



St George the Great Martyr Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin – Sunday, October 23, 2016

Church Email – frmichael@victorvalleyorthodox.net

Website – <http://www.victorvalleyorthodox.net>

Priest Michael Rozdilski – (760) 244-9223/(425) 999-0407

Deacon George Berni – (760) 792-8604

Bulletin and Website – This week marks the first edition of our new parish bulletin and updates to our website. This is a work in progress, and we will be making improvements and adjustments as we go forward.

This bulletin will be used to provide announcements for the coming week. Our website will always have our most up-to-date calendar and we will be adding news and articles about our faith in the coming weeks, so be sure to visit us at <http://www.victorvalleyorthodox.net>

Good News - It is a wonderful blessing to have so many catechumens in our Church this winter season! I know all of them have been diligently studying and working with a number of people throughout the year getting ready and they have been very patient while our Church has been in transition. The time has come to make the final arrangements for their reception into the One Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Save the Date - Baptisms/Chrismations will take place at **8:30 am on 18 December 2016 immediately before Divine Liturgy**. This is not just a service for our catechumens. All members of our parish should plan on attending and welcoming our catechumens into the Church.

Adult Education Classes - We will be devoting our weekly adult education session for the remainder of the year to preparing our

catechumens for beginning their lives as Orthodox Christians. These classes are open to all who wish to learn more about Christianity, Orthodox and non-orthodox alike. **Classes will take place each Saturday in November from 5pm to 6pm and Saturday Vespers will follow immediately. Again, all are welcome to attend!**

Christianity is not just about learning and agreeing to a philosophy or to points of dogma, rather, it is a way of life which leads to our theosis or deification. In our baptism we die to our old man and put on Christ. Our very lives then become a journey where we continually become more and more like Him. *We become by grace what God is by nature.*

But how do we live our lives as Orthodox Christians? Over the centuries, our Church has gathered many treasures from the holy people who have walked this very path just as we are. In the weeks leading up to our Baptisms and Chrismations, we will explore these treasures given to us by Christ and His Church. In particular, we will look at prayer, fasting, stewardship and worship. We will learn what the Church teaches on these subjects as well as discuss Her response to some of the moral and ethical challenges we face in today's world. We will also discuss how these teachings are carried out and maintained here in our local parish.

An Invitation - While these topics are especially important for those who are about to be received into the Church, all of us as Orthodox Christians have a responsibility to know and practice our faith to the best of our ability. So again, I would like to invite everyone to attend these sessions, both to learn more about their faith, and to show support for our catechumens.

Diocesan Assembly – On October 11th-13th Fr Michael, Mat Xenia, and Fr Dn George attended the annual Diocesan Assembly in Los Angeles, CA. Matushka Xenia attended as the parish delegate this year, and she will be providing an article about the event on our parish website soon.

Memory Eternal – A former parishioner of ours, Sylvia Mitchell recently fell asleep in the Lord on October 12th and we celebrated her funeral here at St George on the 15th. Please keep the newly departed Sylvia in your prayers.

Sharing God's Blessings – Last week, I announced that a local woman approached us with a request for assistance for herself and her family. Thanks to all of you who responded with generous donations of used furniture, children's clothes and toys, we were able to offer from the abundance Our Lord has given us and share with a family in need. I hope in the future we can continue to answer Christ's call to help those less fortunate than ourselves whenever and however we are able.

Sing to the Lord a new song – Last Saturday, members of our choir met to practice vespers music and to begin planning our rehearsal schedule. Singing at the divine services is a very important ministry and this is one area of our Church life that is certainly in need more participation. If you are interested in offering your voice with us to the Lord, please consider coming to our next rehearsal on Saturday, October 29th at 430pm. Ours is a very informal practice. We are spending some time on the basics: learning tones, the standard Vespers music, and practicing singing together as a group.

Even if you do not wish to sing with the choir, consider coming to a practice or two. Everyone in our Church is invited to sing during the divine services. Attending a few practices to learn the music will help all of us to sing joyfully and more beautifully.

Trip to Saint Barbara's Monastery – On December 3, 2016 His Eminence Archbishop BENJAMIN, our Diocesan Bishop, will be celebrating the altar feast of Saint Barbara's Monastery in Santa Paula. We are planning a "field trip" for the catechumens so that they have an opportunity to see what an Orthodox Monastery is like.

There has been some interest expressed by other members of our parish to attend this event as well. We would like to rent a 15-passenger van so we can all go together. The trip to the monastery is about 2 hrs and 15 mins, so we would have to leave early from the Church (6am) in order to make Divine Liturgy. We would spend the day at the monastery and get back around 8pm. The cost would be about \$20 per person.

Please let Fr Deacon George know as soon as possible if you are interested in travelling with us or if you would like to make a donation

to help defray the cost. We need to have a head-count by November 20th.

Father Michael's Schedule – Thanks be to God, Matushka and I are in the process of closing on the sale of our house in Washington state and we have made arrangements to rent a home in Spring Valley Lake beginning December 1st. Please keep us both in your prayers as we look for employment in the area.

In the meantime, Father will be at the Church for office hours on Wednesdays from 11 am to 5:30 pm. Please feel free to stop by for a chat or to come to confession. At 5:30 pm on Wednesdays, we will sing an akathist before I head home and all are welcome to attend. While Wednesday is my “official” office day, please don’t hesitate to call between 9am and 6pm on other days if there is something you need to discuss with me. Of course, in an emergency, you may call any time. Until my work situation is resolved, I will have a lot of flexibility.

Calendar of Events – October 23 – 30

Sun 10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy
Mon 10/24	
Tue 10/25	
Wed 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am-5:30pm – Office Hours• 5:30pm Akathist
Thu 10/27	
Fri 10/28	
Sat 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4:30pm – 5:30 pm Choir practice• 5:00pm Adult Education• 6:00pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sun 10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy