



St Michael Orthodox Christian Church

Whittier, California | StMichaelWhittier.org | 562.692.6121

V. Rev. John W. Fenton, Pastor [Pastor@stmichaelwhittier.org]

Sdn Simon Yoo, Pastoral Assistant [PastorAssist@stmichaelwhittier.org]

A Western Rite Vicariate Parish in The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

Archbishop of New York &

Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop JOHN

Auxiliary Bishop of the

Western Rite Vicariate

The Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ecce Virgo Concipiet

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11 October 2026

TODAY'S MASS commemorates the Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus at which the assembled Bishops affirmed that Mary is the Theotokos, the Virgin Mother of God. This title is not simply honorific but expresses a profound and necessary truth of the Catholic Faith: that Our Lord Jesus is both truly God and truly man.

Affirmation of the Virgin's title is necessary even in our day when many wish to claim that the Holy Mother merely gave birth to the historic Jesus, or to Jesus' human nature. We confess, however, that Our Lady, without stain or loss of virginity, gave birth to God the Word, and so is more honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim and, therefore, is truly Mater Dei (Mother of God).

Yet the maternity of Mary extends not only to Christ. Because He is our Head, the Virgin Mary is also our Mother because she gives us the grace (Epistle) which unites us supernaturally to her divine Son.

LITURGICAL NOTE

Prayers for the Departed in memory of Nicholas Kiralla (anniversary) will be prayed immediately after the Last Gospel.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR GUESTS! We are delighted that you are worshipping with us this morning. We encourage you to participate during the Mass (as you feel comfortable). The red book in the pew rack contains the hymns posted on the hymn board. The order of service is in the pamphlet located on the lectern at the front door. **You are invited into the Parish Hall (next door to the church) for coffee, conversation, and teaching (known as Didache).** Because of the divisions which sadly exist amongst Christians, we ask that non-Orthodox refrain from approaching the altar. If you have any questions about our parish or are interested in the Orthodox Church, please feel free to contact Father John (frjohnfen-ton@gmail.com; 313.282.6153).

THIS WEEK AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
Abstain on Friday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
MOTHERHOOD OF BVM
PENTECOST XIX

Lauds 9:15a
Mass 10:00a
BreakFast..... 11:30a
Church School 12:30a
Didache, Children
Vespers..... 2:30p

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Feria
St Wilfrid, Bishop & Confessor
Parish Office Closed

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
Feria
St Edward, King & Confessor

Lauds 8:15a
Mass 9:00a
Bible Study 10:00a
Parents & Littles 11:00a

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
St Callistus, Bishop & Martyr

Mass 6:00a
[Rosary on Zoom](#) 7:00p

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
Our Lady of Walsingham

Lauds..... 8:15a
Mass 9:00a
Reading St Augustine 10:00a
Vespers 6:30p
Men's Group 7:00p

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
Feria

Lauds..... 8:15a
Mass 9:00a

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Saturday Office of the BVM

Lauds..... 8:15a
Mass 9:00a
Group Catechesis..... 11:30a
Adoration/ Confession..... 3:30p
Vespers 5:00p

Sunday Readings: [Ecclesiasticus 24.17-22](#); [Luke 2.43-51](#)

Intentions: Aaron Vivar (b. 10/11); Sdn Bede Kamffer (b. 10/12); Alex Reyes (b. 10/13); Edward Jun (n. 10/13); Edward Sywulka (n. 10/13); Joshua Mustain (n. 10/15); Ricardo Borbon; Ladyminster Monastery; † Nick Kiralla

LUNCH: Oct 11—Team VanderVeur; Oct 18—Team Ren B

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Short Prayer As You Enter The Church: I was glad when they said unto me; we will go into the house of the Lord. (Ps. 121[122]).

The Offering of a Righteous Person anoints the altar, and its pleasing odor rises before the Most High. (Sirach 35.6)

More Catechumens! Talia Maxwell, Siena Gonzalez, Henry and Lydia Wei Cao will be enrolled as catechumens before Sunday's Mass.

All Icons are Not Alike! Join us today at Didache as Sdn Bede helps us understand which Icon makers/sellers are legitimate and wholesome, and which ones we must avoid (because Father can't bless all "icons").

Sunday, November 15, is the Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting fulfills the corporate requirements for the State of California. During this meeting, Parish Council members for 2026 will be elected, the 2026 budget will be presented for approval, and various matters pertaining to the welfare of the parish will be discussed. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Here's some things you can do to help your parish.

