

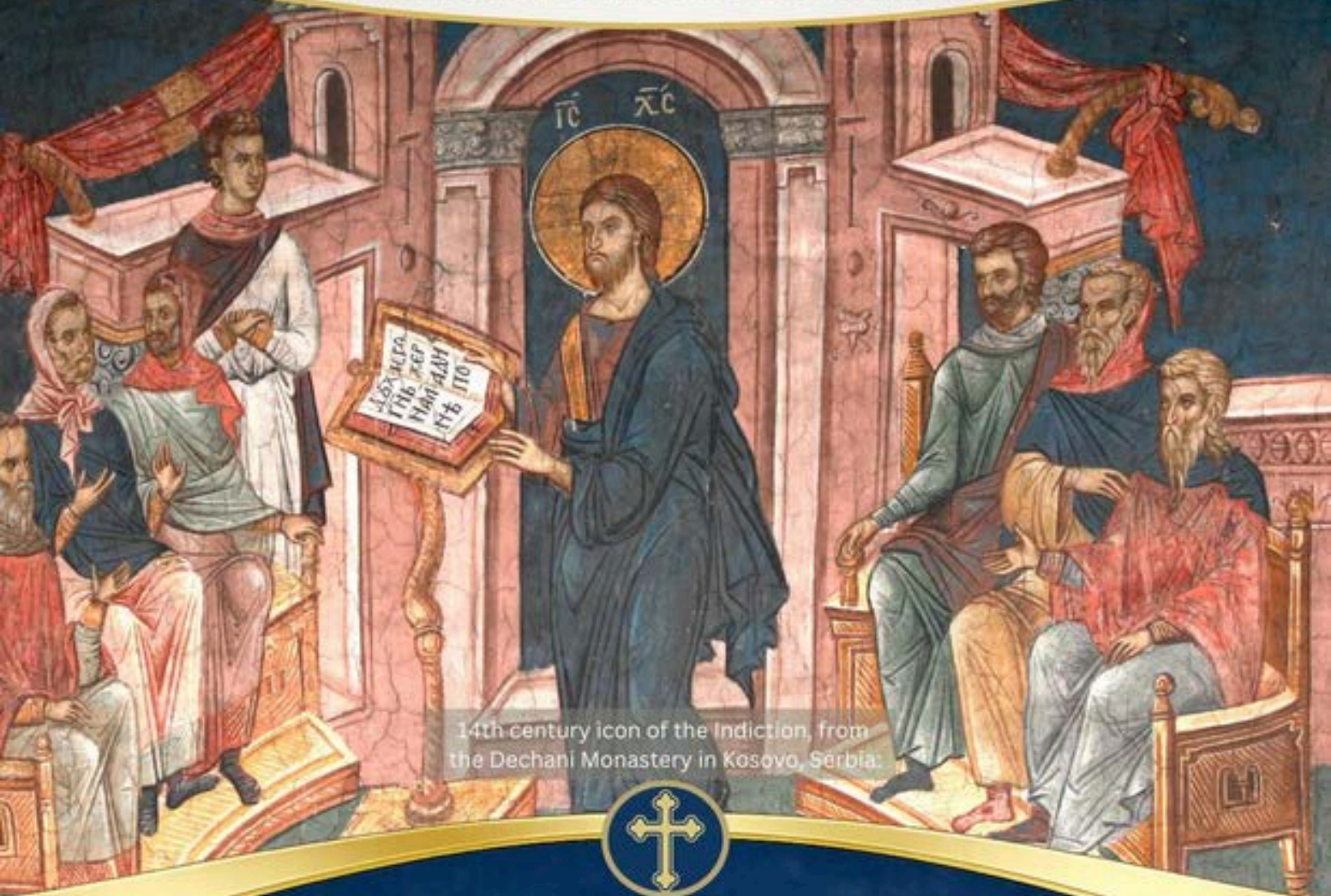


THE GOOD NEWS

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Monthly Bulletin | September 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*



14th century icon of the Indiction, from
the Dechani Monastery in Kosovo, Serbia.



ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

FEAST OF THE INDICATION

— SEPTEMBER 1 —

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
O Lord, and Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



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 Asst.

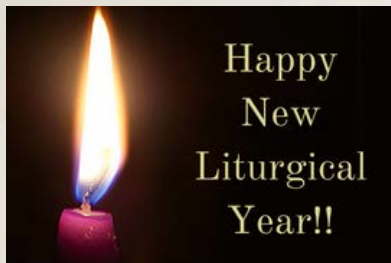
Ellen Peters, Office Administrator

Denise Oller, Office Assistant

Melanie Devlopoulos, Office Asistant

Scott Lee, Facilities Operations Manager

SEPTEMBER 1st—THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR BEGINS



Did you know that the 1st day of September is the beginning of the Church's New Year? We are accustomed to thinking of January 1st as the beginning of the year. But the tradition of computing the start of a new year with the fall season was common in the lands of the Bible and to all the lands around the Mediterranean. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops

were stored and the people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time to begin a new year. When you think about it, this tradition still makes a lot of sense, even for us today. The summer ends, vacations are normally over, schools are open, and we all get into the swing of a full work and school schedule.

