story is told in 2 Kings 13:20-21 that a man who was hurriedly being buried in the same tomb as the Prophet Elisha came back to life when his body came into contact with "the bones of Elisha." God can work miracles even through the bones of His saints! And in the Acts of the Apostles 19:11-12, we are told that "God worked extraordinary miracles at the hand of Paul. When handkerchiefs or cloths that had been touched by him were applied to the sick, their diseases were cured and evil spirits departed from them." God can work miracles even through the things that His saints have touched!

The early Churches were built over the tombs of the martyrs who suffered persecution for their faith and shed their blood for our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy Church. Why do we venerate the relics of the saints? Relics are a reminder that these men and women were real and that their stories are no fairy tale.

THE SAINTS OF JULY—ST. MARIA OF PARIS

St. Maria of Paris (1891-1945)

whose memory is celebrated in the Church on July 20th

Mother Maria Skobtsova — now recognized as St. Maria of Paris — died in a German concentration camp on the 30th of March 1945. Although perishing in a gas chamber, Mother Maria did not perish in the Church's memory. Those who had known her would again and again draw attention to the ideas, insights and activities of the heroic nun who had spent so many years of her life assisting people in desperate need. Soon after the war ended, essays and books about her began appearing in French, Russian and English. A Russian film, "Mother Maria," was made in 1982. Her canonization was celebrated in May 2004 at the Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky in Paris. Among those present at the event was Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Paris and Jewish by birth, who subsequently placed St. Maria on the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church in France. One wonders: are there any other saints of post-schism Christianity who are on both the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian liturgical calendars?

Mother Maria was born in Riga, in what is today part of Latvia, in 1891 and grew up on a family estate along the Black Sea. Her father's death when she was fourteen was a devastating event that for a time shook her young faith and led her to atheism, but gradually she found her way back to the Orthodox Church in which she had been raised. As a young woman, she was the first female student at the St. Petersburg Theological Academy. In the same period, she witnessed the Russian Revolution, the Bolshevik coup and the bloody civil war that followed. Like so many Russians, she fled for her life, finally reaching Paris, where she was among those who devoted themselves to serving fellow refugees, many of whom were now living in a state of destitution even worse than her own. At that time, she worked with the Student Christian Movement.

The tragic death from meningitis in 1926 of one her daughters, Anastasia, precipitated a decision that brought her to a still deeper level of self-giving love. She felt she saw "a new road before me and a new meaning in life, to be a mother for all, for all who need maternal care, assistance or protection." In 1932, following the collapse of her marriage, her bishop, Metropolitan Evlogy of Paris, encouraged her to become a nun, but a nun with an exceptional vocation. Metropolitan Evlogy blessed Mother Maria to develop a new type of monasticism — a "monasticism in the world" — that centered on diaconal service within the city rather than on quiet withdrawal in a rural context. In such a time of massive social disruption and destruction, Mother Maria declared that it was better to offer a monastic witness which opens its gates to poor and desperate people and in so doing to participate in Christ's humility and selfless love. "Everyone is always faced ... with the necessity of choosing between the comfort and warmth of an earthly home, well protected from winds and storms, and the limitless expanse of Eternity, which contains only one sure and certain item: the Cross." She was tonsured as a nun later that year.

With financial support from Metropolitan Evlogy, in December 1932 she signed a lease for her first house of hospitality, a place of welcome and assistance to impoverished people in desperate need, mainly young Russian women. The first night she slept on the floor beneath an icon of the Protection of the Mother of God. A small community of co-workers began to form. To make room for others, Mother Maria gave up her own room and instead slept on an iron bedstead in the basement by the boiler. A room upstairs became a chapel. The first house quickly became too small and in 1934 the community relocated to a three-story house at 77 rue de Lourmel in an area of Paris where many impoverished Russian refugees had settled. Now, instead of 25 people, the community could feed a hundred. Stables in back became a small church. By 1937, there were several dozen women guests at 77 rue de Lourmel. Up to 120 dinners were served each day. Other buildings were rented, one for families in need, another for single men. A rural property became a sanatorium. Mother Maria's day typically began with a journey to Les Halles to beg food or buy cheaply whatever was not donated. The cigarette-smoking beggar nun became well known among the stalls. She would later return with a sack of bones, fish and overripe fruit and vegetables.

