

Welcome



Our Welcome Packet

Shared by the Welcome Ministry
St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA

Sample Welcome Packet

The following pages contain a representative Welcome Packet used by St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church for first-time guests, visitors, and those inquiring about the Orthodox Christian faith.

The packet is intended to provide a warm introduction to parish life, answer common questions, and offer practical information about worship, ministries, and opportunities to become connected within the parish community.

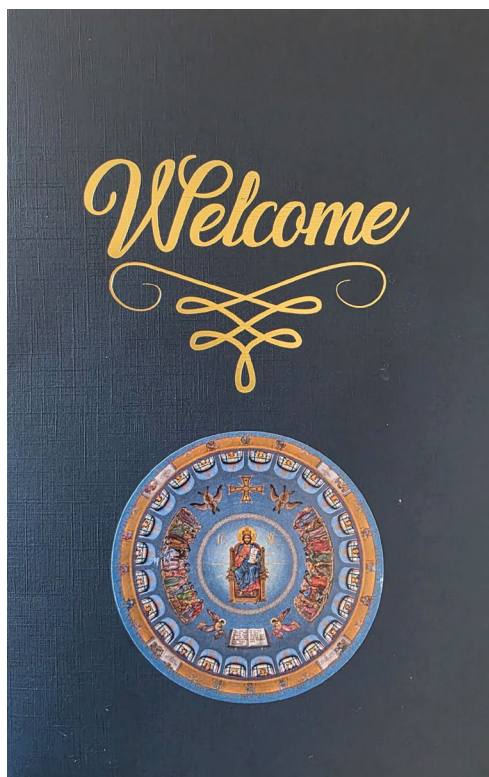
The samples provide a resource for parishes seeking ideas as they develop or enhance their own guest welcome process. While every parish has its own unique culture and needs, our hope is that these materials will provide practical examples that can be adapted to fit your local ministry.

Our prayer is that every Guest who enters our Churches experiences the hospitality of Christ and encounters a parish family that welcomes them with genuine warmth, care, and love.

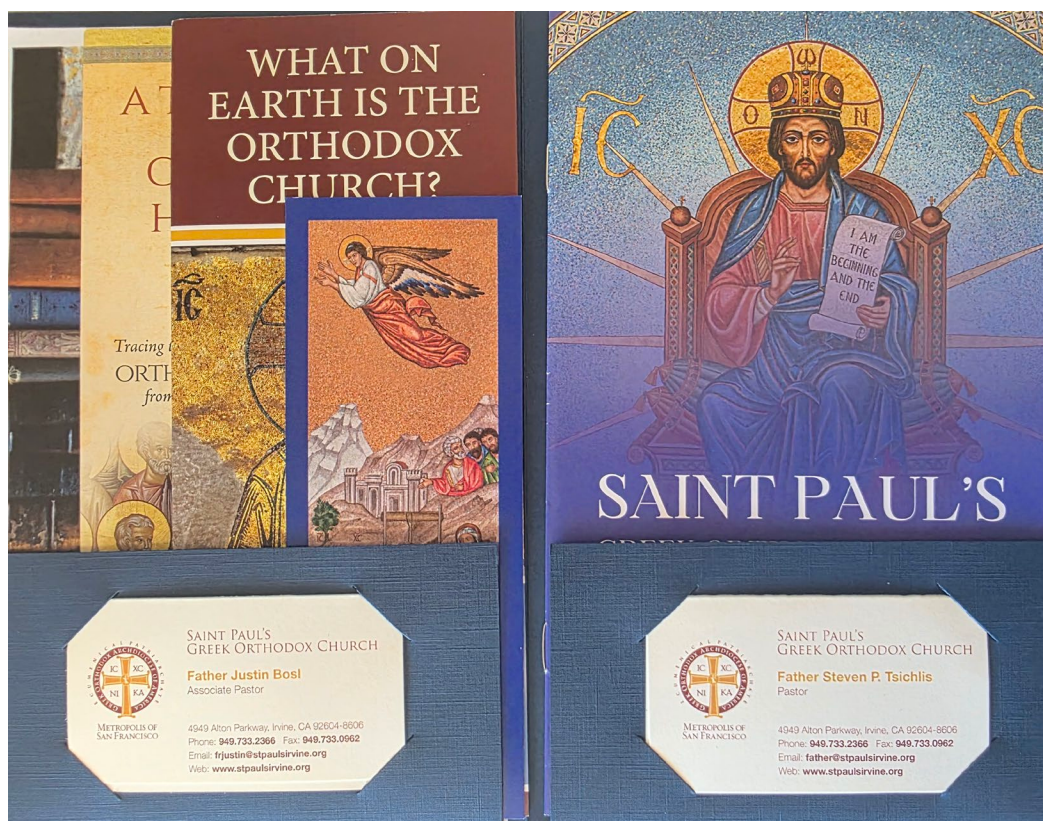
*"Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15:7*