On September 1st we also begin a new liturgical year. What is the significance of the liturgical year? The liturgical year is a way of discipline in prayer, a pattern of worship, an anchor of support for the life of the Church. But it also has a deeper significance. The late Father George Florovsky, an eminent Orthodox theologian and teacher, has taught us that worship is a response to the call of God who has already made known His redeeming love to us through a long history of decisive events culminating in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. Worship has two major aspects: remembrance (in Greek, anamnesis, which means not only historical remembrance but also re-living the events commemorated) and thanksgiving (gratitude and praise for God's love). The liturgical year, by constantly bringing before us the reality of God's kingdom in our midst, is the sanctification of time, of helping us place every moment of our lives in the light of Christ. Far from being simply a calendar to mark the passing of time, the liturgical year is the life of the Church – the life of Christians living in community as brothers and sisters – in awareness of God's kingdom, remembering the entire communion of prophets, apostles, and saints, being renewed by God's saving love, helping one another, witnessing to the good news of Christ and waiting for the fullness of the coming of God's kingdom.

Our worship proclaims the centrality of Christ in our lives! The liturgical year celebrates the presence of the mystery of Christ in the life of the Church and seeks to make the living Christ and the Holy Spirit a source of constant renewal for every Orthodox Christian. The worship of the Orthodox Church is rich in the Word of God. Don't all the most important feast days of the year celebrate the life and work of Christ: His birth, presentation to the Temple, baptism, transfiguration on Mt. Tabor, entry into Jerusalem, suffering on the Cross, resurrection, ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? Do we not continuously hear about Jesus' teachings, miracles and encounters with men and women from all walks of life? Do we not remember and re-live His last supper, death and resurrection on each Sunday and in each Liturgy? Even the special feast days of the apostles, prophets, the Virgin Mother of God and all the saints, point to the centrality of Christ, the Savior and Lord of all. This is the central message of the Orthodox faith: Christ lives and desires to be one with us, united to us in a union of divine and mystical love. He is the master of our life and the true celebrant of all the sacraments. He is the good shepherd who has laid down His life for His flock – us! To live in the Church is to live in His presence with a sense of wonder, joy, and gratitude for all things and in all circumstances. Do we hear His call? Are we ready to open our lives to Him? Do we seek Him as eagerly as He seeks us? In this new year, what opportunities and choices lie ahead for us both personally and as a parish? With what Spirit, attitudes and values will we meet the challenge of the seasons ahead?

- Father Theodore Stylianopoulos
from his book, *A Year of the Lord: Liturgical Bible Studies*



MISSIONARY TRIP TO TURKANA REGION OF NORTHERN KENYA

By: Linda Gorbenko

Our missionary journey this year took us to the extremely remote region of Turkana in northern Kenya. St. Paul's, Irvine and Mission Is Possible ("MIP") has developed three solar powered, electric pump wells in this region*. The purpose of our trip was to visit the wells, meet with local clergy and members of the surrounding communities, and personally witness the impact that access to a reliable source of clean water is having on their lives.

According to The New Humanitarian, "The Turkana region is among the poorest, most marginalized, and most malnourished in the country. Its arid climate and soil conditions render most of its terrain unsuitable for growing crops. As a result, the people of Turkana—and their livestock—are especially vulnerable during drought."

As we flew into Lodwar, Turkana, we witnessed the vast dryness and remoteness of the area firsthand. We could see little more than an immense stretch of arid desert, with sparse vegetation. We couldn't help but wonder, is it possible for people to live here?

The members of our trip included His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios (discussed in the August edition of the Good News), my husband Alex, Adam Mwesigwa and myself. We were met in Lodwar by Metropolitan Neofitos of Eldoret and Father Vladimir, the priest from St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church of Lodwar.

With the team assembled, we set out to visit the wells which are located anywhere from 100 to 150 kilometers from Lodwar. On the ground, the intense heat and rugged landscape gave us a true appreciation for the harsh conditions faced by the local communities. As we drove toward the well sites, there was with little in sight except a scattering of acacia trees and the occasional camel and goat.

After several hours of driving through dirt and sand with no roads or clear landmarks, I was amazed that Father Vladimir somehow found our destinations without incident. As is often the case when traveling in Africa, we were delayed by several hours. Yet despite the long wait in the intense heat, we were greeted by hundreds of people who had gathered to welcome us. Dressed in their finest clothes and smiling with excitement, they were clearly overwhelmed with joy to see us. They danced, sang and performed for us with great enthusiasm, love and gratitude. About thirty-five of the smallest children also sang for us in their local language. Clearly the lyrics they sang were "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" as they made the sign of the cross with each phrase. It brought us so much joy to witness their devotion to Christ and their outpouring of love and appreciation.

We visited the two Orthodox churches, constructed by OCMC, near two of the well sites. Seeing the impact of these wells firsthand, we realized that the water is providing far more than lifesaving sustenance. It is giving these communities the opportunity to move beyond their nomadic way of life, no longer having to constantly search for water, and instead establish a permanent home centered around a church and priest who can nurture their daily needs and their spiritual lives.



His Eminence and the clergy celebrating with the parishioners.



Celebrating our arrival. Orthodox church in the background.

