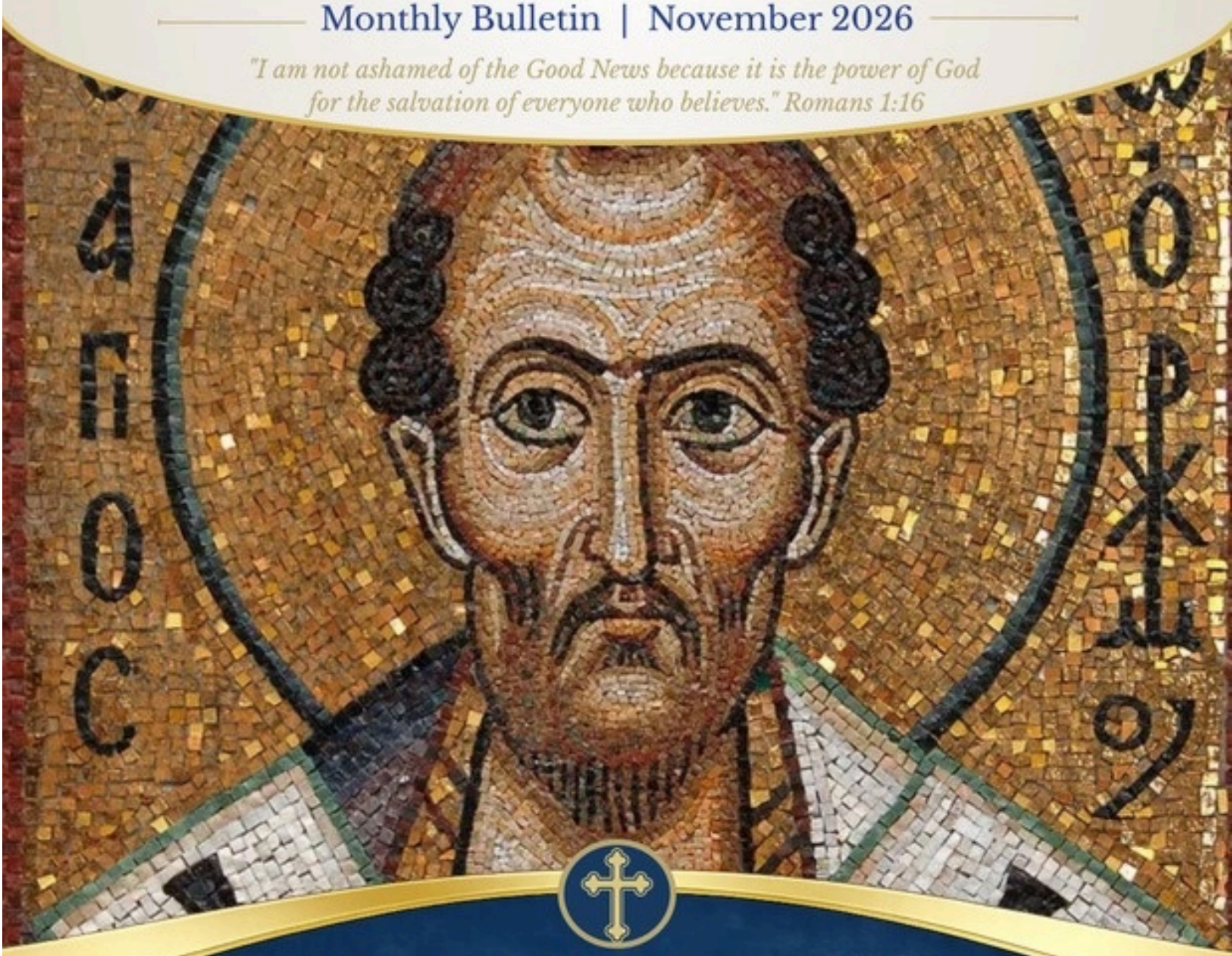
THE GOOD NEWS

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Monthly Bulletin | November 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 JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

THE "GOLDEN-MOUTH" PREACHER

COMMEMORATED NOVEMBER 13

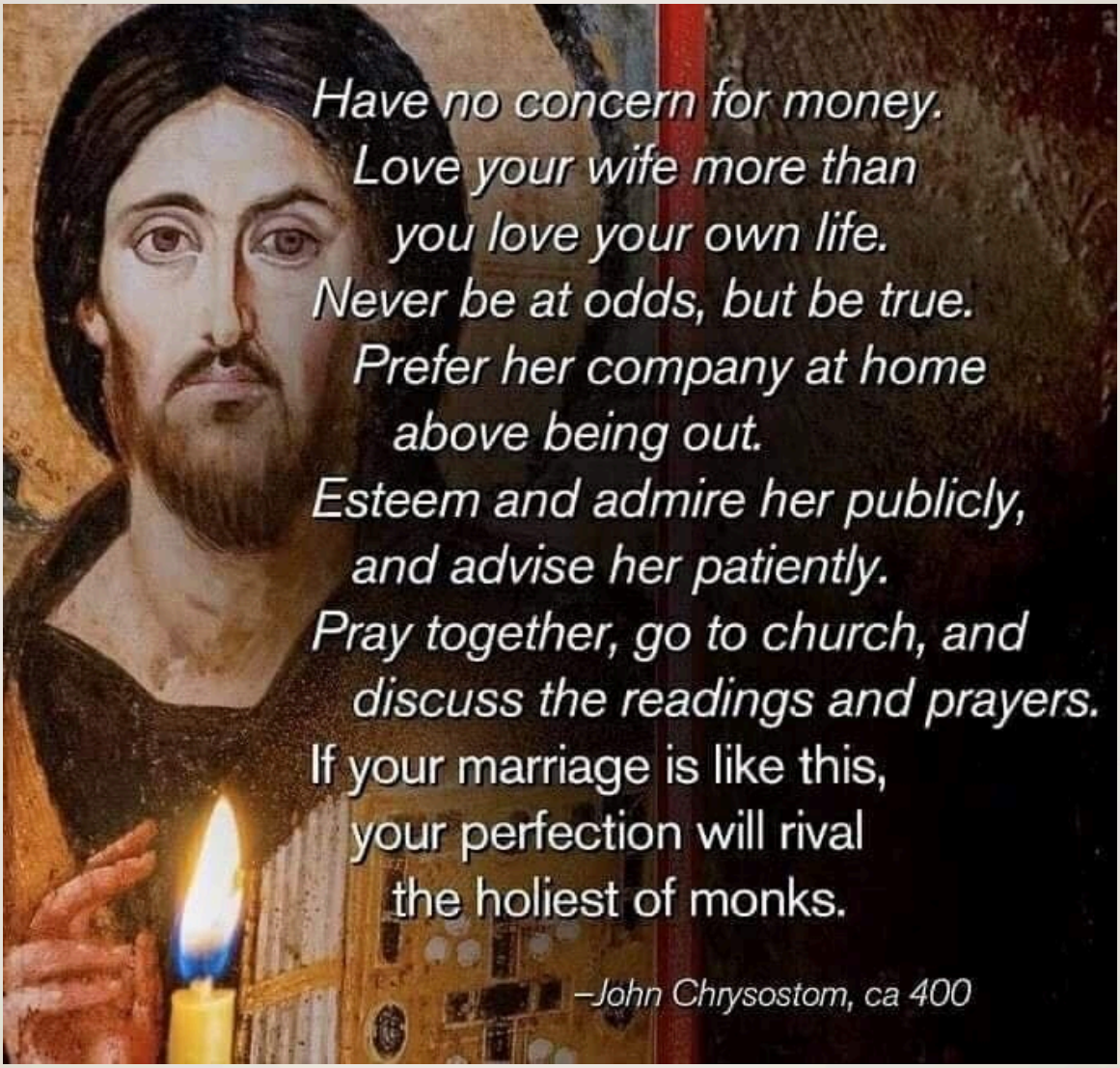
"Glory to God for all things!"