- ✓ Pray daily for the priest and individual people.
- ✓ Offer your time and skills for various approved projects.
- ✓ Help those in need with gift cards or non-perishable food.
- ✓ Increase your weekly/monthly offering by \$10.

Thank You to all who continue to support St Michael's parish. Your sacrificial offering (by cash or check, via mail, or [online](#)) is much appreciated.

Kitchen Renovation. The kitchen is closed while it undergoes extensive renovation. Please look for announcements about helping with this much needed project.

A Building Fund has been established by the Parish Council. This fund is to help us [finance upgrades](#): expanded seating in the church, and expanded seating in the courtyard.

October is Rosary Month. It is a pious and laudable practice to recite daily at least part of the Rosary during October. Ideally, one of the mysteries with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a special Prayer in honor of St Joseph should be said. These prayers are in the St Ambrose Prayer Book.

Rosary on Zoom is offered every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sdn Bede leads the rosary and invites you to join him. Just [click on this link](#).

Support our Future Priests. Of the 36 students studying in 4 seminaries, 9 come from Western Rite parishes. These men "are preparing to become the priests who will baptize and chrismate our children, teach the faith, celebrate the Divine Mysteries, counsel families, comfort the suffering, visit the sick, reconcile the penitent, and proclaim the Gospel of Christ to a world that desperately needs His truth and mercy." (Metropolitan SABA) **Please submit your contribution in an envelope marked "Seminary Fund."**

To Love Your Neighbor means bringing him or her to Church. Aid the salvation of your family, friends, and co-workers by introducing them to the treasures of the Orthodox Faith by bringing them to St Michael Orthodox Christian Church.

Pray for our Catechumens. The following catechumens are preparing to be received by the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation: John, Isaac, Vector, Genesis, Justin, Gabriel, Eliana, Adam, Arriana, Pietro, Robert, Chance, Andrew, Chandra, Christian, Ryan, Anntoinette, Donny, Ruben, Samuel, Jose, Gabriella, Liam, Noah, Enzo, Jesús, David, Christian, Gavino, Matthew, Emily, Dominic, Raquel, Rodrigo, August, Megan, Theodora, Justeen, Jemma, Ana, Talia, Siena, Henry and Lydia. Please remember them in your daily prayers.

Prayer Intentions may be sent to StMichaelWhittier@gmail.com

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY MASS is celebrated Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; Tuesday through Saturday at 9:00 a.m.; & Holy Days as announced.

COMMUNICANTS ARE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have been received by the Sacrament of Chrismation, regularly partake of the Sacrament of Penance, and abide by the Church's fast.

NEW MEMBERS are received by Baptism, Chrismation, Transfer or Profession of Faith. Instruction in the Orthodox Faith and the Sacrament of Penance are required for those new to the Orthodox Faith. Please ask the Pastor for further details.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Private Confession) is available on Saturdays from 4-5:00 p.m., or by appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING is available to any Orthodox Christian who is suffering in body, mind or spirit. Emergency requests are welcome. Please contact Fr John.

PASTORAL COUNSELING based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. An appointment is necessary.

COUPLES DESIRING HOLY MARRIAGE should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Biblical instruction in Holy Marriage is required. All marriages at St Michael's are conducted by the Pastor according to Church's usual order.

SICK & HOMEBOUND are visited regularly by the Pastor. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is an integral part of St Michael's Church, offering the following opportunities for study in the

Christian Faith. Didache (di•dah•kay), a study in the basic doctrines of the Faith, is offered on Sundays after the meal. Father's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Learning from our Holy Fathers meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to discuss a brief excerpt from the fathers of the church. Catechesis examines the teachings and liturgy of the Orthodox Faith, and is presented to inquirers, catechumens, and parishioners, with days and times arranged according to one's schedule.

2026 PARISH COUNCIL: Jen Hudson (2027); David Ricksecker (2026); Simon Yoo (2026); Willy Ren (2027); Michael Meza (2027); Patricia Stephens, alt. (2027); Patrick Silva (2028); Christian Vandevour (2028); *Chris Camareno (Tres.)

THE DEFENDER is the parish newsletter. Contributions of upcoming events, parish memories, poems, or reflections are welcome. Please contact Sdn Brondt in person or by email: williamkamffer@icloud.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS: Altar Guild, Society of St Benedict, Antiochian Women, Men's Group, Child Care, Gardening Committee, Latin Club.

STAY INFORMED: To receive this bulletin, the monthly newsletter, and other important announcements via email, send any email (even a blank one) to stmichaelwhittiernews+subscribe@googlegroups.com