The next day we visited the third well which is 150 kilometers from Lodwar. On the way, about 90 kilometers from Lodwar we passed a dry river bed. This put into perspective the struggles the people have in finding a consist source of water. As we witnessed, when the river runs dry, the people need to dig holes in the riverbed sand to retrieve water. The longer the river is dry, the deeper the hole. With each passing day this becomes more dangerous, as the children who are lowered into the hole to fill the water buckets are sometimes buried as the loose sand collapses.



People collecting water from the dry riverbed.



One of the holes dug to retrieve water.

As we passed the dry riverbed, Father Vladimir shared with us that when he first began evangelizing in this area, the car he hired would take him no farther than this very spot. From there, he had to walk the remaining 60 kilometers at night, since the intense daytime heat made it impossible to travel on foot. Father Vladimir's faith and dedication to spreading the Word of God to these communities is truly extraordinary. The sacrifices he makes requires a profound level of love, faith, and devotion to God and to His command to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). His unwavering commitment is a powerful and humbling inspiration to us all.

The third well site we visited was in the village of Chokchok. It was the only well site where the Orthodox church was still in a temporary structure. Currently, the church here, named St. Paul's Chokchok, consists of walls made from palm leaves and has no roof. Constructing a permanent church similar to the two Orthodox churches built by OCMC would cost approximately \$20,000. We hope that, in time, we will be able to raise the funds to complete the construction of St. Paul's Orthodox Church, Chokchok, providing this community with a permanent place of worship and a lasting spiritual home.



St. Paul's Chokchok. From left to right: Father Paul, Metropolitan Neofitos, Archbishop Makarios, Father Zacharias, Father Vladimir.

Overall, our time in Turkana was truly enlightening. It opened our eyes not only to the extreme conditions in which some people live, but also to how even small acts of effort and generosity on our part can have a profound and life-changing impact on others.



Solar powered electric well. Pumps enough water for the village, the surrounding area and their animals.



Water is stored in the tank on the tower and provides ample water without pumping by hand.

Jesus teaches us that caring for the poor and those in need is the same as caring for God Himself: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink" (Matthew 25:35). The wells we have developed do far more than provide clean, lifesaving water. They make it possible for families to settle permanently and build thriving, sustainable communities. More importantly, they demonstrate to these communities that God loves them and cares for their most basic needs. The water provides sustenance for their daily lives, while the missionary work provides the foundation for their eternal lives.

* St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Santa Barbara and the Rotary Club Santa Barbara contributed approx. 50% of the cost for one well in Turkana.

* St. Paul's Irvine and MIP also developed a fourth well in Lurare, Kenya. We did not visit this well as time did not permit.



For Donations to the Kenyan Water Project



TRAILS, FELLOWSHIP & FAITH

— MONTHLY HIKE FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES —

UPPER NEWPORT BAY FAMILY HIKE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 • 9:00 AM

Join us for an easy 2-2.5 mile hike along the bluffs overlooking the Back Bay wetlands. We'll pause along the way to read from the *Akathist of Thanksgiving for Creation* and enjoy fellowship together.



MEET: 8:30–8:45 AM
Hike begins at 9:00 AM



WHERE: Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center
2301 University Drive, Newport Beach



DISTANCE: Approximately 2–2.5 miles



DIFFICULTY: Easy • Minimal elevation gain



PARKING: Free



OPTIONAL: Additional mileage for those wanting a longer walk



COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP AFTERWARD

After the hike, join us at **KIT Coffee**,
1617 Westcliff Drive, Newport Beach
for coffee, pastries and breakfast.



RSVP



stpaulsirvine.org/hike



Interested in Serving as an Acolyte?

Young men ages 10–99 are welcome!

Please contact **Fr. Steve** or **Fr. Justin**

**New Acolytes will be blessed just prior to the start of
Divine Liturgy on September 13.**

**Mandatory Acolyte Training
September 13, 2026 at 5:00 PM**

**Acolyte Appreciation Dinner
September 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

RSVP to Fr. Justin at frjustin@stpaulsirvine.org



ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101

—✠—
Come and See

Orthodoxy 101 offers a welcoming overview of the Church's faith and life, beginning with our worship. The class is for those exploring Orthodoxy, those preparing to become Orthodox, and parishioners who want to deepen their faith.

—✠—
Begins September 16, 2026
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
In person and via Zoom



Registration is now open
Scan the code to learn more and register
stpaulsirvine.org/orthodoxy-101



ST. PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH **MINISTRY** *Fair*

**DISCOVER YOUR PLACE.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

St. Paul's is a community of faith called to love God, serve others, and share Christ's light in the world.

Come and see!



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**



11:30
(immediately following
Divine Liturgy)



EVENT CENTER

WHY GET INVOLVED?



Learn what we do
Explore the many ways to grow in faith and serve our community.



Connect with others
Talk with ministry leaders and find where your gifts can shine.



Make an impact
Every act of service helps build the Kingdom of God.



Acolytes



Ambassadors



Anchorites



Be Still



Bible Studies



Bread for Liturgy



Choir/Church Music



Church School



Fellowship Team



Greek Folkdance



Greek School



Men's Prayer Fellowship



Mission is Possible



Nativity Walk



Orthodox Christianity 101



Parish Council



Philoptochos



Stewardship



St. Paul's Endowment



Usher Ministry



Welcome Ministry



Women's Study Fellowship



Youth Ministry



Young Adult Ministry

GOD HAS GIVEN YOU GIFTS.