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

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
Father Gabriel Cupsa, Assistant Priest
Deacon Daniel Cunningham, Parish Deacon
Dean Langis, Pastoral Assistant
Ellen Peters, Office Administrator
Denise Oller, Office Assistant
Scott Lee, Facilities Operations Manager



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: THE PROPHET OF CHARITY

by Father George Florovsky (1893-1979)

The memory and witness to Christ of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated in the life of the Church on November 13th.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM was a powerful preacher. He regarded preaching as the duty of a Christian pastor. **Priesthood is authority, but it is the authority of word and conviction. Rulers compel, and pastors convince**. Pastors appeal to human freedom, to the human will and call for decisions. As Chrysostom used to say, “We have to accomplish the salvation of humanity by our word, meekness, and exhortation.” **The whole meaning of human life for Chrysostom was in that it was, and had to be, a life in freedom, and therefore a life of service.** In his preaching he spoke persistently about freedom and decision. **Freedom was for him part of image of God in humanity. God always acts in such a way as not to destroy our own freedom. God Himself acts by calls and appeals, not by compulsion. God shows us the right way, calls and invites us, and warns us against the dangers of wickedness, but does not constrain us.** Christian pastors must act accordingly. By temperament, Chrysostom was a maximalist, sharp and rigoristic, but he was always against compulsion. Christians are forbidden, he used to insist, to apply violence even for good aims: “Our warfare does not make the living dead, but rather makes the dead to live, because it is conducted in the spirit of meekness and humility. It is mine more to be persecuted, than to persecute. Christ was victorious as the Crucified, and not as a crucifier.” **The strength of Christianity was for him in humility and toleration, not in power. One had to be strict about oneself, and meek towards others.**

Yet, Chrysostom was in no sense a sentimental optimist. His diagnosis of the human situation was stern and grim. He lived in a time when the Church was suddenly invaded by crowds of nominal converts. He had an impression that he was preaching to the dead. He watched the lack of charity among the Christians of his day and saw them in an almost apocalyptic perspective. He had an impression that he was speaking to people for whom Christianity was just a conventional fashion, an empty form, and little more: “Among the thousands one can hardly find more than a hundred of them who are being saved, and even about that I am doubtful.” He was rather embarrassed by the great number of “alleged” Christians.

Prosperity was for him a danger, the worst kind of persecution, worse than an open persecution. Prosperity breeds carelessness. Men fall asleep, and the devil kills the sleepy. **Chrysostom was desperately concerned with the renewal of society, with the healing of social ills. He was preaching and practicing charity, founding hospitals and orphanages, helping the poor and destitute.** He wanted to recover the spirit of practicing love. He wanted more activity and commitment among Christians. Christianity for him was precisely “the Way,” as it had been sometimes described in Apostolic times, and Christ Himself was “the Way.” Chrysostom was always against all compromises, against any policy of appeasement and adjustment. He was a prophet of an integral Christianity.

Chrysostom was a witness to a living faith, and for him, the faith was a norm of life, and not just a theory. Dogmas must be practiced. Chrysostom was preaching the Gospel of Salvation, the good news of the new life in Christ. He preached Christ, and Him crucified and risen, the Lamb and the High Priest. **Right life was for him the only efficient test of right beliefs. Faith is accomplished in the deeds, deeds of charity and love. Without love - faith, contemplation, and the vision of the mysteries of God are impossible.** Chrysostom was watching the desperate struggle for truth in the society of his own day. He was always concerned with living souls.

Chrysostom was always concerned with ethical issues. He had his own vision of a just society, and the first prerequisite was, in his opinion, equality. It is the first claim of any genuine love. But Chrysostom would go much further. He felt that there was but one owner of all things in the world-God Himself, the Maker of all. Strictly speaking, no private property should exist at all. **Everything belongs to God. Everything is loaned rather than given by God in trust to man, for God's purposes.** Chrysostom would add: Everything is God's except the good deeds of man–it is the only thing that man can own. As everything belongs to God, our common Master, everything is given for common use. Is this not true even of worldly things? Cities, marketplaces, streets - are they not a common possession? God's economy is of the same kind. Water, air, sun and moon, and the rest of creation, are intended for common use. Quarrels begin usually when people attempt to appropriate things which, by their very nature, were not intended for the private possession of some, to the exclusion of others.

Chrysostom had serious doubts about private property. Does not strife begin when the cold distinction mine" and "thine" is first introduced? Where is man going to gather his treasures? **Chrysostom was after justice in defense of human dignity. Was not every man created in God's image? Did God not wish salvation and conversion of every single person, regardless of his position in life, and even regardless of his behavior in the past? All are called to repentance, and all can repent. There was, however, no neglect of material things in his preaching. Material goods come also from God, and they are not bad in themselves. What is bad, is only the unjust use of goods, to the profit of some, while others are left starving. The answer is in love.**

