

September 9, 2016

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. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine on Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We thank the pastor of St. Paul's, Fr. Steven Tsiichlis; and assistant pastor of St. Paul's, Fr. Theofanis Degaitas; and the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at St. Paul's, Mr. Christian Siskos, and all of St. Paul's parishioners 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: 1) Psalm 138 (139); 2) Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 6; 3) Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 15; 4) Epistle of St. Jude; 5) St. Luke the Apostle and Evangelist; 6) St. Paul the Apostle; 7) St. Juliana the Righteous of Lazarevo, Murom; 8) Excerpts from "The Ladder of Divine Ascent" by St. John Climacus; 9) "Venerating Icons: What are Icons, and Why are They Important?"; 10) "Inner Struggles" and "Third Ecumenical Council" from the "Fifth 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/>; we sincerely thank Mr. Dean Tripodes for setting up and maintaining our Bible Bowl website!

Please complete the team registration forms--please make copies so you may have a separate registration form for each of your team(s). Although you may not have more than 4 people on a 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(s). 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. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church please see the map below or go to [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) or call St. Paul's at 949-733-2366.

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

Khouria Elaine Manneh--St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church--714-202-5015

Christina Hanna--St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral--323-737-2424

Christian Siskos--St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church--949-733-2366

Dean Langis--St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church--949-733-2366

We are looking forward to seeing you and your youth on December 3rd!

Respectfully yours,

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

Church

Directions to: St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church  
4949 Alton Pkwy.  
Irvine, CA 92604-8606  
949-733-2366

From the 405 Freeway:

Take the University Dr exit, EXIT 4, toward Jeffrey Rd. 0.3 mi  
Turn left onto University Dr. 0.3 mi  
Stay straight to go onto Jeffrey Rd. 0.4 mi  
Turn left onto Alton Pkwy. 0.6 mi  
4949 Alton Pkwy. is on the right.