We have a place for you!



LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED

All are welcome!



WOMEN'S STUDY FELLOWSHIP



*Good things happen when
Orthodox women walk together.*

We warmly invite all the women of our parish
to join us as we begin our new fall study.

Although our meetings normally take place at Saint Paul's,
our first gathering will be at the home of one of our members.

We begin on
Monday, September 21 at 11:00 am
with lunch following.

Our book selection is
Painless, Blameless & Peaceful:
Orthodox reflections on Death, Dying and Eternal Life
by Father Stavros Akrotirianakis.
It is available on Amazon.

For more information please text or call
Dorothea Love 949 351-5439 or
Georgia Theodore 949 292-2378.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Saint Paul's 
WOMEN'S
Bible Study

Thursdays 10:00 am | Conference Room



ORANGE + COUNTY

FOCUS BACKPACK PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

In the spirit of pan-Orthodox fellowship and service exemplified by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS), a group of 60+ children, teens, parents and young adults gathered on August 2 at St. Paul's to assemble school supplies and backpacks for Orange County students in need.

Excitement filled the room as volunteers enjoyed a pizza lunch together, followed by a moving reminder by Father Justin, before work got underway, that the backpacks should be treated tenderly and with care for the students who would be receiving them.

At least four Orange County Orthodox parishes were represented, with two priests also attending and working alongside Father Justin and the other volunteers.

The backpacks and school supplies, a tangible reminder that the children receiving them are seen, valued and supported, are being distributed by FOCUS Orange County to schools in Anaheim, Westminster, and San Juan Capistrano. Thank you to everyone who donated and/or participated in this project! You were part of a broader, national effort by FOCUS North America to supply backpacks to communities across the U.S., in loving service to the needy that reveals the living presence of Christ.



FOCUS FEEDING THE HUNGRY



FOCUS FEED THE HUNGRY/BREAD OF LIFE

On Sunday, August 23rd, in rotation with other churches, St. Paul's was responsible for preparing and serving a meal for 60 people in need. The cooking was done in our event center kitchen after Liturgy, and the set-up and meal service was at Christ Pacific Church in Huntington Beach, California.

Thank you to all who donated money, food, time, and talent!

We will sponsor this service project two Sunday's per year.

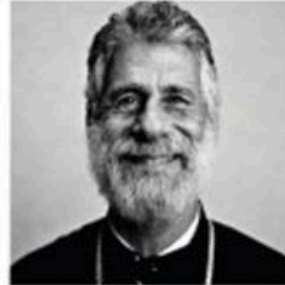
Stay tuned!



SAVE THE DATE

OCMC Gala honoring the service of Father Martin Ritsi and Metropolitan Dimitrios (Couchell) of Xanthos of blessed memory.

Please join us as we honor the missionary work and Orthodox evangelism of **OCMC** and celebrate Father Martin Ritsi and his 27 years of faithful service as Executive Director as he enters retirement.



Sunday Evening, October 11, 2026 at 6 PM
At St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church Event Center
Following Great Vespers at 5:00 PM



How do I become a Steward at St. Paul's?

Part of our Orthodox Worship is giving of our time, talent and treasures back to God for the blessings He gave us first. Here are 3 simple ways to offer your financial gifts for us to continue doing God's work at St. Paul's:

Make a recurring Online Stewardship donation at:

<https://saintpaulsirvine.breezechms.com/give/online>

...or by QR Code



Locate and fill in a **Stewardship Pledge Card** found in the pews - drop it in the envelope and place it in the basket in the Narthex

Make an **OFFERING TRAY** Donation using the SQUARE Terminal in the Narthex

Dear stewards, parishioners, families and friends:

A story about Fasting

As a practicing Orthodox Christian, I ordinarily fast on Wednesdays and Fridays and usually during our periodic fasting periods (although most times at a slower start). There are many times that I 'bend' the fast, according to what may be the event of the day. Additionally, do I hard-fast? Is it by the book? Well, not really – or not always (being brutally honest here). But, truth be told, it is usually fasting from meat and wine (including the Scotches that I love to sip!) and general overindulgences. There are plenty of scriptures that refer to eating and traditions, and in one particular that Jesus told us in the 7th chapter of Mark that "There is nothing that enters a man from the outside which can defile him; but the things that come out of him..." So, I typically rationalize on this thought – am I gluttonous when I 'cheat'?