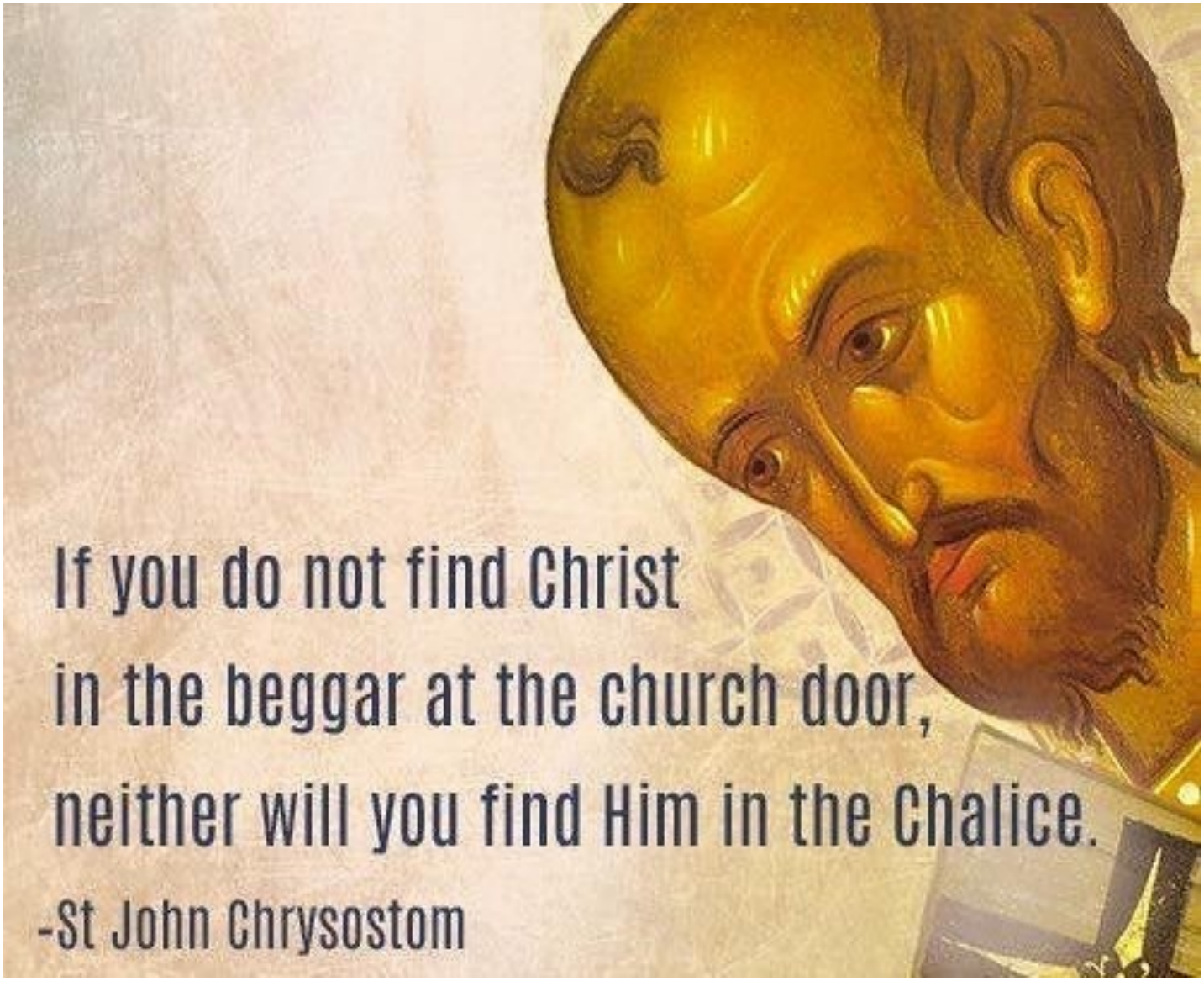
Love is not selfish, "is not ambitious, is not self-seeking." Chrysostom was looking back to the Church of the New Testament. "Observe how they cast away their riches, and rejoiced, and had great gladness, for greater were the riches they received without labor. None reproached, none envied, none grudged; there was no pride, no contempt. No talk of 'mine' and 'thine.' Hence joy waited at their table; no one seemed to eat of his own, or another's. Neither did they consider their brethren's property foreign to themselves; it was a property of the Master; nor again deemed they ought their own, all was the brethren's." How was this possible, Chrysostom asks: By the inspiration of love, in recognition of the unfathomable love of God.

Chrysostom did not believe in abstract schemes; he had a fiery faith in the creative power of Christian love. It was for that reason that he became the teacher and prophet for all ages in the Church. In his youth he spent some few years in the desert but would not stay there. For him monastic solitude was just a training period. He returned to the world to proclaim the power of the Gospel. **He was a missionary by vocation; he had an apostolic and evangelistic zeal. He wanted to share his inspiration with his brethren. He wanted to work for the establishment of God's Kingdom.** He prayed for such things in common life so that nobody would need to retire to the wilderness in search for perfection, because there would be the same opportunity in the cities. He wanted to reform the city itself, and for that purpose he chose for himself the way of priesthood and apostolate.

There is an unusual flavor of modernity in the writings of Chrysostom. His world was like ours, a world of tensions, a world of unresolved problems in all walks of life. His advice may appeal to our age no less than it did to his own. **His is a call to an integral Christianity, in which faith and charity, belief and practice, are organically linked in an unconditional surrender of every human being to God's overwhelming love, in an unconditional trust in His mercy, in an unconditional commitment to His service, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Was this a utopian dream? Was it possible to reshape the world, and to overrule the selfishness and worldliness of the world? **Was Chrysostom successful in his mission? His life was stormy and hard, it was a life of endurance and martyrdom. He was persecuted and rejected not by the pagans, but by false Christians, and died homeless as a prisoner in exile. All he was given to endure he accepted in the spirit of joy, as from the hand of Christ, who was Himself rejected and executed. His final words were: "Glory to God for everything!"** The Church gratefully recognized that witness and solemnly acclaimed Chrysostom as one of the great "ecumenical teachers" for all ages to come.

AMEN!



LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I pray that you and your families are well. Please take a few minutes to review the many different services and activities that are planned this month and plan to attend and get involved.

Mark your calendars for our next Parish General Assembly which will occur after Church on November 22nd in the Administrative building. I encourage all of you who are in good standing of the Church to attend and get an update on our finances, review & approve the 2027 budget and hear highlights from our ministries. I've included the agenda below.

1. Opening prayer
2. The election of a Chairman
3. The appointment of a Parliamentarian
4. The approval of the May 17, 2026 General Assembly minutes
5. Pastor's Report
6. President's Report
7. Audit Committee Report
8. Treasurer's Report (2026 year-to date, 2027 budget)
9. Stewardship Report
10. St. Paul's Endowment Fund Report
11. Strategic Plan Report
12. Presetation by the Board of Elections Committee
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Adjourn
16. Closing Prayer

Thank you for your continued love and support of St. Paul's.

In His Service,

George A. Theodorou

President, Parish Council

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK HUDOFF!



BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Bereavement Group

Wednesday,
November 4th and 18th
7:00 pm
in the Conference Room

Contact Presvytera Elaine Stephanides or the Church Office with questions.