George Ekizian
Welcome Ministry Coordinator

The Welcome Packet



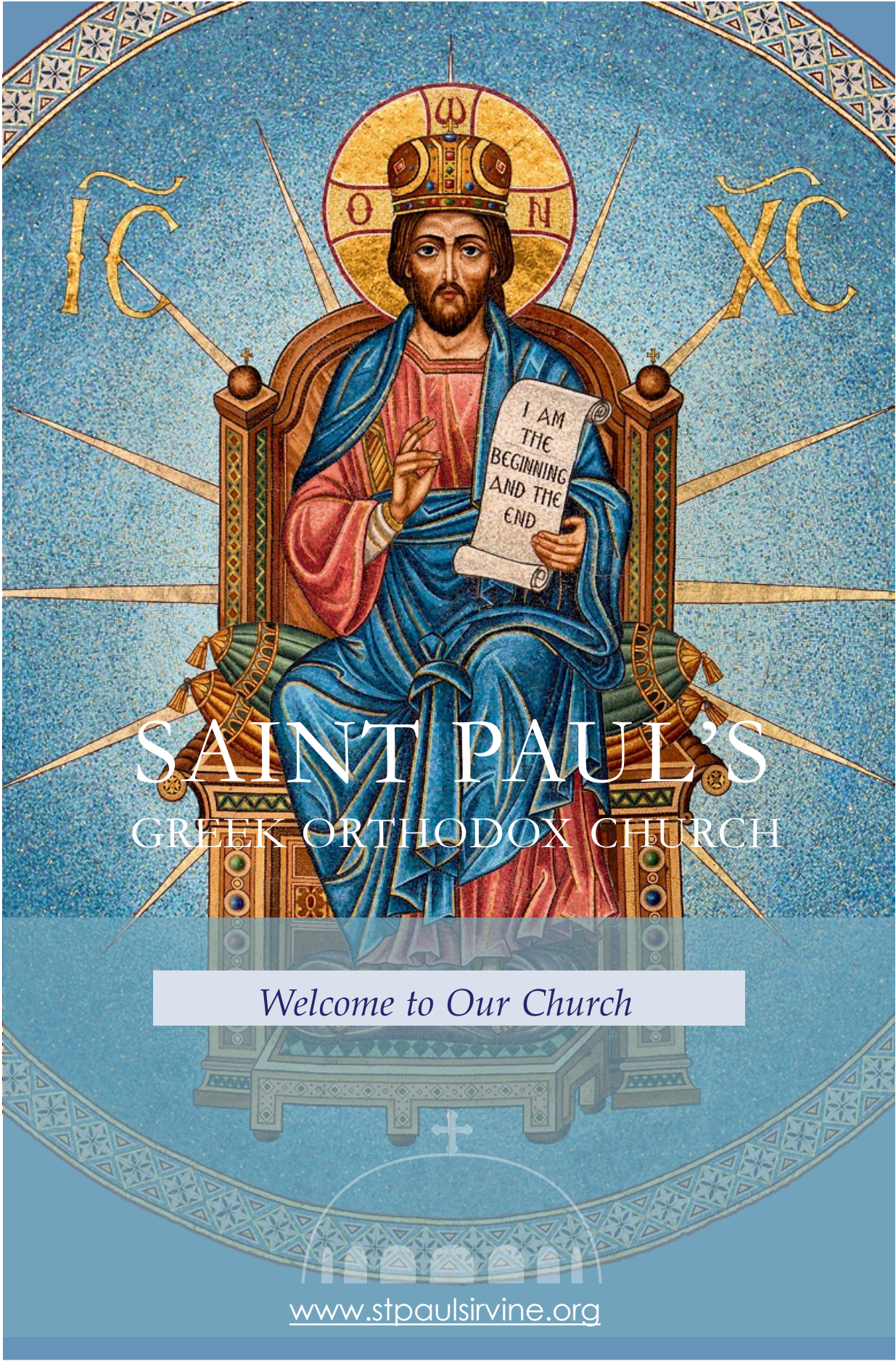
Front Cover



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A Key Element of our Welcome Packet is the professionally printed “Information Guide” which is shown on the following 8 pages.

An icon of Christ Pantocrator, the Ruler of All, seated on a throne. He is depicted with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue mantle over a red tunic. He holds a scroll in his left hand that reads "I AM THE BEGINNING AND THE END". His right hand is raised in a gesture of blessing. Behind him is a golden halo with a cross and the letters "O" and "N". The background is a blue field with golden rays and the letters "IC" and "XC" in gold. The entire icon is framed by a decorative border.

SAINT PAUL'S

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Welcome to Our Church

www.stpaulsirvine.org

Welcome

We're delighted you've chosen to explore our community and are eager to connect with you.

St. Paul's is a place where diverse paths intersect and where **seekers of all backgrounds are welcome**. Whether you're new to Orthodox Christianity and want to learn more or are already Orthodox and seeking a new spiritual home, you will find support and guidance here.

At St. Paul's you're welcome to discover and explore the profound wisdom of Orthodoxy. We offer a rich tapestry of resources, including programs, classes, and services designed to support your growth. As you embark on this spiritual journey, remember the age-old invitation in the Gospel of John to "**come and see**." We extend that same invitation to you. I'm confident that your time at St. Paul's will draw you closer to our loving Lord.

In His Grace,
Fr. Steve Tsichlis
Pastor



What Is the Orthodox Church?

With its roots in the time of the Apostles, the Orthodox Church, with 250 million adherents globally, strives to unite each person with Christ for their salvation. Emphasizing God's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, the Orthodox Church offers a path to eternal life through faith, holding fast to timeless traditions.

**Learn more about
Orthodoxy**



*Out of His love
for humanity,
God became a
man, so that
every person, by
grace, could
become like God.*





This is my first visit. What should I do?