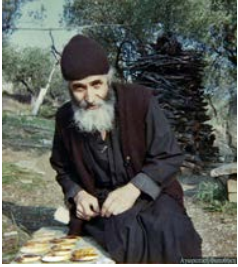
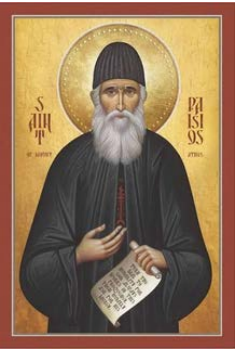
I have found way too often that I do exactly as the Pharisees did in Mark Chapter 7! The Pharisees were stuck on the cleanliness of the Disciples' hands at mealtime instead of the deeper principles that apply to the Law that they overlooked. Kind of like noticing the twig in your neighbor's eye and completely missing the log in your own. When I periodically check my personal fasting on the Wednesday's and Fridays (and Fasting periods), I find myself judging my conformance to the strictness of the Fast instead of the reason for the Fast! Why am I Fasting? Well, as we all know, we remember on Wednesdays that Our Lord was betrayed. And on Fridays, we remember He was crucified and died for us!!! This is the main reason that we knowingly and lovingly Fast on those days. How often do I actually remember this when I avoid those certain foods/drinks? How often does that thought permeate my day? Am I remembering for the day, or for just a fleeting moment? Or do I do this out of habit just because? There are times I feel saddened because when I do remember why I Fast, it reminds me of all the days I forgot why – and only Fast-by-habit. As an Orthodox Christian, I remember that Christ died for me, He rose for me and has abolished death for me. Fasting should be a freely given selfless act in thanksgiving for such Gifts; to remember that our bodies are temporary and our "lack-of", or "hunger", or whatever we "sacrifice" for these days is a joyous act, not a burden. It shouldn't be a burden – and it NEVER IS when we remember why!

Why on earth do I speak of Fasting in a stewardship message? Well, here's my reasons... When I think of my personal stewardship, I draw numerous parallels to the model of Fasting. Why do Orthodox Christians give? And give freely? Do I actually remember why – do just it out of habit? Am I merely conforming to the commitment I made on an annual pledge card that I signed in December? Or, is my model of giving based on my gratitude (or just what's readily available)? Is my giving a burden? I sometimes sadden when I take the time to count all my blessings and cannot account in my giving for these gifts God already gave to me. I suddenly feel the need to be more selfless and try to remember that God owns all my wealth, all my health, all my family's health and all my possessions anyway. Giving for Orthodox Christians should never be a burden when we actually remember why.

With much gratitude for the immeasurable blessings I have received, in fellowship and participation with all of you at St. Paul's, in the name of Christ Jesus,

Ron Tedesco

AMBASSADORS



BEAUTIFUL SHORT FILM "VESSEL OF GRACE: THE LIFE OF SAINT PAISIOS THE ATHONITE" ON THE BIG SCREEN AT ST. PAUL'S AT 11 AM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH WITH OUR FREE PIZZA LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW-PLEASE JOIN US!

We invite all our parishioners and friends of all ages from our sister parishes to join us on Thursday, September 10th at 11 am at St. Paul's for the beautiful short film "Vessel of Grace: The Life of Saint Paisios the Athonite" produced by Trisagion films at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVX1HOxrDcw> to be followed by our free pizza luncheon (with the DELICIOUS spinach-feta and pepperoni pizzas from Domino's among other goodies!) in the Parish Center where the film will be shown. Kindly please RSVP to Dean Langis at 949-733-2366 or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org so that I may know how many are coming so that I know how much food to get! If for any reason you cannot come in person that day, please watch this excellent film by clicking onto the link above. Thank you. Please come and bring a friend for a great day!

ST. PAUL'S FREE RENTED VAN TRIP FROM ST. PAUL'S AT 11 AM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH TO OUR DOCENT-GUIDED TOUR OF ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL IN LOS ANGELES TO BE FOLLOWED BY OUR LUNCH AT THE GREEK BISTRO IN GLENDALE!

We invite all our parishioners and friends of all ages from our sister parishes to join us at St. Paul's at 11 am on Thursday, September 17th for our rented van trip to our docent-guided tour of the MAGNIFICENT St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral at 1324 S. Normandie Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90006; 323-737-2434; <https://saintsophia.org/>. Then after the tour we plan to go for lunch at the "Greek Bistro" which is rated number one for "Best Greek Food" in Los Angeles by Yelp--sadly Papa Cristo's across the street from St. Sophia's since 1948 has closed! The Greek Bistro is located at 135 N. Artsakh Ave., Glendale, CA 91206; 818-322-4343; <https://greekbistro.com>; and lunch is on you. You can see their excellent reviews at <https://www.yelp.com/biz/greek-bistro-glendale?osq=Greek+Food>. Please kindly RSVP to Dean Langis as soon as possible at either 949-733-2366 or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org in order to secure your place in the van on a first-come, first-served basis. Of course, you can also drive to St. Sophia Cathedral and/or to the Greek Bistro on your own if you wish. Please come and bring a friend for a great day!

ST. PAUL'S TRIP TO THE NEWPORT BEACH CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE FROM 7 PM TO 8:15 PM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH!

We invite all our parishioners to join us on Sunday evening, December 20th for the 118th Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade from 7 pm to 8:15 pm--please see all the details at <https://ChristmasParadeboats.com/>. There should be fireworks and a drone show over the Balboa Bay Club that evening! We plan to depart from Davey's Locker at 400 Main St., Newport Beach, CA 92661; 949-673-1434 for their 7 pm cruise. The price is \$49 per person for adults; \$45 for children aged 3 to 12; and \$5 for infants ages 0 to 1. Please book your ticket(s) at <https://christmasparadeboats.com/reservetickets.html> more specifically by clicking onto "2026 Boat Parade & Holiday Lights Cruises" From USD \$39.00 "Book Now". On Sunday, December 20th everyone can meet and park at 5 pm at St. Paul's so that we may carpool/caravan to Balboa Island in order to park there and to catch the Balboa Island Ferry to the Newport Landing which is very close to Davey's Locker where our boat will depart. If you wish you can also drive directly to Balboa Island yourself to catch the ferry and meet us at Davey's Landing for our 7 pm excursion--please see <https://www.balboaislandferry.com/> for all the details about the Balboa Island Ferry which should be running at least until midnight for the return. Thank you! Please kindly RSVP to Dean Langis at 949-733-2366 or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org. Thank you! Please come and bring a friend!