Share, listen and find hope.

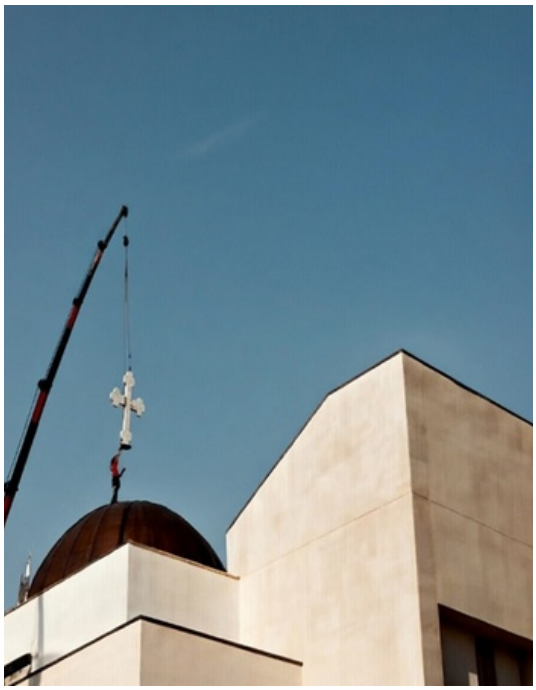
SAINT PAUL'S ENDOWMENT FUND

This photo 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.

For more information, https://stpaulsirvine.org/st-pauls-endowment-fund/



STEWARDSHIP

Glorifying and Honoring God at Thanksgiving

When you think of Thanksgiving, what comes to mind first? For most of us, it is a wonderful time to be with family and friends while we also take time to pause in deep gratitude for the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. If you enjoy American history, you might also think of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians coming together at Plymouth to give thanks for an abundant harvest and for surviving an arduous first year. The Pilgrims possessed a deep faith in God. William Bradford, who was one of the key religious leaders on the voyage from England, may well have led the first Thanksgiving in prayer; perhaps even reading from Psalm 95: "O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation."

Throughout the Bible, we are urged to live a life of thanksgiving each day. Being thankful to God for all His blessings is one of the most important principles of being a disciple of Christ. St. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." When we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, let us remember the sacrifices of those who paved the way for our religious freedom. In our prayers, let us also reflect on the needs of others, seeking ways to lighten their burdens and give them hope. In doing so, we glorify and honor God on this special day bestowed by His boundless grace and love.

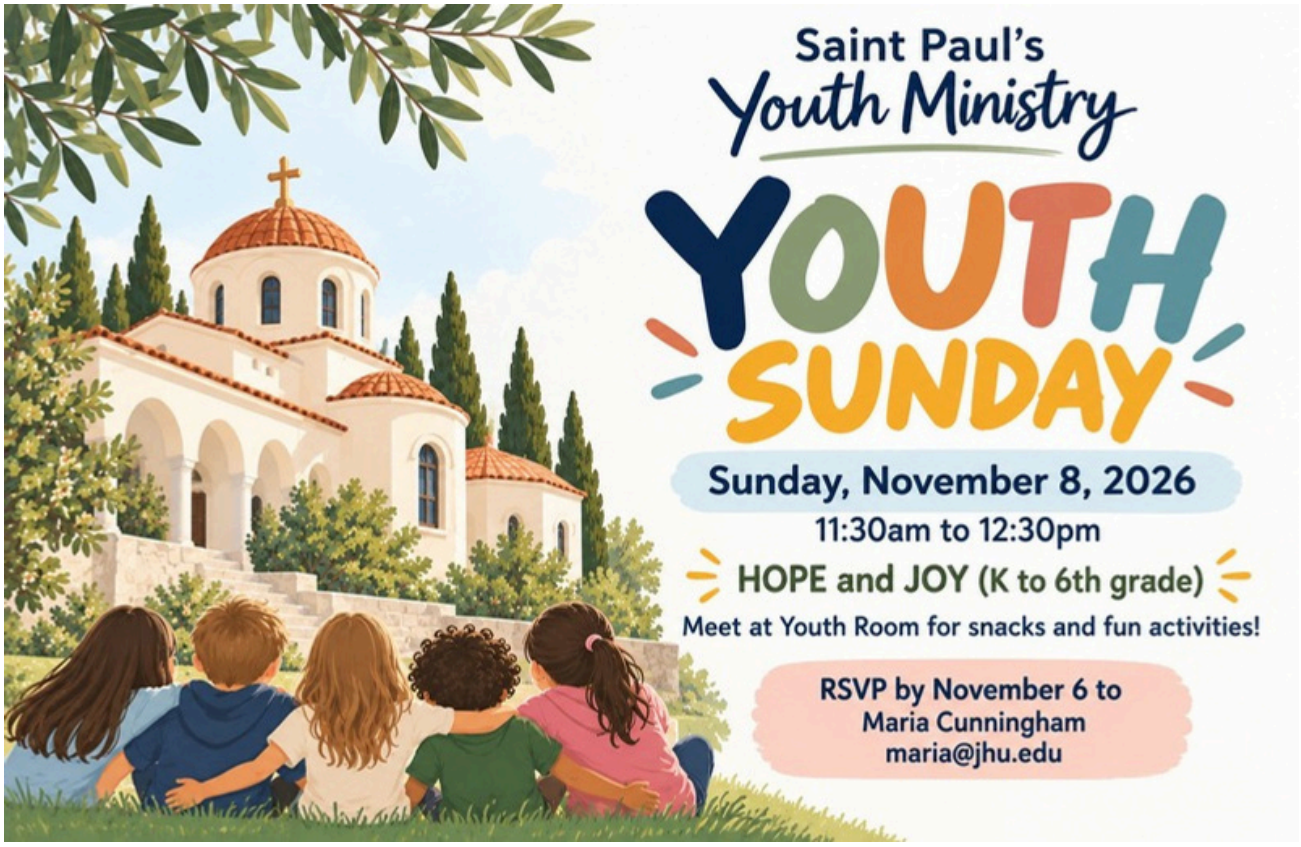
The Stewardship Committee wishes you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving! We are profoundly grateful to everyone for making St. Paul's such a vital, loving, and faith-filled parish.