The last phase of Mother Maria's life was a series of responses to World War II and Germany's occupation of France. Her basic choice was the decision to stay. It would have been possible for her to leave Paris when the Germans were advancing, or even to leave the country to go to America, but she would not budge. "If the Germans take Paris, I shall stay here with my old women. Where else could I send them?" She had no illusions about Nazism. It represented a "new paganism" bringing in its wake disasters, upheavals, persecutions and wars. It was evil unveiled, the "contaminator of all springs and wells." The so-called "master race" was "led by a madman who needs a straitjacket and should be placed in a cork-lined room so that his bestial wailing will not disturb the world at large." Paris fell on the 14th of June. With defeat came greater poverty and hunger for many people. Paris was now a prison.

Early in 1942, with Jewish registration by the Nazis underway, Jews began to knock on the door at rue de Lourmel asking Mother Maria and Fr. Dimitri Klepenin, the chaplain at the house, if he would issue baptismal certificates to them. The answer was always yes. The names of those "baptized" were also duly recorded in his parish register in case there was any cross-checking by the Gestapo, as indeed did happen. Fr. Dimitri was convinced that in such a situation Christ would do the same. In July, Jews were forbidden access to nearly all public places. Shopping by Jews was restricted to an hour per day. A week later, there was a mass arrest of Jews — 12,884, of whom 6,900 (two-thirds of them children) were brought to a sports stadium just a kilometer from the house at rue de Lourmel. Held there for five days, the captives in the stadium received water only from a single hydrant. From there the captives were to be sent to Auschwitz. Mother Maria had often thought her monastic robe a Godsend in aiding her work. Now it opened the way for her to enter the stadium. Here she worked for three days trying to comfort the children and their parents, distributing what food she could bring in, even managing to rescue a number of children by enlisting the aid of garbage collectors and smuggling them out in trash bins. By this time, the house at rue de Lourmel was bursting with people, many of them Jews. "It is amazing, "Mother Maria

remarked, "that the Germans haven't pounced on us yet." In the same period, she said if anyone came looking for Jews, she would show them an icon of the Mother of God.

In February 1943 Mother Maria, her son Yuri, Fr. Dimitri and their collaborator Ilya Fondaminsky were arrested by the Gestapo and sent to the camp at Compiègne. In December, Yuri and Fr. Dimitri were deported to Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany and from there to Dora, 40 kilometers away. On the 6th of February, Yuri was "dispatched for treatment" — a euphemism for being sentenced to death. Four days later Fr. Dimitri, lying on a dirt floor, died of pneumonia. His final action was to make the sign of the Cross. His body was disposed of in the Buchenwald crematorium. Mother Maria was sent to Ravensbrück in Germany, where she endured camp life for two years, an achievement in part explained by her long experience of ascetic life. "She was never downcast, never," a fellow prisoner recalled. "She never complained.... She was on good terms with everyone. Anyone in the block, no matter who it was, knew her on equal terms. She was the kind of person who made no distinction between people [whether they] held extremely progressive political views [or had] religious beliefs radically different than her own. She allowed nothing of secondary importance to impede her contact with people."