Welcome! You can light a candle, find a seat, and prepare for the service quietly. During the service, simply follow the lead of others, whether it's standing or sitting. Take in the experience, and afterward, you're welcome to join in for some fellowship.

What if I'm not Orthodox?

That's okay! You're welcome to attend and observe. If you're interested in learning more, ask someone after the service.

What is the primary worship service like?

The primary worship service in the Orthodox Church is called the Divine Liturgy. It's a sacred and traditional service where the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated, recalling the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples.

Can I receive Communion?

Only baptized or chrismated Orthodox Christians in good standing with the Church can receive Communion. You can still participate in other aspects of the service. You're also welcome to come up after the service to receive a blessing from the priest.

FAQ & Worship Guide



I'm not Greek. Is that okay?

Everyone is welcome in our parish regardless of their background! More than half of the members of our parish family are not Greek or of Greek descent. Our worship services are conducted in English.

Can kids participate?

Yes, bringing your children to church is not only accepted but encouraged. We understand the challenges of keeping them engaged during the service, so we offer daycare services in a nearby building—just ask an usher for directions. There's also a nursery room in the narthex where you can care for your children while still being able to see and hear the service.

What is all the art on the walls?

Those are icons, representing saints, Christ, and biblical scenes. They support our worship by engaging us visually, inspiring us with examples of faith, and connecting us to those in Christ's presence.

Do you worship the Virgin Mary?

No, we do not worship Mary. In the Orthodox tradition, we venerate Mary as the Theotokos, the Mother of God, with great respect and honor. Worship is reserved for the Holy Trinity: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit.



About Our Parish

Founded in 1987, St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church is a thriving parish under the Greek Orthodox Metropolis, dedicated to serving the Orange County area. Our diverse congregation comprises individuals from various ethnic backgrounds, including those raised in the Orthodox faith and converts to Orthodoxy.