Lou Machos, Stewardship Committee

SAINT PAUL'S PARISH FEASTDAY FEST



YOUTH SUNDAY



Women's Study Fellowship

November 2 at 11:00 am and November 16 after Divine Liturgy

Our book selection is

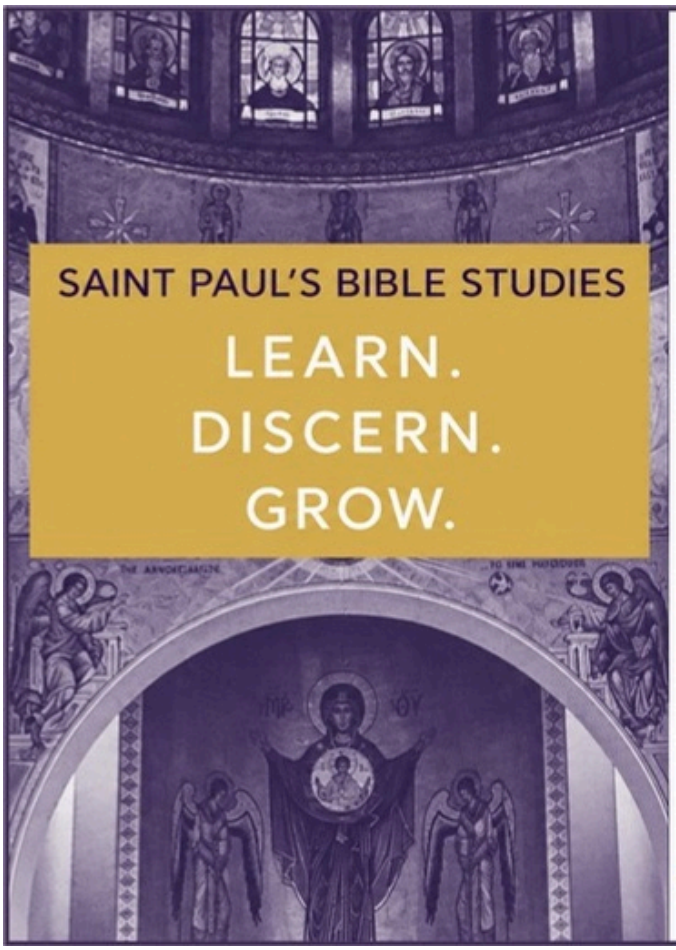
Painless, Blameless & Peaceful:

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 Theodor (949) 292-2378





MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Mondays, 7:30 PM
Zoom only

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 10:00 AM
In-Person and Zoom

KOINONIA BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 7:00 PM
In-Person and Zoom

See Sunday bulletin for Zoom links or email info@stpaulsirvine.org

HIKING WTH FATHER JUSTIN



TRAILS, FELLOWSHIP & FAITH
MONTHLY HIKES FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
PSALM 19:1

TOP OF THE WORLD
WEST RIDGE TRAIL

FIRST IN OUR QUARTERLY "SPICY HIKE" SERIES

Panoramic views of canyons, coastline and the Pacific Ocean on a classic Orange County ridgeline hike.

Saturday, November 7, 2026
9:00 a.m. start

Meet: End of Hollyleaf, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
Street parking available. Please respect neighbors and do not block driveways. Carpool encouraged.

Distance: Approximately 4.5–5 miles round trip
Elevation gain: Approximately 450–700 feet (estimates vary by recording)

Difficulty: MODERATE
Rolling hills with some steeper sections on exposed trails. Our first "spicy" hike of the year (once per quarter).

Bring: Water, sun protection and sturdy walking shoes. Exposed trail; limited shade; watch for mountain bikes.

Prayer and fellowship at Top of the World.
Return the same way.

ROUTE HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Start** at the end of **Hollyleaf** in Aliso Viejo. Take the short uphill access path to West Ridge Trail.
2. **Turn right onto West Ridge Trail.** Follow the ridgeline, staying on West Ridge Trail (do not descend into the canyons).
3. **Continue to Top of the World / Alta Laguna Park.** Enjoy panoramic views and time for the Akathist.
4. **Return the same way.**

PLEASE NOTE

- No bathrooms at the start (restrooms available at Alta Laguna Park).
- Exposed trail with limited shade.
- We will stay together as a group.
- All are welcome! Please come prepared for a moderate hike.

To RSVP:
scan or go to
https://stpaulsirvine.org/hike/

All are welcome! Come hike, pray, and enjoy God's creation together.

ST. PAUL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH — IRVINE
TRAILS | COMMUNITY | CREATION

YOUTH GREEK DANCE MINISTRY

ST. PAUL'S IRVINE, CA
GREEK DANCE MINISTRY



Interested in your kids learning to Greek dance? Practices on Sundays after church!

Youth Greek Dance Ministry
FDF Exhibition, Primary, and Junior level
Early elementary, late elementary/middle school

Calling all youth dancers!

Coordinator:
Georgia Theodorou
Contact:
youryeea1@yahoo.com

Contact and follow us!
@stpaulsirvinegreekdance
greekdance.stpaulsirvine@gmail.com

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH SCHOOL

"Come and see"

2026-27 CHURCH SCHOOL THEME

Church School is for Ages 3 through 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 row-by-row ***after*** Teachers and Choir and then proceed to their classes.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES AT:
STPAULSIRVINE.ORG/CHURCHSCHOOL

MOMS, POPS, & TOTS

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE

MOMS POPS AND TOTS

November 14th our moms pops and tots will meet at 10am in the community room at St Pauls Greek Orthodox Church





MOMS NIGHT OUT
NOVEMBER 10TH 7PM
24712 EL MANZANO
LAGUNA NIGUEL

PUMPKIN FLORAL ARRANGEMENT NIGHT!
BRING YOUR OWN HOLLOW PUMPKIN

DADS NIGHT
NOVEMBER 19TH 7:00PM
TBD

TOTS PLAYDATE
NOVEMBER 6TH 4:30PM
ALISO VIEJO COMMUNITY PARK

PAINTING PUMPKINS
BRING YOUR OWN LITTLE PUMPKIN!





TEXT NIKI WILLIAM WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

214-514-7379

Philoptochos: *An Army of Agape*

Happy Thanksgivingto all!... November begins our effort to celebrate being a member of Philoptochos! As we continue in our new year, we will be actively promoting Philoptochos membership and our quest to get all parishioners involved in this amazing ministry.

Get involved, get inspired, and give back to others!

Let's celebrate our events last month …



Our **Giving Tree project to raise funds for FOCUS -OC** started on October 4th and was highlighted with our *Gourmet Giving Tree Coffee Hour* in the Parish Hall on October 18th. It was a great success, and we thank our Philoptochos VP, **Cherise Matthews**, for organizing this *Make A Difference Month /Giving Tree* project. We are so appreciative to everyone who donated their time, talent, and treasure to support this amazing charity!!

Philoptochos Sunday…*on November 8th!* Join us for Coffee Hour and help support Philoptochos by giving to our ***Seminarian Support Drive***-bringing support to our Metropolis Seminarians for their education and living expenses. They are our future!!