Be Still

A Restorative Stretching Meditation to reduce stress and connect to Christ

Six week class | Tuesdays @ 5:30pm in the Event Center Ballroom

Beginning on Tuesday September 22nd-October 27th

*Helping people integrate their spiritual, mental and physical health,
using gentle stretching and relaxation techniques while prayerfully
meditating on Christ.*

If you have access to, please bring an exercise mat and two exercise blocks



For more info text
Cherise Matthews
@ 949-291-2542



*"Be still and know that I am God"
-Psalm 46:10*

BIBLE STUDY

FOR EVERYONE!

THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

A FAST-MOVING STUDY OF THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

MONDAY EVENINGS | 7:30-8:30 PM

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED!
FIRST-TIMERS ARE WELCOME!

zoom LIVE

See Sunday bulletin for Zoom link, or send an email to info@stpaulsirvine.org

CHURCH SCHOOL
RESUMES ON
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20



SEPT 20-MEET & GREET SUNDAY

- Snack & Ice breakers in each class
- Blessing by Reverend Clergy in the church
- Pick up your copy of the parent guidebook

REGULAR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

(Ages 3 - High School)

Family worship begins at 9:30, and is critical to true Christian Education. You are giving your children a great blessing by allowing them to learn to participate in the community of Faith in the Divine Liturgy. Students are ushered for Holy Communion *after* the Choir and then proceed to their classes.



CHURCH SCHOOL WEBPAGE

<https://stpaulsirvine.org/ChurchSchool>

- Registration Form
- Curriculum Links

CHURCH SCHOOL FACEBOOK

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchSchool)

StPaulsChurchSchool



PLEASE REGISTER FOR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES AT:
[STPAULSIRVINE.ORG/CHURCHSCHOOL](https://stpaulsirvine.org/ChurchSchool)



2026 Philoptochos: A New Year of Our Army of Agape...

Fall is Philoptochos Season! We are beginning our new year and have so many events planned. Now is the time to become a part of this beautiful ministry where we give help to others and fulfill our calling to do good works! **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!

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

Get Inspired! Get involved! Give from your heart!

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 Orthodox 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

**POTLUCK FOLLOWING
SATURDAY VESPERS**



Church Potluck Following 5:30 pm Vespers

Saturdays in September, Parish Hall



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!**





St. Paul's Philoptochos

Support Our Seminarians

Donate to help support our Metropolis Seminarians and our future Priests!

The Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund provides financial assistance for seminarians and students from the Metropolis of San Francisco attending Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Hellenic College, in Brookline, Massachusetts



"This fund is a tangible effort to secure the future of our faith and culture in this Metropolis, for it is through this Endowment Fund that our future priests, educators and pastoral assistants are supported both financially and spiritually in their education."

+His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco



Donate here



Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. -Hebrews: 14-16

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I hope you and your family enjoyed the summer season and had a wonderful time taking a little break from the daily routine that takes over most of our lives when school is in session. I want to be the first to welcome you back and recommend that you take a close look at the Good News this month and identify the many events, bible studies, and other opportunities for you to participate in the life of St. Paul's. We are so blessed to have a thriving community comprised of people that are new to the church and those have been at St. Paul's for years. The best way for all of us to enhance our connection to the church and each other is to find those activities that resonate with you and your family and participate. You will find that we are a community that is loving, welcoming, giving and fun, all rooted in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Of the many activities in September, I wanted to highlight two:

- On Sunday, September 13th after the Divine Liturgy we will be having our annual St. Paul's Ministry Fair in the Event Center. Please plan on stopping by and walking around the tables too see firsthand the many ministries at St. Paul's and talk with their respective leaders. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to not only learn about our ministries, but also sign up to participate where you are interested. Please stop by the Parish Council table and say hello, I look forward to seeing you there.

- The following Sunday, September 20th, is our first day of Church School. Please plan on bringing your children and grandchildren for the start of a wonderful school year. Our theme this year is "Come and See" and I ask you to do just that. The first day will be filled with fun and snacks for the kids and you will be able to pick up a copy of the parent guidebook with is a helpful tool to understand everything about our Church School. Please look for the flyer in the subsequent pages and register!

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



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE



MOMS POPS AND TOTS



September 12th our moms pops and tots will meet at 10am in
the community room at St Pauls Greek Orthodox Church

MOMS NIGHT OUT
SEPTEMBER 22ND
7:00PM
DINNER AT ZOVS
IRVINE

DADS NIGHT OUT
SEPTEMBER 29TH
7PM
TBD

TOTS PLAY DATE
SEPTEMBER 18TH
12 PM
MARINA PARK
PLAYGROUND
NEWPORT BEACH CA

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

GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION

GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL AUGUST 22!

