

August 27, 2014

Dear Reverend Fathers and Youth Advisors:

We invite you and your junior and senior high age young people (grades 6 to 12) to participate this year in our annual Southern California Bible and Church History Tournament! Our junior division is for grades 6 to 8, and our senior division is for grades 9 to 12. Our young people in the Southland love this tournament--they enjoy learning about the Scriptures and our Church as well as meeting other Orthodox young people from different parishes of our various jurisdictions. The day includes games, activities, lunch, the presentation of trophies to the winning teams, and concludes with the Service of the Ninth Hour. This year our tournament is scheduled to take place at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Northridge on their parish feast day of St. Nicholas on Saturday, December 6th with Matins scheduled at 8 a.m., the Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m., and the Bible and Church History Tournament itself from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We thank our host pastor, Fr. Anthony Savas, and his assistant priest, Fr. Michael State, and all of St. Nicholas' parish for their kindness and hospitality.

Attached are the rules and regulations--please read these over carefully. Also attached are the registration form and the flyer and the COMPLETE TEXTS for our Bible and Church History Tournament this year. The texts include: St. Matthew 20:1-16; St. Luke 14:7-15; St. Luke 17:1-19; St. Luke 18:1-30; Acts 17:15-34; I Timothy 4; II Timothy 2; I John 4:7-21; Life of St. Nicholas; Life of St. Polycarp; Life of St. Perpetua; Life of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess; the Sacrament of Marriage; and excerpts from the "Second Century" and from the "Fifteenth Century" from Fr. Thomas Hopko's "The Orthodox Faith: An Elementary Handbook on the Orthodox Church," Vol. 3—"Bible and Church History". There is a total of five two-sided sheets--10 pages total. Please make photocopies of these texts so that each of your young people receives a complete set for study purposes. **You should shortly be able to access the flyer, registration form, rules and regulations form and all the texts at our Bible Bowl website at <http://www.socalbiblebowl.org/>.**

Please complete the team registration forms--please make copies so you have one for each team. Although you may not have more than 4 people on team, you may have fewer than 4 people on a team (you can have a 3-person team or a 2-person team or theoretically even a 1-person team!). The registration fee this year is \$35 per team and must be included with the registration form. This covers our costs for lunch, materials, and trophies. You may return the registration forms and fee to Dean Langis c/o St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church at 4949 Alton Pkwy, Irvine, CA 92604-8606 or you may bring them with you on the day of the tournament. Please return the registration forms and fees to St. Paul's as soon as possible so that we may know how many to prepare lunch for. For directions to St. Nicholas' Greek Orthodox Church please see the map below or go to www.mapquest.com or call St. Nicholas' at 818-886-4040.

Please encourage all your young people to participate--they will enjoy learning these wonderful texts as well as having fellowship with the other Orthodox young people from our various parishes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the following tournament organizers/advisors:

Father Norman Kosanovich	St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral	(626) 284-9100
Father Haralambos Fox	St. John's Greek Orthodox Church	(714) 827-0181
Khouria Elaine Manneh	St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church	(714) 202-5015
Christina Hanna	St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral	(323) 737-2424
Dean Peratsakis	St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral	(323) 737-2424
Dean Langis	St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church	(949) 733-2366

We are looking forward to seeing you and your youth on December 6th!

Respectfully yours,

Dean Langis
Pastoral Assistant at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church

Directions to: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
9501 Balboa Blvd.
Northridge, CA 91325
818-886-4040

From the 405 Freeway:

Exit onto Nordhoff Street going west for about 1.7 miles.

Turn right/north onto Balboa Blvd. and go 0.6 mile to St. Nicholas' Greek Orthodox Church which will be on your left/west side.