Also…,on ***November 15th***, join us at the ***Light the Path*** luncheon as we celebrate our Metropolis Seminarian students and the work of the ***Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund***! Enjoy a wonderful luncheon and be ready to buy opportunity tickets to win one or more of the fantastic Christmas trees decorated with prizes and other Raffle items! See you there…

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.*

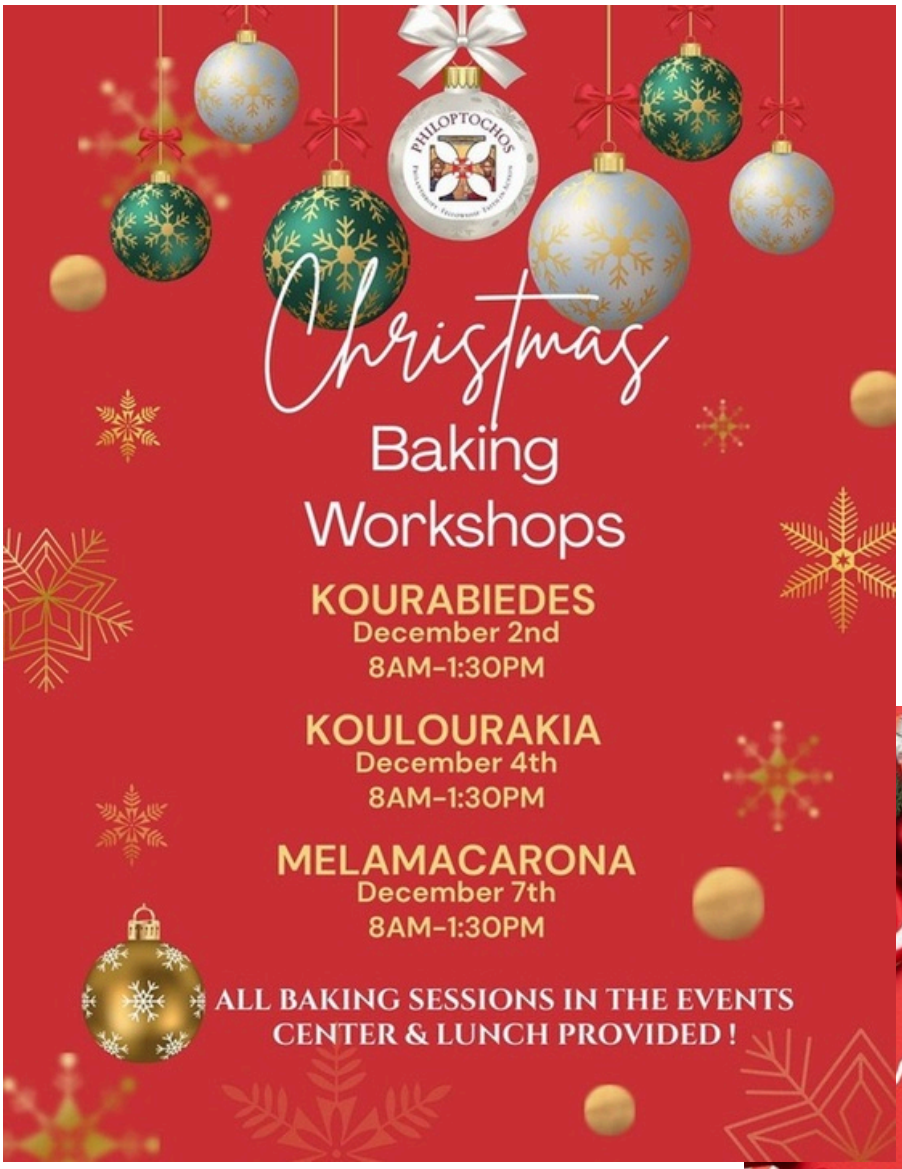
Please contact me if you have joined Philoptochos and have *special talents* that you can bring to our ministry! Would you like to be more involved? Are you willing to help with events and community service? Would you like to be a part of the Army of Agape? We are looking forward to a new season of giving and providing support to those in need.

Join the Fun + Make A Difference + Women Changing Lives

In HisService,

Priscilla Tedesco
President, St Paul's Ladies Philoptochos Society

PHILOPTOCHOS BAKING WORKSHOPS AND SALE









PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE
ORDER FORM

PHILOPTOCHOS

ST. PAUL'S PHILOPTOCHOS Christmas BAKE SALE & BOUTIQUE

Order By Dec 6th!



KOULOURAKIA



KOURABIEDES



MELAMACARONA



BAKLAVA

	QUANTITY	PRICE
KOULOURAKIA	_____	_____
KOURABIEDES	_____	_____
MELAMACARONA	_____	_____
BAKLAVA	_____	_____
TOTAL		_____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Scan to Order

Order Online at : www.stpaulsirvine.org/bakesale

OR... Mail this form to: St Paul's Philoptochos, 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine , CA 92604

Contact Rama Debbaneh at 949-293-2991 or rdebbaneh@yahoo.com

AFTER LITURGY IN THE EVENTS CENTER

PICK UP DEC 13TH

ST PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the Fun + Make a Difference + Women Changing Lives

☐ 2027 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

☐ *GIFT* 2027 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

☐ 2027 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP
(MEN / NON-VOTING)

FULL NAME: _____
Last *First* *M.I.*

ADDRESS: _____
Street Address *Apartment / Unit #*

_____
City *State* *Zip*

HOME PHONE: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

GIFT 2027 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP

FULL NAME: _____
Last *First* *M.I.*

ADDRESS: _____
Street Address *Apartment / Unit #*

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☑ National **$15** + Metropolis **$15** + St. Paul's Philoptochos **$20** *per capita required*
Your $50 supports local, regional, national & international philanthropy $ _____

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

☐ $30 ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $125 ☐ $250+ Philoptochos Angel ☐ other $ _____

2027 TOTAL STEWARDSHIP $ _____

2027 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:

"...whateveryoudid for one of these,theleastofmy 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

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS CARD

ST. PAUL'S PHILOPTOCHOS

Christmas Card

SIGN UP



BY DEC 7TH

Join our beautiful **Parish Community Christmas Card** and spread the joy of Christmas and the New Year with your church family and friends! No shopping for, signing, or addressing individual cards – simply sign up to participate and we'll handle the rest.