By March 1945, Mother Maria's condition was critical. She had to lie down between roll calls and hardly spoke. Her face, a fellow prisoner named Jacqueline Pery recalled, "revealed intense inner suffering. Already it bore the marks of death. Nevertheless, Mother Maria made no complaint. She kept her eyes closed and seemed to be in a state of continual prayer. This was, I think, her Garden of Gethsemani." She died on Holy Saturday. The shellfire of the approaching Red Army could be heard in the distance. We are not certain of the details of her last day. According to one account, she was simply among the many selected for death that day. According to another, she took the place of another prisoner, a Jew. Jacqueline Pery wrote afterward: "It is very possible that [Mother Maria] took the place of a frantic companion. It would have been entirely in keeping with her generous life. In any case she offered herself consciously to the holocaust ... thus assisting each one of us to accept the Cross.... She radiated the peace of God and communicated it to us."

Every saint poses a challenge, but Mother Maria is perhaps among the most challenging of saints. Her life is a passionate objection to any form of Christianity that seeks Christ only inside church buildings. Mother Maria was certain that there was no other path to heaven than participating in God's mercy. "The way to God lies through love of people. At the Last Judgment I shall not be asked whether I was successful in my ascetic exercises, nor how many bows and prostrations I made. Instead, I shall be asked: Did I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the prisoners. That is all I shall be asked. About every poor, hungry and imprisoned person the Savior says 'I': 'I was hungry and thirsty, I was sick and in prison.' To think that He puts an equal sign between Himself and anyone in need. I always knew it, but now it has somehow penetrated to my sinews. It fills me with awe."

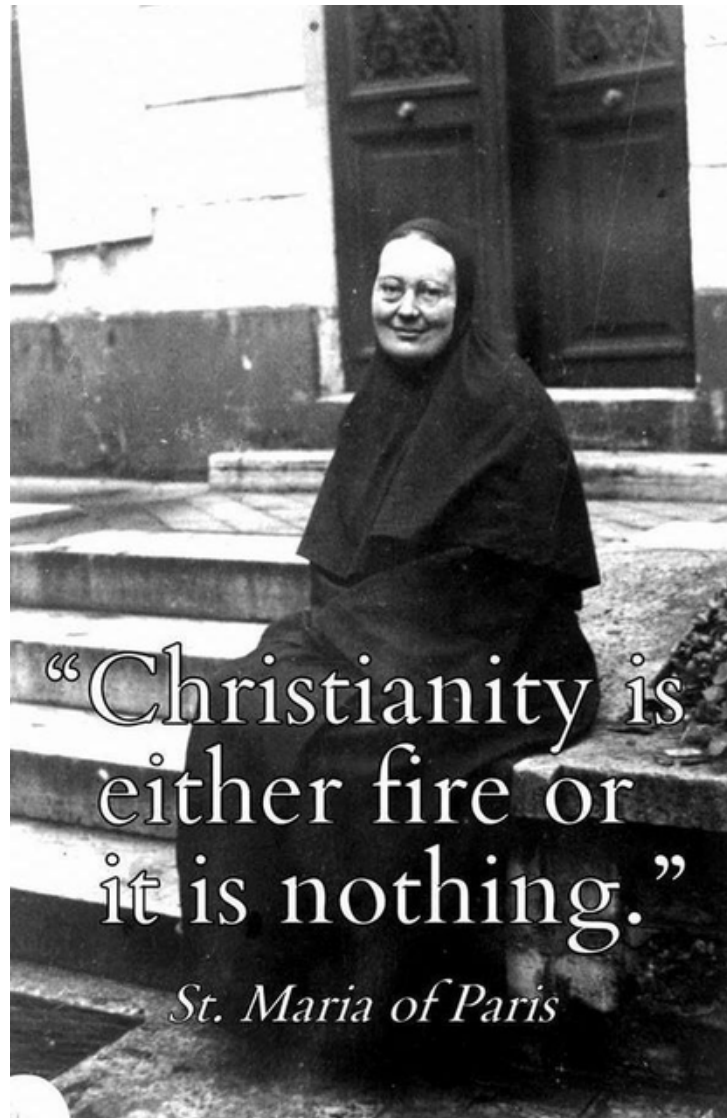
HYMNS HONORING ST.
MARIA OF PARIS, MARTYR
OF RAVENSBRUCK

TROPARION

Tone 4 - You became a bride of Christ, O venerable Mother, * and offered your body and soul to Him as a living sacrifice. * You exposed the evil side of humanity's ways * by allowing the light of the Resurrection to shine forth from you. * We celebrate your memory in love. * O Martyr and Confessor Maria, * pray to Christ our God that He may save our souls.