Guided by the two great commandments—to love the Lord wholeheartedly and to love our neighbors as ourselves—we earnestly endeavor to "**make love our aim**" in all aspects of our individual lives, families, and as a close-knit community.

Our central purpose as a parish and as Christians is to seek salvation in Jesus Christ, living in accordance with His will and emulating His life.



Ministries

- **EDUCATION**

- We offer diverse educational opportunities for children and adults, including Sunday School, Orthodox Christianity 101, Bible Studies, and Women's Study Fellowship.

- **LITURGICAL**

- Our dedicated liturgical teams ensure smooth, spiritually enriching worship services. Altar Servers, Acolytes, Choir Members, Ushers and Greeters play integral roles in our worship experience.

- **OUTREACH**

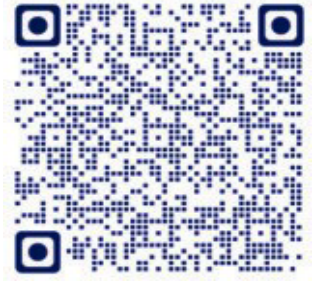
- Committed to community service, we extend support through Philoptochos, engage in mission work with Mission IS Possible, visit shut-ins, and offer helping hands through FOCUS.

- **PROGRAMS**

- Our parish hosts diverse programs, including the Seniors Ambassadors Program for wisdom-sharing, Men's Fellowship for camaraderie and growth, the Young Adult Group for community, and the Youth Group (K-12) for faith-nurturing activities.



EMAIL
SIGN UP



Thank you for joining us!

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info@stpaulsirvine.net

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:30 am Morning Prayer Service

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

 @StPaulsIrvine

 @stpaulsirvine

 stpaulsirvine.org

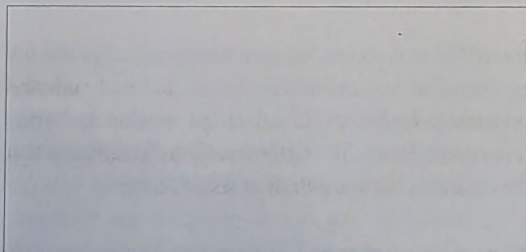
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WHAT ON EARTH IS THE ORTHODOX CHURCH?



Perhaps you would like to know more about the Orthodox Church and what is involved in becoming a participant in her spiritual life and worship.

For information, please contact us at:



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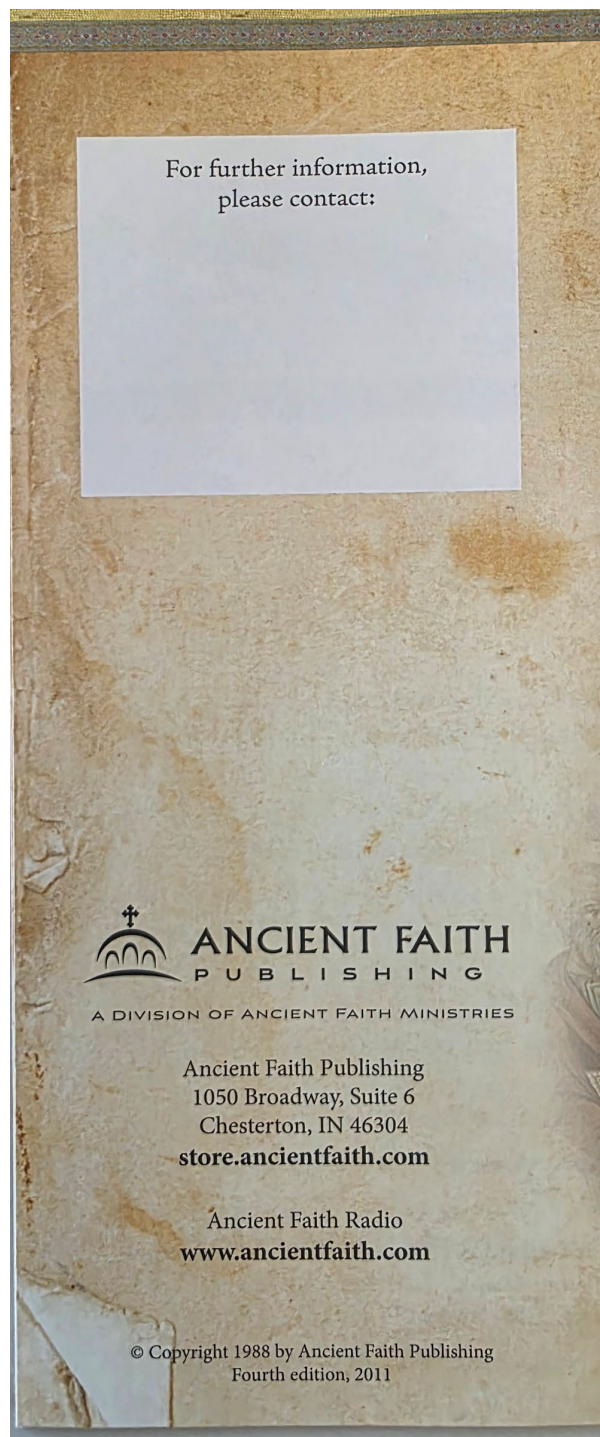
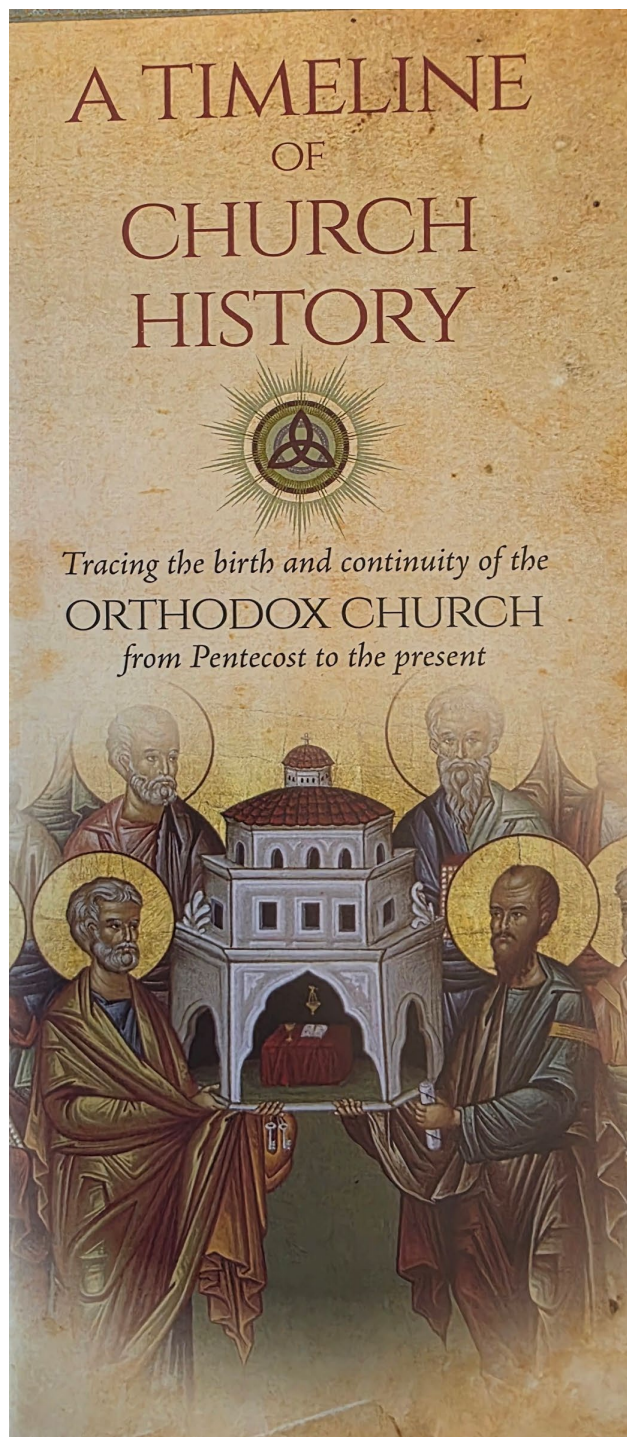
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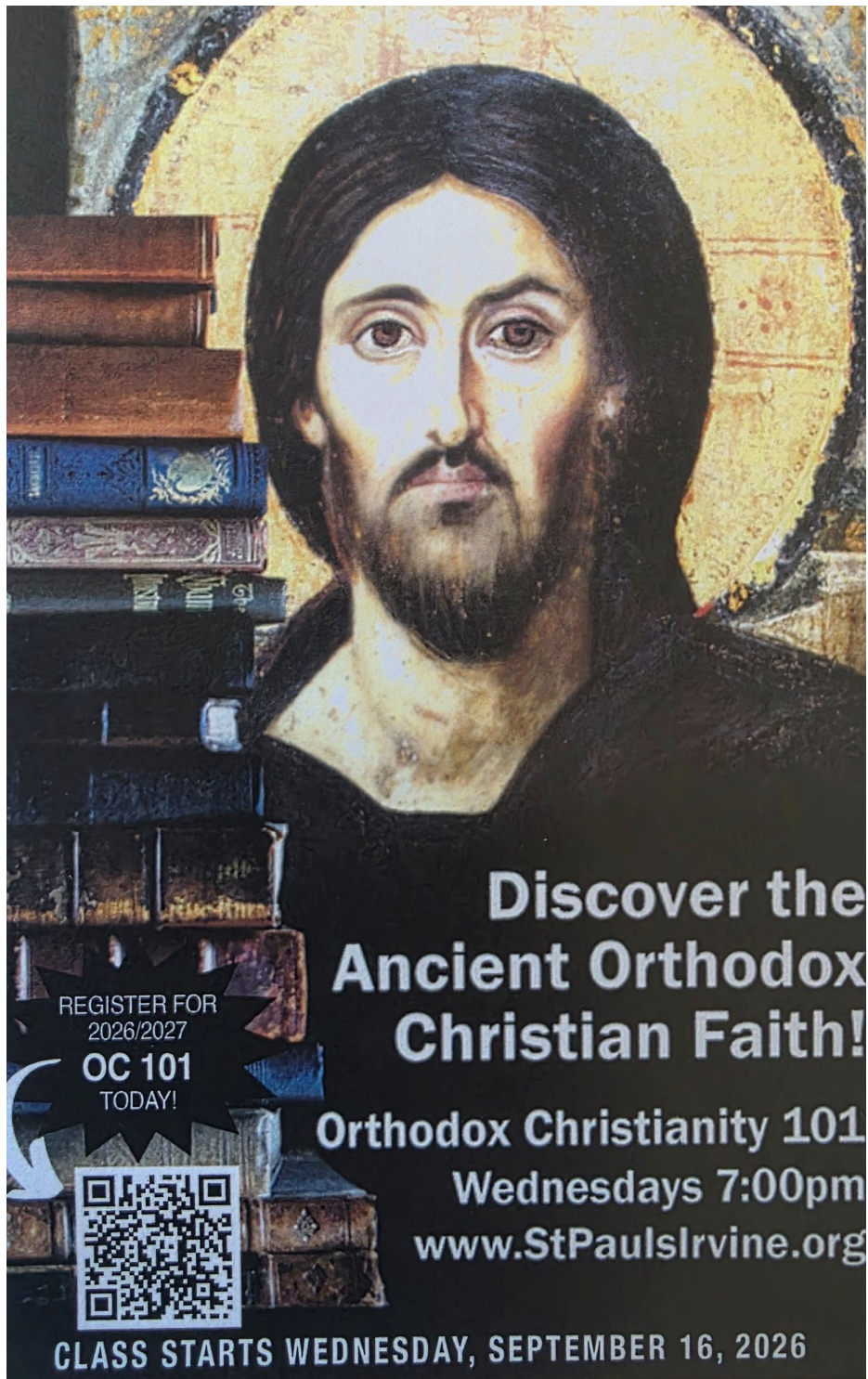
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**Discover the
Ancient Orthodox
Christian Faith!**

Orthodox Christianity 101
Wednesdays 7:00pm
www.StPaulsIrvine.org

REGISTER FOR
2026/2027
OC 101
TODAY!



CLASS STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Flyer on Catechism Class