Just $25

In the space below, please write how you would like your name to appear inside the card (Example: ***Mr. & Mrs. Brown*** OR ***John, Jane, & Sally Brown*** OR ***The Brown Family***)

Your Christmas card signature:

Please print clearly

Contact info (phone or email):

4 WAYS TO ORDER

1 Scan 2 Online 3 Philoptochos Table 4 Mail-In Form

www.stpaulsirvine.org/bakesale

Questions? Contact Nada Gerig: (317) 797-4361 or nada.gerig@icloud.com

For mail-in orders, **we must receive** your form & **$25 check BEFORE Dec 7th** payable to:
St Paul's Philoptochos, 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604

POTLUCK FOLLOWING SATURDAY VESPERS







Church Potluck

Following 5:30 pm Vespers

Saturdays in November, Parish Hall.

AMBASSADORS

Please come and bring a friend to these three events:

ST. PAUL'S CARPOOLS AT 11 AM ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 FROM ST. PAUL'S TO OUR FREE TOUR OF ST. JOHN'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ANAHEIM BY THEIR PASTOR FATHER CHRISTOPHER RETELAS WITH LUNCH TO FOLLOW AT PORTO'S BAKERY AND CAFÉ IN BUENA PARK!

Please join us on our carpools to our tour of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church by Fr. Christopher Retelas at 405 N. Dale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; 714-827-0181; http://stjohnanaheim.org/ on Thursday, November 5 at 11 am. Then we plan to go to lunch very close by at Porto's Bakery and Café at 7640 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90620; 714-367-2030; https://www.portosbakery.com/. You can also check out the wonderful customer reviews about the Porto's Bakery and Café at https://www.yelp.com/biz/portos-bakery-and-cafe-buena-park-7 . You can either meet us there at St. John's or carpool with us from St. Paul's. Please R.S.V.P. to Dean Langis at 949-733-2366 or at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org if you are coming and also if you would like to loan us your car or van that I can drive (I am fully insured) and/or be one of our carpool drivers.

ST. PAUL'S FREE FILM "FR. ARSENIE BOCA - MAN OF GOD" (1910-1989) ABOUT THIS ROMANIAN ORTHODOX SAINT OF MODERN TIMES WITH OUR FREE SPINACH AND FETA PIZZA LUNCH TO FOLLOW ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 11 AM!

We invite all our parishioners of all ages and also our friends from our sister parishes to join us on Thursday, November 12th at 11 am at St. Paul's for the beautiful documentary film "Fr. Arsenie Boca - Man of God" about one of the great heroes of the Romanian Orthodox Church of the 20th century who since the making of the film was officically canonized as a holy saint of our Church by the Orthodox Church of Romania on February 4, 2025, and whose Feast Day is commemorated on November 28th just a few days after our showing of this film here at St. Paul's! We plan to have our new assistant priest, Fr. Gabriel Cupsa, to offer a few brief thoughts and insights into the life and example of St. Arsenie Boca that day after the film. Then 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 by emailing me at dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org or by calling me and/or leaving me a phone message at 949-733-2366 so that I can know how many pizzas and food to get. St. Arsenie Boca (1910-1989) was a beloved Romanian Orthodox monastic priest, artist, and theologian who was repeatedly imprisoned and tortured by the Communists and was later "banned from monasticism and Church activities and was constantly under the surveillance and harassment of the Securitate [the Romanian Secret Police comparable to the KGB in the Soviet Union]." One of Father Arsenie's beautiful quotes is "God's love for the greatest sinner is greater than the love of the greatest saint for God." Thousands of "pilgrims from all over Romania flock to pray at his grave at the Prislop Monastery." Please join us! If for any reason you cannot join us on November 12th, you can also watch this amazing film at home by clicking onto https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptbTap5NHqw and also its companion link of "A Blessed Encounter with Father Arsenie" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2uSolMZU90 which shows the interview of Fr. Arsenie's spiritual daughter Azpazia Otel-Petrescu who was imprisoned for 14 years for her Orthodox faith, etc. in Romania under the Communists.

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.

YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE

SAINT PAUL'S YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE (YAL)

a ministry serving adults ages 18-35

A NEW YAL SERIES

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
VESPERS + POTLUCK + CONVERSATION

Join us for the first in a new regular series of YAL potluck + conversation. Pray together at Vespers, share a meal, then join YAL and Father Gabriel Cupsa for a discussion + Q&A on the Nativity Fast and how we can prepare our hearts to welcome the newborn Christ.

5:30 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Potluck dinner
7:00–8:30 PM Conversation + Q&A

CONVERSATION + Q&A IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

OTHER UPCOMING YAL EVENTS

- **DECEMBER 12** — ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
- **JANUARY 9** — VISIT TO ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH + SAN DIEGO ZOO
- **FEBRUARY 20** — POTLUCK + DISCUSSION

SAVE THE DATES • MORE DETAILS TO COME

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

SCAN TO JOIN

FAITH IN FIFTEEN



SAINT PAUL'S

Nativity Walk

AN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY
THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU!
BE PART OF THE STORY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
5:00–7:00 p.m.

Join Saint Paul's Nativity Walk!

We invite adults, teens, and older children to participate as costumed characters in Nativity Walk on Sunday evening, December 20.

- **Choose a character** and sign up for one or both shifts.
- **Costumes will be provided.** Pick yours up in the gym on Sunday Dec 13.

Once you've signed up, you'll receive additional information about your role, costume, and arrival time.



VISIT
stpaulsirvine.org/nativity
TO SIGN UP!

Visitors move through Bethlehem as the Gospel story unfolds around them through costumed characters, narration, music, scenery, and props. This year, we are expanding the experience into a special evening presentation open to our neighbors and the wider community

CHOIR'S SEE'S CANDY SALE

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR

See's

CANDY SALE







From November 22, 2025
Sundays After Liturgy

1 pound box $32.00 (Retail price $34.00)

"**Skiing Reindeer" & "Tidings of Joy" small boxes $10.00** (Retail $12.00)