KONTAKION

You became an instrument of divine love, O holy martyr Maria, * and taught us to love Christ with all our hearts, minds, and souls. * You conquered evil by not submitting yourself into the hands of the Destroyer of souls. * You drank from the cup of suffering. * The Creator of all accepted your death as a sacrifice * and crowned you with laurels of victory from His mighty hand. * Pray fervently that nothing hinders us from fulfilling God's will * because you are a bright star shining in the darkness!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I pray that you and your families are well. WOW! What an amazing Irvine Greek Fest! Thank you to our Chairman Andrew Markis and his entire team for organizing and leading us. We greatly appreciate all of our approximately 200 volunteers that gave of their time and talents helping with admissions, Church tours, dinner booth, gyro booth, loukaniko & pizza booth, saganaki booth, pastry booth, loukoumades booth, galaktoboureko booth, frappe & ice cream booth, bar & refreshments, the agora, the cooking demonstrations, and our Greek dancers. What an incredible job from top to bottom!! I wanted to also thank George Kookootsedes for all of his efforts from designing our menu, ordering the food and overseeing the cooking of the food.

During festival weekend we not only served the nearly 9,000 people that visited us, but also displayed what makes St. Paul's and our parish family so special, the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our welcoming nature and love for each other. Watching all of our volunteers smiling and working hand in hand for the good of the Church was incredible to see and experience and demonstrates how blessed we all are to be part of the St. Paul's family. In addition, we were blessed to have the opportunity to share our faith and the beauty of our Church with approximately 2,600 festival attendees who attended one of our Church tours, which was almost 15% higher than last year. This means that bit more than than 1 in 3 festival attendees also attended a Church tour, which is an amazing blessing.

In the coming weeks all of the final results and details will be compiled and shared, but we already know that our festival was a huge success!! Thank you for your time, talents and financial contributions to help make the festival so memorable.

I pray that we continue to keep the same spirit of love and togetherness we demonstrated over festival weekend, all year long.

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



Hearing Assistance at St. Paul's

1	 AuraCast	• Enable any Auracast connected device • Select the broadcast: StPauls Sanctuary AURACAST <i>Note: there are handheld devices available for use in the Narthex</i>
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OR...

2	 ListenWIFI	• Install the ListenWIFI app from any app store. • Reset your phone's wifi connection to StPauls ListenWIFI using the password 'orthodoxy'. • Run the ListenWIFI app and press VENUE SCAN. • Select StPauls Stream to stream to your hearing devices. <i>Note: there is NO INTERNET on this wifi</i>
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FOCUS IRVINE WINE FEST

Save the Date! Irvine Wine Fest

Benefitting

FOCUS
ORANGE + COUNTY

Saturday, October 24, 2026

5 - 8 pm

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

Sip. Savor. Support!

Love Made Visible.

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed Me..." --Matthew 25:34-36

FOCUS Orange County helps combat systemic poverty by feeding and clothing Orange County's most vulnerable men, women and children. We are part of FOCUS North America, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Tax ID 26-4427803

SAINT PAUL'S
ENDOWMENT FUND

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

On July 4, 2026, also known as Independence Day, we will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States with food, fun, and fireworks. Our country was born on July 4, 1776 when the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence which declared that the American colonies were independent from British rule.

Over the years, independence has evolved into an elevated value. We talk about “independent thinkers” and “self-made” men and women. And yet, as Orthodox Christians we do not live independently. We live in a relationship with God, with each other, and the world.