Learn Greek • Grow in the Orthodox Faith • Build Community

CHILDREN

- Beginners (Grade 2+): TBD
- Continuing Level 2 (A1): TBD
- Continuing Level 3 (A2): TBD

ADULT/TEEN

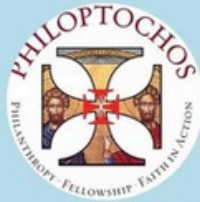
- Beginner A1 – Section I: Mondays, 6:00 PM • Starts Aug. 3
- Beginner A1 – Section II: TBD
- Continuing B2 (Level III): TBD

FREE ADULT/TEEN CLASSES

- Greek of the Liturgy (Absolute Beginner): Sundays, 4:00–5:00 PM (flexible)
- Let's Learn Byzantine Chant in Greek: TBD
- Greek of the Liturgy (Fast-Paced for Greek Speakers): Sundays 5-6pm (flexible)



**FOR ALL TBD CLASSES AND CHILDREN'S REGISTRATION, EMAIL YOUR
AVAILABILITY: hellene45@gmail.com, text 9494493200**



SALVATION & THE SPIRITUAL WORLD: A PANEL DISCUSSION



ST. PAUL'S PHILOPTOCHOS *Fall Speaker Series*

OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

10:00AM-2:00PM

EVENTS CENTER

\$30/person-includes lunch



OR - send a check to: St Paul's Philoptochos, 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604



Guest Speakers

FR. STEVEN TSICHLIS &
FR. JUSTIN BOSL



SIP.
SAVOR.
SUPPORT!

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

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 26-427803.

This is an outdoor event, cocktail style, with a variety of food & drink stations, as well as live music, opportunity drawings, and a live auction!

WINE & SPIRITS
TASTINGS

GOURMET
FOOD STATIONS

LIVE
JAZZ

OPPORTUNITY
DRAWINGS

LIVE
AUCTION



LIVE MUSIC BY
**HEAR NO EVIL
JAZZ TRIO**

FOOD, WINE, SPIRITS,
AND EVENT
PRODUCTION BY

CANYON
CATERING



CHATEAU
MONTELENA

HOPE FAMILY WINES
MOËT & CHANDON

50
YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

JUSTIN

FRANK FAMILY
VINEYARDS

Don Julio

PORTALAZA

Heller

ER TAYLOR

WINEWORKS
DES PRINCES

Nicholas & Michel
Single Vineyard Vintners

BRANDOL
BANDOL



FOR TICKETS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND MORE INFO VISIT:
FOCUSORANGECOUNTY.ORG/WINEFEST
REGISTRATION CLOSING OCTOBER 14TH



EARLY BIRD BY OCT. 10:
\$100 PER PERSON
\$200 PER COUPLE

STANDARD PRICING:
\$125 PER PERSON
\$250 PER COUPLE



All-Night Vigil For The Repose of St. John The Theologian



Great Vespers • Artoklasia • Orthros • Divine Liturgy

All faithful are welcome to join in prayer and worship

When

Friday, September 25, 2026

7:00PM-~1:00AM

Where

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

Apostle of Christ,
John the Evangelist
and Theologian, you
became a mystic of
secrets of God, and
thundered to us the
secret dogmas of
wisdom.

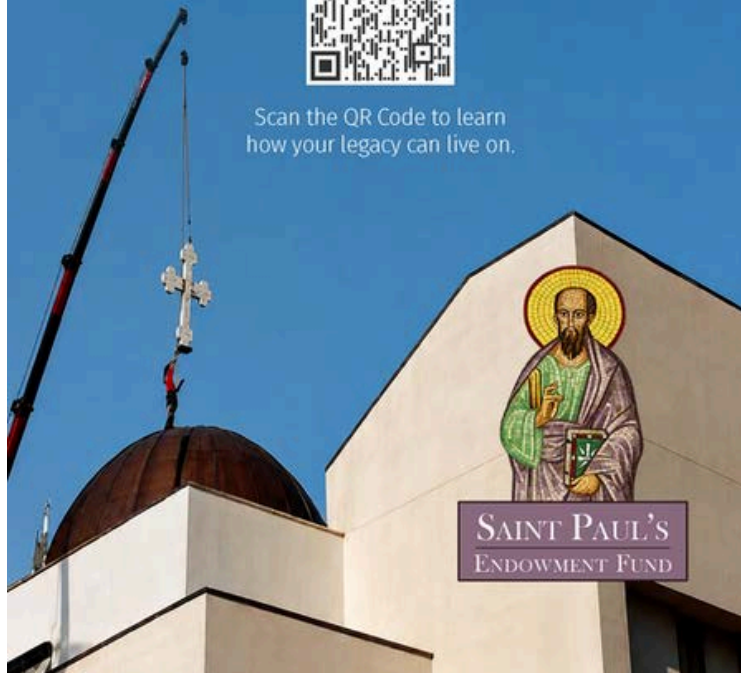
This Image was taken in 1994. It shows the cross being affixed to the dome of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox church. Over 30 years have gone by! Many of those involved in the construction of St. Paul's are no longer here, but we are blessed today by their generous legacy.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Consider making St. Paul's Endowment Fund a beneficiary of your estate plan. The purpose of the Fund is to ensure that St. Paul's remains a vibrant beacon of Orthodox Christianity in Orange County and around the World.



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



Last year's
Nativity Walk
was a beautiful
success!

THIS YEAR WE'RE
SHARING IT WITH
OUR COMMUNITY!

★ Help Bring Bethlehem to Life! ★ Be Part of Our Living Nativity!

— A joyful and memorable Christmas experience for all ages! —

An immersive walk through the story of Christ's birth
featuring costumed characters, music,
and narration in seven beautiful scenes.

★  **SAVE THE DATE!**
Saturday, December 20 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.★

— WE NEED PEOPLE TO PORTRAY: —

- ☆ Mary & Joseph
- ☆ Shepherds
- ☆ Angels
- ☆ Magi
- ☆ Innkeepers
- ☆ Townspeople
- ☆ Roman Soldiers

(older children & teens welcome!)

★ **SIGN-UPS BEGIN MID-OCTOBER** ★ Watch for details!

Questions or want to help?
✉ Info@stpaulsirvine.org

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 Bonyne,
Rama Debbaneh, Laura Holland, Kia Karnell, 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 Leaders: John Britigan, Dean Langis
Hope and Joy Coordinator: Bea Dargavel
Young Adult Ministries Leaders: Spiro Sun, Claire
Pearson, Natalie Cernius, Anastasios Tasigeorgos
Moms, Pops, and Tots Coordinator: Niki William

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

AGAPE WELLNESS COLLECTIVE

Coordinator: Megan Bonyne

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

BEGINNING OF ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
11a Small Blessing of Water

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:30a Meet to HIKE Upper Newport Bay,
Coffee afterward at KIT Coffee
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

SAINTS JOACHIM & ANNA

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
7p Koinonia Bible Study

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:30a Orthros & Blessing of the Acolytes
9:30a Divine Liturgy
11:30a Ministry Fair
1:00p Youth Ministry Next Steps Meeting
5p Acolyte Training
6p Acolyte Appreciation Dinner

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6:00p Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis
7p Orthodox Christianity 101 - 1st class of 2026-2027

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
11a Ambassadors Docent Tour of St. Sophia &
lunch at Greek Bistro, Glendale
7p Koinonia Bible Study
7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship in person & on Zoom

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

5:30p Vespers

6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:30a Orthros

9:30a Divine Liturgy

11:00 Church School Begins -

Blessing of children & teachers

11:30a First Day of Church School Luncheon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

7:30p Monday Night Bible Study

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

5:30p Be Still with Cherise Matthews 1/6

7p Moms Pops & Tots - Moms Night, Zov's Irvine

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

6p Small Paraklesis

7p Orthodox Christianity 101

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

ST. SILOUAN THE ATHONITE &
PROTOMARTYR THEKLA

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

9a Orthros

10a Divine Liturgy

11:30am Women's Bible Study

7p Koinonia Bible Study

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

11a Women's Study Fellowship

7p-1a Vigil for the Repose of St. John the Theologian

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

FALLING ASLEEP OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST &
THEOLOGIAN

5:30p Vespers

6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30a Orthros

9:30a Divine Liturgy

11:00 Church School

1p-5p Sunday School Pool Party - tacos, swimming,
games, dessert

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

7:30p Monday Night Bible Study

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

5:30p Be Still with Cherise Matthews 2/6

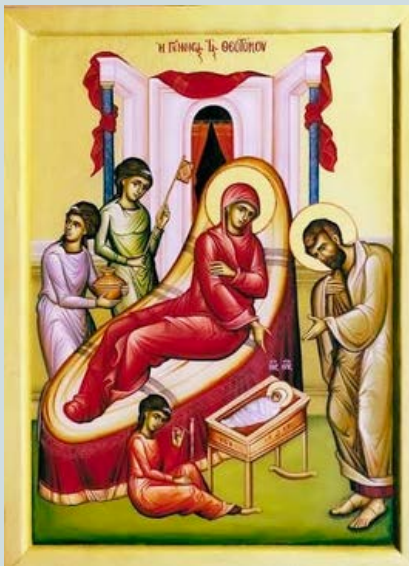
7p Moms Pops & Tots - Dads Night, location TBD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

6p Small Paraklesis

7p Orthodox Christianity 101





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

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IRVINE, CA
PERMIT #25

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE RUSH DELIVERY

By the Holy Spirit is the Lord made known. By the Holy Spirit is the Lord magnified in heaven. By the Holy Spirit do the Saints glorify God, and with the gifts of the Holy Spirit does the Lord give glory to the Saints, and this glory shall have no end... In heaven all things live and move by the Holy Spirit. But this same Holy Spirit is on earth too. The Holy Spirit lives in our Church; in the Sacraments; in the Holy Scriptures; in the hearts of the faithful. The Holy Spirit unites all men, and so the Saints are close to us; and when we pray to them they hear our prayers in the Holy Spirit, and our souls feel that they are praying for us... How happy and blessed are we Orthodox Christians, that the Lord has given us life in the Holy Spirit; and He makes glad our souls. But we must guard Him soberly — a single evil thought and He forsakes the soul, and the love of God is then no longer with us...



Saint Silouan the Athonite
Wisdom from Mount Athos