PILGRIMAGE WITH FATHER JUSTIN

St. Paul's 2027 Pilgimage with Father Justin to Asia Minor

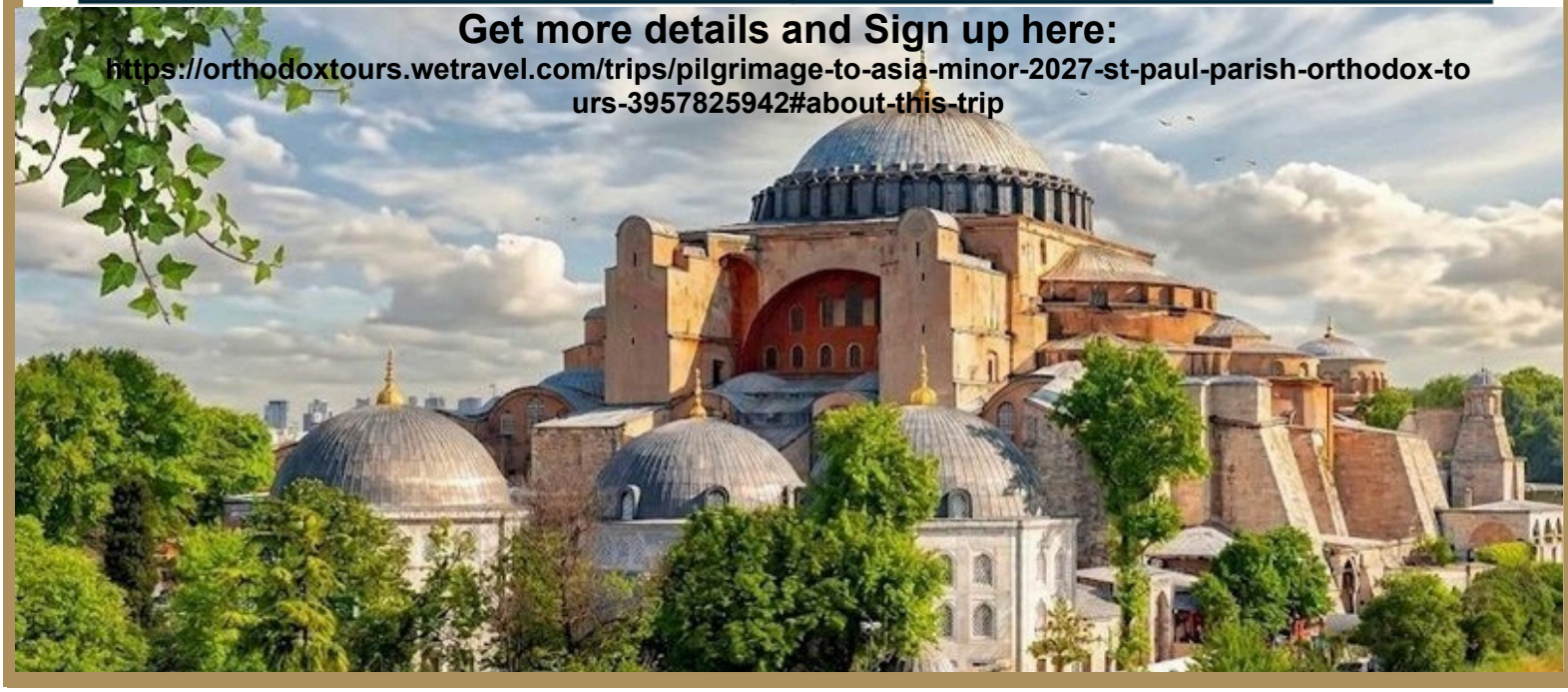
Offered by OrthodoxTours
https://orthodoxtours.com/

September 20th - October 2nd, 2027

Contact Dcn. Dan for questions
deacondaniel@stpaulsirvine.com

Days 1-4: Cappadocia & Konya
Days 5-6: The Mediterranean Coast
Days 7-10: Sacred Cities & Patmos
Days 11-13: Imperial Constantinople

Get more details and Sign up here:
https://orthodoxtours.wetravel.com/trips/pilgrimage-to-asia-minor-2027-st-paul-parish-orthodox-tours-3957825942#about-this-trip



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 Tsichlis

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

PHILOPTOCHOS
(Love for the Poor)
President: Priscilla Tedesco Advisor: Barbara House
First V.P.: Hresula Hudoff Second V.P. Cherise Matthews,
Recording Secretary: Bea Dargavel
Corresponding Secretary: Monica Leontas
Treasurer: Laura Leventis Assistant Treasurer: Nada Gerig
Chaplain: Ginny Farmer Tomich
Katia Abatjoglou, Samantha Barrett, Lucy Bataneant, Megan Bonynge, 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
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 Bonynge

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Daylight Savings Time Ends - FALL BACK!
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
11:15a Philoptochos Sunday - Special Tray for the Patriarchate
11:30a Family Feastday Fest
4p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy for Beginners
5p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy - Fast-Paced for Greek Speakers

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
11a Women's Study Fellowship
6p Greek School - Adult Beginner A1
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study - Zoom only

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
7p Bereavement Group with Presvytera Elaine

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis
7p Orthodox Christianity 101

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
7p Koinonia Bible Study
7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
4:30p Moms Pops & Tots - Playdate at Aliso Viejo Community Park - byo little pumpkin to paint
7p Greek Dance Group Practice

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
9a Hike with Father Justin - Meet at 8:30a at Top of the World, West Ridge Trail
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy
11a Philoptochos Sunday - Seminarian Support Drive
11:30a Choir Meeting
4p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy for Beginners
5p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy - Fast-Paced for Greek Speakers

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
ST. NEKTARIOS THE WONDERWORKER
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
6p Greek School - Adult Beginner A1
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study - Zoom only

TUESDAY,NOVEMBER 10
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
7p Moms Pops & Tots - Mom's Night- Pumpkin floral arrangement - byo pumpkin

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis
7p Orthodox Christianity 101

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
9a Praying the Psalms
10a Women's Bible Study
6:30p Philoptochos Board Meeting
7p Koinonia Bible Study

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
7p Greek Dance Group Practice

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
10a Moms Pops & Tots - General Meeting
5:30p Vespers
5:30p Youth Night GOYA (7th-12th grades) at Vespers
6:30p Potluck
6:30p YAL discussion with Fr. Gabriel

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
NATIVITY FAST BEGINS
8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy
11:30a Fellowship Team Meeting
2p Philoptochos: Light the Path at the Centre, Lakewood, CA
4p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy for Beginners
5p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy - Fast-Paced for Greek Speakers

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
11a Women's Study Fellowship
6p Greek School - Adult Beginner A1
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study - Zoom only

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Small Paraklesis
7p Orthodox Christianity 101
7p Bereavement Group with Presvytera Elaine

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
10a Women's Bible Study
7p Koinonia Bible Study
7p Moms Pops & Tots Dads Night - Bowlero, Tustin
7:30p Men's Prayer Fellowship

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
7p Greek Dance Group Practice

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy
11:30a General Assembly - Parish Hall
4p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy for Beginners
5p Greek School: Greek of the Liturgy - Fast-Paced for Greek Speakers

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Greek School - Adult Beginner A1
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study - Zoom only

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
6p Vesperal Liturgy for Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
THANKSGIVING
OFFICE CLOSED
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
OFFICE CLOSED
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
5:30p Vespers
6:30p Potluck

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
8:30a Orthros
9:30a Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE
9a Praying the Psalms on Zoom
9a Orthros
10a Divine Liturgy
11:30a Women's Study Fellowship
6p Greek School - Adult Beginner A1
7:30p Monday Night Bible Study - Zoom only

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
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