The word of God tells us that we are totally dependent on God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:1 tells us that “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Colossians 1:17 says that “He [Jesus Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Without the Life-Giving Trinity, we would not exist. We are not at all independent regardless of what the world around us says.

Furthermore, we also depend on each other. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). As Christians, we need each other and we are each needed by others. “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’” (1 Corinthians 12:21). We each have different abilities that others need. We are not called to be a church of one, but rather a community of faith.

Additionally, we are called to live out the Orthodox faith in relation to our country. The Divine Liturgy asks us to pray “For our country, the president, all those in public service, and for our armed forces everywhere....” This passage relates to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 where St. Paul asks “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.” We are to pray for our country, our leaders, our communities, and the world.

We respond to God by thanking Him and obeying him. We also honor Him by giving back to Him from our time, our abilities, and our possessions. That’s what stewardship is about: our response to who God is. Now that the second half of the year is beginning, it’s a great time to look at all of these things. Are we keeping up with our pledges or can we possibly increase our giving? If you haven’t made a pledge this year, please consider completing a pledge card or pledging online. Are we involved in the life St. Paul’s? Every single team at St. Paul’s can use extra hands. We need you...and you also need us.

This July 4th, as we celebrate our nation’s birthday, let’s also remember our dependence on God and His church and pray for our country, our leaders, our church family, and the world.

Jeff (Raphael) Levine, St. Paul’s Stewardship Team

2026 SAINT PAUL'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



Pictured from Left to Right: Kaliroi Natsis, John Jirjis, Costantinos Leventis, Fr. Justin Bosl, Maria Tasigeorgos, Edwin Santa Ana (father of recipient Cristian Muresan Santa Ana in inset) and Nicole Theodorou

*We are deeply proud of our graduating seniors and young scholars who were recognized for their outstanding achievements, faith, and St. Paul's Church and community service.
May God's love, His blessings, and guidance be with you always!*

FATHER GEORGE S. STEPHANIDES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

John Jirjis

University of California, Los Angeles

CONNIE PASTIS SCHOLARSHIP

Kaliroi Natsis

California State University, Fullerton

STEPHEN C. OLLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Costantinos Leventis

Santa Ana College Welding Trade School

ELAINE & TYKYE CAMARAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Maria Tasigeorgos

University of California, Santa Barbara

SAINT PAUL'S ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Cristian Muresan Santa Ana

University of California, Los Angeles

SAINT PAUL'S PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP

Nicole Theodorou

University of California, Irvine



Thank you to Father Steve and Father Justin, our Scholarship Committee, and scholarship donors and families who have supported these bright young people on their journeys:

*The Camaras Family • Chris Louis for Bicycle Club • Denise Oller & Family
Mark Hudoff for St. Paul's Foundation • Priscilla Tedesco for St. Paul's Philoptochos*

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



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

Your July goal...join 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!**



Congratulations...

Nicole Theodorou was the recipient of our inaugural **St. Paul's Philoptochos Scholarship** award. Nicole embodied the characteristics of strong Orthodox Faith, Community Service, and support for those around her. Nicole is a scholar – athlete, having achieved a high GPA and participating in two sports during High school. She was a Link Crew Leader, welcoming and mentoring incoming Freshman and later became one of 6 highly selected Super Crew Leaders. One of Nicole's teacher recommendations stated, "Nicole is a model student whose perseverance, initiative, and drive for excellence set her apart." We are proud of Nicole and know that she will be a future Philoptochos member and leader!!

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!

On the horizon... Our Philoptochos activities begin in the Fall but we are working behind the scenes to include more events! **Save**

this Date: October 3, 2026- Fr. Steve and Fr. Justin will be the featured speakers for our Fall Speaker Series! More information will be coming over the Summer about the event.

Join the Fun + Make A Difference + Women Changing Lives

In His Service,

Priscilla Tedesco
President, St Paul's Ladies Philoptochos Society



ST PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PHILOPTOCHOS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the Fun + Make a Difference + Women Changing Lives

☐

2026 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

☐

GIFT 2026 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

☐

2026 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

(MEN / NON-VOTING)

FULL NAME:

Last	First	M.I.
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ADDRESS:

Street Address			Apartment / Unit #
City	State	Zip	

HOME PHONE:

CELL PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

GIFT 2026 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

FULL NAME:

Last	First	M.I.
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ADDRESS:

Street Address			Apartment / Unit #

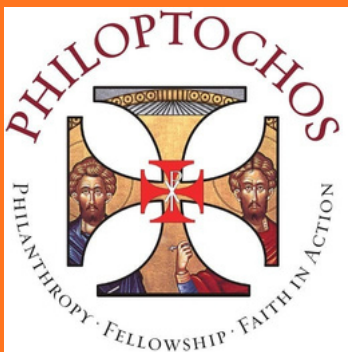
EMAIL ADDRESS:

☒ 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

2026 TOTAL STEWARDSHIP \$

2026 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





**Be a Giver
Help the Homeless
Feed the Hungry
Make a Difference**

Now Is the Time to Join

Philoptochos

<https://st-pauls-philoptochos.square.site/>





Pan-Orthodox Backpack Packing & Pizza Party!

On July 26th at 2:00 PM, you are invited for a Pizza and Packing Party hosted at St. Paul 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
Valeska Hall at
vhall@focusna.org

Date: Sunday, July 26th,
2:00 PM

Where: St. Paul Greek
Orthodox Church, 4949
Alton Pkwy, Irvine, CA
92604

**RSVP by scanning the QR
code below!**



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. Please 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, please R.S.V.P. 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!

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*



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 Bonyngé, 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. Steve & 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

JULY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

THURSDAY, JULY 2

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

7p Koinonia Bible Study

7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship

FRIDAY, JULY 3

OFFICE CLOSED

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SUNDAY, JULY 5

8:30a Orthros

9:30a Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, JULY 6

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, JULY 7

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

THURSDAY, JULY 9

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

10a Women's Bible Study

6:30p Philoptochos Board Meeting

FRIDAY, JULY 10

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, JULY 11

ST. SOPHRONY OF ESSEX

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy

6p Vespers

7p Potluck following Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 12

ST. PAISIOS

8:30a Orthros

9:30a Divine Liturgy

11:30a Fellowship Team Meeting - Fireside Room

11:30a Mission is possible Meeting - Conference Room

5p Paraklisis to ST. PAISIOS

6p Acolytes Appreciation Dinner - Parish Hall

MONDAY, JULY 13

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, JULY 14

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

ST. KYRIKOS

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

9a Orthros

10 Divine Liturgy & Veneration of Relics
with Fr. Alex Karcher

THURSDAY, JULY 16

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

10a Women's Bible Study

7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship

FRIDAY, JULY 17

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, JULY 18

6p Vespers

7p Potluck following Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 19

8:30a Orthros

9:30a Divine Liturgy



JULY CALENDAR

MONDAY, JULY 20

ST ELIJAH, & ST MARIA OF PARIS

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy

7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, JULY 21

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

6p Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

STs. MARY MAGDALENE &
MARKELLA OF CHIOS

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, JULY 23

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

10a Women's Bible Study

FRIDAY, JULY 24

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, JULY 25

ST. ANNA

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy

6p Vespers

7p Potluck following Vespers

SUNDAY, JULY 26

ST. PARASKEVE

8:30a Orthros

9:30 a Divine Liturgy

2p Focus Project Backpack

MONDAY, JULY 27

ST. PANTELEIMON

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy

7:30p Monday Night Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, JULY 28

ST. IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Apples

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

THURSDAY, JULY 30

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

10a Women's Bible Study

FRIDAY, JULY 31

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom





Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
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